



## OBITUARY

Aldenora Mota Ribeiro

\* 23/10/1940

+ 11/06/2025

Sister Maria Antônia Mota Ribeiro, OSF

Reception: 10 / 01 / 1964

First Profession: 11 / 01 / 1965

Perpetual Profession: 10 / 01 / 1971

"Remember me when you come into your kingdom" Lk 23:43. And Jesus promises him: "Today you will be with me in Paradise"

Lord, Aldenora Mota Ribeiro received the call, answered YES and was faithful to her mission in her family and to the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany.

Today, close to her Onomastico, we, her family by consanguinity, the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany and friends, are handing over Sister Maria Antônia, affectionately known as Tuniquinha, to the great celebration together with her mother Dona Alcides Ribeiro Mota, her father Mr. Antônio da Mota e Silva and other family members who are already in their eternal home: the Father's house. Aldenora, her baptismal name, came from a deeply religious family. A Franciscan mother, professed in the Secular Franciscan Order, she passed on to her children and grandchildren the treasure of faith that sustains them in times of suffering and makes them see the wonders of God at work in the world and in their lives. In God's plan for her life, it was written that she would be graced with the virtue of reverence for the dignity of all people, giving time and affection to family members when they needed it.

Lord, we know that our life has full meaning when it is totally surrendered to the divine plan for each one of us. The late Pope Francis, at the close of the Year of Faith in 2013, said this to his listeners that year and to all of us today: "Jesus' promise to that man who was being crucified next to him gives us great hope: it tells us that God's grace is always more abundant than the prayer asked for. The Lord always gives more. He always gives more than you ask: you ask him to remember you, and he takes you to his Kingdom! Jesus is precisely the center of our desires for joy and salvation. Let's all walk this road together!"

Now, Sister Maria Antonia will tell us all about her surrender to the call to consecrated religious life: on January 9, 1964, Sister Maria Antonia said goodbye to her family to embrace another one, founded on faith. It had been a long journey, taking many different paths, all so that her mission would be fulfilled according to the will of the One who had called her.

In consecrated religious life, the Postulancy and Novitiate taught her to love her Congregation through her studies and living with the sisters. In the course of her life, she was asked to be part of numerous local communities where she was expected to work as a local minister, in vocation animation, in the Associates Program and in so many other tasks that only God knows in those who are willing to serve.

In the Church, he sought knowledge through courses such as CEBI - Center for Biblical Studies, where he deepened his knowledge of Salvation History, learning the Word of God in the Holy Bible, which became his companion of inspiration in action. Pastoral Theology where he learned to reflect, understand and guide from evangelization and caring for people to the formation of leaders and the building of Base Communities. The practice happened. It was a time of great solidarity with the laity and with Friar Longuinho and Friar Sebastião, mentioned by Sister Iolanda, who lived with her for some years. In education, she worked with young people, children and adults in both primary and secondary schools. In health ministry, she looked after mothers who were waiting for their children in the hospital environment of the Santa Casa de Misericórdia. Sister Maria Antonia leaves us a testimony of fidelity to the commitments she made, especially as a woman of prayer and only through prayer did she reach this moment today in the total surrender of her life.

How can we thank God for the life he gave Sister Maria Antonia? We begin with the family, thanking Mrs. Alcides and Mr. Antonio for their generosity in offering two daughters to the service of the Church: Maria Antonia, who has gone to be with God today, and Sister Aldenir, who has done so much good for the people of God in the Education and Health Pastoral. We thank all the brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, friends who have been their support in times of joy and suffering. To the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, the ground that enabled her to walk safely through sometimes rocky terrain to the end. To the doctors, nurses, caregivers and staff who passed through her life and gave her time to give herself to the service of the Kingdom. To the Franciscan friars, the diocesan friars, the bishops of all the dioceses she passed through, who were the bearers of blessings and spiritual nourishment, who nourished her life in the search for the values she received in her family.

Sister Maria Antonia, we in your Admirable Mother Local Community thank you for the legacy you leave us of patience and resignation when you realized that you were losing your sister Anália and that you could contribute little to her final comfort, because you were also feeling the progression of your own illness. Thank you and intercede for us with the Father at this time when we need to make important decisions for future generations.

Go in the joy of Easter, after the cross of bodily suffering. We all bless you and say: Thank you!