

*St. Ann's Provincialate
B - 43, S.C.B. 8 - R2 - 011
Cariappa Road, Bolarum
Secunderabad
Telangana - 500 010*

3rd July, 2021

***“... I shall dwell in the House of the LORD
my whole life long”.***

(Psalm 23: 6)



Dearest Sisters,

The Psalmist's confident proclamation was very true in the life of Sr. Speranza. She waited for dawn 'to dwell in the House of the Lord...' and to begin the day with His blessings. The Lord visited her in person on 15th June, 2021 at 6.00 a.m. to take her to His eternal abode.

SR. M. SPERANZA (Mary Kurian) was born on 27.08.1933 at Chertalla, in Kerala, to a devoted couple Mr. P.I Kurian and Mrs. Mary. They were blessed with five daughters and two sons, of whom Sr. Speranza was the second in succession. From this pious and religious family, the Lord took initiative in calling her to work in His vineyard. She joyfully and willingly responded to His call. Her initial Religious formation was as follows:

Entered the Novitiate	-	08.01.1956
Received the religious habit	-	01 .01.1957
First profession	-	01.01.1959
Final profession	-	1965

We thank God for the gift of her Religious vocation to our Congregation. A faithful follower of Christ and a great asset to the Congregation! Herewith is the following itinerary of her Religious life, from the time of her first Profession to till date, speaks of her commitment to God and to His mission:

1959	-	Vijayawada - Domestic Duties
1963	-	Bansilalpet - taking care of the disabled
1966	-	Eluru - Domestic Duties
1973 Nov.	-	Secunderabad - in-charge of the Canteen
1974 Jan.	-	Bolarum - Novitiate
1976 June	-	Bolarum - in-charge of Kitchen
1982 June	-	Mallapur - Sister in-charge
1985 June	-	Bolarum Provincialate - In-charge of kitchen and garden
1987 Oct.	-	Jeevan Jyothi Retreat House of WCRI - Sister in-charge
1990 May	-	Fatimanagar Home - Assisting the inmates
1992 June	-	Fatimanagar Home - Sister in-charge
1999 June	-	Fatimanagar Home - Domestic Duties
2002 June	-	Fatimanagar Home - Sister in-charge

2007 June - Peddapalli - Sister in-charge
2008 till date - Fatimanagar Home - Preparing Holy articles (Hosts, candles, Rosaries, etc.)

God was her sole Master and strength. She found consolation by her frequent visit to the Tabernacle, taking care to be present on the dot right from 5.30 a.m. Even after Community prayer and Eucharist in the morning, she enjoyed the presence of God in mind, heart and soul. As one turns the pages of her religious life, one can notice that she was in close communion with God.

Sr. Speranza had special love for all the Priests. With whole hearted generosity she dedicated herself to the service of God and the Church. Till the end she was preparing Rosaries, vestments for the Church, taking keen interest in preparing the host for the whole Diocese of Warangal. What a colossal task for our Roman Catholic Church!

She was obedient in doing the Will of God, her humble and serene availability made her capable of adapting herself to various assignments given to her. She enriched the Communities with her coloured bag of gifts: deep faith, enthusiasm, joy, humour and compassion, and her great culinary skills. She loved joining the Community exercises.

Sister spent 31 years in St. Ann's Home, Fatimanagar. Inmates and others called her lovingly 'AMMA'. She expressed her affection to the young and old, the homeless, disabled, orphaned, widowed, and mentally retarded and abandoned, specially the Inmates in Home for the Aged rejected by their families and society. She was hard working, responsible and dedicated for any responsibility handed over to her. Ever ready to help anyone at any time, she has left a remarkable development in all her work places. Her ill health was never an obstacle in doing good to others.

God blessed her to be present for the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the St. Ann's Home, Fatimanagar in 2018 and her own 60th Jubilee of Religious life in 2019. It was a great joy for many of her family members who were present for her Diamond Jubilee to witness faithfulness of God in her life. She remained a loyal and dedicated 'SAP' Sister.

Her joy doubled at the very thought of Bl. Mother Enrichetta. Having special love for her, she installed a picture frame with a request to hasten for quick Canonization and made the Inmates to pray every day in front of the picture.

She well cared for the earth and its creatures. At the sight of '*Laudato Si*', the Encyclical from Pope Francis, she was overjoyed as it cared environmental issues. Birds, animals, fishes, fields had special place in her heart. Never did she allow stagnated field nearby. She had a green thumb in any cultivation. Wherever she was sent, she transformed the desolate land into fertile land, bringing forth flowers, fruits and greenery. Her love for birds was exceptional. One of the parrots, *Meetu* by name, learnt to speak from her. She even took interest in rearing the fishes in the ponds.

