



Life and Death of our dear

Sr. Carmem Asseff OSB

February 23, 1912 – June 18, 2006

"During my religious life I had to undergo many hardships. With strong faith in the goodness of God I was able to overcome all and it made my vocation stronger. Today, I thank God for this."

These words of Sr. Carmem expressed very well her death and resurrection.

Our dear Sr. Carmem Asseff was born on February 23, 1912, in Sorocaba. She was baptized on June 5 and was called Maria. Her parents Elias Asseff and Milena Asseff were Lebanese. Her mother was deeply religious and wanted to enter the convent, but her father did not accept her plan and she got married. Then they moved to Brazil to do business. They had seven children, five girls and two boys. Her father died when he was 43 and Sr. Carmem was then 15 years old. She had to work in a factory in order to help her mother bring up her siblings.

She had the desire to become religious when she was 15 years old and entered our Congregation in Sorocaba when she 20 years old. She was very happy when the Prioress, M. Hedwig Pelts, accepted her in our convent. She made her first profession on July 11, 1935 and could celebrate her 71 years of religious life.

All her life she served in the kitchen, sacristy and did pastoral work. She was a very happy person, always ready to help everywhere and was a soul of prayer. During community recreations she always gave her contribution with her good humor.

Sr. Carmem had serious kidney problems and during the last months of this year the kidneys did not work anymore. She was brought to the hospital many times and finally, on June 18 at 8:30 am, she died in the hospital. She was a woman of strong faith and put all her hope in God. She was very kind to those who helped her during her sickness.

Sr Carmem wrote: "My life was carrying the cross of Christ, with Him and in Him. And with Christ I go to eternal glory! I will sing the praise of gratitude. May Christ make my heart a tabernacle here on earth that I may make his heart my home in eternity. Lord, I thank you for all the graces and joys I received. Thank you also for the sufferings for they brought me nearer to You."

We thank God for the great gift that Sr. Carmem was to us during her 71 years of religious life in our Congregation and for her good example of consecrated life, and selfless service in our priory.

May the Lord give her the reward of eternal glory. R.i.p.!

Prioress of Santa Escolástica Priory and sisters.
Sorocaba, June 24, 2006.