

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



10<sup>th</sup> June 2015

“And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
And come to Zion with singing;  
Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
They shall obtain joy and gladness  
And sorrow and sighing shall flee away”. (Is 35.10)

Dearest Sisters,

This extract from the prophet Isaiah gives us a fitting idea of the profile of our dear Sr. Joachina, who left us for her Heavenly abode on the twenty-third of May, 2015, at St. Ann's Hospital, Appanapeta.

Sister saw the light of day at Aphikaribettu, Mulki, Mangalore, on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1941 and was the youngest among 7 children – three brothers and four sisters. Her devout parents, Cagitan and Clara D'Souza adored this last gift of theirs and brought her up in an atmosphere of warmth and love, peace and contentment, understanding and benevolence - the hallmarks of a beautiful home. Thus it was that dear Sr. Joachina (VERONICA) imbibed the true spirit of one totally dedicated to service and listened to the “little voice” that kept calling her to come and see.

Encouraged to give herself totally to the Lord of the harvest, she entered the Novitiate at Secunderabad on 21<sup>st</sup> June 1960, was clothed in the Religious Habit of the Congregation on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1960, Professed her First Vows on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1963 and her Perpetual Vows professed on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1969. God's plan for her took her to various Communities, places of love and good-will, such as Mudgal, Ramachandrapuram, Angelore and Sanquelim where we find her among the children and helping in the ministry of the Community. Right from the beginning of her religious life, she was with the poor and the little ones who always remember her for her compassion and love, reaching out to all and sundry, with a sense of calm, courage and good will.

Sister would do all types of work neatly and diligently for the sole reason of bringing the lost sheep to the fold. In the different roles she assumed as teacher, Boarding Mistress and whatever, she was found to portray amazing qualities and virtues which set her apart as one of dignity and integrity. The Communities of Jawalgira, Mudgal, Rampur welcomed her as the Mistress of the Boarding Homes, while Kazipet, Eluru and Secunderabad benefitted very much from her skills and values in the clerical line. So also, she shared her God-given talents at Appanapeta, Tarnaka, Peddapalli, Betalbatim and Tivim. A long journey indeed, but replete with the joy of living in God's habitation. Despite a few periods of ill-health, Sr. Joachina was a happy soul, optimistic and original in the way she moved around, not only among the Sisters but all those who crossed her path in day-to-day life.

Sister was as busy as a bee, duty-oriented and innovative in her assignment. Her conversations at time would keep you in roars of laughter which just goes to show how much she loved every one and enjoyed religious living both in the Community and in the apostolate.

Sr. Joachina was a patient of Hypertension, Diabetes Mellitus and Cervical Spondylosis; in September 2012, she was diagnosed to have Left Parotid Tumor, Left supraclavicular and bilateral neck nodal metastasis. She was treated with 6 cycles of chemotherapy in Yashoda Hospital, Secunderabad and in our Hospital at Fatimanagar, Warangal. She did respond to the treatment and was on follow up-once in three months and was confined to the bed since then. Later, in 2013 she was diagnosed with recurrent disease, and once again treated with 6 cycles of chemotherapy. Doctors who treated her, were amazed at her endurance; they explained to the Sisters about the recurrent nature and severity of the disease and the general deterioration of her condition. Then onwards, on and off she was very sick due to low immunity. Recently in the month of May she succumbed to Heat Hyperpyrexia (Heat stroke) and delirium. On 22<sup>nd</sup> May she was unable to take solid food and was on only liquids. On 23<sup>rd</sup> morning around 8.00 a.m. she was not responding to external stimuli and was gasping. Her Divine Master, pleased with His daughter, finally came to take her to Himself. Therefore she surrendered herself in the Divine arms of the Crucified Saviour and was at peace. Quietly she passed away on 23<sup>rd</sup> morning at 8.55 with a massive heart attack. It was remarkable to note, that irrespective of her sickness she maintained a pleasant and loving disposition. Most of this precious time she was found praying the Rosary and ever faithful to her sacramental life.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was celebrated in Fatima Cathedral, Fatimanagar at 5.45 p.m. by Most Rev. Udumala Bala, Bishop of Warangal. In his homily, Fr. S. Balashowry, the Parish Priest of Fatima Cathedral, Fatimanagar, brought out very meaningfully the significance of death. *“Neither birth nor death is in our control. The gap between birth and death is like a small hyphen i.e., the life which is in our hands. Every human being is weak and the days of each one are numbered. We have to leave behind what we hold dear to us in this life. We need to set out for another home, our permanent home. Our home could be a happy one or unhappy one, depending on what our lives in this world have been.”* He then said, *“We are sure that our dearest Sr. Joachina, has reached her permanent home, where her Heavenly Father welcomed her with outstretched arms.”*

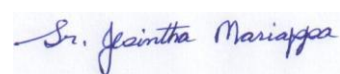
The mortal remains of Sr. Joachina, were laid to rest in the Parish Cemetery, Fatimanagar, where some of our Sisters already lie in peace.

I wish to communicate my heartfelt gratitude to all the Sisters of Appanapeta Community together with the hospital staff for their prompt and loving service, their availability in coming to the assistance of our dear Sister throughout her illness and their concern in her well-being, when she needed it the most.

I extend my sincere condolences to all the dear members of her loving and close-knit family. Our dear Sisters from the neighbouring Communities deserve our gratitude for their prayerful support and presence at the funeral.

Sr. Joachina has left us, but her spirit of endurance and power of faith remains. May we imbibe her precious quality - to give and not to count the cost.

With love and affection,



Provincial Superior