



St. Ann's Provincialate

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“Listen I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”
(1Cor.15:51-52)

Dear Sisters,

On Wednesday, 13th May, 2009 early hours of the morning at 3.15a.m our beloved Blessed Mother visited Sr.Graziella accompanied her to her Heavenly homeland, which she had very much desired to enter.

Sr.M.Graziella (Gratia Emilda Pinto) was born on 13th August 1938 at Vittal, Mangalore Karnataka to Boniface Pinto and Teresa Suares. She was the 5th child among 12 children and was brought up in a strong Christian faith. At the age of three she was struck with Pneumonia and all the members of the family gave up hope of her survival but God wanted her to serve Him in a special way so He kept her alive. Her Christian faith grew stronger in her tender age and acquired the desire to offer her whole life to the Lord.

She entered as Postulant on 21st June, 1960 and made the first profession on 1st January, 1963 at Turin in Italy. She joined the novitiate in Turin and returned to India in December 1963. She learned music and successfully passed VII grade from Trinity College of London and taught music to the students at St. Ann's School, Secunderabad. She made her Final Vows on 5th January, 1969 at Bolarum. Having obtained her qualification in music she began her apostolic service with determination in different years and places.

1976 : She was sent to Raichur as boarding mistress.

1979 : Transferred to Moradabad and worked as a librarian in School.

1982 : Appointed as Superior at Tivim.

1988 : Transferred to Moradabad.

1994 : Transferred to Jamnagar.

1999 : Transferred to Talegaon to teach music to the Novices.

2000 : Transferred to Rudrapur.

A woman of strength, firm in faith she knew how to overcome all obstacles with prayer. She was always true to herself, serene, open, humorous, good disciplinarian, a Sister of strong determination and character. Her tremendous capacity to communicate and relate to people through letters endeared herself to everyone.

In the year February, 2008 she had gone to Mangalore to attend the investiture ceremony of her brother priest, Fr.Edwin Pinto. During her visit, sensing her illness took her to the doctor for a medical check up. It was diagnosed that she suffered from bronchial Pneumonia. On further findings her report confirmed that she suffered from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and she needed to be treated for a minimum period of 6-9 months. During her blood tests she was also found to be a

diabetic patient. After four months it was diagnosed that she suffered from advanced Ovarian Cancer which needed to be operated upon. The cancer spread gradually all the vital organs of the body. She was admitted at Fr. Muller's hospital in Mangalore and was given the best of medical treatment but to no avail. In early May the doctors gave up hope and she was brought back to the Mount Rosary Hospital. Hearing this, I sent Sr. Ida on my behalf to attend to her needs. She was in an unconscious state for a few days and well taken care of by the devoted Sisters, doctor and the staff. Slowly her condition became critical and on the 12th May I was informed and I rushed to Mangalore. It was a clear sign that she waited for me before she breathed her last.

Towards the end of life she learned to live with her illness instead of considering herself dying from it. She gracefully and in faith accepted the inevitable. Though she knew that her illness was terminal, she showed no sign of discouragement or exasperations. Though surprised at the sudden and unexpected message from the doctors that she had only a very short time to live on earth but she had the inner attitude to accept that communication with a great deal of quiet faith. Her zest for life made her live a few weeks beyond the doctor's expectation.

Our gathering in the face of the death of a dear one is a moment of discernment and insight, not for the one who died but for us who are among the living. Facing the death of a dear one enable us to distinguish between the Superficial and the Substantial, from what perishes to what is permanent, from what is written in our books to what is written in her Book of Life. That Book of Life would reveal what kinds of preparations she made for the life unending, which deeply involved in her journey through this life. The Book of life would recount not what titles, achievements were credited to her but how she handled these; what attitudes, values, relationships she developed and lived. These would constitute her carry over and take home- package, as she passed through the door of death to move into eternal life.

The funeral mass of our dearest Sister Graziella took place in the Mount Rosary Church at 4.00p.m and was officiated by Fr. Edwin Pinto along with a few priests from the diocese. In his homily, Fr.Edwin highlighted that Sr.Graziella brought innumerable blessings on all of us gathered here. He remembered when the Bishop of Mangalore visited her in the hospital she said, *"If my mission is complete He will take me otherwise He will keep me until I fulfill His mission."* Her brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews and their family members, the Sisters of nearby Communities and the Sisters who were on home holidays, the parishioners were present to pay their last homage.

After the Funeral rites her mortal remains were laid in the cemetery of the Convent Mount Rosary, Alangar. My heart felt thanks to Sr.Ida who assisted Sr.Graziella day and night and rendered all the possible care without counting the cost. I am grateful to Fr.Edwin who has showered on his love, care and concern over 15 months keeping me informed the condition of Sr.Graziella from time to time. My special thanks to the Superior General Sr.Prescilla and her Community members. I express my heartfelt condolence to Sr.Edwin, her sister who belongs to the Central Province has been a pillar of strength to Sr.Graziella during her illness.

We pray that God would receive her into his eternal home with arms wide open and with the words of Scripture: "Well done, good and faithful servant, now enter into the joy of the Lord."

Yours affectionately,

Sr.Doreen D'Souza
Provincial Superior