

***St. Ann's Provincialate
Simon Lane, Angelore
Mangalore – 575 002***



Sr. Mary Rosaria Kurian

*Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest
(Mt.11:28).*

"Prayer is the secret of my success and I am God's miracle" - Sr. Rosaria.

On 4th December 1935 the Creator deigned to have a little rose gifted to Mr. Kurian and Mrs. Aleyamma Paulose in a small town of Edamaruku, Kottayam Kerala. True to her name, this rose grew, bloomed and spread its beauty and fragrance all around and the Lord saw that she was good and beautiful a flower, to be kept very close to Him, to be the bride of His Son and thus became the part of this big family of Sisters of St. Ann. She made her First Profession on 1st January, 1963 and Final Profession on 5th January 1969.

As an efficient and committed nurse by profession, Sr. Rosaria worked tirelessly in the following communities:

- June 1963 Chengalpattu - attended a course for the treatment of lepers
- June 1964 took care of lepers at Kukatpalli till it closed down in February, 1966.
- August, 1966 Secunderabad - General Nursing and Midwifery course at Gandhi Hospital
- February, 1970 - Fatimanagar
- January, 1973 - Mithapur
- June 1980 - Jawalgira
- June 1982 - Gharghoda in charge of the dispensary
- June 1985 - Mithapur as a nurse
- June 1992 - appointed superior of Mithapur
- June 1998 - Isanagar Hospital as a nurse
- June 1999 - Trilokpuri as Sister in charge
- June 2005 due to ill health went to Bandra for treatment.
- June 2006 - Valayamkode orientation house
- June 2009 - Mithapur as Animator of community
- June, 2012 - Bandra
- June 2017 - Talegaon

Sr. Rosaria was the symbol of love, beauty and perfection, a person with great admiration. She participated in the healing ministry of Jesus her spouse, more diligently, dedicatedly and cheerfully. In her nursing profession she was excellent, smart and available at any time. To revive the sick patients she did everything she could within her capacity and the rest she surrendered in the hands of the Lord. Her dedication towards the poor, sick and more specially expectant mothers is greatly appreciated. With the Lord at her side she could manage maximum maternity cases even without a doctor. She always encouraged sisters to take interest in the healing ministry.

Sr. Rosaria was a person with duty consciousness found in the operation theatre with alertness to receive any patient coming for operation. She would stand by them as a guardian angel comforting and giving them courage and assuring them her prayerful support. She would there be at their bed side daily. Before going to the theatre she would lay her hands on their forehead and pray. Her presence was strongly felt in the labour

room too when she found herself free. She was a mother to many poor people. She had a caring heart to reach out to everyone. Her presence was a healing and restoring relationships. She manifested genuine love and sympathetic approach specially towards the sick sisters in the community. She is a silent sufferer and no complaint escaped her lips. She had a beautiful smile on her face always. Her motherliness has drawn many people close to her. She had special love for the priests in whose life she had imprinted the mark of her goodness and values. Some of them have expressed their words of admiration for Sr. Rosaria.

Fr. Titus calls Sr. Rosaria "*A recollected woman*. She can never die, in the depth of silence she lives forever along with her Christ. I do have many heart touching moments to share. I know the same with all of you who have come in contact with her. I share these thoughts not to praise the dead but to have a motivation for the living as we have miles to go before we sleep.

The whole Gospel is summarized in one single sentence that "He went about doing good". The whole life of Sr. Rosaria could be summarized in one sentence that "She did everything for the glory of God in silence". The great maxim that she held in her life was "God alone". As the name of the congregation goes St. Ann's of Providence, she taught me with her silent presence to have complete trust in the providence of God. Her life experience at various mission stations unfolds the protective providential care of God, which did challenge my journey as a young priest.

She taught me to believe in a God who saw wine in the water who will do miracles in Mithapur and Bhimrana. I did understand the true meaning of this statement when she extended her mission to her relatives. She insisted her sister to be the God's providence to Bhimrana for its daily bread project. Her brother in law gave the major share to have the daily bread vehicle that moves even now on the busy roads of Surajkaradi and Okha with the daily bread to the hungry.

Her simplicity and the mission spirit was very much visible when the TATA company requested the sisters to handover the school to a new management. She accepted it as the will of God though it was started and developed by the St. Ann's sisters. Her speech at the ceremony of the handing over echoes even today. She was given a chance to speak after Sr. Rita the then principal, she spoke just one sentence which was enough to understand her mission commitment. "KPS is our child, handle it with care. We are always available".

Her motherly presence was felt when she kept herself up even the whole night by extending her service to the people who came from Baroda. Aggressive parents of a young boy and girl on one side, police on the other side but she kept on giving her service by making tea and occasionally with a silent pat on my shoulder.

It was my nephew's First Holy Communion I failed to attend the programme, she on her vacation attended this function and filled the gap with a small gift. It was a great surprise for me.

Her active support is seen during anand mela at Mithapur. With her poor eyesight and poor health she would support this project as her extended mission.

Her simple deeds, looks mighty now. She had a heart of gold, tested in the fire of various sickness yet her zeal for mission gave her inner strength. She carried her pain as a part of life, hid her pain with a beautiful smiling face reaching out to everyone. The world will never forget her soft heart for the poor. Every task was taken in prayer as she had one rosary in the pocket the other around her neck and the third in the hand. She believed in the powerful presence of God. When she was sick she used to drink the Holy water not the medicine. She believed that Christ the healer would heal.

God will give the best reward, I am sure my mother is in heaven. Her mild voice and pleasing face will remain forever."God alone".

