

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



04th June 2016

“Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.

To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.” (Rev. 3, 20-21)

Dearest Sisters,

At the appointed time i.e. 27th May 2016 at 5.20 a.m. the Lord stood at the door of her heart calling Sr. Florentina to dine with Him at the eternal Banquet. Constantly uttering the name of Jesus and Mary she was able to surrender her life to Jesus. She conquered the hearts of people with her loving gestures. Today, we believe that she enjoys a place before the throne of the Triune God.

Sr. Florentina, whose maiden name was Angela Vaz, was born on 15th November 1926 at Kurduwadi, Pune, to a devoted couple Joseph Vaz and Joanna Vaz. She entered the Novitiate on 17th March 1945, received the Religious Habit on 21st January 1946, made her First Profession on 1st January 1948 and Final Profession on 1st January 1954. She graduated in General Nursing and Midwifery in 1950.

Being a Nurse by profession, she went to great lengths to bring comfort and solace to the sick and suffering in the Communities of Mithapur 1951-1957, Fatimanagar Hospital 1957-1959, 2003-2006, Lallaguda 1959-1984. After her retirement as a Matron from South Central Railway Hospital at Lallaguda, she rendered her services as an infirmarian in the Communities of Secunderabad 1984-1987, St. Ann's Novitiate, Bolarum 1987-1991 and St. Ann's Home, Bolarum 1991-1995. She also served the Sisters in the capacity of Animator in the Communities of St. Ann's Home 1995-1998 and Lallaguda 1970-1976 and 1998-2001.

While working for 25 long years as Nurse and Matron in South Central Railway Hospital at Lallaguda, she proved to be a very good Nurse, displaying valuable qualities such as being alert, good and kind to the patients. A woman of determination and zest for life, she left no stone unturned in her efforts to bring healing to those in need. She received the 'Best Nurses Award' and also 'On the Spot Award' from South Central Railway Hospital, Lallaguda. Sr. Florentina was well known to the Doctors, Nurses and her colleagues. They would approach her freely for any help, especially regarding admissions in School. She was kind, courteous and cheerful in her dealings with them. She was known for her jovial nature. All those who met her at her bedside always remembered her smiling and joyful face, her unique way of blessing and giving flying kisses too. Even Mother Francesca, the Superior General and her Councillors had the same experience when they visited her on various occasions.

Srs. Agnes, Martha and Florentina jointly gave a very good witness of the Sisters of St. Ann, both in the Hospital and in the Parish Community at Lallaguda. On hearing of the sad demise

of Sr. Florentina, Sr. Martha who is in Turin, Italy, sent a message to me expressing her deep sentiments, “*Sr. Florentina has received her crown and now she is enjoying heaven while we are waiting for the call. We lived together for 24 years; her silent way of working edified me very much. Her neatness and innocent smile was a great testimony for me. I learned so many things from her. Now I am praying to the Lord to give me some of her virtues.*”

Sr. Florentina is the embodiment of all the qualities which stand as symbols of life and renewal, growth and health, sacredness and hope. She was full of life, always filled with joy and hope, serving the Sisters. She was very kind and cordial, loving and caring, had a warm and soft corner for the poor in her healing ministry. She enhanced life by showing respect, love, appreciation and understanding to all.

In religious life, she was the senior-most among the Sisters of the three Indian Provinces. She meticulously observed the Religious Vows. She was always obedient to her Superiors, lived a simple life and loved Christ in the poor. She was very faithful to her spiritual exercises, reading the Bible and reflections and praying the rosary till the end. Throughout her life, she enjoyed good eye-sight and never wore spectacles.

Owing to her ill health and old age, Sr. Florentina was transferred to St. Ann’s Home, Bolarum in 2006. She was a known case of Hypothyroidism, Alzimers disease and Hypertension. From 2008 she was confined to bed but did all her personal work without depending on others. Though in bed for the past 8 years, there was never a word of complaint from her. She always had a cheerful countenance and radiated the joy of Christ to all those who visited her.

During the past one week, she found it difficult to consume food, due to which she became very weak and needed the support of others. On 26th May 2016, Sr. Florentina was admitted into Vijay Marie Hospital, Khairatabad, for breathlessness and decreased urine output. She was diagnosed as being anaemic and with acute renal failure. She found it difficult to breathe in spite of oxygen inhalation, nebulization and developed hypovolemic shake. At 4.35 a.m. Sr. Florentina took bad and breathed her last at 5.20 a.m. due to cardiac arrest.

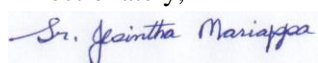
Sr. Florentina was a person constantly in communion with God. The Sisters entrusted to her care, are not only assured of her love and help but also of her powerful intercession before the throne of the Almighty. I am indebted to Sr. Meera, the animator, and the sisters of the Community who took care of her.

On behalf of the sisters, I express my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members, especially her two nieces and one nephew who were present for the funeral mass and the burial. They had a special love for their aunt, used to visit her and enquire about her health condition frequently.

At 4.30 p.m. the funeral mass was celebrated by Fr. Y.M. Joseph, the former Parish Priest of St. Joseph’s Church, Bolarum with two other concelebrants. Sisters, formees, relatives, families whom she had helped, sisters from other congregations and parishioners gathered to bid adieu to Sr. Florentina.

On one occasion she said, ‘*The best thing is to love my Congregation and its Charism. The Congregation helps me to live my Religious life while I work for Humanity.*’ Sr. Florentina is no more with us physically but she has left behind a powerful, inspiring, reflective thought coupled with exemplary life. While we pray for her suffrages, let us ask her to pray for good vocations to the Congregation and for the holy perseverance of each sister.

Affectionately,



Provincial Superior