

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



23rd December 2013.

“The Lord is at hand: Come let us adore him”

Dearest Sisters,

The invitatory antiphon of today’s morning prayer (23.12.2013) aptly describes the readiness with which our dear Sr. Genevieve met her Lord and Master who came in His own time and in His own way. She passed away at the ripe old age of ninety after a long and fruitful journey in the service of discipleship.

Sr. Genevieve got up from bed as usual in the morning. After a cup of hot milk she showed signs of weariness and before anyone could help her she quietly breathed her last sitting on the chair by her bed side fortified by the rites of the Church. We are grateful to the Parish Priest who arrived immediately.

Sr. Genevieve was born on 01.12.1923, Puttur in the district of South Canara, the youngest of six children – 4 girls and 2 boys of doting parents Martin and Isabella Rebello. Three girls responded to the divine call of the Lord of the Harvest and blessed our Congregation with their presence and their “all” - Sr. Ilaria, Sr. Gabriel and Sr. Genevieve. They now enjoy the fruit of their labours here on earth with a reward beyond compare.

Being the baby of the family she developed a childlike trust and confidence in the Child Jesus after the example and guidance of her late mother.

She entered the Novitiate at Secunderabad on 13.06.1947, was clothed in the religious habit of a Sister of St. Ann (like her Sisters) professed on 01.01.1950 and took her Perpetual Vows on 01.01.1956.

Having completed her High School at her home town, she pursued her Teachers’ Training at Rosa Mystica Training Centre, Kinnikamble, Gurpur and dedicated herself completely to the growth of God’s Kingdom.

As a Sister-Teacher she was welcomed with open arms by the Sisters of the Communities of Raichur, in charge of the U.K.G. and Boarding, Mudgal, Hutti, Bolarum – St. Ann’s High School, Kazipet – as a teacher and Sacristan, Tarnaka, Mallapur. The year 1994 found her happily settled at St. Ann’s Secunderabad, ever ready to help all those who needed her love, care and service. In 2002 June she became a member of St. Ann’s Home, Bolarum, supporting the Institute and the Church with prayer and sacrifice.

Sister Genevieve always gave first preference to the Word of God and the Holy Eucharist. During these last past months, her incapacity to be present at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass caused her to receive the sacred species in her room itself. She had written that the Holy Eucharist and the Word of God helped her to “live my religious life meaningfully and

faithfully". The message that she passes on to the young Sisters who were her favourites is "To be a blessing to the Community and to the Congregation. To serve the Lord with a cheerful heart and with a smiling face and to forget the past, live in the present and work effectively for the Lord."

Sr. Genevieve paid special attention to the poor especially to the workers who helped her daily. She was deeply concerned for the marginalized and the suffering.

She would often recall that she was the work of the hands of God and act accordingly, in such a way as to be eternally with Him. She appreciated and thanked God for His unconditional love for her. Sister was positive that a life is not measured by the number of days, months or years that it is lived, but by the effect that life has on other people who touch it. It is not measured by the length of its days or the height of its achievement but by the breadth of its influence.

Sr. Genevieve's mission was one of gratitude. Any little thing that you would do for her would be remembered all the days of her life. Gratitude had the potential to change everything from its ordinary state to being a gift. She would also convey to those around how much that little act of kindness did for her life.

She was shaped for serving God and had become a magnifier of His glory.

Sr. Genevieve was small in stature and the children loved her just as she was. A very good teacher, especially in the catechism classes, she is still remembered for her gift of teaching.

Being of frail health she could not contain herself at the frequent asthmatic attacks that disturbed her every now and again. But she offered everything for the greater glory of God and the good of souls, in particular, for genuine vocations to the Religious life and the Priesthood. She would daily pray for Priests all over the world. Our condolences are extended to her nephew who is a Priest in charge of a Parish at Gulbarga, Karnataka. He regrets his inability to be present owing to responsibilities coherent in his respective parish at this time of the liturgical year.

The Funeral Mass was held on Monday itself in the Parish Church at Bolarum at 3.30 p.m. assisted by many of our Sisters from the neighbouring and other Communities as well. My grateful thanks go to dear Sr. Edna and her Community for their tender loving care towards good Sr. Genevieve for all the time she was in their midst over the years.

We will be blessed in being generous with our suffrages for her dear soul.

Come Lord Jesus come. You are rich in mercy. Grant dear Sr. Genevieve everlasting happiness.

United in thought, love and prayer,

Yours affectionately,

Provincial Superior