



*“Faith in the resurrection
opens up fraternal communion
beyond the threshold of death ...”
(RoL 24)*



Today, 21 September 2026, at 10.54 pm (local time),
at the Pompeia Hospital – Caxias do Sul (Brazil), our sister

ANTONIA, Sr. MARIA ANTONIA BRUSTOLIN

has parted this earthly life.

She was 83 years old and 63 years of religious life.

Jesus saw a man named Matthew sitting by the customs house, and he said to him, ‘*Follow me.*’ And he got up and followed him. On the day the Church celebrates the feast of Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, the Good Shepherd called Sister Antonia to Himself; she had lived out her vocation as a faithful and joyful Pastorella, sharing the Word with all those she met along her path.

Antonia was born on 16 August 1943 in Farroupilha, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, and was baptised on 29 August 1943 at Saint Mark’s Parish in her hometown. She entered the Congregation on 3 March 1959, and began her novitiate on 1 February 1962, in Caxias do Sul (São Leopoldo). She made her first profession on 2 February 1963, and her perpetual profession on 2 February 1968, both in Caxias do Sul (São Leopoldo).

Immediately after her first profession, she was sent to Fagundes Varela, where she dedicated herself to catechesis and the care of the liturgy. In 1965, she was sent to the Divina Pastora Institute in São Paulo, remaining there until 1970 and engaging in various pastoral activities as well as the formation of young vocations within our Congregation. Between 1970 and 1975, she carried out her pastoral ministry in Jardim, São Paulo, focusing particularly on vocation promotion and the formation of aspirants. From 1976 to 1980, in Caxias do Sul, she was entrusted with the formation of aspirants, postulants, and novices.

Between 1980 and 1983, she studied Spiritual Theology in Rome, living as part of the community at the International Student House on Via Traversari. In 1983, she returned to Brazil, Caxias do Sul, and subsequently became part of the community in Porto Alegre until 1992, where she combined pastoral ministry with various forms of service to the Church and the Congregation.

She experienced her first call as a missionary ad gentes in Buenos Aires, Argentina, serving as novice mistress between 1993 and 1995; after returning to Brazil and fulfilling various pastoral commitments, she was sent to Seoul, South Korea, in 2001—again to serve as novice mistress.

Upon returning to Brazil, she engaged in pastoral ministry and service to the Church, religious life, and the Congregation across several communities: Campo Grande (2002), Caxias do Sul – Cohab (2012), Santana do Livramento (2015), Campo Grande (2020), Caxias do Sul – Imaculada Conceição (2022), and Caxias do Sul – 3ª Léguas (2023). Sr. Antonia also generously served as a Provincial Councillor for three terms over the years. However, her health condition necessitated her transfer to the "Betania" community in Caxias do Sul in early 2026 so she could receive the necessary care. We extend our gratitude to the Sisters and external staff who lovingly cared for Sr Antonia during this challenging time and provided all the care she required.

The sisters who shared their fraternal life and mission with Sr. Antonia describe her as *a person of deep spirituality—approachable, joyful, and generous—as well as someone with a strong personality who was decisive and organised. She loved the Church deeply, the Congregation, and the Founder, playing a significant role in translating his writings.*

Sisters who knew Sr. Antonia in Korea shared the following: *"We faced some communication difficulties due to the language barrier, yet we were deeply impressed by the witness of her daily life." She was a humble, very warm person — a woman of action rather than words; she did everything possible in every situation and never held back.*

Those who had her as a novice mistress describe her as *a sister of great inner strength and spiritual richness. Cheerful, active, and creative — a woman of integrity and broad-mindedness; she was approachable, respectful, and gentle in her approach to formation, and diligent in her pastoral zeal; she truly won the affection of the community, especially the poorest among them.*

When faced with illness, she accepted her suffering with faith, saying, "Jesus suffered more than me." She bore witness to a life lived entirely for Jesus, through both joys and sufferings.

Thank you, Sr Antonia, for bearing witness to a consecrated life that was joyful, prayerful, generous, and open — totally dedicated to Jesus Good Shepherd and His people.

As we entrust Sr Antonia to the Father's mercy and give thanks for the gift of her life and her love for vocations, we ask for her intercession for the faithfulness of young women in formation and for priestly and religious vocations.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Rome, 21 September 2026
St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist