

Exhibition Celebrates Sister Maria Anete's Artistic Journey and Legacy

Our Lady of Guadalupe Province, Passo Fundo, Brazil



On the eve of her 100th birthday, Sister Maria Anete (Hertha Becker) was honored by the Passo Fundo community in recognition of her remarkable artistic legacy. For decades, the city has been enriched by the delicacy of her paintings and the generosity with which she shared her God-given talent.

Born in Não-Me-Toque, Rio Grande do Sul, on August 27, 1926, Sister Maria Anete entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame and professed her first vows in 1949. During the early years of her religious life, she taught chemistry, biology, and botany in schools throughout the state. In the 1970s, encouraged to cultivate her artistic gift, she refined her skills in the visual arts, making painting a means of expressing her contemplation of the beauty of creation. She also became an art teacher, inspiring generations of students. Many of her paintings portray flowers, landscapes, and other elements of nature, reflecting a contemplative spirit that invites viewers to recognize the beauty of God's creation.

To honor Sister Maria Anete's life and work, Colégio Notre Dame, Passo Fundo, organized the exhibition **Flowers in Life: A Century of Leaving Beauty Along the Way**, held at Passo Fundo Shopping Center from July 2-14. The exhibition featured more than 40 of her paintings, many of which have long been displayed in the halls of Colégio Notre Dame, where they have inspired students, families, and visitors alike. Through both her artwork and her teaching, she encouraged countless students not only to learn painting techniques but also to cultivate sensitivity, patience, and a love for art.

Throughout a century of faithful service through education and art, Sister Maria Anete has built a legacy that extends far beyond her paintings. Her work reveals the beauty of creation, invites contemplation, and bears witness to how God's gifts flourish when placed at the service of others. Her life continues to inspire new generations to discover, in the beauty of creation, a reflection of God's goodness and presence.

(Watch the accompanying video featuring highlights from the exhibition and reflections from those who have followed Sister Maria Anete's journey and appreciate her artistic talent.)