



Blessed Lindalva Justo
de Oliveira, D.C.

Feast Day: January 7



*Blessed
Lindalva Justo
de Oliveira*

- Born 20 October 1953
- In Brazil
- The sixth of thirteen children of a farmer and his wife



Birth





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- She had a normal childhood
- She was sensitive to the issues of the poor and it is said that at a very young age she surprised her family by donating their clothes to those in need



Childhood



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- In 1971 she began to help raise her three nephews
- Her parents tried to convince her to wed at this time but she said that she already had three sons: her brother's three children that she helped care for



*“É Carregando a Cruz
que conhecemos o amor a
Deus!”*

(Ir. Lindalva Justo)



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- Every day she visited the elderly of the Juvino Barreto Institute (these are recent pictures from their Facebook page —>)
- She finished high school where she had studied to be an administrative assistant



1979
(age 26)





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- After high school she began to take care of her father, who was elderly and sick
- Her brother Antonio was an alcoholic but he got sober not long after Lindalva wrote him a letter
- She worked to survive and help her family



Her father, João Justo da Fé



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- From 1978 until a decade later she worked in retail sales and also as a cashier at a gas station.
- This was to provide for her ailing father and her mother
- She lived in Natal (photo, right), the capital of the state, during this time

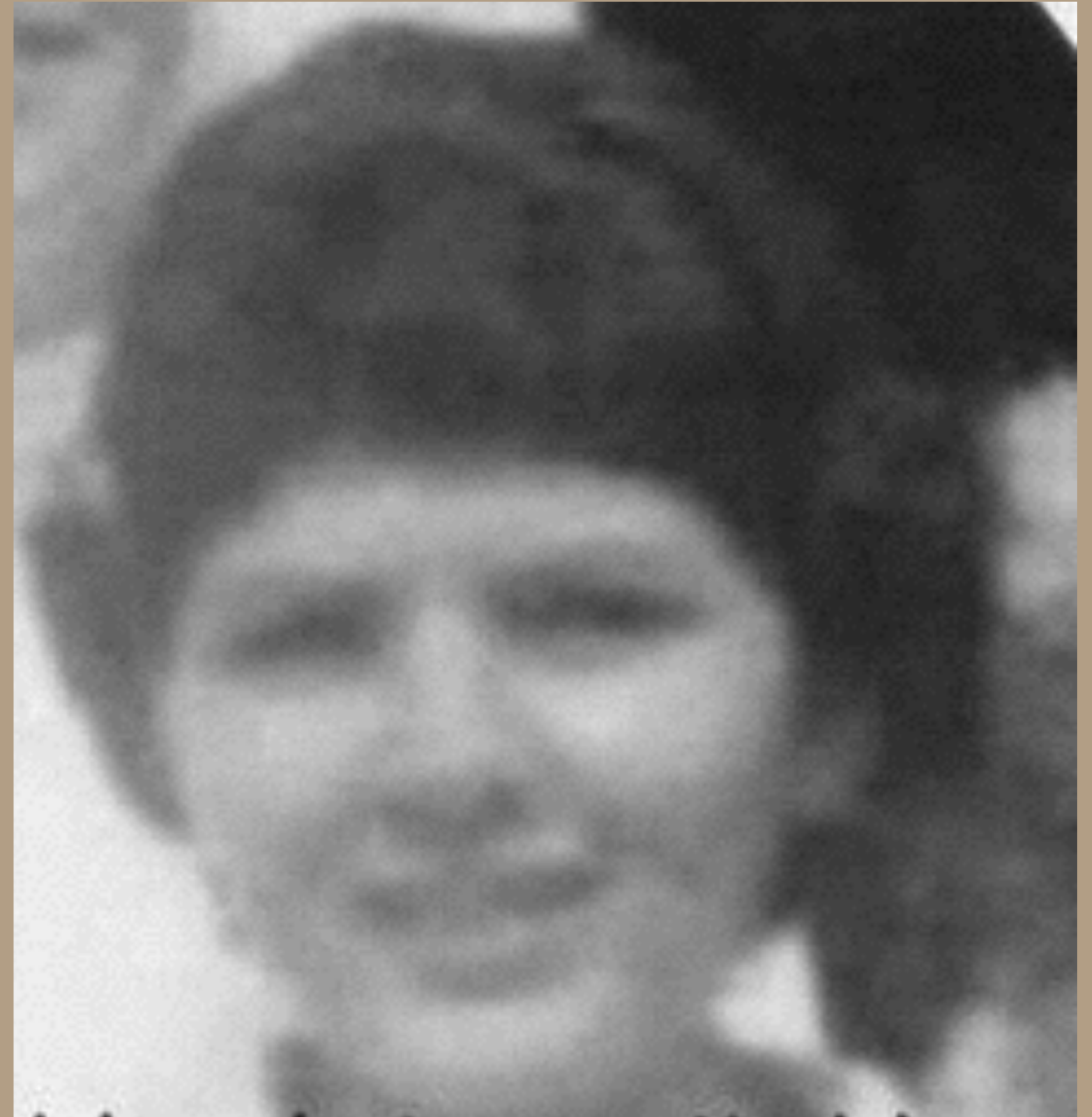


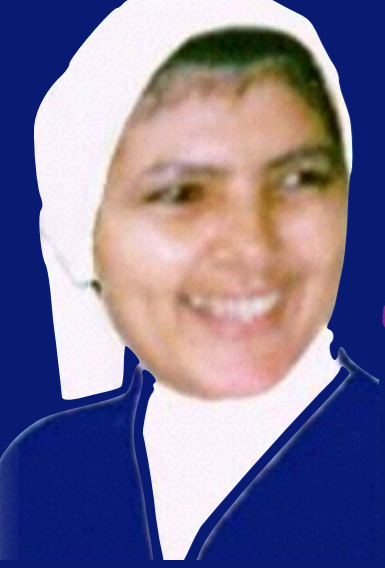
*Age:
Late 20s*



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- In 1982 (age 28) she began a technical course in nursing

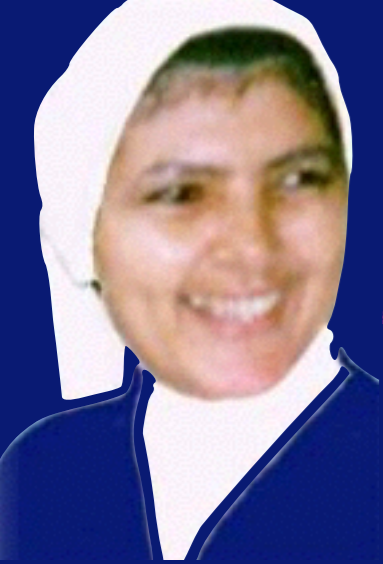




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- After her father's death in 1987, she asked to be admitted as a Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul: she wanted to serve Christ in the poor
- She was now 33 years old



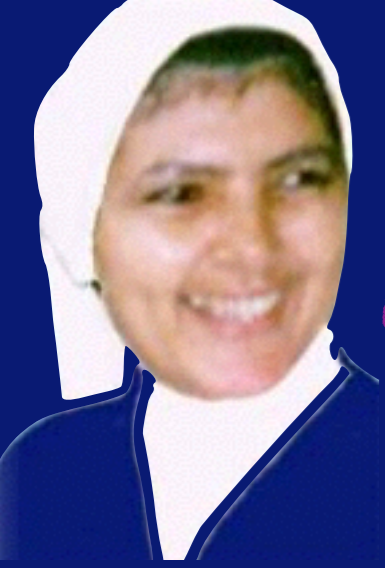


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- On 28 December 1987 she received a letter from the mother provincial accepting her entrance into the congregation
