



**St. Ann's Provincialate**

H-2/3, Vikaspuri

New Delhi 110 018

Tel/Fax 011-28547941

Email: [annpro@vsnl.net](mailto:annpro@vsnl.net)

Date: 03 – 06- 2010

**“They who trust in him will understand the truth, those who are faithful will live with him in love; for grace and mercy, await those He has chosen”. Wis.3:9**

Dearest Sisters,

7<sup>th</sup> May 2010, the day on which we celebrate the anniversary of the Beatification of our Blessed Mother Enrichetta was the day specially chosen by God to receive Sr. Helen D'Silva into His heavenly abode.

Sr. Helen suffered from Parkinson's disease with arthritis since 1999. After Palm Sunday (28<sup>th</sup> of March, 2010) her health began to deteriorate rapidly. Her suffering grew intense day by day. On 7<sup>th</sup> May seeing her condition was worsening the Sisters of the Community gathered around her and prayed aloud on her behalf to forgive and to be forgiven. At 9.45pm Sr. Helen surrendered herself and breathed her last. The doctor certified the cause of her death to be 'septicemia with metabolic disorder'.

Sr. Helen was born to Mr. Pantaleon and Mrs. Genevieve D'Silva on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1935 at Bandra. She belongs to a large family of 7 children of whom she is the youngest. She entered the Postulancy on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1953. She received the Habit on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1954 and made her First Profession on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1956. She was then sent to Bombay for studies. Having obtained the Teacher's Diploma she was sent to Secunderabad to teach the little ones and was also in charge of the second class boarding. Then she was sent to Kazipet Railway School and thereafter to Jamnagar. In 1962 she made her Perpetual Vows. She completed her B.A. in December, 1975 and her B.Ed. in May 1977.

Sr. Helen worked in the capacity of a teacher/Vice-Principal at Bolarum, Moradabad. Rampur, Secunderabad, Ramachandrapuram, Isanagar, Jamnagar, Roorkee and Rohtak. Wherever she was sent she was always concerned for the upliftment of the poor. In June, 1999 due to her ill health Sr. Helen was transferred to Talegaon.

Sr. Helen was very faithful to her daily prayers and approached the sacrament of reconciliation very often. She was hard working and brought out the best from those entrusted to her care. She had fairy fingers. She designed uniforms for the tiny tots and prepared dresses for the poor children. She was compassionate towards the poor and gave special attention to the weak and the marginalized children. She never rested in the afternoons but would be found visiting the poor people in the 'jughies'. She worked untiringly in various communities in obedience to the will of God. She was always ready to go out of herself and help those in any kind of need whether in the community or outside. She was daring when it came to doing justice for those to whom it was

denied especially if they were poor and helpless. She would not hesitate to intervene in a fight in a train or to go to the jail to plead for innocent prisoners. She had a sense of humour and was a lover of animals too!

The Funeral Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. George D'Souza, Vicar General of Pune Diocese along with Fr. Joe Abraham, Fr Jerry and our two resident Priests, Fr. Lawrence and Fr. Joy. Sr. Helen's niece Lorraine who visited her very often and her grandnephew Ranjeet rushed down from Mumbai for the funeral. Fr. George in his homily said, "The most important thing is not the number of years that Sr. Helen lived in Religious life but her faithfulness in little things as she cared for the weak students. She was busy serving God and his people in her lifetime."

I express my heart-felt gratitude to the Sisters who were present when Sr. Helen passed away. I appreciate the initiatives they have taken to bid farewell to Sr. Helen in the absence of Sr. Ida, Superior of the house. I place on record the untiring and loving service rendered to Sr. Helen by Sr. Ida, Sr. Mary Sebastian and the other Sister Nurses during her long illness. I thank every Sister of the two Communities of Talegaon for taking great care of her. May God bless you all abundantly. I sincerely thank Fr. Lawrence and Fr. Joy for their spiritual guidance to Sr. Helen and for their assistance to the Community especially on the day of the funeral.

We commend the soul of Sr. Helen to the mercy of the Lord whom she faithfully served. Let us ask her to intercede for the various needs of our Province and the Congregation.

Yours affectionately,

Provincial Superior