Sister Ângela Teresinha Gonçalves, OSF

            Entered: 08/15/1957

            First Profession: 08 /16/1958

            Final Vows: 08/16/1964

***Praise to you, my Lord, for sister bodily death, birth for eternal life***

***where there is no pain and the suffering from separation becomes enjoyment of eternity!***

A passionate God says to all of us: “I loved you with eternal love, so I have drawn you” Jer. 31: 3. And we can add: since your conception I loved you, Ângela Teresinha and, therefore, I called you by name and gave you a mission: you will be my witness among my people and I will give you all the graces necessary for the Truth you bring to my people, to be proclaimed and my name to be glorified.

Maria de Lourdes Gonçalves was born on the first of July 1930 in the city of Ipameri, Goiás, daughter of Thereza Rosa Pacheco and Jocelym Gonçalves Pacheco.  Her father was called to God while she was still a baby, leaving her in the care of her mother. She grew up in Ipameri  and, at the age of seven, her mother moved to Catalão where Maria de Lourdes started her studies. Upon returning to Ipameri, Dona Theresa met an admirable person, Mr. José Azzi, who would become Maria de Lourdes' second father and give her brothers to make her life complete in a family.

Maria de Lourdes had a great mission to fulfill and this trajectory began when she met Brother João Francisco, a Franciscan friar who invited her to be part of the group of teachers in the city of Ceres. She immediately accepted the invitation and left, perhaps unaware of the importance of that decision for her life. She describes this event: “I met Sisters Verônica Mary Louis, Gema Delgado and Maria de Fátima Laborão and I was enchanted with the way of life of those sisters; but it was through Sister Veronica that I felt that God was inviting me and, with a happy heart and free of bonds, I answered YES to this invitation. ”