We gather today to farewell and honor Sr Renata. We're not burying a saint but we are burying a person who tried her best to be one.

Of the 92 years she lived – 72 were lived as a Religious within the Congregation of the Augustinian Sisters, Servants of Jesus and Mary. Her Religious life began in Malta her end in Australia.

Like so many religious from Malta, she answered the call to come to Australia and minister initially to the Maltese people but then to the many from many different lands. Her first posting was to Broken Hill after which she truly found her home in Sunshine North where she has was to serve for 56 years.

It needs to said that for those 56 years Sr Renata's every moment was to ensure that this Church, this Parish of St Bernadette's would be ornamented befitting the Liturgical function, season, wedding and Sacramental festivities of the day. Additionally she ensured that the ministering priests always had vesments that were cleaned, ironed and ready for them to. Her dedication to the ministry of Church Sacristan truly fulfilled her life's goal: that of giving witness to God through service.

Sr Renata wasn't one to initiate conversation and when she did she would somehow always find a way to bring the topic to the flowers she bought and prepared for Church celebrations. Though for some this may have been tedious, the reality was that where others may find God in sunsets or song, Sr Renata truly found God in flowers. For her, to gaze on an altar adorned with flower decorations was to gaze on the God who was the creator of them and that the only response for her was to make them 'sing' with color

and form. This was to be the way Sr Renata communicated not only herself but how she communicated God to others.

Sr Renata wasn't a conversationalist. Her silence in gatherings underlined a wisdom that mirrored the teaching to : "***Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary use words."***

What underlined the purpose of ther life was her steadfast commitment to daily praying her rosary, her Divine office her devotions which was always both a witness and reminder of the 'power house' of her life.

This is whom we come to remember and farewell today – not a saint but a person who tried her best to be one.

Euology, Sr Lorraine Testa asjm

1/07/2022