



**LITTLE
FLOWERS FOR
THE MONTH
OF NOVEMBER**

First Little Flower

**Father Raimundo dos
Anjos Beirão**

The chronicles tell us that Father Raimundo dos Anjos Beirão was expelled from the Convent and persecuted. However, only one thing moved him: *“The truth, that our divine Jesus wished to be born not only poor, but in a very poor place, should encourage us and force us to imitate Him on the path of Love!”*

This is why he was tireless and extraordinarily resourceful in seeking the means to do good to the most vulnerable.

Early in his priestly life, he established an association in Lisbon called “Filhos de São Caetano” – the Children of Saint Caetano – This association consisted of poor boys who were taught catechism by Father Raimundo. After catechism, the children walked the streets of the city carrying baskets covered with white cloths embroidered with the word CHARITY on it, and begged for alms which they would then give to the needy.

Father Raimundo also carried his basket and accompanied the children, singing hymns which he composed specifically for this purpose and which sometimes moved the listeners to tears.

Chronicle of the Congregation of the Portuguese
Franciscan Hospitallers, Braga 1933, Reprint - 1st Part, pgs. 51-52.

This is how Father Raimundo taught us to be the true disciples of the One who “became poor to enrich us with his poverty” and to give our lives in his memory.

Glory be to You, Lord, for we are this family who, following the example of its Father and Founder, has lived and given itself for 150 years – The Family of the FRANCISCAN HOSPITALLER SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

History takes us back to Lisbon in the second half of the 19th century. A trail of tragedy hovers over the city: Masonry and political struggles; a persecuted Church; division and fear; poverty and disease; abandonment and orphanhood; moral degradation. This is the framework and background that provides us with a glimpse of the dimension of the life of our Founder, Father Raimundo dos Anjos Beirão – an extraordinarily fruitful life because it was heroically minor and hospitable.

LITTLE FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Second Little Flower

**Sr. Encarnação Pinheiro
Surrender to God
and the Mission**

**This is the secret of so
many miracles of our
predecessors:**

**Trust in God, without
limits; Fascination
and enthusiasm
for the vocation;
Faithful Love, for the
Congregation.**

**A real challenge to live
today, an unshakable
faith, trust
and obedience!**

**Consider God as my
everything, the reason
for my action!**

**Enliven the sense
of belonging to the
Congregation
as family!**

The love and fascination for Jesus and for the Franciscan Hospitaller vocation has a face: Sister Encarnação Pinheiro.

She entered the Congregation when she was still young. She found that the ideal place for her to be the messenger of God's tenderness and goodness was with the sick.

She always trusted in Jesus and His Mother, for whom she had a very special devotion. Her life attests that faith can move mountains.

She began to work as a nurse after her profession in 1934. She had learnt that obedience works wonders, and she believed it. Nothing could rob her of her joy, trust, and the desire to give herself without reservations to the mission that was entrusted to her. She wanted to be a true Franciscan Hospitaller.

When she worked in the operation theatre at the hospital in Santarém, her knowledge was very elementary, almost non-existent. She was the assistant nurse during a surgery when the surgeon asked her for some instruments she had never heard of before.

She calmly stepped out of the room and went to the storage where the operation theatre instruments were kept and prayed: "Lord, direct my eyes to the instruments I have been asked to fetch". She looked into the cabinet. With the conviction that comes from her trust, she took the instruments on which her eyes had focused and her heart indicated. She sterilised them with fire (this method was used in those days to sterilise instruments) and, convinced that everything was correct, she walked into the operation theatre and handed the tray to the surgeon, who thanked her. Sister Encarnação later narrates: "I left the room as soon as I could, entered the storage room, knelt down and with my arms stretched in the form of a cross I prayed the Magnificat to glorify God who helped me to leave a good impression of my Congregation".

