



Province of the West Indies

Cedars

Castries, St. Lucia

Congratulations to Sister Rufina Donat,
Recipient of the
2021 Benemerenti Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal from Pope Francis

Sister Rufina Donat is a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, West Indies Province. Born in Laborie, St. Lucia, she grew up in the city right next to the Cathedral of The Immaculate Conception, Castries. It was there that she made her First Communion, Confirmation and Religious Profession.

From an early age, Rufina was involved in Church Ministry at the cathedral. She was a member of the Junior Choir, and served as a catechist, an usher, an animator and a lector. Upon leaving to enter the Cluny Novitiate in Trinidad, she continued to be active in church ministry, assisting with Communion services and choir.

Sister Rufina has worked with both the Sacred Heart Parish and Cathedral choirs. She also conducted Animation workshops for the Archdiocese of Castries. Her involvement with youth ministry started long before religious life and continued upon her return to St. Lucia. Her ministry also included conducting adult education classes in culinary arts, arts and crafts, and literacy.

Sister Rufina now devotes most of her time to Catholic education as Administrator of St. Joseph Convent Secondary School, and to digital evangelization.

On receiving this award, Sister Rufina gives thanks to God, and is deeply grateful to her parents, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, and all those who have accompanied her on her journey.



Sister Rufina Donat

The Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal, instituted by Pope Gregory XVI in 1832, is the highest recognition the laity can receive from the Pope. It is awarded to individuals who have shown lasting and exceptional service to the Catholic Church, family, and community.