

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



28th March, 2021

"Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received – only what you have given: A full heart enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice and courage." - St. Francis of Assisi

Sr. Colette (Florine) Barboza was born on 16th April, 1939 in a devout family of Mr. Antony Barboza and Mrs. Regina Martis at Shirva, Mangalore. Fifth among 11 children Sr. Colette grew up in this affectionate large family and it is in this atmosphere of love and faith God's gaze was fixed on Sr. Colette whom He picked up to be a channel of love to the greater family of humanity. She entered the Novitiate on 21st June, 1960, received her religious clothing on 1st January, 1961, made her First Profession on 1st January, 1963 and her perpetual commitment to the Lord on 3rd January, 1969.

Soon after her first profession in 1963 she was sent to Jawalgira to teach in the school, in 1964 to Eluru as Assistant Clerk in the School office for four months and later to Tarnaka as a teacher. Her teaching skills and her enthusiasm to learn more manifested her personal charism of teaching and therefore she was sent to do her Senior Grade Basic Teacher's Training at Secunderabad in the year 1965. After her qualification she agreed to render her full time service as a teacher in Hutti in 1967 where she was also given charge to take care of the Church as Sacristan. In 1975 her services were needed at Jawalgira as a teacher and as in charge of the Boarding Home which she carried on with utmost diligence. In 1978 she was transferred to Mudgal as a teacher where she also availed herself for the Church activities as Sacristan, preparing children to receive First Holy Communion, adult catechism and youth animation. In 1985 she was asked to go to Agrar, Mangalore to teach in the Parish School and to help in the Church as Sacristan which she carried on with love and dedication. Once again she was transferred to Mudgal in the year 1990 where she remained for 13 long years teaching in the school, taking care of the Boarding Home, youth animation and other pastoral work. In 2003 she was sent to Uppaladadia to render her service to the children in the boarding and in 2004 she got transferred to Kundapura to teach the little children in the Kindergarten and assist in the Parish activities. In 2009 she was transferred to St. Ann's Home for the Aged, Angalore to help in the community where she remained till her death. In all these places she was not just confined to the task of teaching that was entrusted to her but she walked an extra mile visiting the families of the students and parishioners. So much so she knew every family personally and she would enquire

about the family members by name. Knowing that faith is a precious gift that will stand the test of time, she gave importance to 'Family Faith Formation'.

Sr. Colette who toiled hard for the marginalized in the remote villages of North Karnataka has left an impression of being called 'best teacher, a loving mother, a friend close to the heart of the little ones'. Her heart always moved with compassion for the poor. In the darkness of their lives she became a ray of hope by making them capable of earning their livelihood. She, with the help of her family provided jobs for many poor people specially Lambanis and worked towards the upliftment of this tribe. Today they express their great sadness at the loss of their loved one Sr. Colette. She spent 30 years of her religious life in the Diocese of Bellary with her effective, inspiring and witnessing presence. She is highly appreciated for her hardwork for the cause of the mission. She proved selfless as she would give her hundredfold for all the work entrusted to her care. As in charge of the boarding homes she loved her children as if they were her own accompanying them closely in all aspects. As a sacristan she was known for keeping the Church spick and span, clean and shiny. As a teacher she put in a lot of hardwork to give her best to the students. As a catechism teacher she sowed seed of love for God in those little hearts.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good tidings (Is. 52:7)

She had great zeal for the extension of the Kingdom of God through our congregation and was passionate to facilitate vocations. Today we have many Sisters in our Congregation who were accompanied by her to pursue their Religious call. When she discovered the call of God in them, she would follow them up with constant personal guidance, family visits and prayers offered for them until they responded to God with their YES. She has also promoted vocations to priestly life who are serving as priests today mainly in the Diocese of Bellary.

