

Sister Maria José Altéia
November 15, 1931 – December 28, 2017



Sister Maria José Altéia was born on November 15, 1931, day of the Proclamation of the Republic in Brazil, so she used to say that her birthday was a national holiday. She was born in Fazenda da Serra, São Paulo, Brazil.

Daughter of Antonio Altéia and Iracema Prado, she was the oldest of nine siblings, four girls and five boys.

Sister Maria joined the congregation on July 20, 1958. She always said that it was Sister Isabel Ferreira who opened the doors the day she arrived. Sister Maria had a great affection for Sister Isabel. She made her final profession on January 26, 1965.



After many years of service at our Maternity Hospital in Pedro Leopoldo, Sister served as the community's vocation director, working tirelessly to awaken the gift of vocation in the hearts of many youth. She was also responsible for researching and initiating a vibrant group of laity interested in becoming "Associates" in our Lay Fraternity program in Brazil.

During her first years in the congregation, Sister Maria José worked at Pio XII College. In 1968, she moved to Pedro Leopoldo, MG, where she devoted herself to health care as a nursing technician and Hospital Administrator. From 1986 to 1989, she was transferred to IV Centenário, in the ministry of Parish Pastoral and Vocational Animation. She acted as Coordinator of the Vocation Animation Team for fifteen years.



In 2012, already in poor health, she was transferred to Recanto Paz e Bem. While there and as she was able, Sister Maria was very fond of evangelizing, both personally and via e-mail, with the many friends that she had made.

Sister Maria José has always sought to have an intimate relationship with her God. Her search is now fulfilled as she lives in eternal bliss!

*Use whatever gift you have received to serve others,
as faithful stewards of God's grace.*