

Death Notice

SISTER MARIA JOSÊNIA

ND 4465

Zelinda Catharina CARISSIMO

Holy Cross Province, Passo Fundo, RS, Brazil

Date and Place of Birth:	April 17, 1927	Tapejara, RS
Date and Place of Profession:	July 15, 1952	Passo Fundo, RS
Date and Place of Death:	March 30, 2019	Casa Betânia, Não-Me-Toque, RS
Date and Place of Funeral:	March 31, 2019	Casa Santa Cruz, Passo Fundo, RS, Brazil
Date and Place of Burial:	March 31, 2019	Convent Cemetery Casa Santa Cruz, Passo Fundo, RS, Brazil



Zelinda was the daughter of Vergelio Carissimo and Emma Favaretto Carissimo and had nine siblings. She grew up in a family of faith that cultivated human and religious values. Sister began postulancy on February 20, 1949, in Passo Fundo, where she also made her novitiate and First Profession on July 15, 1952.

Her ministries in Notre Dame, during the 67 years of Consecrated Religious Life, are rich in self-giving and apostolic zeal. She was an excellent cook and did that ministry for 50 years, sometimes together with taking care of the garden and the laundry. Most of her time was spent in hospital kitchens, taking care of the life and health of so many sick and recovering people.

Sister M. Josênia was a cheerful person with a large, open heart. She embraced the needs of each person and presented them to the Lord in prayer. In 2008, when she was transferred to Casa Betânia, she was always available for small duties and services for the other sisters. In recent years, she dedicated herself to the apostolate of prayer, to reading and integrating her own suffering.

Sister M. Lori Steffen, who was the local superior at Casa Betânia until January 2019, expressed the following about Sister Maria Josênia: "She touched the lives of the Sisters at Casa Betânia very deeply with her sense of humor, her joy and prayer. Sister loved to be updated regarding the news and loved spiritual reading. She always had a book on her little table in the living room. She had a strong, iron-like persistence. Even when she could no longer walk, she insisted on getting out into the garden to do some work. She often cried when we said it was no longer possible and she kept asking us to help her to get up and go."

When we celebrated traditional parties in the community, she dressed up according to the feast: in complete convent habit, a carnival costume or a special style for the Feast of Saint John the Baptist... Her simplicity delighted all. She was a woman of faith, joy, ready smile. She also liked games and jokes. Her example of a happy and fulfilled religious woman will be with us always. She was a great woman, a disciple of Christ! When she no longer could hold the rosary in her hands, she placed it on a table and passed her hands over the rosary beads.

Now we have an intercessor with God and there is more joy in heaven because of her joy and good sense of humor. We thank Sister for her joviality, testimony of acceptance, of faith, and of prayer. Many sisters are grateful for her dedicated life, and for her witness. The young people said they learned a lot from her, because she knew how to go through the day with joy.

We pray for her eternal rest and ask the good God to reward her for everything she did for the SND mission, for the sick and the needy, and for the sisters in the communities in which she lived.