**OBITUARY**

**Marie Antoinette Nogueira**

06 / 02 / 1925 - 05 / 30 / 2020

Reception: 8 /15 / 1954

First Profession: 8 / 16 / 1955

Perpetual Profession: 8/ 16/ 1961

"The daily living of the Gospel life in community is nourished by a personal concern for one another and by a singleness of purpose rooted in the love of Christ" C6.

Antonieta Nogueira was born in Borda da Mata on June 2, 1925. She was the daughter of Irma Davini and Alberto Nogueira, the second daughter among five siblings. While still in her youth she accompanied her parents who moved to Goiás, settling in Anapolis where she met the Franciscan Family in the person of Bishop Benedito Domingos Vito Coscia who oriented her in the first moments of her call to consecrated religious life.

Antonieta accepted the invitation and sought out the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany who received her on August 15, 1954, at St. Elizabeth's Motherhouse, Allegany, New York.

On August 16, 1955, she made her first profession of vows and began her journey in the Congregation, serving in the communities of Pires do Rio, Sant'Ana – Anápolis, and Convento Mãe Admiral, always placing love and concern in the fulfillment of her mission and ministry as sacristan.

Sister Antonieta was a religious to whom we can apply the words of Pope Francis when he referred to two great feasts during this month of May dedicated to Mary, Mother of Jesus and, what a blessing, Pentecost, the Holy Spirit illuminating the Church of her Son and all humanity. These are his words: "Joy is the mark of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. Mary's humility also shines forth, for she is not arrogant, vain or proud. Mary is a balanced and mature woman, humanly speaking, that is what it is to be humble. To recognize that all you have comes from God and at the same time have no false modesty for, you know that “all generations will call you blessed".

Balanced and mature humility – that is what we can say about Sister Antonieta. Humble woman, deeply aware of the reality that surrounded her. She made herself available to the sisters, especially, because she was one of the first Brazilians to add to the strength of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany here, in Goiás. She was a faithful companion and committed to the needs of American pioneer Sisters, especially Sister Maria dos Anjos Moore to whom she dedicated time and companionship.

Joy is a mark of the Holy Spirit – Sister Antonieta leaves us the legacy of joy, sisterhood and welcome. For her there was no distinction between the child, the young or the adult. All were received with a broad smile and, soon she wanted to know their name, as if this gesture gave the person, the dignity conferred by baptism and, therefore, deserving of her attention.

She had no false modesty. She knew her ability to relate to people, so from an early age she was the sister charged with welcoming the young women who sought the Congregation and dedicated her safe and loving guidance to them. Her years were not counted by minutes and seconds, but by all the Good that was marked in the hearts of all, including us her sisters.

Therefore, we want to express to her brothers, especially, Mr. Olavo (present here) and all her family members how grateful we are for the life of Sister Antonieta who on June 2 would turn ninety-five years old, many of us were witnesses to her kindness, her example as a woman of prayer, her deep knowledge of the human person in creative humility and constant presence, wherever it was necessary. We express our eternal gratitude.

May our Good Father receive Sister Antonieta into His kingdom and may one day all of us be together again, singing at the great feast of encounter in the endless glory of love that is not exhausted in time.

Our love and gratitude!