## **Young Women Prepare to Enter Novitiate**

Canoas, Brazil



During the initial stages of their formation and inspired by the lives and ministries of the sisters, two courageous young women, Elis Cristina Brito Farias and Ana Kaele de Souza Silva have decided to take the next step in religious life. Since December 6, 2023, they have been engaged in a period of intensive formation in preparation for beginning the Novitiate of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

This period preceding the Novitiate offers the two young women a favorable opportunity to deepen and strengthen their prayer life, to experience community, and to dedicate themselves to studies relevant to consecrated religious life. Guided by their formator Sister Cristiane Maria Oliveira, and with support from our Sisters as well as a group of lay people, Elis Cristina and Ana Kaele have been involved in various meaningful activities.

During this special time, they had the privilege of spending time with the Sisters at the Provincial Center and at Recanto Aparecida, an experience that profoundly impacted their lives. This stage of formation will culminate for the young women with a spiritual retreat from January 26th to February 2nd. Undoubtedly, this retreat will provide a favorable means of strengthening their YES to the Lord and for beginning this new stage of formation with joy.

The entrance into the Novitiate is scheduled for February 2nd, a day that coincides with the celebration of the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and the Day of Consecrated Religious Life. We pray to Mother Mary to bless Elis Cristina and Ana Kaele's journey during the Novitiate and throughout their lives.