

**Br. Daniel Coelho**

Br. Daniel, Alfonso Henriques Goncalves Coelho, was born in Areias de Vilar, in the municipality of Barcelos, in the Archdiocese of Braga, on September 28<sup>th</sup> 1935. His parents were Joaquim Goncalves Coelho and Luciana Rodrigues. He was baptized in the Parish Church of Areias de Vilar on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1935 and confirmed on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 1944. He entered the Capuchin Seraphic Seminary on October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1947. Br. Daniel entered novitiate in Barcelos and made temporary profession on August 15, 1953. He made his solemn profession on October 4<sup>th</sup> 1956 in Leon. In 1960, he completed his theological studies and on March 12<sup>th</sup> was ordained a priest by Bishop Angelo Torrado Moreno, OFM, Cap.

In September of the same year he was appointed teacher and vice-rector at the Seraphic Seminary of Gondomar. In 1963, he became a member of the fraternity of Lisbon and in 1964 he left for Angola as Military Chaplain returning to the province in 1966. Bishop Francisco de Mata Mourisca, OFM. Cap., who had been Provincial Commissary in Portugal, chose him as his personal secretary and in July of 1967 Br. Daniel went with him to Angola. From 1967 to 1970 he served also as Vicar General of the Diocese of Carmona (Uije) in Angola. In January 1970, he was elected Regular Superior of the Mission and he left the Episcopal palace to go to Luanda. In this position, he began the construction of the large Church of St. Anthony in Luanda and after three years he was appointed pastor of St. Francis Parish in Carmona. Feeling ill, he returned to Portugal to be operated for a herniated disc. In July 1973, he was appointed Guardian of the fraternity of Fatima, serving for three years.

In April 1978, he went for the first time to Canada where he served the Portuguese speaking community of St. Mary's parish in Hamilton, Ontario. In 1987 he founded the Association "Amigos do Seminario". In 1988, Br. Daniel returned to Portugal and was appointed as Provincial Secretary and in charge of the provincial communication office. In 1991 he was sent to the community of Barcelos, but he sought instead to return to Canada in order to assist a Capuchin brother Fr. Benjamin Aspra in his work with the Portuguese immigrants. He served St. Joseph Church in Oakville and on March 28<sup>th</sup> 1999, he saw the first fruit of his dream in the "Amigos do Seminario" in the ordination to the priesthood of Fr. Bernardino Costa. On June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1999 Br. Daniel returned to Portugal as a member of the fraternity of Barcelos.



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On November 16th, 1999 he entered the Provincial infirmary and on the November 30<sup>th</sup> he was diagnosed with lung cancer. On March 8<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday, Br. Daniel Coelho completed his Lenten Season and began in Christ, through Christ and with Christ, his final Passover.

