



Anugraha
St. Ann's Provincialate
J-1166 A, Palam Vihar
Gurgaon, Haryana 122 017
Email: anugrahaprov@gmail.com
Tel.: 0124-4023735

Date: 6/11/2015

"I am the Resurrection and the Life, He who believes in Me, though he may die he shall live, and whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." Jn. 11: 25-26.

Dearest Sisters,

On the 30th of October, 2015, the glorious day dawned for Sr. Agatha when the angel of the Lord came to invite her for His eternal banquet and she said her Final Fiat to the Lord, to be always in His Company and experience Him face to face ...

Sr. Agatha was born on 8th April, 1950 in Baragalonda, Raigarh, Chattisgarh to a pious couple Mr. Simon Ekka and Mrs. Margarita Xalxo. They brought up their dear daughter with much love and care and nurtured her with God's Word. She was the first born of the seven girls in her family. She studied in her village school up to fifth standard. When she was studying in Class III a Priest from Belgium came to her village, he was not able to speak the local language but his loving smile and his very person inspired her to become a religious. It was here the seed of love for Jesus fell.

She entered our institute on 17th June, 1971, Made her Religious Profession on 3rd January, 1975 at Secunderabad and Pronounced her Perpetual Vows on 1st January, 1981 at Duldula. Indeed this year 2015 had been remarkable year of her life as she completes 40 years of religious life. All her batch mates had a wish to visit her since she could not be a part of the Ruby Jubilee celebration. God had different plans as He wanted all of them to be present to bid her Good Bye on her eternal journey.

Sr. Agatha has made a long journey through the corridors of time as a teacher, attending to the little ones in the classrooms, boarding in Secunderabad, Duldula, Isanagar, Mohanlalganj, Mahunagar and as a pioneer in Trilokpuri. Sister was very loving and gentle, understanding and sympathetic, more concerned towards the young and always soft spoken, hardworking and committed to her religious vocation.

On 19th November 2014, due to health reasons, she was transferred to St. Ann's Convent, Talegaon, Pune. From April 2015 Sister's health condition deteriorated day by day. All the Sisters of St. Ann's Convent and the entire Province were supporting her with their prayers. Owing to her illness, she was bed-ridden for the past one year. She was suffering from degenerative disorders of central nervous system – Brain and Spinal Cord which resulted in complete inability of movements. She was conscious till the end, but unable to communicate except by groaning cries. She had diabetes and Hypertension. She died of Cerebral Vascular Accidents as per the diagnosis of the doctor at 9.30 am on 30th Oct. 2015. As gently as she had lived, she left this earthly abode gently slipped into the bosom of the Heavenly Father.

The Funeral mass was on 31st October and was presided over by Rev. Fr. Prasanna along with Fr. Kevin. The funeral service was attended by Sr. Agatha's batch-mate Sr. Theresa Cherian, Provincial Superior of Southern Province along with her other five Companions and the Sisters from the Communities of Gujarat, Ajgaon and Mumbai. In his homily Father Prasanna said "Whether we are suffering or lonely we have the assurance that "He who eats the Body and drinks His blood lives forever. What is the message left behind by Sr. Agatha to all of us? It is not enough that we meet here but come to meet me above. Our dear Sr. Agatha has run the race, now glory is waiting for her".

It is very edifying and inspiring to know that Sr. Agatha has touched many souls with her gentleness and soothing smile. She had a spirit of commitment and generosity in her caring for the poor and the least. In her last days, though she was bed-ridden, she always radiated God's ever living and loving presence with her smile to all those who visited her. She suffered silently by offering everything to God. Sister Agatha was loved and esteemed by all those who were under her care, whether Sisters or students. She taught the students not only secular subjects but also how to love God and how to help one another. In remotest villages the poor and the downtrodden were her friends. Every problem is a God-given opportunity for growth, this was what urged Sister Agatha to overcome all her problems and struggles with resignation to God's will. She had many God experiences which have given her grace to forgive others and make her life holy. She experienced His healing touch and believed that Jesus is always there to love her and she will always glorify Him in her life.

Sr. Theresa Cherian – Provincial Superior of Southern Province, spoke these words about Sr. Agatha, "40 years one has ample time to grow in conformity to His will. The final get together is what God has planned as a reward in heaven. God has a plan for everyone and He accomplishes it according to His will.

'Heaven is the prize' Sr. Agatha preferred to suffer silently without much sharing. She used to take everything in prayer and sought consolation only in prayer. She was other oriented person always ready to render her service. She wanted us to see not her suffering stage but glorious stage". She concluded thanking all those who have taken care of Sr. Agatha."

We thank Sr. Magline and the Community Sisters for the love and care shown towards Sr. Agatha during her illness. We owe our gratitude to our Sister-Nurses Sr. Magline, Sr. Mary and Sr. Celine who assisted Sr. Agatha in her last agony without counting the cost. We thank our elderly Sisters, Sisters and children from Karunanjali, the Aspirants and Sisters from the Novitiate Community for their prayerful support. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Sr. Agatha's sisters, nieces and nephews and many other relatives and well-wishers and especially to her dear companions who were there to bid her farewell.

We thank Fr. Prasanna the Parish Priest of our Lady of Carmel Church and Fr. Kevin for their presence and making all the arrangements for the Eucharist and the funeral service.

She served the Lord with much love in her own quiet way. May her soul rest in peace. May Sr. Agatha intercede for us to grow in the mercy of the Lord.

Yours affectionately,

(Sr. Rosily Paul)
Provincial Superior