



### St. Ann's Provincialate

H-2/3, Vikaspuri  
New Delhi 110 018  
Tel/Fax 011-28547941  
Email: [annpro@vsnl.net](mailto:annpro@vsnl.net)

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Dearest Sisters,

***"If in union with Christ we have imitated his Death, we shall also imitate him in his Resurrection." Rom. 6:5***

It was 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 – the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord and at 3.35 p.m to be precise, when the angel visited Sr. Frances and accompanied her to the eternal city which Jesus has promised and Sr. Frances believed in. A strong intuition made the Sisters of the Community to gather around her, to sing and pray as she silently yielded her spirit to the Lord.

Sr. Frances was suffering from hydrocephalus (an intricate disease that increases the volume of cerebrospinal fluid in the brain due to an abnormal absorption rate or obstruction). In 2004 she was operated for Hyperdynamic Aqueductal CSF Flow. The same year she was transferred to Talegaon for rest. Ever since her fall in 2006, she was confined to bed. The last four months she was barely conscious of her surroundings. She suffered much, quietly and patiently.

Amy D'Souza, daughter of Alfonso and Lily D'Souza, was born on the 20<sup>th</sup> December, 1929 at Bijay (Mangalore). She was the only Sister for her seven brothers and the darling of the family. But she generously answered the call of Jesus and did not seek any special treatment once she decided to follow Him. She entered Religious life on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1951. The Holy Habit was given to her on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1954.

In January 1954 she was appointed as a teacher in the School at Secunderabad. After successfully completing her Bachelor's degree in Arts and undergoing the necessary training she was sent to Chengalpattu as Headmistress. In June 1959 she was transferred to the school at Bolarum, and subsequently was appointed Headmistress of the High School at Chengalpattu. On 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1960 she pronounced the Perpetual Vows and was transferred to Raichur as Headmistress. In June 1964 once again she was transferred to Chengalpattu as Headmistress. Just before her silver jubilee in 1978 she was transferred to Rampur as a teacher. Although she accepted it as the will of God she hoped to go back to her beloved Chengalpattu. But it was not to be so, because shortly after her arrival in Rampur, the Indian Province was divided into two and she ended up in the North Province for good. In June 1980 she was nominated Superior in Rampur. On completion of her term she was transferred to Duldula as a teacher. She was elected Provincial Councilor from 1985 to 1991. In June 1986 she was nominated Superior of St. Mary's Raichur. After the term of office as Superior she was transferred to Sabarmati for a year and then back to Rampur in June 1993, teaching in the Open school and in-charge of the Aspirants. An interesting coincidence is noted in her life i.e. for the most part of her life she worked in St. Mary's Convents like Chengalpattu, Rampur, Raichur and Duldula. Sr. Frances

always took pride in being in “St.Mary’s”. Her Love and Devotion for Mary was immense! Even in her illness one would still find her fingers moving the beads of the rosary ceaselessly.

Sr.Frances was kind hearted and soft spoken; gentle yet firm and unassuming; her sense of humour will be cherished by all. She was calm in all circumstances and made herself available to everyone in need. God had endowed her with the beautiful gift of patience. When young Sisters were sent to work with her she overlooked their ignorance and their mistakes and with a motherly instinct taught them how to go about their work.

Sr.Frances was very observant of the vows especially the vow of poverty (a true Sister of St. Ann!) and lived a simple and austere life. She loved the Congregation and would willingly do any work that was entrusted to her. Her love and concern for the poor is note-worthy. Before she completed her term as Superior in Rampur she saw that the workers who did not have a house of their own were able to build one with her generous help. She felt at home with the young and the old; the rich and the poor alike. She was specially gifted with the talent of learning languages (especially Tamil) through which she easily related to the local people and respected their customs.

The Funeral Mass was officiated by Fr.Simon Almeida and concelebrated by four priests. The three brothers of Sr.Frances along with other members of her family were present. Father Lawrence in the introduction said: “Sr.Frances suffered silently without complaining and serenity always reigned on her face.” The Bishop of Pune in his condolence letter states “We thank Sr.Frances for her consecrated life of Prayer and Service which was a witness to the Diocese and the Church.”

My heartfelt gratitude to Sr.Ida and every Sister of the two Communities of Talegaon for taking great care of Sr.Frances during her illness. I appreciate the untiring and loving service rendered by our Sister nurses especially Sr.Ida and Sr.Mary Sebastian. May God reward you abundantly. I wish to express my thanks to the family members of Sr.Frances who gave to our Congregation such a precious gift. I extend my gratitude to Sr.Rosily Paul, the Vicar of the Province, for her consoling and supportive presence to the Sisters of Talegaon in their moment of grief. To Fr.Lawrence and Fr.Joy my heart-felt thanks for their spiritual assistance to Sr.Frances during her long illness and their tireless service to the Community especially on the day of the funeral.

We commend the soul of Sr.Frances to the mercy of the Lord whom she faithfully and generously served. Now as she enjoys the heavenly bliss, may she intercede for us to the Blessed Virgin Mary to become educators of faith.

Yours affectionately,

Provincial Superior