Sr. Colette suffered from Hyperosmolar hyperglycemic state with uncontrolled type 2 diabetes mellitus. The symptoms were not distinctively visible till 21st March 2021 when she was shifted to the nearby Fr. Muller's Hospital, Kankanady and as the diagnosis was done she was found moderate COVID positive. "Even if the death was expected, the process of this isn't any easier. Sr. Colette left us unexpected as she within a short notice of the critical condition of her health bid farewell to this world on 22nd March, 2021 at 6.30 pm. She had a beautiful death as she received anointing of the sick just a week ago and Holy Communion till the last day of her life. She was fully conscious to surrender her will to the Lord. Before she was taken to the hospital she greeted all the sisters around her bed as if she knew she wouldn't meet us again.

The funeral ceremony was held as per Covid protocols on 23rd March, 2021. The Holy Eucharist was offered for her soul by Rev. Fr. Tony D'Souza, OCD at 3.00 pm in St. Ann's Provincialate Chapel in the presence of the sisters of Provincialate, Home for the Aged, Derebail, Valencia and her nephews and nieces. Her mortal remains were directly taken from the hospital to the cemetery at Guardian Angel's Church where we paid our last respects.

On behalf of the Priests in the Diocese of Bellary Fr. Danappa, Parish Priest of Mudgal pays tribute to Sr. Colette in following words:

“O taste and see that the Lord is good; Happy are those who take refuge in Him” Psalm 34:8

Dear Sister Collette,

You have left the memories to cherish

You remained a light and salt to the earth as the Master beckoned

Your love immortal, your sacrifice never fading and your patience never dried

This is my song of gratitude

You gave meaning to our lives

You taught us to reach our goal

You taught us how to live

You opened up our way to our Lord and Master

And this salutation comes from my heart.

You cared for me like your own son

You walked with me in faith and trust in God

You were a mirror to my life, loving sister Collette

You remain immortal in my heart.

You called me “son come we feed the cow”

You called me to pluck the berries from the tree

You called me to clean the church and wash the sacred linen

You called me to walk on the right path.

You Sr. Collette taught me to take right steps.

You were the hope to the young girls

Your love was without any boundaries

Your kindness was like the ocean

Your sacrifice was above the clouds

Salute you dear sister for your magnanimous heart.

You are the reason for me to reach the goal

You are the architect of my life

You are the shadow around me

I believe that you pray for me from above

To persevere in my priestly ministry.

You filled me with the ardour to pursue my studies

When you found me hungry,

You slowly pulled out the baked chapathi (bread)

From your pocket to mollify my hunger

How can I forget you my loving mother

Mother of the unfortunate and forgotten

You have won the hearts of little ones

You remain eternal in the hearts of us all.

I miss you mother so loving and dear
I miss you mother so kind and tender
I miss you Amma and I hope to meet you in heaven above with faith in these words
“I am the Resurrection and the Life.” John 11:25

It is with pain and sadness I express my condolences to all her brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces who felt greatly the loss of their dear one Sr. Colette, specially to her sister Mrs. Mary Mendonca, her nephews Dr. Norman Mendonca, Mr. Monohar Mendonca, her niece Merlyn Vaz and nephew-in-law William Vaz who were present for the funeral. I am extremely grateful to Sr. Jacintha Correa, the Animator of the Community of St. Ann's Home for the Aged and Sister Nurses Sr. Aruna Felcy and Sr. Jayamol Joseph for taking care of Sr. Colette specially during her illness and all the sisters of the community and the Provincialate and the Sisters of the Province for your prayers.

Sr. Colette is a woman who rendered great service to society expecting nothing in return for herself. She lived a life of sacrifice depriving herself of the pleasures that the world could offer. In her educative Pastoral ministry she awakened the children and youth especially the girl children and women of the villages helping them to stand on their own feet, bring up their families and thus build a better future. Yes dear Sr. Colette you have left a great legacy behind "We are a family for families bringing hope to the world today".

She had a great love for the Congregation and she would always pray for Mother General, Provincial Superiors and their teams. She would always appreciate the self sacrificing service of authority.

As we continue to offer our prayers of suffrages for Sr. Colette, may she soon behold the glory of God. May she continue to intercede for our forthcoming General Chapter especially for our dearest Mother Francesca, the General Council and all the participants.

Affectionately,



Sr. Charlotte Sequeira
Provincial Superior