

St. Ann's Provincialate,

Melamiyur,

05/10/2021

“Anyone who hears my word and believes Him who sent me, has eternal life and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life.” (John. 5/24)

Dearest Sisters,



On 25th September 2021, in the quiet wee hours of Saturday, the angel of the Lord, who had encamped near the bedside of our dearest Sr. Enid Joseph, found her ready to surrender her soul to her eternal Creator. Amidst the prayers of the Sisters gathered around her bed, in that calm and serene atmosphere, the angel received her soul and flew away to the eternal abode where the multitude of heavenly hosts awaited to welcome her.

Sr. Enid Joseph was 87 years and 9 months old when the Lord called her to His side. After considerable long years of dedication, prayer and hard work she was ready for the promised reward in eternity. During her life time, she suffered no other ailments, except the common disease, noted among the greater population in India that is diabetes mellitus and hypertension. These two diseases had been her constant companions for the past, almost 31 years, kept under control through medication. With the passages of time and advancing years, the risk factor crossed boundaries, affecting the vital organs. Hospitals and doctors were her least preferred choices, which she always tried to avoid at any cost. She was satisfied with the insulin and tablets administered by a nurse to which she remained faithful to the end.

While in the community of Kannanalore in 2017, her sugar level kept rising beyond high risk level and so Sister was brought to Madonna Villa in an ambulance. With regular diet, care and attention, the sugar level was brought under control and her health condition began to improve. But very soon, due to intermittent fluctuation in the pulse rate and sugar level, her health began to deteriorate and was confined to bed. The prolonged intake of insulin and drugs began to take its toll on her internal organs which gradually dragged her into a state of coma on 24th September. Sister was administered the anointing of the sick twice before and was prepared for her final journey, on 25th September 2.40 am. Sr. Mary Dhasnas, who was her nurse since 2017, remained at her bedside along with few other Sisters all through the final moments of her earthly life.

25th September 2021 is a significant day in the history of our Congregation being the culmination of the 34th General Chapter. As the Capitulars gathered in the Chapel of the Generalate in Rome, for the Morning Prayer, Mother Francesca Sarcia, the Superior General announced the sad news of the demise of our dearest Sr. Enid Joseph saying, “Dearest Sisters, we are here to thank the Almighty God who, through His Spirit, journeyed with us during the days of the General Chapter till its completion. But life is never one sided. Joys and sorrows come mingled together. This morning we have received the sad news that our dearest Sr. Enid Joseph of South India passed away at Madonna Villa, Melamiyur. Sr. Enid has sacrificed her life so that God may bless our Congregation. Let us pray for the departed soul.”

Alice, the baptismal name of our dear Sr. Enid Joseph, was born on 1st Jan. 1934 to Mr. Joseph & Mrs. Annamma Kuzhikandathil at Thalayolaparampu, Kottayam District in

Kerala as the eldest child in the family of six children. After completing her High School studies, Alice joined the Religious family of the Sisters of St. Ann of Providence at Secunderabad in 1954, made her first commitment to the Lord in 1957 assuming the name Sr. Enid Joseph.

Commitment to duty, hard work and relentless service are synonymous to the name of Sr. Enid Joseph. Her meritorious, long service to the Church, to the Congregation and to the various realities of her mission has earned her esteem and gratitude from Sisters, clergy and the faithful alike. The zeal and single-minded devotion which she exhibited in her religious life, speaks of her fidelity and daily commitment. Her life was an amalgamation of work and prayer which had equal importance during the active days of her life and prayer became her only pre-occupation during her retired life. Pope Francis said, “Those who pray are never alone, prayer is like the oxygen of life.” During the Two and a half years of her life, confined to bed, she never complained of loneliness, never asked for someone to be with her during the day or night. There was always that serene disposition with no worry, no tension, no doubts, and no fear. Surely it was the presence of the Holy Spirit drawing down upon her the strength and courage for each day. One could see her fingers always rolling the rosary beads and lips moving in prayer. Even when there was no rosary in her hand, the fingers would keep moving as though rolling the beads.

Taking momentary journey through the many layers of her apostolic life, we would come across the following road map:

- 1957 January - transferred to Raichur
- 1964 September - In Secunderabad
- 1966 June - In Bolarum School office
- 1975 January - Transferred to Secunderabad as Provincial Bursar and
In- charge of Technical School
- 1979 May - Provincialate , Bandra as Provincial Bursar,
- 1982 July - St. Ann's Convent, Eluru, in-charge of technical institute
- 1987 January - St. Ann's Convent, Mangalapalam, pioneer of the Convent
- 1989 July - St. Ann’s Provincialate, Bolarum, Sister-in-charge
- 1992 May - St. Ann’s Convent, Kanhangad, School office
- 1995 June - St. Ann's Convent Eluru, bursar
- 2002 May - St. Ann’s Convent, Nileshwar, bursar
- 2008 June - St. Ann’s Convent, Kannanallore, bursar
- 2018 to date - Madonna Villa, Melamiyur, treatment and rest

