

26 December

30 June 1928 – 26 December 2015

Fr. Manuel da Silva Rodrigues SEQUEIRA

He was born at Lugar de S. Francisco, Freguesia and Concelho da Calheta, Funchal, Madeira Island, on 30th June 1928. He studied at the Diocesan Seminary of Funchal. He entered the Society of Jesus on September 28, 1947, in the Convent of Santa Marinha da Costa, Guimarães. After his humanities' studies in Guimarães, he did philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy in Braga (1952 - 1955) and regency at INA (1955 - 1958). He studied theology at San Cugat del Vallés, Barcelona (1958 - 1962). He was ordained priest on July 30, 1961, in Lisbon. After his tertianship in Salamanca (1962 - 1963), he was assigned to work in the Zambézia Mission (Mozambique). In Mozambique, he worked at Fonte Boa Mission, learning the local language. Then, he went to Boroma Mission, where he taught at the teacher training college and was in charge of the scouts. He took his final vows on 15 August 1964, in Lifidzi. In 1967, he was in charge of the process in which the school was transferred to Angónia, Vila Coutinho, and, in 1974, he was appointed its Director. He held the position with competence and serenity, during the difficult times of the transition of Mozambique to the Popular Republic of Mozambique. Once the school was nationalised, he moved to the parish where he was later appointed parish priest while teaching at the secondary school, the same in which he had been Director. In 1983, he was appointed parish priest of Tete Cathedral and superior of the residence. This happened until 1986, when he was sent to Madrid. In Madrid, he spent about a year doing his theological studies. From 1987 to 1990, he lived in Beira, working in the parishes of Matacuane and N^a S^a de Fátima. In Matacuane, he founded the group "Caminheiros de Santa Maria", a kind of scouts, since scouting was forbidden in Mozambique. In 1989, he was appointed Novice Master. He was a man of prayer and a devoted and zealous novice master. In 2001, he was sent to Fonte Boa's mission to collaborate in the Parish. He returned to Tete in 2003 to collaborate at the Cathedral Parish and to give religious assistance in the city's Hospital. In 2005, he was appointed Vice-Superior until his definitive departure for Lisbon in 2014. Back in Portugal, he lived in CIL community (Centro Inaciano do Lumiar) in Lisbon. He passed away on 26 December 2015, in Lisbon.

(Cf. APSI, Livro das entradas; Necrológio)