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*“Death is but changing of our robes, to wait in wedding garments at the Eternal Gate”* (Sri. Aurobindo).

Dearest Sisters,

Our dearest Sr. Cynthia, wearing her wedding garments entered the Eternal Gate on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 to meet her beloved.

Sr. Mary Cynthia, whose maiden name was Stella Tigga, was born on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1930 at Chichuani in Jharkhand to a pious and loving couple, Mr. Raphael Tigga and Mrs. Calara Lakra. She was third child of the four siblings. Being deeply rooted in God, she was able to withstand all kinds of odds in her life.

Sr. Cynthia, was very faithful to her Religious Life and sought God's holy will in everything. She was quiet by nature, an efficient teacher, hard working, prayerful and sensitive to the needs of others. She took keen interest in the overall growth of the students, especially of the weaker ones. Her way of teaching, imparting knowledge and moral values drew many children to be self-reliant in life. She took utmost interest in the faith formation of the children. Whatever work was assigned to her whether it be teaching, in charge of a school or as an animator of the Community, she gave her best and carried on the responsibilities with diligence and pleasure. She was creative, artistic, a lover of nature and enjoyed gardening. She was slow in walking, but quick to act, soft in speaking, but firm in taking decisions and simple in looks, but great in her personality. God gave her the grace to climb the stairs of Silver, Gold and Diamond of Religious Life.

When Sr. Cynthia was doing her teacher's training at Gholeng, our Italian Sr. Thomassa gave a talk on our Congregation. This kindled a desire in her to join the Congregation of Sisters of St. Ann of Providence. She left her home in May 1952 to respond to the call of the Lord. She received religious habit in January, 1954; made her religious profession in January, 1956 and pronounced her Perpetual Vows on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1962. Soon after her perpetual profession she was sent to Sacred Heart Convent, Vijaywada as a teacher, she served for 20 long years. In June, 1974 she was transferred to Duldula, Chhatisgarh. In Duldula besides teaching she was helping in the Parish activities. There the Priests appreciated her work very much and was given the opportunity to preach the retreat on 'family life' for three days to the lay people. In June 1982 she was transferred to Moradabad as Head Mistress of St. Joseph's Junior School – Hindi Medium. She served as a Superior in the Community of Gharghoda for a period of six years and also served in the Community of Tamnar as a teacher. In 2004 she was sent to Rajnikhand as a librarian.

Sr. Cynthia joined the Community of Talegaon Convent on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015. When she reached there she was fairly in good health except for complaints of giddiness on and off. She was

referred to physician and ENT and was diagnosed of respiratory tract infection which at times was acute. She had been an old case of pulmonary koch's and suffered from COPD bronchiectasis and pseudomonas infection of lungs. In mid-February due to lung infection there was a rise of temperature for a prolonged period. On 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 she was hospitalized at Harneshwar Hospital, there was slight improvement in the fever and was discharged with medication. Her general condition continued to worsen and was completely confined to bed. On 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 p.m. Fr. Joe Abraham in the presence of the entire Community administered her with the sacrament of Anointing of the sick. Her vital signs began to decline slowly and on 19<sup>th</sup> April at 2.32 p.m. she breathed her last.

I would like to quote from Sr. Cynthia's autobiography "*My religious life I enjoyed wherever I was sent and whatever work I was given. I tried to do everything with my whole heart. I pray to God that He may be with me till the end of my life. I am grateful to God and to my Congregation.*"

The funeral service was held on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 at 4.30 p.m. and it was presided over by the assistant parish Priest Fr. Joe D'Souza OCD. In his homily Fr. Joe said, I saw Sr. Cynthia living a silent life. Silence is not a limitation. It's a life of pondering, reasoning difficult aspect of life. Silent people think of heaven and values of life, that becomes their strength. They have forbearance and strength to bear all the odds of life. It is opening heart to the Divine Being and they are closely united to the will of God and make suffering part of their life. Their capacity is not to be in limelight but they remain like shining stars when needed. Sr. Cynthia had no demands of a company, no fear of being alone. She can be compared to a hidden life like Little Flower of child Jesus. She remained silent and died silently. It was like a rose bloomed in the garden, some touched and felt it, the flower remained and when the sun was harsh the flower dried and faded. The fragrance will always remain in the lives of the students and the people she touched. What we can learn from her is forbearance and silence to face the challenges of life.

I express my gratitude to Sr. Magline Gomes and all the Sisters at St. Ann's Convent Talegaon for their continuous loving service offered to Sr. Cynthia. I thank especially Sr. Magline Gomes, Sr. Mary Cyriac, Sr. Agnes Thomas and Sr. Remya Mathew who took care of Sr. Cynthia day and night by being at her side especially during the last days of her life. May God reward you abundantly for your selfless service.

I convey my thanks to the Sisters of the Community, the Sisters, Postulants and Aspirants of Mt. St. Ann and Sisters at Karunanjali for their prayers, timely help and support.

I express my thanks to Rev. Fr. Joe D'Souza the Assistant Parish Priest of Mt. Carmel Church for the support and the spiritual help extended to Sr. Cynthia. I convey my sincere condolences, to the bereaved family members of Sr. Cynthia, who were unable to attend the funeral but made it possible to visit the grave and pray for the departed soul.

Let us remember Sr. Cynthia in our daily prayer, requesting her to intercede for us to become instruments of Providence to the places wherever we are sent. May she enjoy the eternal bliss!

Yours affectionately,



Sr. Rosily Paul  
Provincial Superior