

18 April

31 October 1921 – 18 April 2008

Fr. Vital Dias Pereira (MOZ - POR)



Fr Vital was born on October 31, 1921, in Santa Cruz da Graciosa, Graciosa Island, Azores. He did his preparatory studies at the seminary in Angra, Terceira Island, Azores. Having left his father's house, at the age of 21, he entered the novitiate of the Society of Jesus on September 11, 1942, at the Convent of Santa Marinha da Costa in Guimarães. He was reconciled with his father when he was already a priest (cf. *Why I am a Missionary*, in *Missões*, ano VIII, n. 1, 1955, p. 14-16; signed by VCDP). After his novitiate, he studied humanities in Guimarães. He went to the Pontifical Faculty of Philosophy in Braga in 1946, where he graduated in 1949. He was assigned to the Goa Mission, doing one year of teaching in Belgão (India) at St. Paul's High School and another in Margão, Salcete, Goa, at Loyola High School, as a teacher and prefect. He did his Theology in San Cugat del Vallès, Barcelona, Spain (1951-1955) and his Tertianship (1955-1956) in Salamanca. He was ordained a priest on July 30, 1954, in San Cugat, Spain.

After his formation, he was assigned to Soutelo as a socius to the novice master and minister of the house (1956-1958). From 1958 to 1960 he was spiritual director and teacher at Cernache College, Coimbra. He made his profession of four solemn vows in Cernache on February 2, 1960. He was director of the Retreat House St. Ignatius, Rodízio (1960-1962); promoter of the Eucharistic Crusade (1962); minister of the Lapa Jesuit Residence, Lisbon (1963-1965). Missioned to Macau in 1965, he was superior of the "Vila Flor" residence for two years. He was Spiritual Director and Professor of Spiritual Theology at the Seminary and taught Moral Theology at the Nursing College.

In 1967 he was assigned to the Zambezia Mission (Mozambique). He was at the Chiritse mission (1968) where he learned the local language; at Fonte Boa mission, Angonia (1968-1970); at the parish of Our Lady of Graces, as archpriest of the Angonia area and superior of the community; at the Lifidzi mission, as superior (1973-1975). He was Consultor of the Vice-Province (1968-1974). In 1975 he was parish priest of the parish of Our Lady of Fátima in Beira and in 1976 he left Mozambique for good on medical advice.

He was in the Azores (1976-1985) at the diocesan seminary in Ponta Delgada, as a teacher and spiritual director. He was a member of the Azorean Institute of Culture (IAC). In 1985 he returned to Lisbon and was appointed archivist of the Province. He was also vice-postulator of the cause for the canonization of Blessed Inácio de Azevedo and companions, martyrs of Brazil, and Blessed João Baptista Machado and companions, martyrs in Japan. He ceased to be an archivist in 2001. He died on April 18, 2008, in Lisbon.

Fr. Vital was a man of strong personality, but obedient, kind and generous. He wrote: *Churches and Hermitages of Graciosa Island*, 1986. Cf. JESUITAS, information for friends, n. 330, May/July 2008.





Seated: P. A. Heredia - Bro. Avelino Ribeiro
 Standing: Mr. Gomes (Economato) - Fr. Vital - Custody (cook)



Fr. Vital Dias Pereira and Fr. Cirilo Mateus