

## Obituary of Sr. Maria da Glória Baptistela, OSB



Sr. Maria da Glória was born on May 15, 1930 at Boituva – São Paulo. She was baptized on August 2th,1933 at Tatuí – São Paulo receiving the name of Paula. On September 17<sup>th</sup>,1933 she received the sacrament of Confirmation and the first Holy Communion on Christmas day of 1940. Her parents, Luiz Baptistela and Luiza Baptistela were practicing Catholics. They had twelve children, of which, eight were girls and four boys. Paula was the 3rd daughter of the couple. Of the eight daughters, two have become Missionary Benedictine sisters, herself and Sister Assumpta Baptistela.

When they were 4 to 6 years old, her grandparents came from Italy to Brazil. Sr. Maria da Glória herself says in her autobiography that her father was a man of deep spirituality and, always tried to bring their children to God. Every night, as head of the family, he prayed the rosary with the family, kneeling around the table. He was a farmer who used to sell his products and helped the very poor. At the age of 45 years he died, victim of stomach cancer, leaving behind his 43 year-old wife. From then on, she on looked after the education of the children, the youngest being just a few months old. She died at 80 due to heart problems.

Since she was small Paula had wanted to be a religious. Before becoming one, she belonged to the Eucharistic Crusade group and Mary`s Legion and helped with Catechism classes. In 1945 she came to Santa Scholastica boarding school and on February 29, 1947 she joined some young people who during this period aspired to enter the religious life and she was one of the pioneers. On February 10, 1949, St Scholasticas`feast, she became a candidate and on November 13 , 1950 she became a novice, receiving the religious name, Maria da Glória, in honor of our Lady. Pope Pius XII at time, declared the dogma of the Assumption. Sr. Maria da Glória made her temporary vows on May 24, 1952, and on June 17, 1955, Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, she surrendered herself to God by perpetual vows in our Congregation, the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing. She wrote: “I am a happy Religious. My motto is: I

came to serve and not to be served. Hence my joy to be able to serve Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, Christ in the person of my Sisters”.

Sister Maria da Glória had served as a teacher at the Elementary School in previous years and later for many years in the sacristy and sewing room in our communities in Itapetininga, Araçoiaba, Rio de Janeiro and Sorocaba. A few days ago she had a brain cancer surgery, which went quite well but she eventually succumbed to cardiac infarction. She died on March 13, 2009.

In her personal writings, she asked that nothing should be written about her. Respecting her wish we offer to God all her merits and virtues. May God reward her and grant her the vision of God`s Glory.