



St. Ann's Provincialate,
Melamaiyur,
14th January 2018

**As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you O God;
When shall I come and behold the face of God” (Psalm: 42/ 1-2)**

This longing to belong to the Lord and work for His Kingdom was strong and constant in the life of our dearest Sr. Brigit Pudota even from a very young age. The Pudota family, traditionally rooted in catholic faith and piety, and zealously involved in catechizing and evangelizing, nurtured its children in good Christian tenets, consequently gifting two of their daughters to religious life — Sr. Brigit, the eldest and Sr. Marieta Pudota, the youngest of five children in the family.

Sr. Brigit Pudota was born on 25th March 1926 to Mr.& Mrs. Gregory and Thomasamma Pudota at Narasaraopeta of Guntur District. At baptism she was named Mariamma. After her high school studies, Mariamma was inspired by her uncle, Fr. Rayanna, a Jesuit Priest, to embrace religious life.

In 1946, Sr. Brigit was received as a postulant at Secunderabad by the then Provincial Superior, Mother Clemenza, was vested in religious habit on 1st January, 1948 and made her first profession in 1950. The following paragraph is taken from her biodata “ 1st January 1950, was a day of great rejoicing to me. My parents, two brothers and sisters were with me. As I walked up to the altar along with my 9 companions, I felt I was in heaven!! . As a newly professed sister, my motto was “ cura res tuas” (mind your business”) and I never meddled with any one. I went about doing my work with inner peace and harmony, with a silent prayer, *Lord make me a saint and spare me not in the making*”.

Guided by such genuine motivation, she offered herself totally in the service of the Lord, through teaching and formative mission.

1951--- St. Ann's High School , Kazipet; 1961----St. Ann's H. School , Aruvankadu
1963 ---St. Anthon's H. School, Vijayawada; 1965---St. Mary's H. School, Jamnagar- Gujarat.
1975----St. Theresa's High School, Eluru; 1978---- St. Antony's H.Sc, Vijayawada, Head Mistress
1983---Sacred Heart Convent,Vijayawada, Sister-in- Charge; 1989--- St. Ann's Convent, Nidadavolu
1991----St. Antony's Gollapudi, Hostel in Charge; 1993---- Mistress, Good News Congre., Eluru
1996----St. Ann's Convent, Nidadavolu, Orphanage in- charge; 1998---St. Ann's Convent, Gollapudi.
2010--- St. Antony's Convent Gollapudi, for rest and treatment, till the day of her departure to heaven.

Sister Brigit was known for her edifying sense of obedience that she offered no resistance to transfers even when it was done at a short notice. She also had a remarkable sense of humility that prompted her to ask pardon of a Sister, even the most junior one, if she had hurt them by word or deed. It happened that once she went to a Sister to ask pardon. The Sister was amused and said casually; “ you must kneel down and ask pardon”. Sr. Brigit immediately knelt down and asked forgiveness, which brought tears in the Sister’s eyes. Such was her childlike simplicity. All those who lived with her had experienced the compassionate, sensitive and loving heart hidden behind her stern external appearance.

During the funeral Mass, some of the priests who had known her closely expressed their sentiments of gratitude in the following way:-

Fr. Joji Rayanna of Guntur Diocese, recalling his acquaintance with Sr. Brigit, when she was the Head Mistress of a School in Gujarat, said “ her way of dealing with people was like a servant leadership. When it comes to people’s needs, she is like a soldier very courageous”. The people of Gujarat remembers her fondly and kept contacting her for many years after she returned to Andhra Pradesh. Fr. Bala of Eluru Diocese gratefully acknowledged her service to the late Bishop Rt. Rev. John Mulagada and to the priests, when the Diocese was newly formed. Sr. Brigit was instrumental for securing government jobs for many poor people of the locality, and radically involved herself in the plight of the villagers when justice was denied to them. She often visited their families and settled disputes and restored peace in the families.

