

St. Ann's Provincialate,
Gollapudi P.O.
Krishna District
Andhra Pradesh - 521 225
0866 - 2970933/ 2975033



25th January, 2021
Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

"More than the watchman, waiting for the dawn to come, I await the Lord".(Ps. 130:5-6)

Dearest Sisters,

Within a period of less than four months our dearest Sr. Placida Mathew, who loved to be known also by her family name Vennalivally, was no more her vibrant, joyful self as her memory began to fail and her vital organs weaken. Advancing age was having its bearing on her health. She could no more be auto-sufficient and needed to be assisted for all her personal needs, which the Sister nurses took care of with great tenderness and delicateness. In the last few weeks, she was confined to bed and could not stomach any solid or liquid foods and was becoming weaker and weaker. She was gradually losing her faculties of speech and hearing and there was no possibility whatsoever of medical help due to her advanced age.

Her saga of suffering came to an end, when her Beloved Spouse Jesus, found her ready for her eternal reward after long waiting and called her home to himself at 4.47 pm on 22nd January 2021. She, who had waited long for His coming, flew into his enfolding arms supported by the prayers of praise and thanksgiving of the Sisters of her Community who surrounded her death bed. In fact she had begun her last agony in the early hours of 20th January, when I received a call about it. We spent some time in prayer, the Parish Priest was called and she was once again prayed over. She continued in this state with her pulse, breathing, pressure and other parameters fluctuating till the end came on the 22nd.instant.

Sr. Placida Mathew (Maria Mathew) the youngest of seven children, five boys and two girls, was born on 22nd November, 1935 at Laikad in Changanacherry, Kerala. Her devout God fearing parents, Mr. Mathew and Mrs. Thresiamma who strongly believed that children are precious gifts of God, once again welcomed with great joy and gratitude, this gift of God as a priceless treasure. Little Maria Mathew, enjoyed a happy childhood under the tender guidance of doting parents and caring siblings. Going to school was fun in the company of many good friends. Cutting across paddy fields, criss crossing cultivated lands, trying out new routes, looking for birds, chasing butterflies, and hunting for flowers of which she was passionately fond, all these were for her expressions of the supreme feeling of freedom and joy.

As she grew up passing from one stage of education to another and one school to another, she came in contact with different Congregations of Sisters, who led her to get to know the lives of Saints and nurture a desire to follow their examples. When she expressed to her family her desire to follow Christ she was laughed at, for they knew the fun loving carefree child she was and tried to dissuade her. But her strong will, and thanks to a missionary journal that led her to knock at the portals of the Congregation of St. Ann at Secunderabad on June 7th 1957, after which there was no turning back. The milestones of her life are as follows:

21 st June 1957	Entered the Postulancy at Bolarum.
3 rd January 1958	Vestition
9 th January 1959	Left for Turin
1 st January 1960	First Profession
Jan 1960-May 1961	Rome –Via Giusti
January 1966	Final Profession
Jun 1961-July 1967	USA- Student Completed Graduation and Post graduation.
Aug 1967-May 1973	St. Ann's Convent, Eluru - Lecturer at St. Theresa's College
Jun 1973 - May 1976	Ph. D student -Waltair Andhra University
Jun 1976 -Mar 1978	St. Ann's Convent, Eluru Lecturer at St. Theresa's College
April 1978-Oct 1979	Rome- Milan to complete Ph. D
Jan 1980 - May 1981	St. Ann's Convent, Eluru Counselling and T A Course Cochin
Jun 1981 - May 1982	Visiting Professor Cochin University.
Jun 1982- May 1996	St. Ann's Convent, Eluru Head of the Department Home Science
Jun 1996-May 1997	St. Ann's Convent, Kanhanghad
Jun 1997-May 1998	S. Heart Convent, Vijayawada- Executive Director Hindu College, Machilipatnam
Jun 1998-May 2004	Animator- St. Ann's Convent, Kanhanghad
Jun 2004-May 2008	Clemenza Villa, Eluru-Student Counsellor in the Junior College
Jun 2008-May 2010	St. Ann's Convent, Kanhanghad Student Counsellor
Jun 2010-May 2013	Animator- St. Ann's Convent, Kanhanghad
Jun 2013 to date	St. Anthony's Convent, Gollapudi

