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**“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints” Ps.116:15**

Dearest Sisters,

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2016 the day of the Closing of the year of Consecrated Life at 2.40 p.m. the Lord put His arms around Sr. M. Chrysostom Pothen and whispered “Come to me, to the place which is prepared for you from eternity.” Now she is united with her beloved in heaven enjoying the heavenly bliss.

Sr. M. Chrysostom Pothen (Anne Pothen) was born in Alleppey, Kerala to Mr. Pothen John Thayil and Mrs. Rosa Joseph on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 1928. She entered the Postulancy on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1961 and pronounced her Perpetual vows on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 1970. Sr. Chrysostom has been a cheerful giver, radiator of warmth, love and knowledge to the young minds as a teacher in various capacities. She equipped herself with an MA B.Ed. (Gold medalist) degree and served as a Teacher and Headmistress in number of Schools. She served as Junior Mistress from 1969-1972. She rendered her loving service in the vineyard of the Lord in the Communities of Ramachandrapuram, Jamnagar, Moradabad and Rampur as Principal, as an animator in Roorkee, Moradabad and Bharuch; as teacher in Vijayawada and Bandra. In 1999, she was transferred to Jamnagar to teach English to the Postulants and she remained there until 2014.

Sr. Chrysostom was suffering from hemorrhage for more than a year. She had not revealed her problem to anyone hence proper medical care could not be given on time. She was brought to Talegaon Convent on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2014 and was taken to Medical College Talegaon and the Doctor diagnosed that she was suffering from cerebral atrophy and that has caused the disorientation and short term memory and she was treated for the same. There was some improvement in her health. After much efforts she was taken to a gynecologist who diagnosed that she is suffering from endometrial adenocarcinoma. She was operated on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2015. Due to her age factor chemotherapy and radiotherapy was not advisable. After two weeks she was brought back to Talegaon Convent. In the month of October she was mobilized on wheel chair. Her speech was slowly failing. In the month of November, 2015 she was confined to a railing bed. She was suffering from septicemia. Her health was slowly deteriorating. She gently passed away on 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 2.40 p.m.

Sr. M. Chrysostom Pothan was a woman of humility and reverence which are the crown jewels of her gentle personality. A Sister who is much admired for her dedication to her profession. She is a role model to the younger generations. She is blessed with the Wisdom of Solomon and patience that benefits a woman of the religious order. She has labored tirelessly in the different roles that have been assigned to her with never a frown or a sign of displeasure. Such is her cheerful demeanor. She kept up the religious decorum to the core. She wanted to live as a good religious and died on the day of closing of the year of Consecrated life. Till the last day when she was moving around she was looking for her Spouse, her beloved. Whenever we asked her where are you going, she had a naughty smile on her face and would answer: "I am going to the chapel to meet my spouse." Recently when I visited Talegaon Community she came to my room and asked "Are you Provincial? Please bless me; I want to become a Saint." I could see the radiating smile and the desire to become Holy was very evident on her face. She preserved a cheerful serenity, truly edifying to all. She is truly a Saint.

**Sr. Sebastine shared her experience of Sr. Chrysostom** – I lived with her here about 8 months she was an inspiration for me. She lived an exemplary life, very regular for all the spiritual exercises. She never uttered a complaint about anyone or anything, sincere, truthful, grateful for every little help. As long as she could speak she kept us happy and joyful with her witty answers. She lived a simple life and high thinking. When she could not speak she always responded with a sweet smile to all our questions. From previous day of her death her eyes were fixed upward as if she is already enjoying her beatific vision of Jesus. She gently passed away as she lived.

**Sr. Julia Victor Pais** remembers her Junior Mistress as a prayerful and generous person. She always had a Positive attitude and trusted Sisters with a broad mind. She was a contented and exemplary religious and inculcated in us the same values.

**A tribute to a Junior Mistress by Sr. M. Doreen D'Souza** - Sr. Chrysotom was an affectionate person, an endearing, dedicated and a joyful Sister of St. Ann. She was a woman of simplicity and a frugal lifestyle. She would even forego some of the necessities of life and was never attached to material things or personal comfort. However, she would not impose her austere lifestyle on others. She was zealous for the good of others, was outgoing and sociable. Many positive human qualities flowed from her deep faith in God, her love for the Church and the Congregation. She had a personal love relationship with Jesus and would spend hours before the Blessed Sacrament. When asked about this secret: she would respond with a hearty smile "He looks at me and I look at Him" And I am called to become a Saint! She was truly contemplative in her actions. Her spirituality was the experience of the presence of God within us, fostered by prayer and worship. She led a principled life with regard to herself, to others and to her work. Her friends included the young and the old, the learned and the unlettered, the rich and the poor.

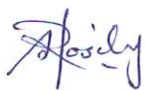
She had a special talent for dealing with the young Sisters and the Children. She loved them, cared for them and always strove to build their lives on a strong faith that enthused us to serve the Lord better in our early age. As our fomator we remember her strict enforcement of self-discipline while being fair and flexible in her exercise of authority. She strove hard in the promotion of English with us, and of course the spiritual animation with which she followed us in our journey left an indelible mark which cannot be forgotten. We remember her as an affectionate friend, a warm Sister, a wise mentor and an understanding guide. She was a caring woman with great concern for others. We juniors highly esteemed her and deeply loved her. Her friends were from all walks of life without barriers of age, education, or social class. She was equally at home both with the poor as well as the rich.

I wish to communicate my heartfelt gratitude to all the Sisters of Talegaon Apostolic Community especially to the Sister nurses - Sr. Magline Gomes, Sr. Mary Cyriac and Sr. Shelin Macwan for their loving and caring service to our dear Sister throughout her illness and their availability when she needed it the most. I thank the Sisters of Karunanjali Community, the Sisters and Aspirants of the Noviciate Community for their presence and prayerful support. I am grateful to Fr. Prasanna, the Parish Priest and Fr. Kevin of our Lady of Mount Carmel Church for their availability and the spiritual help extended. Special thanks to Fr. Prasanna for the Eucharistic Celebration and the homily where he highlighted that Sr. Chrysostom the Consecrated person died on the day of Consecrated life. She was consecrated since the beginning, from her mother's womb. 'Kochamma' is no more. Jesus was her only attraction and her only strength was the Eucharist- Her beloved 'Spouse' she lived for the Resurrection.

I extend my sincere condolence to Sr. Chrysostom's family, her sister Sr. Cisi Pothen C.M.C who spent few days with her, and also the Sisters of C. M.C Congregation who came from Satara to bid her farewell.

Let us continue to thank God for Sr. Chrysostom's life of commitment and let us imbibe those qualities which will enable us to have a positive mindset. May her beloved Spouse reward her with His Eternal life.

With love and affection,



(Sr. Rosily Paul)  
Provincial Superior