

## Cântico de Maria

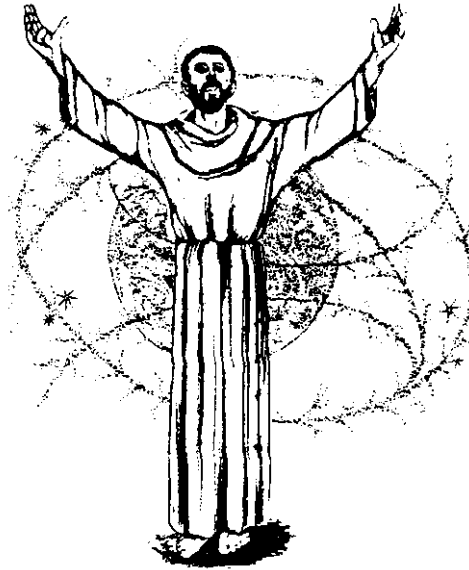
A minha alma proclama o Senhor,  
o meu Deus. O meu espírito  
canta o louvor de Deus,  
Quem me considera e me levanta  
em cima de, Aquela Alegria  
enche os meus dias.

Todas as nações compartilharão  
agora a minha alegria.  
Para Presentes o Deus tem  
outpoured.  
Este humilde foi feito grande  
Amplio o Senhor.

Para aqueles que temem O  
Sagrado:  
A clemência de deus não  
morrerá, Cujo braço direito forte  
suprime o orgulhoso, e levanta o  
alto humilde.

O deus enche o com fome de  
boas coisas, e expede o rico.  
A promessa feita a Abraham e  
Sarah, é enchido ao dia infinito.

Então, deixe todas as nações  
louvar o nosso Deus, O Pai e o  
Filho,  
O Espírito abençoou quem vive  
em nós, Enquanto as idades  
infinitas correm.



*“Life’s journey is to  
God’s eternal Day . . .  
For in Life and in death,  
We belong to the Lord!”*



**Sr. Maria Silva, FMM  
( M. Caritas)**

**Born: July 1, 1924  
Entered: Sept.9, 1945  
Novitiate: March 19, 1946  
First Vows: Sept. 19, 1948  
Final Vows: Sept. 17, 1954  
Born to Eternal Life: 4.30.2009**

## **Early Years**

Sr. Maria remembered the exact time and place! It was October 12th and one of those cloudy/fair days. She was twelve years old sitting on her front porch and watching the sun go in and out of view. Suddenly, she knew she would be a sister and ran in to share the news with her mother.

There was never any question about which group of sisters to join. Maria was a student at Espirito Santo School and loved the FMM's. As she grew up during the Depression and into the war years, there were hard times but Maria was very active in her parish church as junior director of the choir and later worked as a seamstress.

## **God's Call**

During a parish novena to Our Lady of Fatima, she heard one of the promises of Mary speaking of the future conversion of Russia and felt an inner desire to one day go to Russia as a missionary.

## **Missionary Life**

That dream never came true, but another one certainly did as Maria went to many parts of the USA on mission.

For several years, she served as a "Commissioner" – one of many Sisters of her Institute who went all over the United States selling the handwork made in the workrooms, thus obtaining the funds to support missionary works in the USA as well as young girls employed in Needlework Rooms in overseas missions.

After pronouncing her first vows, she was sent in mission to Divine Providence Shelter in Manhattan, NY where she used her seamstress skills and served as a "group mother" in the Shelter. Later she was a group mother at McMahan Shelter in Harlem, NY and in Cardinal Hayes Home for Children in Millbrook, NY.

In the Hotel Alverne, St. Louis, a residence for the elderly she was sacristan and social activities coordinator for the elderly for 11 years.

After studying nutrition and dietetics, Maria became a food supervisor at St Francis Hospital, Roslyn, NY where she spent six years.

Courses in homemaking and home health aide brought her new skills so that she was able to work as a visiting homemaker in Tiverton, RI and Grace Haven retreat and vacation house where she also served as coordinator welcoming sisters coming for retreats or vacations.

Maria loved the elderly, especially her FMM sisters and did night duty at the FMM Nursing Center Fruit Hill. As a member of Emmaus Community in N. Providence, she continued her ministry as a Health Aid Home Helper for United Way. She also volunteered at Amos House, a shelter for homeless women in Providence. In the midst of all her activities, Maria treasured community life, her Franciscan ideals and her prayer life as FMM.

Throughout her life she fulfilled her heart's desire to be more directly involved in ministries among the poorest, the elderly, lonely, invalids and all those who could not care for themselves. To these people, Maria gave herself as she knew that it was for their sake that she was called to be a missionary

In 1991, she was missioned to St. Michael's Community in North Providence where she served as a Nurse Aide in the FMM Nursing Facility.

In 1993 she was missioned to Ein Karim Community, North Smithfield where her ministry was pastoral care to Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in St. Antoine's Residence.

After a heart attack she was sent to Mary Queen of Peace Community in N. Providence for Assisted Living. It was now her time to receive care and to suffer and pray for all the needs of the Church and the world.