From the above, it is evident, the greater part of her life Sr. Placida spent at Eluru engaged in the teaching ministry which she carried out with great passion and zeal. She was greatly loved and admired by her students and colleagues. Sr. Placida was a prayerful person with deep faith in the designs of the Divine and unfailing trust in the Providence of God. She was an amiable person, cordial and courteous in her relationships with others. She had a wide circle of friends belonging to different walks of life. A very cheerful and optimistic person, she radiated joy and inspired hope wherever she went. She believed a helping hand makes a joyful heart. She had a great aesthetic sense and was a lover of music, dance and the fine arts. Her culinary skills will be long remembered.

Sr. Placida was a great academician and educationist and was entrusted with different responsibilities by various universities. A great literary personality, she guided and directed many research students. An avid and voracious reader she was always eager to acquire more and more knowledge and keep herself updated of the latest developments especially in her field of competence. A prolific writer she authored countless articles for

many leading journals and magazines. A charming personality with a heart of gold, she would be the first to forgive if hurt, and not keep count of wrong and was ever ready to help those in need, even if it be those who wronged her. In health or in sickness she has left us an example to follow. She endured with admirable patience and with a smile all her age-related health complications, always grateful to those who assisted her.

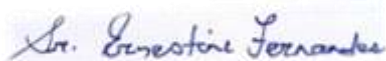
“As I look back through the corridors of time so many persons have come into my life and Sr. Placida outshines them all as a beacon of hope, light and encouragement. She was an affectionate, pleasant and hard working person and it was very easy for others to relate to her. She was endowed with empathy and a high degree of sensitivity to the needs of others. She had in abundance of the life saving gift and that was forgiveness. The hall mark of Sr. Placida was her compassion for the poor. Her friendly nature made her win the hearts of so many. Fortunate are we the nieces and nephews of Sr. Placida to have had such a beautiful person as our Aunt. All of us called her Ammai, which means Aunt. I had an opportunity to stay with her in St. Ann’s Convent, Kanhangad from 1998 to 2002. She had played an important role in upgrading the Little Flower Girls High School into a Higher Secondary School. She had always worked with love, dedication and commitment as an excellent Teacher. I really thank God and praise Him for gifting such a person to this world to be loved and cherished by many. Now that she has reached the shores of eternity with her earthly tasks completed, I pray she enjoy her well merited eternal rest”.(Sr. Gracy Thomas)

The funeral Mass, celebrated on January 23rd at 10 am at St. Anthony’s Convent, Chapel, Gollapudi, was officiated by the Vicar of the Diocese, Msgr. Muvvala Prasad and concelebrated by 3 other Priests. In the homily the celebrant, referring to the gospel of the ten Virgins said that Sr. Placida was blessed by God with long life which she spent in watchful waiting and in doing good deeds. He highlighted again qualities mentioned in the introduction saying that Sr. Placida was a Lover of nature; a quality in her, so relevant to our times. He stated that those who relate well with nature can also relate well with people as Sr. Placida did. Another remarkable trait he touched upon was her virtue of forgiveness, a quality that should be the hallmark of Christians and especially consecrated persons, if we are to be Christ’s authentic followers and witnesses.

Sisters from the neighbouring Communities of Eluru and Vijayawada were present at the Eucharist to pay to the dear departed soul their last respects and homage. We are also thankful for the presence of Sr. Marlene Thomas from the Central Province and Sisters William Kurian and Sr. Arokiam Lourdhu from the South Province. We remain grateful to all the Sisters and LASA members who reached out to us with their messages of condolences. After the Mass, her mortal remains were laid to rest in our Cemetery at Gollapudi, besides our other departed Sisters.

Dearest Sisters, such a beautiful person, Sr. Placida, is no more with us. But she has left us beautiful memories to hold on to. While we offer our prayers for the repose of her soul, let us ask her to intercede for the Sisters of the Community of St. Anthony’s Gollapudi, who cared for her so tenderly, for the intentions of our dearest Mother Francesca Sarcià and her Councillors and for the fruitfulness of the forthcoming General Chapter.

Yours affectionately,



Sr. Ernestine Fernandes

Provincial Superior.