



OBITUARY NOTICE



SISTER CELESTINA LEKOEKOE

Entered eternal life on December 5, 2019
At the age of 46
and 12 years of religious life.

+3880

‘God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people, ...’ Heb. 6:10

Celestina was born on July 6, 1973 in the Berea District in Lesotho. She was the second born of the nine children of the family of Mr. Ernest Paramente and Mrs. Julia Mathope Lekoekoe. Her baptism was celebrated on August 16, 1973 at Gethsmany Roman Catholic Church. Her Sesotho name was *Palesa*, which means *Flower*. She was later described as the flower of the family in “fragrance and beauty”.

Celestina grew up in a family grounded on Christian values. Her parents were caring, loving and involved in Church activities. Celestina’s love of God was apparent at an early age. It demonstrated itself in her friendliness with all types of people and her true concern for others and for all the members of her nuclear and extended family. Indeed, family members reiterated several times that "the Holy Spirit seemed to have been her guide from a very young age."

She attended Zenon and St. Mary high schools where she met the Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux. In 1992, she joined them and was later admitted to pronounce her temporary vows. Celestina was then sent to St. Michael’s College, an institute known for preparing young women in home economics and other administrative skills. Celestina developed a passion for food preparation and cooking. She always loved to help and serve the poor and those in need.

After seven years as a temporary professed with the Holy Family Sisters of Bordeaux, she decided that she could not pronounce her perpetual vows and left. Some time before, she had come to see the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa’s logo on a wall in our convent in Roma just adjacent to her Holy Family convent. The inscription: "*I was hungry and you gave me something to eat* " moved her. She described this logo as a *guiding star* for she felt strongly drawn to this Congregation.

So she came to knock at the door of the Sisters of Charity in 2005. She thought that she would better fit in the religious life

community setting of the Sisters of Charity.

The authorities of the time saw great qualities in her and accepted her request to join our Congregation. Celestina professed her perpetual vows in 2012.

Sister Celestina's interest for kitchen apostolic ministry soon became evident. She was assigned to the Provincial House's dining hall and to Our Lady of Pontmain's Convent as Head Chef. She also assisted a Sister in the bakery department. In her assignments she radiated goodness and openness of heart. She believed and upheld the words of the Lord that *"There will always be poor people in the land. I command you to be openhanded toward fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land."*

She took her role in the Congregation very seriously; she was regularly consulted about different culinary matters and generously shared her knowledge. She always tried to avoid wasting food and was recognized for her smart and creative way to store and prepare tasty meals with leftover foods. With her compassionate heart she often very proudly prepared dishes to serve to those in need. She had this group in her service at all times and knew many personal fine details of many of them, allowing her to be more responsive to their needs.

Because of her friendly, generous and welcoming approach, both the Sisters and others in her surroundings felt at ease in her company.

At the end of 2019, coming back from a visit to her sick father and her siblings, Sister Celestina started having respiratory difficulties. She was urgently rushed to a clinic but never made it out of the emergency vehicle. She passed away on December 5, 2019 at the young age of 46.

May she now receive the reward promised to God's faithful servants.



