



St. Ann's Provincialate

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“For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands.” 2 Cor.5:1

Dearest Sisters,

On 8th January, Feast of the Epiphany, at 3.30 p.m. Sr. Alberta passed away peacefully and entered into her heavenly abode. She had become very weak and her health was deteriorating day by day. For the last two months she was confined to bed, hardly able to nourish herself.

The funeral mass was held on 9th January, 2012 at 12.00 noon. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by the Bishop of Jashpur, Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Kerketta along with the Parish Priest Fr. Polycarp Bara and five other priests. The funeral service was attended by Sr. Goretti Tigga, the Provincial Councillor and the Sisters from the neighbouring Communities of Gharghoda and Tamnar; the school staff and students; and the Parishioners. Sr. Alberta's nephew and her niece, Sr. Plazia Minj were present. In his homily, the Bishop appreciated the hard work done by Sr. Alberta for the Church especially among the non-Christians. He re-called how in her younger days she went from village to village spreading the Good News, preparing the people for the Sacraments and carrying out family apostolate with dedication and fervour. He emphasized that we need religious men and women with zeal like hers, which is very much lacking today. The Parish Priest further stated that Sr. Alberta served the Church of Duldula with love and commitment. He thanked the Major Superiors of our Congregation for all that was done through Sr. Alberta and all the Sisters. She was laid to rest in our cemetery at St. Mary's Duldula.

Sr. M. Alberta (Mary Minj) was the daughter of Mr. Mathias and Veronica Minj. She was born on 13th March, 1926 at Jakba, Ranchi. She entered our Religious family as a Postulant on 28th January, 1952 and was vested on 1st January, 1953. She pronounced the Holy Vows on 1st January, 1955. Her first transfer was to Gholeng as a teacher and then in August 1959 she was sent to Vijayawada. She made her Perpetual Profession on 1st January, 1961. Thereafter she offered her generous service in the Communities of Duldula, Gharghoda and Isanagar.

After the Grihini Training Course in Gholeng in 1962, Sr. Alberta opened a Grihini School in Duldula for the uneducated young girls, preparing them for marriage and teaching needle work, weaving and house-hold chores. Her Grihini Schools transformed the illiterate village girls into refined ladies able to lead a decent and fruitful life taking care of their families. Not an easy task! The girls refused to come but she did not give up. She would go on foot to the villages, persuade and bring them to the training centre. Her love for them conquered all the difficulties. They have grown up to be mothers, and grandmothers living a happy life. When the Grihini School was closed down in 1993 she happily took up the field work and the other house hold activities. Prayer was the source of her strength to face the challenges of her Mission. She was a lover of nature (eco-friendly) – talking to animals and birds, working tirelessly in the fields. The fruit of her ‘green fingers’ will be enjoyed for many years to come. She was in charge of the ‘Mahila sangh’ instructing the women and participating in the various rallies along with them.

Sr. Alberta was one of the pioneering members of the Community of Duldula faithfully carrying out her mission there, for about 38 intermittent years. The poor were her priority and she reached out to them without counting the cost. Though not a nurse, she would dispense herbal medicines even before herbal medicines became common. A sense of urgency to help anyone who was in need overwhelmed her. Serene amidst the storms of life; nothing disturbed nor frightened her. She brought joy to the Community with her sense of humour.

Sr. Alberta would go to remote villages to prepare the people for Christmas and Easter. She would stay for about a fortnight with the people catechizing and preparing them to receive the sacraments worthily. A true woman of Faith! She has joyously and devoutly contributed her mite to the Duldula Parish for 25 long years.

I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt condolences and gratitude to Sr. Mary Ann and all the Sisters at Duldula for their service to Sr. Alberta. I am ever grateful to Sr. Agnes Thomas for the selfless and dedicated nursing care given to Sr. Alberta during her illness. May the Lord reward you. I thank Sr. Goretti Tigga, the Provincial Councillor, for her consoling and supportive presence to the Sisters of Duldula in their moment of grief.

Let us offer our prayers and suffrages for **Sr. Alberta**, so that she may enjoy the beatific vision. She served the Lord with much love in her own quiet way. May her soul rest in peace. Dear Sr. Alberta we are grateful to you for your humble and loving service rendered joyfully wherever you were sent. Intercede for us to the Lord Jesus whom you now see face to face, that we may consciously walk in the footsteps of our Founders doing good to all, especially the little ones entrusted to our care.

Yours affectionately,

Provincial Superior