

***St. Ann's Provincialate  
B-43, Cariappa Road  
Bolarum – 500 010  
Secunderabad  
Telangana***



27<sup>th</sup> May 2019

***“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me even though they die, will live. And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”  
(John 11: 25-26)***

Dearest Sisters,

Death always elicits a deep emotional response. The Lord accompanies us in our grief, weeping with us in our sorrow. But more than that Christ defeated sin and death by dying in our place and rising from the dead.

Our dear Sr. Baptista has been taken away from our midst. But we are assured that she is in the presence of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ because she believed in Him and His promises. We also believe that she is enjoying fellowship with our Triune God where there will be no more tears, pain, sickness or death.

Sr. Baptista (PASCHALINE) Peres, was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1948 in Kaikamba, Mangalore. She was one of the nine children of Mr. Bernard and Mrs. Alice Peres. Responding to God's call to Religious Life, Sr. Baptista joined the Congregation and entered the Novitiate on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1968 at Bolarum. She made her First Profession on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1971 and her Perpetual Profession on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1978.

After her First Profession, she was transferred to St. Ann's Convent, Secunderabad where she worked as a sacristan in St. Mary's Church.

From the time she pursued her Library Science course in the year 1971 till she fell ill in the month of April 2019, she served as a Librarian in the following Institutions of the Congregation: 1974 – Eluru; 1975 to 1978 - Raichur; 1978 to 1981 - Sacred Heart Convent, Vijayawada; 1981 to 1987 - Secunderabad; 1987 to 1996 - Tarnaka; 1996 to 1998 - Eluru; 1998 to 2006 - Kazipet; 2006 to 2019 - Tarnaka.

Obedience to the will of God, she assumed other responsibilities. The year 1975 saw her at Jeevan Jyothi, Begumpet for few months and from 1981 to 1987 at Secunderabad, as an assistant boarding mistress.

Throughout her life Sister, considered it her bounden duty, to teach catechism to the little ones. So much so one of her students from the Primary Section of Tarnaka, wept inconsolably at Mettuguda cemetery, while attending the burial service.

During the last few months of her stay at Tarnaka, her health was deteriorating. So she was shifted to St. Ann's Home Bolarum, towards the end of April 2019, for rest and treatment.

Sister Baptista was a calm and quiet person by nature. You would always find a welcoming smile on her face. Simple in her lifestyle and approachable; despite her poor health, she took

active participation during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, Community Prayers and enjoyed singing. She always cared for the welfare of others.

She was hard working and carried out her responsibility which was entrusted to her with love and care. During the span of time she spent in the library, she gathered many friends among the staff and students. Students loved her company and waited to greet her in the campus. They were careful to observe punctuality at the library sessions.

Sr. Baptista was soft spoken but made her presence very much felt by the way she interacted in the Community during prayers, meals and recreation. She was a self-effacing and humble person; a woman of few words but always lending an ear to others.

Sr. Baptista's final journey to meet her Lord took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2019. Sister's health failed and she took bad at 4.00 p.m. Meanwhile God's plan for her was so well carved that before she was shifted to Jubilee Hospital, Alwal, He made it possible for her to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, through Fr. Manoj Lakra, SVD, the uncle of Sr. Shilpa Lakra who providentially was at St. Ann's Home, Bolarum, at that very moment. Sister was then shifted to the hospital around 4.45 p.m. where doctors started treatment for hyperpyrexia. But Jesus the great physician wanting to alleviate her suffering in this world called her to himself at 5.45 p.m.

It was a shock for me to hear the sudden demise of Sr. Baptista, whose condition was quite good. She was known case of diabetes and hypertension. She was also suffering from a neurological disorder. The diabetic was uncontrollable, repeated hospitalization and treatment did not show much improvement. Though I could not be present for the funeral service, due to unavoidable situation, I accompanied Sr. Baptista during her illness, the last moments of agony and during final rites, in spirit, enquiring from Sr. Arokia Mary, the Animator of St. Ann's Home, Bolarum.

The funeral Mass was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019, in St. Ann's Home, Bolarum, attended by Sisters of our Province and the Sisters of Eastern and Western Provinces, formees and the staff members of St. Ann's Tarnaka. During the homily, the main celebrant, Fr. Francis, MSFS, brought home the message, that the symbols used for the Sacrament of Baptism – Candle, Holy Water and the white cloth - are also used for the funeral service, to give a symbolic meaning of being born again in the Lord, to enjoy eternal life.

Our dear Sr. Baptista lived her life like a child of God from the start; loved the Lord with all her heart; to the best of her ability played every part till it was time for her to depart. Farewell dear Sister till we meet again, with all the saints in Heaven who have gone before us.

I extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to Mabel, the eldest sister-in-law and her brothers George and Valerian, who were present for the funeral mass not forgetting the rest of the bereaved family members. May the Lord fill their hearts with peace, comfort and strength in this hour of grief.

I express my sincere thanks and condolences to Sr. Olivia Joseph and the Sisters of St. Ann's Convent, Tarnaka and also to Srs. Arokia Mary, Leesamma P. and the Sisters of St. Ann's Home, Bolarum, for attending to the physical and spiritual needs of Sister, especially, during her last days.

My sincere appreciation to all her companions, who have come from various Communities of the Provinces of Central, Eastern and Western India, to pay their final homage to their dear companion.

I am deeply indebted to Sr. Cicily Mathew, the Vicar Provincial and Sisters in the Provincialate who had been a great support during my absence and taking charge of the entire event, gracefully and cheerfully!

As we pay homage to the mortal remains of Sr. Baptista let us remind ourselves of our fleeting earthly journey and prepare ourselves to meet our Lord when our time comes.

Let us lovingly pray for the repose of her soul and for her speedy entry into heaven, that she may intercede for all the needs of our Congregation.

Yours affectionately,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sr. Jeaintha Mariappa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Provincial Superior