



## ST. ANN'S PROVINCIALATE

B 43 Cariappa Road, Bolarum – 500 01 0 (A.P.)

Tel. 040 – 27862122 (Prov.), Cell:9849165922, 27864743 (Fax), 27861321 (Comty.)

E-mail: provincial@stannspci.com; secretary@stannspci.com



Dearest Sisters,

“As sleep comes to a well spent day, so does death come to a well spent life”

This is what was desired by Sr. Bertha Fernandez during her last days on earth. God has a special love and concern for His beloved daughter who He called to Himself on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at 6.20 a.m. Surged into waves of resplendent effulgence on the heavenly shores, Sr. Bertha glided into the loving arms of her Good Daddy.

Sr. Bertha Fernandez was born on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1929 at Milagris, Mangalore, to Piyad Sebastian Fernandez and Clara Fernandez. She was the youngest of the two girls and was lovingly called Lilly. Nurtured by her pious and devout parents, she grew up in the love of God. From her very childhood she gave much importance to a life of prayer, faith formation and service to humanity. She joined the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Ann of Providence as a trained teacher in the year 1957, made her First Profession in 1960 and took Perpetual Vows in 1966.

Sr. Bertha spent 50 precious years of Religious Life in the vineyard of the Lord fulfilling His mission on earth. She worked in the capacity of a teacher. By her loving, compassionate service she won the hearts of all children who were placed under her care. She had special love and concern for the poor and slow learners. She took keen interest in preparing the children for First Holy Communion and catechizing adults for the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Replete with kindness and a caring smile, she rendered her service from 1960 to 2002 in various communities such as Raichur, Bolarum, Goa, Talegaon, Jamnagar and Mangalore. During this vast and vivid journey of being with the little ones, she carried out her duties with utmost diligence and a sense of purpose. Even after retirement, she made herself useful both in the Community and apostolate. It is interesting to know that many elderly people approached her to learn the English Language. Sr. Bertha had a word of encouragement and appreciation for all those who came in contact with her. She was loved by one and all in the Communities where she worked.

It was edifying to see Sr. Bertha fulfilling her one desire of being the first in the chapel to commune with her beloved Spouse. Even to the end she was regular at all the Community activities. She lived her life of consecration faithfully. Her favourite saying was “ Jesus is

my spouse and I belong to Him.” She spent her free time before the pale light of the sanctuary lamp, interceding for the whole world and meditating on the Word of God.

Her ardent love and loyalty towards the Priests is something praise worthy, woe to us if we spoke against the Priest, who to her were ‘Other Christ’.

In the year 2006, Sr. Bertha was transferred to the Community of Valencia. She enjoyed her stay with the Sisters and the Aspirants, sacrificing her time, and energy for the well being of the young, enthusiastic candidates. When her strength began to fail, January 2010 found her in St. Ann’s Home for the Aged, Angelore.

For the past 6 months she has been suffering with cellulites, causing her excruciating pain, which prevented her from walking and doing things by herself.

After days and nights of intense suffering the Heavenly Father was pleased to bestow a radiance and peace of the face of dear Sr. Bertha when he came to take her. This image has remained attached in my memory and feel blest besides having experienced the joy of her intercession.

The funeral Mass was held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2010 in the Chapel of St. Ann’s Home for the Aged, Angelore. It was well attended by Priests, the Sisters of the neighbouring Communities, Sisters from other Congregations, friends and well wishers from Valencia and Mangalore who braved the inclement weather only to pay their last respects. and her near and dear ones.

We are grateful to Sr. Gracy Rodrigues and Sisters of Valencia and Sr. Severine and Sisters of Angelore, for their loving accompaniment in alleviating her pain and being solace in the evening of her life.

We offer our dear Sr. Bertha in the hands of our Heavenly Father and pray that she may rest secure in the merciful love and enjoy the consolation of her Good Daddy at the eternal shores. Let us also commend ourselves and the Congregation to her fervent intercession before the Lord.

Sr. Bertha is no more, but the Good Samaritan in her empowers us to follow her and become Sisters of love, hope and compassion.

Affectionately,

Sr. Monica Francis,  
Provincial Superior