Fr. Thomas Reddimasu, Sr. Brigit’s nephew, recalled, “ I admire my aunt for her love for the poor and the needy. Anyone who approached her for help, never went away empty handed, but had their material and spiritual needs fulfilled to the reasonable extent. She had been an inspiration to me in many ways”.

Sr. Brigit had a special way of motivating young girls to religious life. She proved her love for the Congregation by her deeds, by recruiting many good vocations to our Institute and following them up during their formative journey. Sr. Showrulu, while rendering thanks to the assembly gathered at the funeral Mass, recalled the great role played by Sr. Brigit in leading her to our Congregation and strengthening her vocation. She admitted with sincere gratitude, the maternal affection that she received from Sr. Brigit.

After 61 long years of service in various communities, in 2012, Sr. Brigit was transferred to St. Antony’s Convent Vijayawada, for a well deserved rest. Here she spent her time in prayer and rendering spiritual counseling to the young Sisters. On 26th August, 2017, her health began to deteriorate and she suffered partial paralysis on her right side. She was confined to the wheel chair and the Sisters looked after her well, with constant assistance. Due to her advanced age, the medication could give her only temporary relief. On October, 6th her blood pressure rose high causing brain stroke as well as hemiplegia bringing her to semi consciousness. The doctors diagnosed her case as brain stroke. Sister remained in this condition for three months while the Sister nurses provided her every possible care and treatment. She was administered the anointing of the sick , twice during this period.

On 5th January , 2018, at 9.30 p.m., Sr. Brigit developed breathlessness. All the Sisters gathered around her bed and prayed the chaplet of Divine Mercy and the holy rosary. Even as their prayers ascended to heaven, her soul departed to the holy presence of God at 10.30 p.m. Sister Brigit was deeply devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and on this day, the first Friday of the month, she was fortunate to join the heavenly choirs and perpetually adore the divine heart of Jesus.

The funeral mass was held at the convent chapel of St. Antony's convent, Gollapudi, which was attended by a large gathering of priests, Sisters and the laity. Rev. Fr. Prasad Muvvala, Vicar General of Vijayawada Diocese, officiated the Eucharistic celebration which was concelebrated by 15 priests from the Dioceses of Vijayawada, Eluru, Guntur and Warangal. Sr. Dhasnas, in her introductory words, said "Sr. Brigit, was a joy to all of us in the Community and we enjoyed our recreation with her. She made everyone happy with her unassuming nature and simplicity. Sister possessed a clean heart devoid of sham and pretense, her prayer life was deep and faith strong".

On behalf of the Province, I extend my heartfelt condolences to the family members of Sr. Brigit, especially, to her youngest Sister Marieta Pudota, who is at present the Superior of St. Theresa's convent, Eluru; her niece, Sr. Thomasamma. of Central Province, her relatives and friends who grieve the loss of their loved one.

At this moment, I wish to express my deep indebtedness to the Sisters of the Community of St. Antony's, Gollapudi, Sr. Francis Marie and the Sisters, especially the Sister nurses, who took care of Sister Brigit, with a sense of commitment. Your service to her in those final days was indeed commendable. On behalf of the whole Province I thank you dearest Sisters. May God reward you richly.

My sincere thanks to the Sisters of the neighboring Communities, St. Antony's Convent and Sacred Heart Convent, Vijayawada, St. Ann's Convent, Gollapudi, and to the communities of Eluru, for their frequent visits and comforting presence to our elderly Sisters. I am also thankful to the Sisters who came from other Communities, of South and Central Provinces to participate in the funeral mass and offered prayers for our dear Sister.

The mortal remains of Sr. Brigit is laid to rest in the convent cemetery at Gollapudi.

As we thank our dearest Sr. Brigit for her inspiring life , let us not forget to intercede before the throne of the Almighty that her soul may soon enjoy the beatific vision and obtain blessings for all of us.

Yours lovingly,



Sr. Theresa Cherian

Provincial Superior.