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**LITTLE  
FLOWERS FOR  
THE MONTH  
OF MARCH**

**First Little Flower**

**Father Raimundo dos  
Anjos Beirão**

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Since he loved Jesus and Mary so much, Father Raimundo Beirão could not forget the Chief Saint of the family of Nazareth. Very devoted to St Joseph, he venerates him as the Spouse of Mary and Foster Father of Jesus, and loves him as a faithful friend, powerful intercessor and protector together with God. The simple account of an episode in his life bears witness to this reality. When he was trying to collect donations for the foundation of the Congregation, many ladies tried to help him by sharing their resources with him.

One day (a few years after his death), when our sisters from the school of Ponte de Lima, took their students for an outing to Quinta do Cardido, the property of the said Lady, they had the pleasure of meeting her there, and on that occasion she told them that, during the time when 'Padrinho' was trying to collect alms and other required donations for the Foundation of our beloved Congregation, all the ladies of the nobility tried to help him for the purpose. But she also wished to collaborate with the same donations, and after having prepared the same, she went to Fr. Beirão to give him a set of white vestments. When he received that precious gift, he was deeply moved and full of joy, he took the Lady near the statue of St. Joseph and said to her: Read this little paper, which Joseph has in his hands. It was precisely a request for a vestment. (Chronicles of the Congregation of the Portuguese Franciscan Hospitaller Sisters, Separata, Part I, Pgs. 94-95).

This and other striking instances of Fr. Raimundo's trusting relationship with St. Joseph motivate us to make St. Joseph a strong companion in our daily struggle, a teacher who teaches us how to say a Yes of Faith in the deepest darkness of our lives, a Father who protects and cares for us as we journey through life on earth.

In the Apostolic Letter  
*Patris Corde*, Pope  
Francis highlights the  
importance of St Joseph  
in the life of Mary  
and Jesus, as well as in  
the life of the Church.

And he assures us:  
Everyone can find in  
Saint Joseph na  
intercessor, a support  
and a guide in times of  
difficulty. In all the  
circumstances of  
his life, Joseph knew  
how to say his "fiat",  
like Mary at the  
Annunciation  
And Jesus in  
Gethsemane.

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**LITTLE  
FLOWERS FOR  
THE MONTH  
OF MARCH**

**Second Little Flower**

**Sr. Teresinha  
Gonçalves Teixeira**

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**Lives that leave  
footprints**

**Life,  
is a sublime gift!  
To live is to welcome  
this gift as a  
response to God,  
the Creator  
and Lord of Life,  
who calls us  
to serve out  
of love.**

Sister Teresinha Gonçalves Teixeira had embraced this gift wholeheartedly, making use of it to the best of her ability.

Born in the island of Azores, she went to Portugal, at only 18 years of age to answer the call that echoed in her heart: to give herself totally to the service of God and her brothers and sisters. Nursing was the channel of her great mission: from India to S. Tomé, and to the Azorean islands of Graciosa and Terceira. From her experience in India came the witness of a soldier whom Sister Teresa took care of when his life was in danger and told him: "If you did not die in the war it is because God has a mission to entrust to you". On learning of her death, the same soldier, already a doctor at the time, in an article he wrote for an Azorean newspaper said: "...on the feast of the beatification of Mother Clara, I perceived the power of her holiness, remembering the enormous generosity, competence and attention which, more than four decades ago, I witnessed were qualities of one of her daughters, then known as Sister of the Divine Lamb".

On her return from India, she was a missionary in S. Tomé, dedicating herself to the children of the Bi-Afra. Already in the Azores, in the island of Graciosa, she was remarkable as a professional nurse and for her missionary spirit, in particular for her enthusiasm in making known and instilling devotion to Mother Clara. In the last years of her very fruitful life, already on the island of Terceira, she exercised the ministry of visitation, domiciliary nursing and helped the children of the Santa Clara's College at meals, leaving as a memory her smile and welcome acceptance.

The time of her departure for heaven was near, but despite intense suffering, serenity and peace were always the expression on her face. She passed away at the age of 82, after having celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of her consecration to the Lord four months before.

The secret of her happiness was to find joy in the joy of others.

