

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



6th June 2017

“Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your Master” (Mt: 25:21)

These words aptly illustrate what our dear Sr. Nazarene did with her life, generously donated by the God of Providence, who took her to Himself on 29.05.2017.

Sr. Nazarene (**MARCELLINE**) Rasquinha was born on 25.11.1922 in Bajal, Mangalore, to devout parents Francis and Martha. She was brought up with love and affection in a prayerful atmosphere in the family.

She entered the Novitiate on 19th March 1946, was Clothed in the Religious Habit on 1st January 1948 at Secunderabad, made her First Profession on 26th July 1950 and Perpetual Profession on 26th July 1956 at Secunderabad.

A woman of faith and abandonment to God's will, right from her birth, the Lord sustained and guided her till the very end by the pedagogy of the heart.

Sister Nazarene was loved and appreciated by one and all for the selfless and dedicated services she rendered as Teacher, Boarding Mistress, Headmistress and Sister in-charge. From 1949 to 1961 she served the Community of Raichur as a Teacher and Assistant Boarding Mistress; from 1962 to 1970 at Hutti, as Sister in-charge and Headmistress. In the year 1971 she gave her service as Headmistress at Bolarum Convent. In the year 1973 she was transferred to Agrar, as Sister in-charge and Teacher and in 1979 she was appointed as Sister in-charge of St. Ann's Convent, Home for the Aged, Angelore. In 1984, she took care of the household duties of Mudgal and in 1985 she was given charge of the Kindergarten at Derebail. She extended her humble service to the Communities of Agrar (1986-1991), Angelore (1992-2009), Agrar 2010. Owing to her ill-health and age, she was brought back to Angelore in 2011, where she spent her time in prayer and attended to the needs of others as long as she could.

Sr. Nazarene Rasquinha was a very mature person. A simple soul! She lived a beautiful life of discipline, prayer and sacrifice. She was very meticulous in the given tasks and fulfilled them with a sense of deep commitment and dedication.

A silent, yet dedicated personality, she possessed oceans of love for the Sisters. She had a thought for every one. Blessed with an affectionate nature, she saw that the Community Sisters lived in an atmosphere of love and kindness. At times the Sisters used to wait patiently for her presence on their return, for they were assured of hot food, ready with pleasant words and a cheerful smile. Sister made herself available to sit beside them watching to fulfil their every need. With a good dose of humour she encouraged them to follow suit.

She was a good teacher. The students remember her even today with great esteem. Her students who are in high positions are still in touch with her and respect her as their Guru.

Sr. Nazarene completely depended on the Providence and love of God. She accepted life as it came; and went about, believing that, God knows what is best and permits all things for the welfare of the individual persons. She had special devotion to Mother Mary. With a gentle and loving approach, she was very obedient even in small matters, responsible in all given tasks.

She lived her religious life joyfully. She had a word of gratitude for every person. The last days of her life spent in St. Ann's Home for the Aged, Angelore, were exemplary. She never complained; rather, she accepted everything with love and patience.

Though she was 92 years old, she was able to do things for herself, even her personal work; she was quite regular for the Community activities. Later, due to high blood pressure, she had a stroke and thereafter she was bed-ridden. On 7th May, 2017 Sr. Nazarene was admitted to the Collaso Hospital due to chest congestion and breathlessness. Since her health condition worsened, she was shifted to the Intensive Care Unit. As there was no improvement, the Sister in-charge was asked to take her back to the Community.

On 29th May 2017, Sunday, at 7.00 a.m. Sr. Nazarene breathed her last peacefully. Her mortal remains were kept at St. Ann's Home for the aged, Angelore for the public to pay their last respects. Her dear ones, the Priests, Sisters from the neighbouring Communities and the inmates along with parishioners, joined in paying their last and loving respects to Sr. Nazarene. All had a word of gratitude and admiration for her.

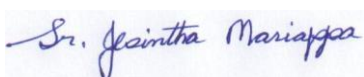
On 30th May 2017, the funeral mass was celebrated, by Fr. Pius James D' Souza OCD, Episcopal Vicar for Religious, Mangalore, along with concelebrants, Fr. Denish Rasquinha SJ and Fr. Richard D'Souza SJ, the cousins of Sr. Nazarene Rasquinha. In his homily, Fr. Pius shared his good moments spent with Sr. Nazarene who was his great teacher from Standard 1 onwards. He always looked upon her as a good teacher and as a person close to God. He shared his sentiments of joy and gratitude towards both Sr. Nazarene and to the late Sr. Josephine Menezes, who lived together the mission of Jesus and died together to receive the eternal reward. He said, *"When I was in 1st standard, both Sr. Josephine and Sr. Nazarene came to St. Ann's Convent Agra together, and I witnessed both having that unique quality of sharing faith and joy with the little ones. I admire the way they instilled in us the gift of faith. Along with the academic subjects, they taught us to live a life of faith; and their exemplary life brought many vocations to the Church and the Congregation. It was Sr. Nazarene's wish that I celebrate this Mass for her on her last journey from this earth. Today I am happy that I am her student and take this privilege to pay my tribute to her with gratitude. May God grant her eternal peace."*

After the meaningful Eucharistic Celebration, she was laid to rest in the Parish cemetery at Angelore. Her dear ones, the priests, the sisters from the neighbouring communities and the inmates along with parishioners, joined in paying their last and loving respects to Sr. Nazarene. I express my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved members of Sister Nazarene's family.

I am grateful to Sr. Celine D'Souza, the former Superior and Sr. Jacintha Correa, the present Superior of the Community and the Sisters of St. Ann's Home for the Aged, Angelore, for giving her utmost care till the last breath of her life. I stand in appreciation of Inmates whose prayerful support to Sr. Nazarene in her last agony never went in vain. I am indebted to all the priests who assisted her spiritually, specially through the sacraments.

Let us now accompany our dearest Sr. Nazarene to her eternal rest with prayers and sacrifices. May our departed Sister obtain blessings for the whole Congregation, which she loved very much, and let us speeden her entry into everlasting happiness.

Affectionately,



Provincial Superior