The Sisters who lived with her in the Community have the following to say:

“I am inspired by her great will power, punctuality and deep faith that moved her to be in the presence of the Lord every day, early in the morning before anyone. Despite severe leg pain, she was brave and daring, and bore everything with great love. She would come down the stairs, making a great effort, as she used to climb down the stairs, she would entrust herself to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to whom she was very much devoted...” (Sr. Sophia, the Animator of the Community)

Sr. Immacolata Joseph, from Fatimanagar Hospital, has this to say, *“Sr. Speranza was talented and artistic; and took special care of the Chapel... Actually, I saw her doing great work in Jeevan Jyothi Society (belonging to the ‘Women Conference of Religious India’)... After her arrival to St. Ann’s Home for the Aged and Disabled, Fatimanagar, she turned that forest into a Palace. It has become a beautiful home for the Aged and differently-abled women and children. All the Priests and Religious were very happy to experience her hospitality and care. It is because of her commitment and the grace of God, this compassion ministry is flourishing.”* Thank God!

Sr. Japamala, the former Superior of the Community shares her experience, *“Sr. Speranza was an orderly woman and lived with principles... she loved and respected everyone whether rich or poor, black or white, intelligent or dull, without any discrimination... She followed the footsteps of our Founders in serving these poorest of the poor...”*

Sr. M. Speranza was on medical treatment for many years for Hypertension and Cholesterol. She also was suffering with age-related sickness like joints pain, dementia and was on treatment for the same. On 15th June, 2021 morning as usual she got up at 5.00 a.m. While getting ready to go for prayer, she felt uneasy and had a fall. She then was assisted by the Sisters of the Community. She had a cardiac arrest and gently passed away in their presence.

Sister was loved very dearly by her family members. They felt deep loss within when she left them for heavenly abode. Due to Covid situation, they were unable to be present. Her nephew’s eulogy, representing her entire family members, was read during the Mass:

“Our Dearest Ammini Aunty, Jovial, witty, ever ready to help, sense of humor par excellence, artistic, perfectionist, administrator, passionate in gardening, construction expert, nature lover are just few of the many attributes which comes to my mind regarding my dearest Ammini Aunty. I cherish those childhood memories of meeting her every year. Albeit for a few hours, while we used to travel to Kerala from Bihar during our school vacations. This was the time when she was posted in Eluru. She would come to meet us at the railway station loaded with various delicacies and travel with us for the next one or two hours. They were the most delicious home cooked meals that I’ve ever tasted.

Always seeing the funny side of life, she was cheerful and positive in her approach. Rarely have I seen her angry or upset. Age was only a number to her and she could get along with anyone of any age which endeared her to all her nephews and nieces and their children! A perfectionist, she was an epitome of hard work form making hosts, decorative candles, priests’ vestments, altar clothes, mouth-watering cakes and other delicacies, construction of Churches in other building, farming and rearing farm animals and birds- God had indeed blessed her with many gifts and abilities.

I must confess I carry the burden of collective guilt that your long time wish to visit Kerala to meet your near and dear ones did not materialize and the current pandemic situation made this almost an impossible task. I sincerely hope you forgive us. Aunty, you were very precious to us and we still are not able to come to terms with the fact that you are no longer with us. A huge loss for our family but a big gain for heaven! You leave behind beautiful and precious memories. You are a rare rose whose fragrance never fades away.

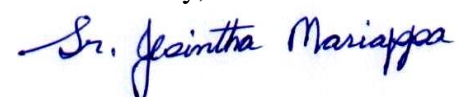
I wish to conclude with a quote from the Gospel of Mathew 5:16, when Jesus says 'In the same way let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your Heavenly Father.' Sister Speranza, our dearest Ammini Aunty, we along with those who have come to know you, praise Almighty God for having created you. May your soul rest in peace!"

Throughout the day many Priests, Sisters from neighbouring Communities, LASA Members paid homage to the remains of Sr. Speranza placed in front of the Chapel. His Grace Rev. Udumala Bala, the Bishop of Warangal Diocese spent some time praying before Sr. Speranza. Fr. Simon Reddy, the Secretary of the Bishop was the main celebrant of the Funeral Mass which was held on same day at 3.00 p.m. and concelebrated by three more Priests. Each Priest expressed their gratitude for the person of Sr. Speranza whose presence made difference whenever they visited the Community. Her body was laid to rest at 4.30 p.m. in the Cemetery of Fatimanagar.

The Provincial Council and myself are grateful to Sr. Sophia, the Animator and the Sisters of the Community who took care of her even in her sickness till the end. We are ever thankful to Sisters of the Hospital Community for making necessary arrangements for the funeral service and taking care of other needs.

Let us offer our prayers of suffrage for the soul of our dear Sr. Speranza that the Lord may look upon her with mercy. We pray that along with her dear and near ones may she enjoy the heavenly Bliss. We also pray for her family members, especially her nun sister Sr. Richi who belongs to CMC Congregation. May the Almighty God reward Sr. Speranza for her committed life and dedicated service in His mission. May her soul rest in peace!

Affectionately,

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

Provincial Superior