

St. Ann's Provincialate
Bolarum – 500 010
Secunderabad



“ Whom do I have in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire other than you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever” Ps 73:25-26.

Sr. Rose D'Souza entered new life with these sentiments, what joy and bliss must have been hers when finally the Divine Master walked through His garden of blooming flowers and plucked his little rose early on the morning of July 5th 2010! “ I want to go home, I am prepared”. We found her uttering these words before she lost her speech just a couple of days before her death. Sr. Rose had a unique privilege of enjoying good health for the entire span of her life, which she zealously spent for the cause of education of the little ones.

She knew ill health only during her last three years, when, unknown to all, Cancer of the Colon (intestines) had slowly advanced and could be diagnosed in its advanced stage. All the while she was ailing, medication brought her short-term relief, and we were advised to support her with palliative care. That is when she was admitted in St. Ann's Hospital Fatimanagar on June 12th, where our Sisters till the end tenderly assisted her.

Sister Mary Rose, daughter of James and Monica D'Souza, was born into an exceptional religious family of eleven children, nine of whom were gifted to the Church. In fact, the proud parents were the recipients of an award from the Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, for this act of magnanimity. Praise God! The outstanding figure was the well known late Herman D'Souza, Secretary to late Archbishop Fulton J Sheen. He was also instrumental in founding the Pontifical Mission for the Propagation of Faith, and along with his brother, the publication of the Magazine – ‘The New Leader’.

Sr. Rose was born at Kallyampur, Mangalore on 17.07.1929, and entered the Novitiate at Secunderabad, was clothed in the Religious Habit on 01.01.1949, Professed on 01.01.1951 and took her Perpetual Vows on 01.01.1957.

She began her career of teaching in the Kindergarten at Secunderabad and continued this as K.G. In-charge at Mallapur till 2009. During the intervening years she served in a number of our Communities both in the communities of the North such as Gholeng, Moradabad, Roorkee, Rampur, and Nidadavolu in the South and at Tarnaka, Kazipet, Raichur, Derebail, Bolarum and Mallapur. Here, I feel proud to mention that she was my class teacher in class VII and distinguished herself as a good Maths teacher. As Headmistress of the Primary

School, Boarding-in-charge and Sister-in-charge, she always sowed seeds of kindness to the little ones under her care and to those who needed her help. She is well remembered by the staff, students and parents whose lives she graciously touched by her warm relationships.

Sr. Rose made it a point to be regular and punctual at all the Community exercises. Being an avid reader, she would religiously share world events to all of us at recreation and discuss the future state of affairs from all points of view. She radiated an abundance of youthfulness and vitality with the little ones and it was so amusing to see dear Sr. Rose on her toes doing the Irish Jig as part of the activities at School. These momentary rushes of energy helped her to complete many an uphill task especially towards the end of her career.

What we appreciated in Sr. Rose was that she tried to make a difference in the lives of the poor, marginalized and weak students. She was generous in her dealings with all and used the day in a worthy manner.

As the saying goes, “Well-arranged time is the surest mark of a well-arranged mind” – such was our dear Sr. Rose – who enjoyed robust health throughout the 80 years of her life. Her optimism made her rise and grow stronger. She expressed the desire to receive the Sacrament of the Sick. The last day in her life was a beautiful one to remember, in that she had the deep satisfaction of being with her beloved nieces Myrtle and Merrill who providentially arrived from Mumbai. She sensed their presence immediately and responded suitably despite the fact that she was breathing heavily. Since they were keeping in touch on the phone, they rushed to be with her in her last moments. It seemed she waited to bid farewell to them and breathed her last on the following day.

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the members of her close-knit family and thank them for their presence at her funeral. They were deeply touched by the care extended to their aunt, and it was a happy coincidence that Mother General was able to connect with them to convey her condolences to the family and to express her appreciation of Sr. Rose as a conscientious Religious and a dedicated apostle.

Let us offer our prayers for the repose of the soul of our dear Sr. Rose, that the Lord be merciful to her and grant her everlasting happiness. Knowing she is at peace with her Lord, let us commend ourselves to her intercession.

I sincerely thank Sr. Alda and the Juniorate Community, Sr. Aruna Felcy, Sr. Rosita, Sr. Jacqueline, and the Sisters at the Home, Sr. Thomasamma and her community, who lovingly assisted her during her days of illness. I thank the Superiors, Sisters of the neighbouring communities, who came to visit her and offered their prayerful support.

A word of thanks to all the communities who continually interceded for her; it helped to have a beautiful end. Do continue to pray for our sick Sisters and for the needs of our Congregation.

Affectionately,

Provincial Superior
Sr. Monica Francis