- She became a postulant on 11 February 1988 in Recife, and started her novitiate along with five other hopefuls on 16 July 1989



*Age:
mid 30s*



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- She began to work at the shelter called Don Pedro II Home in Bahia on 29 January 1991 to aid older people and the poor



*Age:
37*



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- In 1993 a man was admitted into the shelter
- He became obsessed with her and began to harass her despite her best efforts to keep her distance from him





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- On 9 April 1993 (Good Friday) she participated in the Way of the Cross at 4:30am and returned to the shelter at 7:00am to serve breakfast.
- He approached her as she served coffee and tapped her on the shoulder then stabbed her with a knife above the collar-bone as she turned around



*Age:
39*



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- She sank to the ground and cried out several times: "God protect me!" while her attacker shouted: "I should have done this sooner!"
- A man attempted to intervene but the killer warned those who approached that they would be killed also





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- He stabbed her 43 more times, wiped the bloody knife on his clothes and threw it onto the floor before exclaiming to the horrified witnesses: "She did not want me!"
- He then said to the doctor that was summoned: "You can call the police, I will not run away; I did what had to be done."





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- Sister Lindalva's beatification process began in January 2000
- The bureaucratic procedures of the Vatican went quickly, since she died as a religious martyr in the exercise of her office as a Sister; in these cases, the requirements for proof of miracles is not the same as in the case of those who die of natural causes





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- Augustus' reason for killing Sister Lindalva was her refusal to be with him as a lover
- Pope Benedict XVI approved that she was killed "in defensum casitatis" - the defense of her vow of chastity
- She was beatified on 2 December 2007



Sources:

Wikipedia

Vatican (Holy See) Website

