



LITTLE FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

The First Flower

Father Raimundo dos
Anjos Beirão

Fisher of souls for
the Kingdom

Amazing is his great passion for the spreading of the Kingdom. Among many other tasks, he used to spend most of his time preaching and directing souls to God. He had a deep love for vocations and worked so that the harvest would not go to waste for lack of workers. That is why, in his journeys, he never missed an opportunity to attract generous hearts, ready to place themselves totally at the service of the Lord.

Father Raimundo was in charge of sending young vocations to the Portuguese College in Rome, founded at that time for the formation of candidates for the priesthood.

During one of his missionary journeys three young men were introduced to him, accompanied by João Leitão, a good and pious man. They all longed to become priests. On looking at them and after some reflection, he directed the three young men to go to the seminary and told Mr. João Leitão, who was already old, that if he wanted he could go with him to Lisbon to be his helper at the masses and to render necessary services in the convent of his sisters. João Leitão, who was so humble, simple and holy, accepted the proposal and served the Congregation of the Franciscan Hospitaller Sisters until his death and in a selfless way. He never accepted or wanted a salary (a remuneration from the Sisters). He was considered a member of the family and everyone treated him with great respect as 'Brother João Leitão'. Father Beirão, our Godfather, as our first Sisters affectionately addressed him, was concerned about looking for and supporting candidates for the priesthood and, in the same way, dedicated himself to the pastoral care of vocations. Brother João Leitão was in charge of picking up these candidates from the various places where they lived, and took them to Lisbon according to the recommendations of Father Beirão, giving priority to the most honest and honoured families.

May Father Beirão teach us to be dedicated in the pastoral care of vocations at all levels, both by the example of life and by the word of encouragement to the youngest who come to us willing to embrace religious or priestly life. May we always keep in mind this noble and beautiful responsibility that we assume by our profession to make the Franciscan Hospitaller Charism perpetuate in the world and in time.

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FLOWERS FOR
THE MONTH
OF JANUARY**

Second Little Flower

**Sr. Júlia Matai Noengo
(Sr. M^a Júlia do Rosário)**

**This little flower that was
born, grew and bore fruit,
in the gardens of the
Province of St Francis of
Assisi, Mozambique.**

**The first Mozambican
Sister who, still very
young, touched by the
Lord of the harvest, dared
to be enchanted by the life
and example of our**

**Sisters in the mission of
Manica. She was part of
the first group of Mozam-
bican Auxiliary Sisters
who entered in 1951 and,
under the canonical
directives of the time She
lived in several of our
fraternities at: Quelimane,
Gurué, Nampula.**

**Providing the servisse in
the kitchen, catechesis,
in the distribution of
communion at home,
and in hospitals.**

Sister Júlia, was the daughter of a humble, simple family, rich in human and Christian values. She learned from her infancy to be humble, simple, servant, patient, sacrificing. She was always serene and smiled, and doing the will of God was her great joy, and thus she influenced the young. As she grew older she realized that *a consecrated soul must accept everything as coming from the hands of God.*

She was a prayerful soul and so silent that she easily noticed people's needs. At the sunset of her life, even though she was already bent and tired, she did not let the students and the boarding children lack food. When she realized that at home there was nothing to eat for the girls, she made up something to comfort these little angels, just like their mothers do in "times of hunger. She was a counsellor and friend to all and she knew how to encourage the young religious to go through life in the fraternities where she worked, encouraging them to be persevering in their FRANCISCAN HOSPITALLER way of life, to overcome adversities and to trust in God.

In the streets of the city of Quelimane, Granny Julia, so called, brought communion to the sick with words of consolation and hope. In this land of great warmth, she carried a white towel on her shoulder to dry the sweat that fell on her face as she walked through the city neighbourhoods.

Her life has always been one of vocation promotion among the young people who saw her with a smile on her lips, despite the harshness of life. She mirrored great happiness and joy in the service of the Lord and of one's neighbour. She learned this great lesson from our Founders.

Cf. Chronicles of the Delegation of São Francisco de Assis, 1922-1975, by Sr. Laurinda Resende, 2001, pp. 15 to 16.

