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"Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace". (Psalm 37:37)

Dearest Sisters,

Just a little over two months and the Lord once again visited the Community of Tamnar. This time He addressed His words to our dear Sr. Eugene whom he called to himself on 19th November 2009, at 9.40a.m.: 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.' (Mt.25:23) The Community Sisters were gathered around her, praying for her as she breathed her last.

Sr. Eugene was suffering from typhoid during the last week of October and on being treated for the same, soon recovered. However on the 9th of November she complained of chest pain. Immediately the doctor was called, who referred her to a cardiologist at Vidya Medical & Diagnostic Centre, Raigarh. She was kept under observation for a day and discharged on the following day. Her blood pressure fluctuated. Sr. Agnes Thomas, who is a nurse by profession, remained with Sr. Eugene assisting her till the end. She was given the sacrament of Anointing of the sick and Holy Communion on the 14th. She showed signs of improvement on the following day. On 18th Nov. while Sr. Agnes bathed her, Sr. Eugene prayed "Lord wash me with your precious blood." Though she hardly responded to what was asked of her she kept repeating: "I am going to Jesus." The end came abruptly. On 19th November she became very restless for awhile. Sr. Agnes called for the Sisters from the school. Immediately, the Sisters rushed to her bed side as she breathed her last.

Sr. Eugene, (Agostina Ekka) daughter of Salemen Ekka and Mariam Kujur was born on 8th September, 1932 at Gholeng. She joined the Postulancy on 5th February, 1956 and was vested with the Holy Habit on 1st January, 1957. She pronounced her First Vows on 1st January, 1959. Her first mission as a nurse was in Fatimanagar Hospital. She made her final commitment on 1st January, 1965.

She was faithful to her commitment to the Lord and served Him with love and dedication for 50 golden years in the following Communities:

1962	– Mudgal
July 1963	– Mithapur
December 1964	– Infirmary in Secunderabad
January 1965	– Fatimanagar
June 1976	– Ghargoda
June 1981	– Duldula
June 1987	– Ghargoda
June 1988	– Isanagar
June 1990	– Tamnar
August 1999	– Isanagar Hospital
2000	– Mohanlalganj
2001	– Tamnar

Sr.Eugene was a prayerful person who spent long hours before the Blessed Sacrament. She was a woman of faith and believed that her prayers would be answered. She was a person of few words and basically a listener. Her service to the sick had no limits.

Sr.Eugene lived a simple and hard life. Her simplicity and availability brought many souls closer to God. She was the pioneer of St. Ann's convent Tamnar. She went riding on bicycle from village to village instilling hope in the Christians who had gone astray from the true fold by visiting the families, evangelizing them, rectifying marriages, preparing them for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Sr.Eugene took keen interest in herbal medicines thus becoming a blessing to many childless couples. She fasted and prayed before giving medicine to the childless couples. She was known as a Doctor in the villages. She went to the patients instead of them coming to her, rendering her untiring and selfless service to them. She won the hearts of the sick people with her gentle angelic smile. Though she was unable to work, yet people from far away villages kept coming to her till the last as they had strong faith in her medicine.

I was in retreat when Sr.Eugene expired. When I heard of her death, memories of my encounter with her during my canonical visit to Tamnar, last August, flashed in my mind. She happily and eagerly related to me her experiences of being a pioneer at Tamnar and the joy of having celebrated the golden Jubilee of her religious profession. Child like joy shone in her eyes! The satisfaction of mission accomplished. From her sharing I can infer that she was a strong woman who dared to face dangerous situations, all for the love of the poor. At the conclusion of our encounter, unannounced I found her kneeling asking for my blessing. Unworthy though I felt, I obeyed. Rising, she blessed me. This humble gesture of hers remains enshrined in my heart. Her golden jubilee gift to the Community was a statue of St. Ann!

The funeral ceremony was held at St. Frances Xavier's Church, Tamnar on 20th November at 1.00 p.m. The Holy Mass was offered by Rt.Rev.Paul Toppo the Bishop of Raigarh and concelebrated by 16 other priests. The Bishop in his homily said that whether we live or die we live for the Lord. God is our strength and consolation and it is in him, we have our faith. Our Sr.Eugene has lived on this earth uniting herself to God and has completed her race. We need to accept the fact that death cannot be escaped.

The sisters Of Duldula, Gharghoda, the neighbouring Sisters of other Congregation and the close relatives of Sr.Eugene were present to bid her farewell. Her mortal remains rest in the cemetery of Tamnar.

I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt condolences and gratitude to Sr. Kamala, Sr.Philomena and all the Sisters at Tamnar for their loving service to **Sr.Eugene** during her illness. A special word of thanks to Sr.Agnes Thomas for the prompt and selfless service rendered to Sr.Eugene. May the Lord reward you all. I thank Sr.Rosily Paul, the Vicar of the Province, for her consoling and supportive presence to the Sisters of Tamnar in their moment of grief.

Let us offer our prayers and suffrages for **Sr. Eugene**, so that she may enjoy the beatific vision in heaven. She served the Lord with much love, may her soul rest in peace.

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Eulazia Fernandes
Provincial Superior