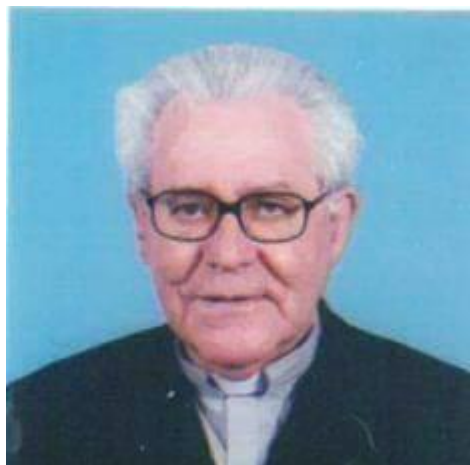


IN MEMORIAM

Fr. José Augusto Sousa, sj (n. 02/08/1933 – + 02/07/2023)

He was 89 years old and 70 in the Society of Jesus.



Fr. José Augusto Sousa was born in the village of Matança, parish of Magueija, in the municipality of Lamego, Portugal, on December 8, 1933. He completed his secondary studies at the Jesuit Apostolic School of Macieira de Cambra and entered the Society of Jesus on September 7, 1952, in Soutelo. After the two years of Novitiate he studied Humanities (1954-1957) and in 1957 he went to the University College of Philosophy in Braga, Portugal, where he graduated in Philosophy in 1960. He did Regency at the Zambezia Mission. He spent one year in the mission of Fonte Boa, Tsangano, studying the local language and in 1961 he went to the mission of Boroma, where he was a teacher and prefect of the students at the Teachers Training

College. He studied theology at the University College of Theology S. Francisco de Borja, in San Cugat del Vallés, Barcelona, Spain for four years.

Fr. José Augusto was ordained priest on the 3rd of July 1966, in Lisbon, at the Chapel of St. John de Brito's College. He graduated in Theology in 1967 and then went to the Institute *Lumen Vitae*, in Brussels where he specialized in Catechesis. In 1968 he returned to Mozambique and accepted to join the team at the Catechetical Center of Nazaré, in Inhamízia, about 15 km from the city of Beira, which, in that year, began to form the first 15 catechist families of the dioceses of Beira, Tete and Quelimane. In 1971 he was appointed Vicar General of the Diocese of Beira.

He did Tertianship in Rome in 1974 and returned to Mozambique. He made his Final Vows on February 2, 1975, in Beira. He was named Provincial of the Vice-Province of Mozambique and took office on March 30, 1975. Fr. Sousa took over the coordination of the Vice-Province at a very critical time, but he proved to be the man for the moment. The challenges provoked by the nationalization of education and health care required a lot of patience, serene dialogue, a spirit of openness and creativity to find quick answers and encourage his brothers. He experienced the anguish of Jesuit companions who were arrested and expelled from Mozambique and one who was arrested and placed in a re-education camp.

In 1981 he ceased to be Provincial and was appointed parish priest of the Parish of St John Baptista in Matacuane, Beira. At the same time, he was Diocesan Vicar for the Pastoral and Superior of the Jesuit Residence in Matacuane. In 1990 he went to Tete as Pastoral Vicar heading the Pastoral Secretariat and started a magazine of pastoral reflection and dissemination of news from the Diocese.

In 1993 he was appointed, once again, Regional Superior of the Mozambican Region of the Society of Jesus. The climate lived in the country was calmer now, but with other challenges. Fr. Sousa was attentive to the path the Society was following in Africa. He was known and appreciated by many Jesuits

in Africa and he helped the Region to grow in the spirit that Father General imprinted in Africa. He followed African politics with great interest through the media, especially the magazine *Jeune Afrique*. In 1999 he returned to Tete as parish priest of the Cathedral and superior of the Jesuit community. At the end of 2000 he went to Beira and was appointed once again parish priest of Matacuane and superior of the community. In January 2003 he returned to Maputo to be Socius to the Regional Superior and was appointed superior of the residence.

In 2004, with health problems, he returned to Portugal. He went to live in a residence in Covilhã and was appointed Chaplain of Pêro da Covilhã Hospital of the Cova da Beira Hospital Centre. In 2006 he was appointed superior of the Jesuit community, a position he held until 2014. At the Hospital he developed a remarkable work in accompanying patients and was always ready to collaborate in the initiatives promoted by the Hospital staff. In 2019 he ceased to be Chaplain of the Hospital, but continued as Assistant to the *Teams of Our Lady* and the *Marriage Preparation Courses*.

When his physical weaknesses got worse, in 2020, he went to the Infirmary of the St. John de Brito's College, in Lisbon, to rest and pray for the Church, the Society and the World. He died in Lisbon on February 7, 2023. Fr. Sousa published many books on Biblical (*Bible, Master of Life*) and Catechetical themes and also on the History of the Society of Jesus in Mozambique. He also left two books of Memoirs, one about his life in Mozambique (2015) and the other about his stay in Covilhã (2019).