

Clothed with strength from above, Mother Clara dedicated herself to form and lead the first generations to Franciscan hospitaller consecration. The spiritual and human quality of the Foundress, her presence so comprehensive and so caring, raised admiration of the young formees, for whom only the echo of her voice and the colour of her virtues were necessary. Through the solidity of her formation, she instilled in the first Sisters, a love and passion for the Charism of Hospitality.

It was, in fact, necessary for these Sisters, to be recognized by the people as other “servants of the poor” and, called to a “rough and mortified” life, to find someone capable of guiding them in this vocation with joy and total generosity. Mother Clara did everything she could to not mask the harshness of the conditions in which the formees had to live and carry out their mission. She sought, according to the Statutes, “to form as best as possible the hearts of her disciples for a life of so much self-denial, discomfort and suffering, showing them how important it is, first of all, to have true charity and obedience, so that they may go forth full of holy joy treating the sick, whatever the illness may be... *and even to war, should this misfortune befall them in their day*”.

It is important to note that Mother Clara was not so much concerned in teaching rules or principles as with “*educating*” their heart, so that they could have “*a well-informed knowledge of internal and external life of a true hospitaller woman*” and, from there guide their own action with true capability of discernment and initiative. The Sisters, in general, did not hesitate to corre-



Mother Clara
“Formator and Guide”



A born Formator, capable of guiding, encouraging and demanding, she let herself be respected and loved by all.

She did not like to constantly draw their attention, but she did not stay away, when it came to correcting and educating.



Fevereiro
2024



Sister Maria Clara had a kind of predilection for the Novitiate. Besides caring for good living conditions, and proper healthcare, she was concerned about a solid formation and suffered greatly when a novice disliked her vocation and made heroic efforts to encourage them and make them persevere.



spond, generously, to this encouragement and dedicated themselves wholeheartedly, to serving those most in need. The Mistress knew to guide them with a secure hand, with a blend of tenderness, simplicity, firmness and kindness, which made her loved and admired by all.

She had her own way of teaching with delicacy, grace and good humor, avoiding hurting as much as possible and knew how to ask forgiveness when she realized that she was wrong.

She wanted the formees not to be content with simply observing the Rule, but she sought, above all, to educate them to a profound spirituality, made up of absolute dedication to the Lord and selfless service to the brothers and sisters.

Convinced that, "*nothing is small in the eyes of God*", and that the efforts of the simple and humble always please Him, she taught them to take advantage of every opportunity to love and do good.

Even after she ceased to be a Mistress, she frequently visited them to evaluate the formation, give them treats or simply to spend time together.

cf. MENDES DE MOURA, Rosa Helena. *Maria Clara do Menino Jesus sua gente e sua obra*, Coimbra, 2013, pgs. 228-231.