



**Anugraha**  
**St. Ann's Provincialate**  
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**“Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.” 1Cor. 15:51-52**

Dearest Sisters,

Sr. Rosalia Ekka was confined to her bed for about three months, suffering intensely from Parkinson's disease and Diabetes Mellitus. The symbol that comes to mind as one thinks of her life is that of a candle - giving light and life to those around her, till the end. 'Burn till you are burnt out' seems to have been the motto of her life. This she did joyfully and willingly. On 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 at St. Ann's Convent Talegaon, Sr. Rosalia, who in life always said her yes, quietly but firmly responded to her Master's Final Call. It was 04.30 p.m.

Sr. Rosalia Ekka was born on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 1942 to Mr. Lucas Ekka and Mrs. Augustina Lakhra in Gutri, Raigarh, Chattisgarh. She was the youngest in the family, having two brothers and 6 sisters. Right from her childhood she cherished the desire of offering her life totally to God and was found to be prayerful. She had great love for the Word of God.

She entered the Congregation of Sisters of St. Ann on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 1969 as an aspirant after completing her Teacher's Training and was promoted to the Postulancy on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 1969. She was vested on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1971 and made her First Profession on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1973 at Bolarum. She was transferred to the Community of Duldula in June, 1973 where she remained for 11 years. She made her Final Profession on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 1979 at Secunderabad.

Sr. Rosalia was a teacher by profession and has touched the hearts of many people in different parts of Northern India. The Communities of Duldula, Roorkee, Isanagar, Mohanlalganj, and Gharghoda were richly blessed by her unassuming presence and selfless service. Sr. Rosalia was an earnest, enthusiastic and industrious religious. She gave priority to her relationship with God. Her service flowed from this encounter with her God. She was ever ready to forgo comfort towards the realization of her duty. She willingly accepted any job that was entrusted to her. The serenity that enveloped her being and doing gave one the feeling that she was at peace with God, with others and with herself. Her sense of humour kept the Community entertained and happy.

While at Duldula apart from teaching in the school she was also engaged in the Grihini classes where the poor, illiterate or primary drop-outs (girls) were taught tailoring, art of cooking, other household chores and above all how to live a good value based life. Sr. Rosalia was an eco-friendly person. She loved gardening and was found talking to the trees and flowers. She was sensitive to the needs of others and had the talent to wait on others patiently. She endured her long sickness with immense resignation to the will of God – never a word of complain! God surely had blessed her with the gift of fortitude.

In 2003 our new Juniorate house (Asha Kiran, Varanasi) was ready. It was necessary to have a Sister on the team who could be a role model to the young Sisters in formation. The Province was certain that Sr. Rosalia Ekka would fit in best for this post. Hence she was transferred to Varanasi in August, 2003. It was then noted that her hands tremor and her diabetes was very high. She was sent to our Hospital at Mohanlalganj for treatment. It was diagnosed that she was suffering from Parkinson's disease. Unfortunately her sickness worsened and she had to be transferred to Mohanlalganj in May 2004, a place

where she had toiled hard in her younger days. In 2011 as her eye sight was failing and her health was deteriorating she was transferred to St. Ann's Convent Talegaon for better nursing care and treatment.

Dr. Sr. Emanuel Castellino who has lived with Sr. Rosalia for many years says: "Sr. Rosa, as we used to call her lovingly, was a very affectionate, kind, generous and a warm hearted person. She was an exemplary nun and a very spiritual person. Her sharing during the lectio-divina and her intercessory prayers were unique, coming straight from her heart. She was a very inspiring person. In spite of her ill health, she would be the first one to serve others and welcome visitors.

Her students were very fond of her and even now as married people they come to Mohanlalganj in search of her to seek her blessings. We are very much edified by this. After her school work, she was 100% for the Community work. Though, a teacher by profession, she never hesitated to lend a helping hand in the dispensary during the deliveries and even giving baby bath to new born babies. She was very humble and true to the Gospel considered herself as the least of all. We do miss her very much now."

Sr. Lizzie Bastian, her companion shares her experience: "From the beginning of her religious life, Sr. Rosalia accepted corrections cheerfully. She would always pay back everyone with a smile. Hard work and doing her duty well was part and parcel of her life. She would never look for praise or appreciation from anyone. She was happy and contented if she felt that she did the right thing before God. She would never entertain any Sister talking ill of another. Instead she would take great care not to hurt anyone. The companions had a special love for her especially because of her simplicity and humility."

In spite of regular treatment under neurologists the Parkinson's disease continued to worsen. 10 days prior to her death, Sr. Rosalia developed continuous fever - moderate to high grades. All the prescribed investigations were carried out, which showed that she had developed Septicemia. She did not respond to antibiotics and her condition declined gradually. On 7<sup>th</sup> July by 9 p.m. her respiration became chain stock type with long intervals. Breathing was strenuous which continued throughout the night and the next day. On 8<sup>th</sup> evening at 4.30 p.m. she breathed her last.

The Requiem mass was celebrated on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 at 11 a.m. by Fr. Prasanna Kumar OCD, the Parish Priest of Mt. Carmel Church, Talegaon, along with Fr. Denzil Veigas OCD. Fr. Prasanna in his homily stated: The passionate lover God has created us in his own image and likeness to belong to him even after our death. According to His promise 'I shall make you live with me forever' - which is implied in Jn 3:16, he who has confidence in him shall live forever. She is not the late Sr. Rosalia as we generally call people after their death. She is present with us, always present. Fr. Prasanna said that at his first visit to Sr. Rosalia her beautiful smile gave him the message 'Keep your faith; do not murmur'.

The mortal remains of Sr. Rosalia were laid to rest in our cemetery at Talegaon. Our Sisters from the Community of Bandra, Sabarmati and Talegaon were present.

I offer my condolences to Sr. Flavia and the Community who have lost 4 of their Community members from January 2014. Thanks for all the care and love lavished on Sr. Rosalia during her sickness. We are fortunate to have Sr. Mary Theresa Kindo and Sr. Mary Cyriac who diligently and with expertise look after our sick Sisters. Thank you. I express my gratitude to the Sisters of Mount St. Ann and Karunanjali for the collaboration and help offered in such times of need. A big thank you to Fr. Prasanna and Fr. Denzil for the spiritual support offered to our Sisters and for meticulously planning the funeral service. I am indebted to Sr. Renvilda D'Souza (Provincial Councillor) who in spite of her tight schedule made it possible to be present for the funeral.

Sr. Rosalia was a saintly person. She loved the Congregation and had a sense of belongingness to it. Through her intercession we pray for the forth coming General Chapter that we may be inspired to live as poor persons and devote our lives in service of the poor. Thank you Sr. Rosalia for you have shown us the way by your very life. Let us implore the Lord to let His face shine on her.

Yours Affectionately,

*Sr. Eulazia Fernandes*

Provincial Superior