

Irmã M. Bernarda Askinis, OSF
July 1, 1920 - April 25, 2001



“Viver é, no fundo, dar e dar-se, até que tenhamos aprendido a alegre e dolorosa lição de dar o derradeiro minuto de nosso tempo aos outros.”

Frei Neylor

Secular Name: Joanna Askinis

Entered: February 11, 1941 - aspirant

August 2, 1941 - postulant

Note: She was the first vocation of the Congregation in Brazil.

Place of Birth: Utena, Lithuania

Parents: Augustina Askinis, Veronika Maniusyte

Siblings: Joanna was the eighth of nine children.

High School and College: Schools of Vila Alpina, Vila Bela, Vila Zelina, and Paraíso.

Degree: In 1959, graduated from college in Philosophy, Science and Letters.

Certification: Mathematics

Ministry:

Irmã Bernarda studied while ministering in the schools of Vila Alpina, Vila Bela, Vila Zelina, and Paraíso. She was also a member of the Regional Council.

In 1960 she began teaching mathematics and design in São Miguel arcanjo School, Vila Zelina, where she assumed the role of Director (Principal) from 1963-1977.

In 1979 she assumed the direction of the School of Social Assistance of Pius XII School, the “Escholina,” in Morumbi, dedicating herself totally to the care of the needy children and families of the favela (shanty town) of Paraisópolis, until March, 1999, when she suffered a stroke which left her partially paralyzed.

On Feb. 23, 2001, a second stroke completely paralyzed her. On April 25, 2001, in silence and serenity she awaited the final embrace of our Sister Death.

***“I waited, waited for the Lord
who bent down and heard my cry.”***