

**St. Ann's Provincialate  
B – 43, Cariappa Road  
Bolarum – 500 010  
Secunderabad, A.P.**



15<sup>th</sup> January 2016

***“Come you whom My Father has blessed.....  
take for your heritage the Kingdom prepared for you”. (Mt. 25: 34)***

Sr. Flora Xavier (JAYA MARY) daughter of Xavier and Mangalem was born on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1928 at Trichy, Tamilnadu, the second child among 10 children. She did her SSLC in 1943 and Higher Grade Teacher's Training in 1946. After her training she worked as a teacher for 5 years. Her parents were trying to settle her in marriage. But the Divine Master had a different plan and called her to follow him more closely. Greatly fascinated and attracted to the consecrated life she said 'Yes' to the call of God, boldly renounced everything and followed Him. She entered the Novitiate on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1953 at Secunderabad, was clothed on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1954, made her First Profession on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1956 and her Perpetual Vows on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1962. On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016, she completed her 60 years of Religious Profession - Diamond Jubilee – as she renewed her Vows along with all the Community Sisters at Midnight Mass. But, “Blessed are those whom the master finds alert”. (Lk 12: 35-36 ) Like the wise virgins who were waiting for their master to return, so that they might open the door for Him as soon as he came and knocked, she passed away with a silent massive heart attack.

Her first apostolate in 1959 was in the Community of Chengalpattu, to render her service as a teacher. Here she worked tirelessly for 27 long years, up to her retirement. In 1986 she was transferred to Mambakkam to help in the house and in 1990 she was welcomed by the Community at Fatimanagar Hospital.

Sr. Flora was a zealous missionary. She spent her entire life, time and energy at the service of the Lord. While teaching in the School at Chengalpattu, she was greatly involved in the Christian formation of children and youth, catechesis and evangelization in the villages of Athur, Pullipakam, Sogandi and Malrosapuram. Every week-end, precisely Saturday, she would start her journey either walking or by bus - those days we could hardly find a bus to take us to the interior villages. As soon as they reached the village, the Sisters visited the houses and went to the substation church or to the place, where people were able to sit and listen to the teaching. Most of them were farmers, so they used to come late at night. Sisters would spend the night teaching catechism and preparing them for the Sacraments. With grateful hearts they would eat whatever the people offered them. The next morning, they would get up very early to prepare the people for the Eucharistic celebration and teach Catechism to the students. They would return to the Community in the evening. The people

of those villages still enquire about Sr. Flora. For many years she was preparing the faithful, to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, Confirmation and with rectification of marriages - this apostolate was very close to her heart. She visited more than 22 substations of the Chengalpattu Parish and worked in close collaboration with the Parish Priests of the Salesian Congregation. Sr. Flora was very much interested in sending vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life. From Pullipakkam, her 3<sup>rd</sup> class student became a Priest - Fr. Augustine, who is very grateful for her services.

After coming to Fatimanagar Community, she continued her mission of evangelization in spite of her old age and the language barrier. Though she was a teacher by profession, she inserted herself well in the Community of the Hospital, and continued to use her God-given talents to spread His Kingdom. Her artistic bent conveyed the message of Christ through Christmas cribs and festive decorations. She actively took part in the parish works and visiting the families. For almost 13 years, during the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, the grotto and the procession cart was decorated by her. She was also in-charge of the linen department, where she used to take care of stitching, mending and providing all the requirements of the Hospital. She always carried out her responsibility systematically, with maximum effort. She had great zeal to save souls for Christ and zealously involved herself in the different roles that had been assigned her. She had a special love for the poor and helped them as an instrument of God's Providence.

Sr. Flora was a simple Sister of St. Ann, ever ready to acknowledge her mistakes and at times laugh at them, not hesitating to ask pardon in all humility. She was grateful for the little favours done to her. She was available and obedient, attentive in following the Community time-table, and offering prayers for the various needs of the world and the Church. She was one of the prayer warriors of the Community. She lived a beautiful life of prayer, sacrifice and discipline, till the end.

Sr. Flora inspired many through her life of dedication and commitment. Following her example, her cousin Sr. Delphine joined our Congregation to offer herself to the Lord. We are grateful to the family members for giving us such a wonderful gift in the person of Sr. Flora.

On 30<sup>th</sup> December 2015, she participated in the Community recollection talk in which she shared her inspiration and wished others for the New Year with God's Mercy as it is the Year of Mercy. That same night, she took part in the penitential rite and made a good confession. On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015, she was present at midnight mass and renewed her Vows along with all the Community Sisters. At the end of the Eucharistic Celebration, the celebrant blessed some promise quotations from the Holy Bible and gave each Sister. She was very happy and cheerful to receive it, and requested the Priest to pray for her, inviting him for her Diamond Jubilee to be celebrated in the Community on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016, after a good rest she began the New Year wishing every one, with enthusiasm. She even told some Sisters that she was feeling strong and ready to go to Talegaon for her Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, arranged at the Inter-Province level, on 9<sup>th</sup>

January 2016. With lots of excitement she was also looking forward to meeting her dear ones and the Sisters, specially her companions of Religious Profession. From 11 a.m. onwards she was found praying in the chapel along with other Community Sisters; being a lover of Mary our Mother, she spent her time in reciting the Rosary. She asked one of the Sisters in the chapel - Sr. Rosita Kurian - to open and give her the promising quote from the Holy Bible (given by the Priest after the midnight Mass) i.e. Isaiah 55:3 *"Incline your ear and come to me: hear, that your soul may live: and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love, for David."* She was reading and reflecting on these promising words. At 12.30 she cried out aloud. At once Sr. Rosita asked her what was happening. Sr. Flora replied with a look at her face and then clasped her hand tightly. That was the end. The other Sisters who were in the chapel also rushed to help her and tried to revive her, while some ran to inform the Superior and the remaining Sisters, but her blessed soul had already flown like a bird to her Heavenly Spouse. The Doctor, who reached at once, found that she had already left this world.

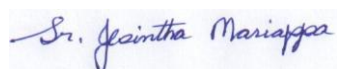
It was well known that Sr. Flora suffered from diabetes and mild blood pressure. Other than this, she had enjoyed fairly good health. What a shock to all the Sisters of the Community! The Sisters feel her loss and miss her innocent and childlike presence. We realize God had a special plan for our dear Sr. Flora and found her ready and alert for her return to her Bridegroom and the Eternal Banquet.

The funeral Mass was celebrated at 3.00 p.m. in St. Ann's Hospital Chapel, by most Rev. Udumula Bala, the Bishop of Warangal, along with many Priests. The Bishop mentioned in his homily that Sr. Flora had led a beautiful life, leading people to God. The loud cry that she made was compared to that of Jesus crying on the cross 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani' (Mt. 27:46); with that groaning, Sr. Flora surrendered her soul into the hands of God.

Her elder brother, aged 90 years and the only one alive, was present for the funeral with all her nieces and nephews and other relatives. Sisters from the neighbouring Communities, from the Province of Southern India, other religious friends, benefactors, staff and students, gathered to bid goodbye to our Sister Flora. While we offer our sympathies and condolences to the dear family members, we sincerely thank each one who had come to bid farewell to our dear Sr. Flora, for their love, care and support shown to her.

As we offer our prayers and sacrifices that Sr. Flora may enjoy eternal bliss, may she intercede for us so that we may remain faithful in our commitment to the Lord and in our encounters with the mercy of God in this extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

With love and affection,



Provincial Superior

