

Province of St. Joseph, Western India
St. Ann's Provincialate
Simon Lane, Angelore
Mangalore – 575 002
Karnataka



22 August, 2021

Dearest Sisters,

The Angel of death has knocked the door of St. Ann's convent, Talegaon and found a worthy soul in Sr. Pacifica. "The souls of the just are in the hands of God and no torrent can touch them" (Wisdom 3:1). With the certainty that the souls of the upright are in the hands of God, we accept in faith the passing away of our dearest Sr. Pacifica Chackapay.

Rose Chackapay was born in a village called Mullasherry, Thrissur Diocese, Kerala to Mr. C. R. Chackapay and Mrs. Mariam, on 28th December, 1933. Rose was the youngest of the three - one boy and two girls. Happy little family was struck with a grievous blow of the death of her mother when Rose was just two years old. Father generously fulfilled the role of mother too in their growing years. Rose was regular for Holy Mass, Spiritual activities and an active member in the Parish groups. From an early age she nurtured the desire to be a missionary. When the time came to express her desire, her brother vehemently opposed but her father didn't want to displease the daughter, hence with the tears in his eyes agreed to her choice of Religious calling. Thus with the help of the then Parish Priest she reached Secunderabad on 15th February 1954. On 1st January 1955 Rose made her vestition and took her name as Sr. Pacifica. On 1st January 1957 she made her first Profession of Vows and on 1st January 1963 her Perpetual Profession.

Her desire to be a missionary never faded away throughout her life as she bowed down to the holy will of God and left a lasting impression in all the following communities where she was transferred:

1957 - joined nursing staff at K.E.M. Hospital, Secunderabad.

1964 - Fatimanagar as a Nurse

1973 - Isanagar as the Animator of the Community

1979 - Gharghoda to work in the dispensary

1981 - Talegaon as the Animator of the Community

1985 – Elected as the Provincial Councillor

1986 - appointed in charge of the second phase of Juniors

1988 - Bharuch as Superior.

1991 - appointed as Vicar and First Councillor to the Provincial and Superior of Bandra

1994 - Trilokpuri to work in the dispensary.

1995 - Talegaon as Sister in Charge

2000 - Bandra as Sister in charge

2001 - Talegaon Novitiate as Superior

2002 - Isanagar Hospital as Sister in charge. On completion of her term she continued to stay there helping in the hospital.

In June, 2017 she was transferred to Talegaon for rest.

True to her name she can be compared to the vast pacific ocean- **deep** in her love for God and for others specially the poor; **clear** in her inter personal relationship; **serene, nurturing** and **nourishing life** in its diverse forms and varied missions. Her motto was “**It is better to burn out than to rust out**”. She was the pioneer animator of the Novitiate Community. She has instilled this in all the young ones entrusted to her care. She would often repeat her motto and ignite our drooping spirits. She was brisk and always on the move to be at the service of the others specially the poor. Her love had no bounds and there was no boredom in her company. Thank you Sr. Paci, as we lovingly call you, for your loving care and concern.

Heart-moving farewell words to Sr. Pacifica were said by Sr. Rosily Paul, the Provincial Superior of Northern India and the Sisters of the Province "A Great Soul has Departed but The Memories Shall Never Fade. The loss is huge and we can only share the pain. May the Soul that has gone Rest in Peace. We recall the words of the Psalmist 'My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him.' (Ps. 62.1) Yes dearest Sr. Pacci now you are resting with your God who has brought you salvation. Sr. Pacci a true religious, most human yet divine in all her attitudes and approach to Sisters, formees, people and all her relatives. She was simple, humble, dedicated and committed in doing little things with love for the Lord. God was extremely pleased with her to bestow extraordinary qualities. She was a person who laughed with and also cried with people whenever the circumstances called for. I wonder at times that she had a special grace to know the inmost feelings of persons and I must acknowledge and appreciate her highly listening capacity which made her understand the persons and situations. She always helped the formees and the sisters to discern and decide about their commitment to the Lord in Religious life. This helped them to be faithful and persevere in their Religious Vocation. She kept confidential matters in her heart and helped Sisters to grow better. She loved them tenderly and showed them the way by living an authentic life. She loved our Congregation very dearly and she taught others to do so. She was fearless to live the truth and to stand erect in times of Challenges. Her active and enthusiastic ways encouraged the formees and Sisters to be lively. Her blissful smile and accommodative spirit allowed everyone to be at home in her presence. She was fully alive and made life to be celebrated and joyful. Pacci, that name gave a peaceful feeling to all of us. Her words had a special power that everyone could accept. Her motherly heart reached out to all those who encountered her. She was a solace for the wearied souls. May she rest in peace. Our dearest Sr. Pacci will never leave our side. Even if death set us apart, her soul still remains safe in our hearts and minds. Nobody can ever take her place. She will be missed by everyone. We are indebted to her for her selfless service and contribution to the Congregation especially to the Province of St. Ann, Northern India".

