

Obituary

Anna Ferreira da Silva

* May 11, 1930

+ October 22, 2025

Sister Anita Maria Ferreira da Silva, OSF

Reception: August 5, 1954

Novitiate: August 16, 1955

First Profession: August 16, 1956

Perpetual Profession: August 16, 1962

“Death is the Lord’s embrace to be lived with hope!” Pope Francis.

On May 11, 1930, Anna Ferreira da Silva was born in the city of Goiás, the daughter of Mr. Antônio Ferreira da Silva and Mrs. Josephina de Bastos Ferreira. Anna received a missionary call to serve in education at a very young age and didn't hesitate to travel to the city of Ceres at the invitation of the Franciscan friars who had settled there with the mission of serving that community in religious and educational instruction. She spent a few years there, and it was her opportunity to meet the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, who had arrived in Ceres in February 1951, also with the mission of serving the youth of Ceres. God's plans are unfathomable; could this have been the moment of Anna's calling to consecrated religious life?

What we do know is that Anna sought to know what God had in store for her and, in 1954, entered the Postulancy at the Sant'Ana Convent in Anápolis, Goiás, where she began her life in the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany. The following year, 1955, she was received into the Canonical Novitiate at the Santa Elizabeth Convent in Allegany, New York, where she made her First Religious Profession, changing her name to Sister Anita

Maria, as was customary at the time. Returning to Brazil, she remained for two years at the Mãe Admirável Convent, serving in the Pastoral da Educação (Education Ministry) as a primary school teacher and accompanying the Legion of Mary. Her life was guided by the art of teaching, working in Education from 1957 to 1973, impacting the lives of many families through her noble mission as an educator and in the Catechetical Ministry. During this time, she served on many missions, including the Convento Mãe Admirável, the Congregation's regional headquarters; the Convento Imaculada Conceição in Ceres, where she returned; the Convento Santa Maria Goretti in Goiandira; the Convento São Miguel Arcanjo in São Miguel do Araguaia; and the Convento Nossa Senhora de Fátima in Porangatu.

We are certain that her life dedicated to mission has left its mark on many people. In 1974, Sister Anita arrived at the Convento Menino Jesus, working in the Pastoral da Saúde (Health Ministry) as an Administrative Assistant at the Santa Casa de Misericórdia in Anápolis and also studying Hospital Administration. A shift from academic education to caring for life, from teaching writing to learning how to manage, her life following the course of the mission, just as Mary, who heard the voice of the Lord and kept it in her heart, Sister Anita answered the Lord's call so many times that in 1978 she returned to the Convent of Our Lady of Fátima in Porangatu, staying until 1981, where she celebrated her Silver Jubilee in 1980. Celebrating Jubilee! 25 years of service and dedication, having Jesus as the Way, Truth, and Life, and managing through prayer and fraternal life the setbacks that life brings. In 1982, she returned to the Santa Casa de Misericórdia de Anápolis as Administrator, remaining in this position until 1984.

Since the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany are always attentive to the Lord's call, from 1985 to 1988, Sister Anita served as an Administrative Assistant at the Cassiano Campolina Hospital in Entre Rios, Minas Gerais. Her life was like this, steeped in dedication, prayer, and fraternity. Her compassionate demeanor and unmistakable clear eyes marked the history of generations. Among her many years of dedication, Sister Anita lived at the San Damiano Convent in Anápolis, where she served with such love and zeal at the Adolescent and Child Center (NACRI), where her remarkable presence will never be forgotten by so many needy families there. In 2014, with her health already weakening, she heard the Lord's call to rest, take care of her health, and live fraternally at the Convento Mãe Admirável, the place where she lived her final years, receiving all the professional and fraternal care that she dedicated to so many people for so many years. We know that Sister

Anita, throughout her life, as a Franciscan Sister of Allegany, served on many other missionary fronts, in many services, dedicating her life to living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Today, we gather, sisters, family, and friends, to bid farewell, give thanks, and ask that Sister Anita watch over us from heaven, where Saint John Paul II welcomes her into the choir of saints.

She leaves a legacy of service, prayer, and fraternity that will continue to inspire the religious community and all those who had the privilege of knowing her.