



**ANUGRAHA**  
**ST. ANN'S PROVINCIALATE**  
J-1166A, PalamVihar  
Gurgaon, Haryana 122 017

Tel: 0124-4023735  
Email: [anugrahaprov@gmail.com](mailto:anugrahaprov@gmail.com)

Date: 19/6/2017

***“Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”*** Philippians 3:20-21.

Dearest Sisters,

On 3<sup>rd</sup> June, on the eve of Pentecost in that atmosphere of serenity, silence and prayer that had marked Sr. Mercy's life, confirms us in the hope that she is already in the glory of the saints, of the humble and just persons for whom the Lord has prepared His Kingdom and redeemed her by the power of the Holy Spirit. Our dearest Sr. Mercedes, at the age of 77, returned to the Father's house silently, as she had lived her entire life. She was accompanied in prayer by the Sisters of the Community throughout the day till her last breath.

Sr. Mercedes was born at Kuravilangadu, Kottayam, Kerala, on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1940 to Mr. Sebastine Thomas and Mrs. Maria and was fondly known as Annie at baptism. She grew up among 8 children of which she is fifth. Her parents offered three of their daughters at the service of the Lord, of which eldest one belonged to Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph and who is no more and the other sister Sr. Joyce who belongs to the Province of Central India.

Persons who inspired her to religious life were her family members who were religious and the Parish Priest. She had a great desire to serve Jesus and work for Him as a missionary. As she did not wish to join any convent in her home town, as a young girl she asked the Lord to show her a sign if she could be a missionary. In her prayer she heard a soft voice speaking to her that she should join a missionary Congregation and it became clear to her as she saw an advertisement of Sisters of St. Ann's Congregation in a magazine. She immediately responded to God's call. She entered Postulancy on 21st June, 1962. She received the Holy Habit on 1st January, 1963. She made her Religious Profession on 1st January, 1965 and pronounced her Perpetual Vows on 1st January, 1972, she celebrated her faithfulness of 25 years on 1st January, 1990. He kept strengthening her call to religious life all through and celebrated her Golden Jubilee on 17th January 2015; she always felt His hand leading her in all her endeavours.

She rendered her service lovingly in the Communities of Roorkee, Rampur, Rudrapur, Isanagar, Jamnagar, Varanasi, USA, Bandra and at Talegaon. In these Communities Sr. Mercy distinguished herself for her Spirit of prayer and poverty, goodness of spirit and docility, a sense

of responsibility and availability in fulfilling her mission as teacher, Principal, Manager of the school and as an Animator of different Communities. She worked tirelessly giving her hundred percent to bring up the mission.

She treasured the Bible verses Is. 49:16 “*I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands*”; and Is. 43:4, “*You are precious in my sight and honoured and I love you.*” through the Word of God she constantly experienced the love and miracles of God in her life. Through her prayers a possessed woman was healed which she had testified to many of us.

She loved Christ and gave her best time in prayer. Though her health did not permit, it is amazing to note that she was ever punctual to every spiritual activity of the community starting with the Morning Lauds. Her will power and love for her spouse permitted her to move on.

Her 77 years in the company of her beloved spouse, were full of zeal, for His kingdom. She had magnanimous heart that accommodated everyone, with tender love, sisterly care and genuine concern. Those of us who have lived with her will always remember her hard work and self-sacrificing nature. Amidst her illness and treatment she had infinite patience to teach formees, weaker students and drop outs encouraging them to come up in life.

She used to encourage the young Sisters to be zealous in the service of the Lord. She welcomed everyone with her broad smile and treated them with heartfelt warmth and hospitality. She was courteous in her dealing and acknowledged the help from others with immense gratitude and humility. She treated everyone with tenderness and respect. She was a hearty person, enjoyed the company of young and old.

Sr. Mercy was on Pace maker due to left ventricular diastolic dysfunction since the year 1999 which was done in AIIMS Delhi. It was changed in Talegaon in the year 2015 in Ruby Hall Pune. She was a known case of diabetics mellitus and hyper tension nearly 20 years. She had suffered acute infarct in the left side of the brain in the year 2008 and causing right hemiplegia. This was the greatest blow for her life as an active person to slow down and take one step at a time. This gave her the opportunity to spend more time with God and intercede for the various needs. In the year 2015 she had a fall causing hip contusion and was on a Thomas splint and bed rest for one month, and on ortho medication followed by Physiotherapy. Due to weakness of the limbs she used to have falls on and off. On 24th May 2017 after her morning routine assisted by our helper, as she sat on her bed she fell backward on the bed unconscious. Immediately the doctor was called along with Ambulance and was shifted to the nearby ICU i.e. in Harneshwar Hospital. From then onwards she was unable to communicate. The investigation showed acute infarct in the brain. The neuro physician was consulted and his diagnosis was that she had multiple clots in the brain which cannot be reversed in her case. Still the physician proceeded with their little hope and referred to the surgeon for tracheostomy but her level of consciousness did not improve at all and an oxygen saturation in the body was lowering. By the fact that only nursing care can be carried out, she was discharged and brought home on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3.00 pm. From then on Sisters kept continuous vigilance on her with tracheostomy suctioning and Oxygen on flow. She developed hyper pyrexia which was not responding to medication.

The Sisters of the Community constantly assisted her in her suffering with fervent prayers. On 3rd June at 4.30 pm she began her struggle for breath which was on the increase and a silent

gasping. Sisters of all 3 Communities were assembled along with parish priest Fr. Prasanna who prayed over her departing soul. She surrendered her spirit to the Lord at 6.50 pm.

I am grateful to the Sisters of the Mount St. Ann and Karunanjali Communities for their support and assistance rendered to Sr. Mercy in the hospital day and night.

The funeral mass was held at 10.00 a.m. on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 in the chapel which was celebrated by Fr. Joe Abraham the Chancellor of Poona Diocese and Fr. Prasanna the Parish Priest of Mount Carmel Church, Talegaon. Sr. Mercy's nieces and nephews were present for the funeral Mass. Fr. Prasanna in his sermon highlighted about Sr. Mercy saying her attachment to Christ was tremendous like unto Mary Magdalena. She was the first one to be in the Chapel just like Mary Magdalene to the tomb. In spite of her sickness she would say, All God's plan. An advertisement brought her to our Congregation and at last she became an advertisement to the world around that Jesus is Lord. She has left behind an advertisement that, inspite of sickness and disability to remain attached to Jesus Christ.

I take this opportunity to thank Sr. Magline Gomes and every Sister of the three Communities of Talegaon for taking great care of Sr. Mercedes during her illness. Special thanks to our Sister Nurses: Sr. Magline, Sr. Mary Cyriac, Sr. Kathreena Joseph and Sr. Anima S. Tirkey for their untiring and wholehearted loving service extended. May God reward you abundantly. I sincerely thank Fr. Prasanna and Fr. Kevin the assistant parish priest for their spiritual assistance to Sr. Mercedes. I also thank Fr. Joe Abraham for his inspiring presence. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to Sr. Mercedes's family members, her nieces and nephews specially Sr. Joyce her Sister who also served Sr. Mercedes during her illness in the hospital.

Sr. Mercy during the journey of her life always felt herself loved by the Father who gives life, and life Eternal. For her and with her, let us raise to the Most Holy Trinity a hymn of gratitude for the gift of her life consecrated to the glory of God and the good of the brethren. We believe that Sr. Mercedes will intercede for us, let us be generous in offering suffrages for her.

Yours affectionately,



Sr. Rosily Paul  
Provincial Superior