Fr. Pius Mathew CMI speaking about Sr. Rosaria says, "I have some beautiful memories of Sr. Rosaria when she was superior in Mithapur. In 1993, as newly ordained priest, my first appointment was to

Mithapur. I was new to the place and I won't forget how Sr. Rosaria made my life and pastoral ministry there so sweet and so memorable in so many ways. She had a lovely way to make me feel at home and to make life easy for me as a new priest who lacked any pastoral experience. She had a great sense of empathy, understanding, care and thoughtfulness and she was very gentle, kind and generous to me every possible way. My experience with Sr. Rosaria and the sisters in Mithapur community over 25 years ago made such an impact on my life that I have been visiting the community there every year, until last year when they handed over the place to Dev Priya sisters. May Sr. Rosaria rest in peace and rise in glory”.

Fr. Kumar from the Diocese of Ahmedabad would say "What impressed me about her was her smile, despite the pain that she was undergoing. When I first met her in Bandra I found her very spiritual, loving and caring. When she came to know that I had some minor health issues. She gave some sisterly advice and prayed for me and told me to trust in the healing touch of the Lord. After that I could meet her only in Talegaon. There I could not talk to her much as she was rather sick and suffering. However she was all the time with smiles and was happy to see known faces. May God grant her Eternal Peace!

As an animator of the community she made everyone feel at home. She loved the sisters and was very considerate towards sick, elderly sisters in the community and used to take extra care of the guest sisters who used to come for the treatment. Language was never a barrier for her to go to any extent in her given mission for she used the language of love through which she attracted many to the Lord. A Sister who was joyful, graceful in her dealings, thoughtful and sensitive to others was truly an exemplary religious.

She was admired much for her silent and reflective nature. She had great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and Mother Mary. The Lord worked miracles in her life and through her in the life of others. We would find her at 3.00 p.m. in the chapel communicating with her good daddy and drawing strength for her mission.

Sr. Kathreena Joseph shares her experience "Sr. Rosaria was a person of surprise. She used to stitch habits for Sisters without their knowledge and give them as a gift on Christmas day. She found stitching the Church vestments as a privilege and she did it with much joy and interest. She longed to encounter Jesus. Mother Mary and Rosary was her constant companion. We never see her without a Rosary in her hand. Her devotion to Mother Mary is worth mentioning as we could see her in the chapel early hours of the day. She used to spend hours in the chapel with the Lord conversing, discerning and praying for the needs of the Congregation and humanity. She was very faithful to her profession as a nurse specially as a theatre Nurse. Very diligent, prompt and responsible in assisting the doctors during surgery. She had a healing hand. Always on the move and doing something. Meeting the people and visiting the sick was her main concern in her life. Working very hard at all times for the Sisters in the Community and people around. Hospitality was the hallmark of her life. We are sure that she will be carried straight away to heaven by the angels and saints with whom she had constant touch while she was here on earth" .

She suffered from diabetic mellitus and hypertension and a severe attack of herpes in 2016 November which deteriorated her health. After much treatment her general health condition improved. For the past one and half years she had lost the power of speech due to mild paralysis of the right side. From then onwards she became incapable of helping herself and she needed constant assistance as she suffered from respiratory infection and fever. She had been consulted for the same and medications administered as per the doctor's advice. But she continued to decline in her health condition. On 8th July 9.30 a.m. she suddenly grew breathless and her oxygen saturation was lowering. She was put on oxygen from then onwards. The sisters kept watch over her continuously. On 9th morning the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick was administered. In spite of constant oxygen and other medical assistance she progressively declined and serenely breathed her last at 9.20 a.m. on 10th July 2020 in the presence of her beloved sisters of the community who were constantly praying for her at her bedside.

Rev. Fr. Prasanna Kumar OCD the parish priest of Mount Carmel Church, Talegaon celebrated the funeral Mass along with the Concelebrant Rev. Fr. Peter Rebello OCD. In his homily Fr. Prasanna said, "Today we have lost a smiling sister who always smiled in spite of all her pains. Stressing on her smiling nature he said 'the dress code of religious is not only the habit but also the smile'. He also focused on her love for the priests whom she gave great respect and sought their blessings with her bowed head. She was always

concerned about others. While she was at table and when her only one hand was active, she still used it to pass the plate, fruits or push the chair for others to sit. Such was her attentiveness. She received Communion with that hand of hers with much love and devotion even on the last day when she attended the Mass in the chapel. As mother Teresa of Calcutta says “death is nothing but going to God that we may continue our bond with Him”. Our beloved sister Rosaria is gone before us to continue that close bond with God.” The mortal remains were laid to rest at Talegaon Cemetery along with our sisters.

I owe my sincere gratitude to Sr. Magline Gomes the Animator of the community, Sister nurses and the Sisters of the community for their constant assistance towards Sr. Rosaria during her ailment. I also thank the communities of Talegaon formation House, Karunanjali and Bandra for their timely help and specially during her sickness and death. Sr. Rosaria will surely be sending her blessings from the Presence of her dear spouse.

Though personally I was not present to have a final glance of Sr. Rosaria due to the travel restrictions in this time of pandemic I have a pleasant impression of her as a person of genuine affection, true holiness filled with God's wisdom and gifted with the remarkable skill of accomplishing things, a heart full of love and a winning disposition. We earnestly request Sr. Rosaria to pray for the needs of our new Province and the Congregation especially for good and genuine vocations.

Dear Sr. Rosaria today we affirm and appreciate that your communion with the Lord had kept you alive, joyful and serene till you took your last breath. You had been so wonderfully generous with everyone. We thank God, for the Rose that you were. May you remain ever fresh in the garden of the Lord and intercede for all of us and your dear ones at home. May you rest in peace.

Yours affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Charlotte Sequeira". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Sr. Charlotte Sequeira
Provincial Superior