



IN MEMORIAM

Father Manuel Ferreira, SJ (n. 03/02/1939 – + 01/05/2023)
He was 84 years old and 66 years in the Society of Jesus.

Manuel Ferreira was born in Fárrio, Municipality of Ourém, District of Santarem, on 03 February 1939 and entered the Society of Jesus on 7 September 1956, in Soutelo. In 1961 he went to Galarate, Italy, to study philosophy. In 1964 he was assigned to Zambezia Mission, where he did his regency, at the Teacher Training School, in the mission of Boroma. In 1966 he returned to Europe and went to Rome, Gregorian University, to study theology and to continue on to doctorate. He was ordained priest on 28 June 1969, in Lisbon Cathedral. He defended his thesis, entitled "Faith and Prophecy in St. Hilary of Poitiers", in 1973, published in 1995, by the Faculty of Theology of the Portuguese Catholic University. He did his Tertianship in Canada (1973) and then returned to Mozambique (mission of St. Benedict of Manga).

In 1974 Fr. Manuel was appointed novice master. He took his final vows on 17 August 1975, in Beira. Manuel continued in Manga as parish priest and teacher at the Secondary School. In 1979 he moved to Matabane (Beira). He worked in the parish, taught at the secondary school and was a vocations promoter. Between 1984 and 1989 he was again novice master. In 1989/90 he was in Rome on a sabbatical year and collaborated in the Portuguese section of the Secretariat of State of the Vatican.



When he returned to Mozambique, he stayed in Maputo. He dedicated much of his time to the formation of young religious women and supported the pastoral service of Matola Parish. He guided Spiritual Exercises and collaborated in the Apostolic Nunciature of Mozambique.

In 1996 he went to Tete as director of ESAM (Mozambique Open Secondary Education) which initially had the name of MOLU (Mozambique Open Learning Unit). In 1997 he returned to Maputo and was professor at the Higher Institute of Religious Sciences, ISMMA (Higher Institute of Mary Mother of Africa) and at the Diocesan Theological Seminary.

In 2002, Fr. Manuel returned to Beira to be the spiritual director of the Scholastics, collaborating at the Fr. Cirilo Centre and teaching at the Diocesan Seminary. He was appointed coordinator of the apostolate of the Exercises. In 2014 he was appointed socius to the Novice Master and went to live in the Novitiate House in Manga.



In 2015 he started teaching at the Catholic University of Mozambique in Beira. In 2017 he went to the St. Ignatius residence in Maputo, dedicated to teaching at the Diocesan Theological Seminary, at ISMMA and exercising an animation apostolate with young Mozambican writers.

He returned to Portugal in 2021 for medical treatment and he stayed in the community of the College of St. John de Brito, Lisbon, until January 2023 when he returned to Maputo. Writer friends were interested in collecting many of his poems, which were published in a book, "*Serenidade*", launched in Beira and Maputo, which found him already very weakened. He returned to Lisbon on 12 April. His health became steadily weaker and he was taken to hospital on the 27th. He died on May 1, 2023, in Lisbon.

During his time of suffering, he showed great serenity, the fruit of the awareness of a lived commitment and a witnessed faith. Fr. Manuel was a religious always available to help spiritually whoever approached him. He was an expert in guiding the Spiritual Exercises, thanks to his preparation and above all his interest in keeping himself up to date.

Final

*I am thirsty
Not for death
But for what death brings me.
I am at peace.
All is consummated
Not for me but for Thee.
And that is enough.*
(Fr. Manuel Ferreira Maputo 2006)