



St. Ann's Provincialate

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Dearest Sisters,

“Like clothes everybody will wear out, the age old law is that everyone must die, which is a certainty.” The cycle of nature is like the foliage on a tree, some leaves grow, age and fall with the wind to be replaced by new leaves in spring. So do new generations replace the old.

On the 13th of May, 2009 **Sr.M.Juliet Pinto (Lucy Pinto)** a great daughter of the St. Ann's family quietly slipped away into her heavenly abode at 9.00p.m in the night while the Community Sisters accompanied her with their prayers. Sr.Juliet commended her soul into the loving hand of God her 'Abba Father'. The long journey of love and beauty of this revered personality ended and surged into waves of resplendent effulgence on the heavenly shore.

Sr.M.Juliet Pinto was born in 1923, to Mr.Raymond Pinto and Maria Tauro at Quila Gudal, in Mangalore; the first born in a very good, God fearing Christian family of eight children. Nurtured by her pious parents, she grew up in the love of God. She joined the Congregation as a trained teacher in the year 1945 at Secunderabad. She made her First Profession on 1st January 1948 and Perpetual Vows on 1st January 1954.

Sister Juliet spent 61 precious years of her religious life in the vineyard of the Lord fulfilling His mission on earth. She was the senior most Sister in our Province and she took pride in it. She worked in the capacity of a teacher, wherever she was sent on a transfer. She dedicated herself to her students and boarders with love, understanding and total accessibility. Her charming smile characterized and reflected her sensitive and compassionate nature, which was showered on the children entrusted to her care.

Between 1950 and 1992 she had many a role from Teacher, to Superior and Boarding Mistress, and she traversed through many a house from Rampur, Tivim, Secunderabad, Bolarum, to Vijayawada. During this vast and varied journey she carried out all her duties with utmost diligence and a sense of purpose, always wearing an aura of serenity and peace which was embodied in the conduct of her daily life and her interaction with the children. In this long journey, Tivim (Goa) was blessed to have a larger portion of her time and effort.

In the year 1993 she was transferred to Talegaon Apostolic Community. She taught English to the Aspirants. She had a word of encouragement for all those who approached her. Her charming, affectionate and friendly smile endeared her to the Sisters, Parents, Teachers and Students. The sisters affectionately called her as 'Sundari' and she loved to hear this name often. Those students, who were fortunate to have her as a mentor, are now well placed in society and remember her with love and gratitude.

Despite the demands of the varied roles and work, Sr.Juliet always gave prominence to God who was first in the order of her being. Even in her old age she was regular to all the Community activities. She lived her life of consecration faithfully, and contributed to the Communities with joy and simplicity. She was a voracious reader with good collection of rare books. She loved her work and found it full of joy and hope. I had the great opportunity to experience her friendship and warmth in the Community of Tivim. One aspect of her life which has left an indelible mark on me is her sense of belongingness to the Community and loyalty to the Congregation. She would generally shy away from public limelight and was at home doing what she loved best, which was ministering to her young wards.

Ever since she was confined to bed with her illness her disposition changed dramatically. She permitted others to do for her things she could not do for herself, while earlier she was very self reliant. For the past few years, she had been suffering from diabetics and heart ailments. The last few months she was completely dependent on others. Her health deteriorated gradually and the last week she had been seriously ill.

The funeral mass was held at 4.p.m. on the 14th May at St. Ann's Convent, Talegaon. It was celebrated by Rev.Fr.Edwin Joseph and five other Priests. It was attended by the Sisters of the neighbouring Communities and Formees from our Communities. An atmosphere of peace and serenity prevailed. Fr.Edwin in his homily highlighted the following points. "As we live, so we die". The death of Sr.Juliet truly her reflection of life: serene, thoughtful of others, tenderness, goodness and kindness right up to the end. Referring the word of God Ephesians 1:3-14 Fr.Edwin dwelt on the theme - Spiritual Blessings in Christ for His chosen ones. "We are chosen by God before the world was made. We are marked out as sons and daughters of God. Each of us has vocation since Baptism. What a pity! The world does not recognize us because they do not know who we are. Sr.Juliet's life is worth lived and she lived it faithfully by listening to the voice of the Spirit. She will be missed by many, has left a void in the Community. Her brother Richhie thanked the Sisters of the Community for all the services rendered tenderly and lovingly to Sr.Juliet especially to Sr.Hedwig who was an angel of mercy during her last days.

Fathers, Sisters and relatives accompanied the mortal remains of our dearest Sr.Juliet to the cemetery of our Sisters. Sr.Juliet was fortunate to have her youngest brother, sister, niece and nephews by her bedside while she was sick and for the funeral.

Personally, I express my deep sense of gratitude to Sr.Ida, the Community of Talegaon and the Novitiate Community for taking care of Sr.Juliet during her illness and especially to Sr.Hedwig who gave her unstinted care and help to Sister when she was a total invalid and needed assistance.

Let us pray for Sister Juliet and let us invoke her as a protectress for while she was on earth she prayed for all of us. Now from heaven where we hope she'll be soon, may she intercede for us for holy vocations and for the grace of a holy life.

With much affection,

Sr.Doreen D'Souza
Provincial Superior