Sr. Enid Joseph was noted daring spirit for which she was chosen to pioneer communities in risky and remote areas. The Sisters, who lived with Sr. Enid, have good and edifying memories to record. Here I wish to quote some of them who have shared their experiences: - “Sr. Enid was a dedicated and spirited Religious. She spent most of her time

in the company of the Lord, praying for all those who have requested her for prayer. She was a person of few words and had a sweet smile. The speciality of Sr. Enid is that if anyone gives her a rosary and asks for prayers, she would use that rosary only, while praying for that person. She never complained about any one. Sr. Enid is a silent sufferer and worker. As she lived so she died.” (Sr. Colleen Anthony)

Sr. Victoria Christopher, the missionary in Italy says, “My first community experience (and the only one I had in India) was with Sr. Enid Joseph in Mangalapalam. I witnessed her as an untiring and generous Sister, who lived and moved in the presence of God while accomplishing her daily tasks. Within 4 months of my Community experience I learned a lot from her. She was a spirit-filled person, dedicated and committed. Although I was newly professed she trusted me, day and night we were on site supervising the construction of the convent building. REST IN PEACE DEAR SISTER ENID. JESUS HAS PREPARED FOR YOU A BEAUTIFUL HOME IN HEAVEN. Pray for us to JESUS. Meet you in Heaven.”

Sr. Rosaly Poovathikal, who lived with Sr. Enid Joseph for ten years, shares about her like this, “When I think of our dearest Sr. Enid Joseph, the words of Mahatma Gandhi, “My Life is my Message” comes to my mind. Yes, Sr. Enid lived among us and edified us a lot. She was a role model to me and to the younger generation. She was a person of prayer, simple, soft spoken, good listener, hardworking and lover of priests. She had the special devotion to our lady and so she prays number of rosaries daily for the conversion of sinners. I love her and never forget her because she has touched my life and taught me how to live in intimacy with God especially in moments of suffering and pain. She, as the first councillor of the local Community at Kannanalore, helped me a lot through her good advice and guidance. May the good Lord bless her soul and reward her eternal bliss in heaven.”

Sr. Orsolina Chacko recalls; “When I think of Sr. Enid, her radiant face enveloped by God’s grace comes before my eyes. She was a great friend and support to me. I hear her saying these encouraging words: “Orsolina, you are dear to God. We shall try to become saints. Our only mission here on earth is to bring souls to God”. She was an embodiment of perfection at every level. Always she was the first one to come to Chapel, which reflected in her love for the poor. She was a person of deep prayer life, sincerity, hardworking for the glory of God and good of the Church and Institute. Now may she enjoy the beatific vision and pray for us and our province.”

The funeral rites of our dearest Sr. Enid was performed with due honour and piety on 26th morning, Sunday, at 10.00 am. Rev. Fr. Timothy, the Rector and Community from Vallam Infant Jesus Friary availed themselves to celebrate the Holy Eucharist and conducted the funeral service. The celebrant, Rev. Fr. Newton in his homily said “Although death has put a full stop to the earthly life of our dearest Sr. Enid Joseph, she has entered into new life in Christ. Even though we are separated from her physical presence, we can still make her presence felt through imitating her life of goodness. Now that she has joined the praying Church along with the Angels and Saints, she will surely intercede for us”.

After the Holy Eucharist the mortal remains of our dearest Sr. Enid Joseph was taken to Thimmavarm cemetery for a fitting burial. The heavens showered down gently, the earth opened herself to receive the silent body of our dearest Sr. Enid Joseph. Rev. Fr. Timothy, the Parish Priest administered the last rites and laid the mortal remains to rest.

We express our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Celine, the youngest sister of our dearest Sr. Enid Joseph, and to Mrs. Tina, her niece and her children. We do remember fondly her brother, nephews and nieces, who were unable to be present with us in Melamiyur to bid farewell to our dearest Sr. Enid due to Covid protocols. We do express our sincere thanks to the Sisters; Sr. Leesamma, the Provincial Councillor, Sr. Donata, the Provincial Bursar of Eastern Province, who had come from Eluru, where, Sr. Enid served the Lord for long years. I owe my deepest sense of gratitude to Sr. Mary Dhasnas Thomas, the councillor and nurse for her affectionate way of taking care of Sr. Enid till the last moment. I thank sincerely Sr. Nambikai Rayappan for making all the arrangements at the cemetery and for the burial of the mortal remains of our Sr. Enid. I am indebted to all the Sisters at Melamiyur, Chengalpattu, Mambakkam, Kilachery, Adyar, Mangadu and Kerala for their presence and support to carry out the funeral rites. I also express my sincere thanks to all the Capuchin Friars at Vallam, Infant Jesus Friary for their fraternal presence, prayers and support to us during this moment of grief. We thank God Almighty for the wonderful person of Sr. Enid Joseph and pray that her life may inspire all of us in our pursuit of holiness. May God reward her soul with eternal peace and joy in heaven.

Yours Lovingly,

Sr. Theresa Cherian

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Provincial Superior