



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



Today, 04 August 2023 at 06.30 am (local time)  
in the *Casa São José* – São Paulo, Brazil, our sister  
**NEIDE APARECIDA, sr M. NELY DA SILVA**  
passed away from her earthly life.  
She was 83 years old and 62 years of Religious Life.

Today, the words of the holy Curé of Ars proposed in the Office of Readings: *“A Christian’s treasure is not on earth, it is in heaven. Well then, our thoughts should turn to where our treasure is. Man has a noble task: that of prayer and love, reflect Sr Neide’s life lived out of love and with love in the various ministries that have been entrusted to her.*

Sr Neide was born in Ururai – Santa Adélia/SP (Brazil) on April 04, 1940, and was baptized on July 07, 1940, in “Santa Adélia” parish in the Diocese of Cantanduva/SP (Brazil).

She entered the Congregation on 21 March 1957 in the community of Jabaquara/SP, where the school *“Istituto Divina Pastora” (IDP)* was being born and in which Sr Neide spent the most intense years of her pastoral ministry in the field of education. She received the religious habit on 20 April 1958 still in Jabaquara; she entered the novitiate on 01 February 1960 in Caxias do Sul/RS – Av. S. Leopoldo, made her first profession on 02 February 1961 and her perpetual profession on 02 February 1966, again in Caxias do Sul – Av. S. Leopoldo.

From her initial formation, Sr Neide was described as a sister of profound piety, with a sweet, reflective, open, sociable, and enthusiastic character. She always showed a strong love for the Congregation, great creativity, and an ability to look to the future seeking to foresee the development of our charism that she loved and communicated through her witness.

After her first profession, she returned to the community of Jabaquara, where she held various positions in the *“Istituto Divina Pastora” (IDP).“* In 1962, she was transferred to the community of Regente Feijó/SP where she also served as superior of the community from 1965. In 1968 she was transferred to Guaraçi/PR, where she also served as superior, and in 1972 she was part of the community of Jardim/SP. In 1978 she returned to the community of Jabaquara as Principal of the *“Istituto Divina Pastora”* and in 1979 she was also appointed Novice Mistress. In 1980 she was appointed Regional Superior. During the 3rd General Chapter, she was elected General Councilor for the six-year period of 1981-1987 and thus became the first international presence within the General Government.

In 1988 she resumed the pastoral care of education in the IDP School and was also the superior of the community. In 1989 she was appointed Provincial Councilor for the four-year period 1989-1993, but

she always remained in the IDP School based in Jabaquara. In 1997 she was appointed Provincial Superior for the four-year period 1997-2001 and transferred to the seat of the Province in Alto da Lapa/SP. Meanwhile, Sr Neide was part of the General Economic Commission (CEG) sharing her experience and her competence for the Congregational journey, from October 2000 to June 2011 and which saw the birth of the General Economic Project (PEG).

In 2001, at the end of her mandate as Provincial Superior, she returned to the IDP School based in Jabaquara, where she remained as Principal of the School until 2015 when due to ill health she was transferred to *Casa San José* where she was cared for with love and dedication. She remained in this house, dedicated to St Joseph, until the end of her earthly pilgrimage, herself a great devotee of the Saint of Providence. We thank the sisters who in these long years of illness did all they could to care for Sr Neide so as to give her relief and support in her time of trial.

The Education Community of the *Divina Pastora Institute* thus testifies: *And today the heavens welcome another star. Sr Neide, who has been with us as Principal of the college for over 30 years, left us this morning. For years, confined to bed due to Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, Sr Neide was one of the greatest pillars in supporting the Province of the Pastorelle Sisters and most of all our school. With entrepreneurship and passion for education, she contributed significantly to the growth of our school. Always very proactive and vigorous, our sister exuded energy and talent in motivating our teachers, collaborators, and students. Our deepest thanks to Sr Neide, our respect, and our esteem. We will miss her but we are sure that she is already with God. Sr Neide, rest in peace...*

The sisters too who walked a stretch of journey with Sr Neide describe her as *"a Pastorella who lived her vocation intensely right up to Calvary. She was a good and dedicated person. A great entrepreneur, she entrusted her projects to the protection of St Joseph. She was someone who prayed much and had great creativity and love for the Congregation. A wonderful heroine of faith, an example for all of us of determination, tenacity, and love for the mission of Pastorella. May God be praised for her life and her giving! She had deep faith and unconditional love for the Good Shepherd and the Congregation. She was a strong woman, an entrepreneur who knew how to look ahead. This gave her a great openness to new paradigms, while always anchored in our charismatic heritage and in the values of the consecrated life.*

While we thank the Good Shepherd for the life and mission of Sr Neide, we entrust to her intercession the XXXVIII World Youth Day, so that young people, like Mary of Nazareth, an image of the Christian journey, can say yes to God and to the call that God addresses to them today.

*Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes*  
Superior General

Rome, 04 August 2023  
*St John Mary Vianney*