The demise of Sr. Pacifica has brought tears into the eyes of many. Scrolling back the pages of life some of our sisters recall their sweet memory with Sr. Pacifica: "Beloved Sr. Pacci, God's will be done! You looked after me like a tender mother with love, care, affection, gentleness like a real mother when I had Typhoid for one month in Secunderabad infirmary. I was well treated in the convent by your tender loving heart and hands. We were transferred together to Isanagar. Late Fr. Pius called you Solomon for your knowledge and wisdom. So many of us called you Pacci with love and affection. After the cancer operation you suffered a lot but always bowed to the will of God with cheerfulness and calmness and acceptance. All of us thank you and appreciate you Sr. Pacci. You have healed many priests, religious and people of God through your love. All these people must have come to meet you at the gate of heaven. I still remember how you suffered and what trouble you took when the flood water came in the ground floor at the middle of the night. How you carried bags of rice, wheat, grains, on your back to the first floor with all the pain and suffering. God alone is

your reward. Pacci, I always remember you for calling me with love and affection 'Farella... Farella...' Pacci, help us, bless us and pray for the whole world. Bye Pacci, till we meet!" – Sr. Rafaela Crasta

"Sr. Pacifica as your name is so is your personality. Peaceful in character yet deep and vast as the ocean was your love for all of us your formees. I want to narrate an experience with Sr. Paci. When I was the 1st year Novice, it was my turn to clean and change Sr. Paci's bed linen. And to my shock I saw her pillow covered with stains of tears and I was taken back and disturbed. Being the superior of the Noviceate I thought she would be the most privileged and carefree person. But my senior Sr. Rusekutty told me that she cries a lot in the night, but that did not quench my curiosity. After my 1st profession in 1987 it was again my greatest happiness when Sr. Paci moved to Bharuch as our Juniorate superior. And at the end of my juniorate I took courage to ask her about that stains on her pillow, to that she gave me a tender look and told me that it was the time of discernment to keep a Novice or send her away..... the agony of saving another daughter for our religious family. This opened my eyes to the reality of holding responsibility means Sacrifice & Tears, to accomplish the given responsibility is to die slowly to Self which is **VERY HARD YET TRUE. Beloved** Sr. Paci you also taught us the lessons of careformation. Correction is not rejection but love. For after every mistake and fault that you found in us you used to be very harsh at times in your correction but after a while your warm and tight embrace would heal us of our pain and we would never repeat it in life. Thank you so much for your motherly approach . Please pray for us from heaven." - Sr. Valsamma John

"A saintly soul has gone to her eternal reward! Simple, spontaneous, dedicated and jovial, she made everyone feel at home with her! Thank you dearest Sr. Paci! May God reward you abundantly! Please pray for us!" – Sr. Julia Victor

She underwent Gastrointestinal Operation on July 17th 2010. She was a cancer survivor from 2010. She was operated in All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) for cancer of stomach and total gastrectomy done and follow up continued periodically.

She had a fall on 4th Jan. 2019 and suffered minor injuries to many parts of the body, making it impossible to walk, but had no fractures. C.T. scan showed age related changes. Since then she was with follicle catheter. This year in the month of June there was an attack of infection on the lower respiratory tract. In consultation with the doctor a minimal course of antibiotics were administered and she recovered. On 5th August onwards again spikes of high temperature with respiratory tract infection followed. That was the beginning of her decline. In consultation with doctors once again antibiotics were administered. She was on nebulisation twice a day and other bronchodilators. Oxygen inhalation was on. From 6th onwards her oxygen saturation was declining, Dr. Mahajan visited her at her bed side for the investigations. Later she was restless with poor orientation. An investigation prescribed by the doctor was carried out and the report forwarded to him. Blood count was on the rise and electrolytes decreased. Antibiotics continued and sodium, potassium and chlorides were given. On 13th August by 6.30 p.m. her respiration was altered further into gasping and oxygen saturation declined gradually. At 12.25 a.m. she breathed her last and surrendered her soul to the Triune God. At the break of the new day on 14th August 2021, at 12.25 a.m. when her spouse Jesus and Mother Mary with all the angels came to take her, the beautiful gesture of Sr. Pacifica was, that, she raised both the hands, looked up straight and breathed her last and surrendered her beautiful soul to them to be taken up to heaven and she bid good bye to this world and went up to heaven, to enjoy the beatific vision for all eternity.

Fr. Daniel Christian OCD the Parish Priest of Talegaon was the main celebrant and Fr. Dieogo OCD was the concelebrant for the requiem Mass. In his homily Fr. Daniel said that reaching God is the ultimate goal of our life, especially of the Religious. That is what has happened to Sr. Pacifica today, although death is a painful thing but it is the longing of her soul to be united with God. He highlighted her serenity in suffering. In spite of not being able to eat or to do anything she never complained about her suffering to anyone. She was always calm. After the Mass her mortal remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at Talegaon.

I gratefully acknowledge the love and concern of Mother General Sr. Francesca Sarcia, who was continuously with us and enquiring about the well being of our Sisters in Talegaon and the General Council for their prayerful assistance and encouragement. I am grateful to Sr. Celine D'Souza the Animator of the Community of Talegaon and all the Sisters of the community especially Sister-nurses for their constant assistance to Sr. Pacifica during the days of her illness. I am indebted to the communities of Formation House and Karunanjali for their timely support and to the entire Province and the Congregation for the prayers offered for Sr. Pacifica.

On behalf of the Province I would like to thank everyone who have sent their condolences, who have been both comforting during this difficult time and have been a reminder of the impact that Sr. Pacifica had on so many others.

Dearest Sr. Pacifica, you became an exceptional health warrior, as you were full of life enjoying the Mission entrusted to you with commitment and adventure. Most importantly, you had an eternal love for your Religious family. We truly miss a great person in you and we are consoled with the fact that you are there close to your Father interceding for your dear Congregation.

We continue to offer our prayers of suffrage for Sr. Pacifica that she may enjoy heavenly bliss and seek her intercession for the family of St. Ann and its mission.

Affectionately,



Sr. Charlotte Sequeira
Provincial Superior