

# **Memento for Sister Anne Veronica Horner Hoe, CSC**

July 17, 1949 – November 26, 2019

**For this memento, Sister Diane Cundiff, CSC, Area coordinator of South America, shared Sister Anne’s remarks from the occasion when she was awarded honorary citizenship by the city of São Paulo, Brazil, in 2006. The commendation cited her significant contributions in education, her ministry with the poor and her commitment to justice issues. Sister Mary Tiernan, CSC, councilor of the General Administration, translated Sister Anne’s text from Portuguese and introduced Sister Anne’s words during her memorial Mass on December 19, 2019, at the Church of Our Lady of Loretto, Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, Indiana. The text that follows Sister Mary’s opening comments below quotes Sister Anne.**

When I arrived in São Paulo in 1979, Anne was a candidate in the community I entered, and then a novice in the next community we lived in together. Her passion for the poor families in her ministry was always present as was her enthusiasm in animating young persons to consider religious life.

But, rather than go on from my perspective, it seems better to read Anne’s view of her own life, as shared at her funeral liturgy in São Paulo, Brazil, that was held in our school, Colégio Santa Maria, where she dedicated herself so intensely most of her religious life.

“This is a very important moment for me. When my family left China and moved to Brazil, our apprehensions and fears were many. A strange land, a strange language, a strange people. My siblings and I were children and so, for us, it was even more difficult. We had fear of what we were going to encounter.

But we encountered a beautiful land, a colorful people, full of joy for life, and this made our adaptation far more easy. Slowly we were feeling at home, making friends. The difficulties were many, but with our family’s love and the support of our new friends, we were able to overcome them.

When I entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, I was a youth full of dreams. And today, I continue being a dreamer. The Holy Cross Sisters showed me I could not abandon my dream to make the reality more just. Yes, I need to concretize that dream, but never abandon it.

We, Sisters of the Holy Cross all over the world, are called to participate in the prophetic Mission of Jesus to witness to the love of God for all creation. We should be yeast that transforms all the people into radical believers in the Word of Jesus. It was believing radically in Jesus' Word that caused me to engage in works with poor communities in São Paulo, where I received much more than I gave. I learned from these suffering people, that the love of Jesus is the greatest of the gifts; it is He who motivates us to confront the challenges of life.

[Finally] I want first to thank God, who, with His constant presence in our life and our story, conducted us from China to Brazil, to this land of Holy Cross.

I want to thank the people of this city, who, with your struggles, your suffering and your difficulties, taught me the value...of participating...of exercising my citizenship that made blossom in me an identification with and a desire to take part in your struggles and causes, and to journey together to make part of your history.

I am grateful to all of Colégio Santa Maria: orientors, professors, parents, students and employees [who] believe in the utopia of the project of an education for ... humanization and transformation, and who concretize this project putting into practice the realization of this ideal; a formation of men and women ...[who] exercise their citizenship,...[who] commit themselves to the transformation of your city and make, through your action, a concrete practice of justice and solidarity; persons [who] believe in the possibility of humanizing

São Paulo and transform[ing] this city into a place where it is possible to live, and live with dignity and justice.

I thank my parents, sisters and brothers, who always were at my side, [orienting me] and loving like they have done my whole life until today.

I thank my mother, always present in those moments in which I needed her to be present.

Thank you all for your caring and friendship!”

Thank you, Anne.

Rejoice in your life and in your heart's true Home.