

Sister Maria Radavich
July 1, 1919 - January 22, 2001



Secular Name: Eugenia
Entered: July 4, 1943
Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois
Parents: Frank and Valeria Zekas
Siblings: 1 brother, 2 sisters
Elementary School: SS. Peter & Paul, Chicago
High School: Fenger High School, Chicago
Higher Education: Carlow College in Pittsburgh
Degree: Bachelor in Education

Ministry:

Sister Maria entered the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God on July 4, 1943 and was invested on August 13, 1944. In 1944, she was sent to Vila Zelina, Brazil, the beginning of a long and happy ministry serving the children of the Brazil Region. She was also missioned at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Vila Alpina in Brazil.



Upon her return to the United States in 1950, she served at various missions including Grand Rapids, Michigan and in Bethel Park, Moon Run and Pittsburgh. In 1961 she returned to her beloved Brazil where she was appointed Novice and Postulant Mistress in Vila Alpina from 1961 until 1967. She returned to the United States from September 1967 to January 1968. While serving as Mistress of Novices, she also served as Regional Councilor from 1964 to 1968. In 1968 she assumed the position of Superior at Jardim Leonor. From 1969 to 1974 she served as Principal and English teacher at Vila Zelina and assumed the position of Assistant Principal and English teacher in Vila Zelina from 1975 to 1977. Again, assuming the role of Principal at St. Michael the Archangel in Vila Zelina from 1980 until her sudden death in 2001, Sister Maria made major improvements in the school, including the building of a sports complex incorporating a pool, basketball court, gym and meeting rooms—all of which were made available to the people in the area.

She had returned home to the United States during the Christmas holidays, visiting her sister and spending some time at the Motherhouse.

Her death was very sudden and unexpected. She had assumed a major role in the ACR and Jubilee celebrations in Brazil when she suffered a massive heart attack on January 22, 2001. She was buried in the congregational plot in Brazil the following day.

"Give us your wisdom, that we may follow your way."