



Anugraha
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“Having been disciplined a little, they will receive a great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of Himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them” Wis. 3:5-6

Dearest Sisters,

Having gone through agonizing pain throughout the season of lent, Sr. Mary Claudina entered into new life during the Easter Octave, on 24th April at 1:25 pm at St. Ann's Convent, Talegaon to be in the company of the Risen Lord, her divine spouse, whom she loved all through her life.

Mr. Anselmo Pereira and Mrs. Rosaria D'Cruz of Cansa, Thivim, Goa was blessed with a daughter on 27th January, 1929 who was named Josephina Olivia Pereira. At a tender age, her mother left for her heavenly home leaving little Olivia (Sr. Mary Claudina) and her siblings to the care of the step - mother. Olivia happened to come in contact with Sr. Merici, the Superior of Thivim, who admitted her in the boarding. Inspired by the dedicated life of Sr. Merici and the other Sisters she felt an attraction to religious life and courageously responded to the call of Christ. She entered the Novitiate on 20th June, 1949; pronounced her First vows on 1st January, 1952 and said her final 'yes' to the Lord on 1st January, 1958. Her presence has graced many Communities: Bansilapat, Fatimanagar, Angelore, Eluru, Jamnagar, Raichur, Talegaon, Mithapur, Rampur, Naigoan and Bharuch.

Her 63 years in the company of her beloved spouse, were full of zeal, for His Kingdom. She had a magnanimous heart that accommodated every one, with tender love, sisterly care and genuine concern. One can say that her creativity blossomed in the delicious dishes she displayed at table day after day which energized her Sisters and equipped them for their mission. Those of us who have lived with her will always remember her hard work and self- sacrificing nature. She had green fingers and infinite patience to teach the novices the art of gardening. She would seek occasions to do good to others. We would often hear her say: 'I will never forget what you have done for me' – a grateful heart indeed! Even though her memory failed and she could not recognize persons, Sr. Claudina knew who her Superior was and her obedience to the Superior was prompt. She lived her vow of poverty joyfully and made sure that nothing was wasted.

In spite of loss of memory, it was amazing to note that she was ever punctual for every spiritual activity of the Community starting with the morning Lauds. She longed to receive the sacrament of penance and was ever eager to participate in the Holy Eucharist. She loved to be in the company of Sisters in the Community. She was often called as the 'Community entertainer' for

her piece of wits and humorous nature. A good mimic, she had the gift of making others laugh to their hearts content.

She bore up all her pains and aches serenely right from her birth without any complaints, saying: “whatever comes we must take and offer it to the Lord.” Her special love and concern for the priest was noteworthy. No sickness or pain could rob her of her radiant and innocent smile that drew many to her. She was blessed with the gift of fortitude. She suffered all that came her way with humility and great patience saying to herself repeatedly: ‘He knows everything’. Since she herself had gone through much suffering she was able to understand and console others in their grief. She had a chronic cough for many years due to which she had sleepless nights but she would rise early morning to do her daily chore with much commitment and loving dedication.

In 2009 she was diagnosed of Carcinoma (Malignant lesion) of the right breast. Due to age factor and poor condition of her lungs she was not fit for the operation. Hence she was taken care of with palliative treatment. She advanced progressively in carcinoma and the growth became even external in 2013. Thus her condition worsened gradually and she yielded to God’s will day after day.

The requiem mass was officiated by Fr. Pradeep Pinto and concelebrated by Fr. Joy Francis (Parish Priest) and Fr. Denzil Veigas. In his inspiring and thought provoking homily, Fr. Denzil said: “Today Sr. Claudina can together with St. Paul say: I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the **faith**. Everyday Sr. Claudina Saw Jesus in the form of Bread; but now she can see Him face to face. Though she suffered much she never complained. She has taught us by her life to be patient in suffering. We will miss this jovial Sister, who had great respect for priests.”

After the funeral service the mortal remains of Sr. Claudina were laid to rest in our cemetery at Talegaon. I thank the Sisters of Sabarmati, Mehemadabad, Bharuch and Bandra who came to bid farewell to Sr. Claudina. My heart-felt thanks to Sr. Flavia Monteiro and the Community for the love and care bestowed on Sr. Claudina, throughout her illness. Thanks to our dear nurses Sr. Mary Theresa Kindo and Sr. Mary Cyriac who tenderly looked after Sr. Claudina. May God’s copious blessings rest on you. I offer my gratitude to our Sisters at Mt. St. Ann and Karunanjali for their ready availability in helping out in such trying moments. Thanks to Fr. Joy Francis, Fr. Denzil Veigas, and Fr. Pradeep Pinto who keep our elderly Sisters happy by spending time with them and praying for them.

“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though they die, yet they shall live.” Believing in these powerful words of Jesus we know that Sr. Claudina now lives with the risen Lord. As we continue to offer prayers and suffrages for Sr. Claudina let us through her intercession ask God to give us also the grace to accept all that comes our way with serenity. Let us also remember to pray for her grieving family members.

Affectionately Yours,

Sr. Eulazia Fernandes
Provincial Superior