

Service in the Vineyard of God



Sr. Cecilia Topno MSMHC

WRITTEN BY : SR. MEENA TIRKEY & SR. SANGITA LAKRA

Biographical Information

Born : 05.09.1948

Baptism Name: BahabelCiciliaTopno

Patron Saint: St. Cecilia

Parents: Late Ambrose Topno and Late Mariam Hembrom

Place: Torpa(Khuti- Dist)

Tribe: Adivasi(Munda Tribe)

Schooling: Class 1-3 St. Anne School-IV-XI Ursuline School Simdega

Life at Present: St. Mary's BhawanDumka, Jharkhand.

Brothers and Sisters

SL	Children	Name
1	Sister	DulariTopno
2	Brother	Late HarunTopno
3	Brother	Joseph Topno
4		Cecilia Topno
5	Sister	Teresa Topno
6	Sister	PhelicitaTopno
7	Sister	Mary Michael Topno

MOTTO: “I am the way, the truth and life” (John 14:6)

EARLY LIFE: Sr. CiciliaTopno was born on 5th September 1948,at Torpa(Khunti- Dist) Jharkhand. Her beloved parents were Late Ambrose Topno and Late Mariam Hembrom. Her father was a Post- Man by profession and Mother a house wife. At the age of eight her father left this world due to sickness.

It was very difficult for her mother to raise her seven children. Her beloved mother took challenge of shouldering family alone with the help of God. A Mother who gave good care for 7 children in the family. A woman of faith became both mother and father to those 7 God's given children. Journey was very hard and so Cecilia was taken along with her younger sister Teresa Topno to the house of her paternal Uncle. She studied from class I-III in St. Anne School Torpa and for class IV to X at Ursuline Girl's High School Samtoli, Simdega.

Being away from her loving mother it was not so easy but young Cecilia understood the situation and started living her life with study and household work at her Uncle's house. As she grew tall and beautiful, God's eye fell on her to choose Sr. Cecilia Topno from the world. In this way her journey began towards God.

VOCATION: Decision to Join Religious Life: Early life and family: Her Father often spoke to religious sisters; I have many daughters, one I will give for the Lord. The desire of her father was to offer one of His daughters to God as a gift. He was like a visionary. It was fulfilled in the person of Sr. Cecilia.

As a girl Sr. Cecilia Topno had great desire to be a religious. She always looked for this chance in life. She never expressed this desire to anyone and at the same time fear of not getting any permission to be away from the family. Anyway she treasured deeply in her heart. But very interesting part of her desire, Her elder sister Dulari Topno became an instrument. Dulari was a teacher in St. Anna high school Torpa and those days from Assam two missionary sisters of Mary help of Christians Sr. Mary Minz and Sr. Josephine Lakra came for vocation recruitment and they were staying with St. Anna Sisters. Meanwhile these two sisters came in contact with Dulari who expressed that she has a younger sister Cecilia at home and invited sisters if they could visit her house to meet young Cecilia. As she took sisters in her house, Cecilia who had just completed her class X and was back home in Torpa. Sr. Cecilia was called to talk to the sisters and at their asking *will you go for Assam mission to become a sister* before she gives an answer her sister Dulari said *yes she will go* to this Sr. Cecilia had nothing to say further she only said *yes I will go*. Sr. Mary and Sr. Josephine gave two days and her sister Dulari purchased all her things and made her fully ready to go. After two days of time

given to get ready Sr. Cecilia started her journey along with Sr. Mary Minz and Sr. Josephine Lakra for Assam mission.

Moves out towards goal: With great joy Sr. Cecilia Topno, left her family leaving behind her beloved mother who had provided her love both of a mother and father, all her brothers and sisters as well as neighbors. Sr. Cecilia Topno with limited things leaves her home accompanied by Sr. Mary Minj and Sr. Josephine Lakra and makes her motto live in full freedom and in conformity with the plan of God. On the day of her departure her Mother did not know how to send her off from the family. At the same time Mother with all her concern gave a big bottle of mustard oil medicinal oil. Because everyone in the family knew one thing that Assam was very cold place and this medicinal oil to be used for the multi-purpose.



Like Abraham Sr. Cecilia took her steps towards promise land. Journey began with faith. She started her journey from Ranchi station and reached to Patna and then Barogni. A great Challenge faced here as a beautiful girl. She was tall and fair. Very attractive with her physical appearance. She narrated while journeying with her in the past “ AtBarayli, one man was behind her. She was aware of the danger but did not know what to do as she had no confirm ticket and since the train was too crowded at platform sisters had told her to enter in anyboggy. From the station that unknown man wanted her not to board the train and was blocking the gate to enter in. She was frightened. She prayed in her heart to Jesus, Mary and Joseph to save her from this situation. Meanwhile that man rushed from back side to enter in the train and Sr. Cecilia got courage to grab this opportunity to protect her and she strongly pushed the hand of that man and managed to enter. She shared with the people about her trouble and they were protective. They chased him and put him out of the train. It was the moment of great challenge for a young beautiful girl Lord intervenes here to open the way for Sr. Cecilia.

The Initial stages:

SL	STAGES	Year	Place
1	Aspirantate	1969	Berpeta Road Assam
2	Postulancy	1970	Berpeta Road Assam
3	Novitiate	1971-1972	Peachlands
4	Juniorate	1973	Peachlands
5	Final Commitment	1978	

Intensive preparation for First Religious Profession: After joining the congregation, she could not share to anyone and that traumatic experience haunted her time to time and discouraged her to go back home. But she kept praying and remained firm in the Lord. She found great consolation in the Word of God “*I will*



be always with you till the end of time.”

Sr. Cicilia Topno entered Novitiate on December 8, 1971, in Shillong at Peachland's. Under the guidance of Rev. Sr. Teresa Mathew and Sr. Carmela Lakra She started to experience God's healing touch and soon overcame from fear and trauma. She remained two years in Novitiate for her deep spiritual formation and guidance. Took much interest in the way of religious practices and demands of sacrificing own will in order to be worthy religious. She learned to embrace Christ and imitated

him in the silence of her heart. Disciplined life made her in deeper relationship with the Lord.

In the end of 1972, she made her First Profession in the hands of Mother Rose Thapa, our Superior General.



LIFE AS AN MSMHC:

SL	Place	Apostolate	Duration
1.	Barpeta Road	Touring	
2.	Dumduma	Touring	
3.	Borpukhri	Touring	
4.	Shillong	Nursing	
5.	Dumni	Touring	
6.	Tikrikela	Touring	
7	Agiamore	Touring / Dispensary	
8	North Lakhimpur	School nurse	
9	Tetenbari	Touring / Nurse	
10	Bengtol	Nurse/Boarding Assistant	
11	Kudda	Dispensary In charge	
12	Dolda	Nurse	
13	Dhajea	Nurse	
14	Agiamore	Nurse	
15	Kudda	Nurse	
16	Dumka	Praying Ministry	2021-

MISSIONARY ZEAL: A Linguistic missionary in the heart of Mission

Wherever she was sent for the mission work happily she accepted in cheerful disposition. She excelled in her vow of obedience. She is well known as a linguistic personality. She adopted the life style of the people wherever she was sent as a Missionary. She took keen interest to communicate people with local vernacular. She was fascinating learner. Within a short time she would pick up the language spoken by the people of the place such as Garo, Khasi, Asamese, Santhali, Nepali and in total she knows





nine languages including Mundari her mother tongue, Sadri, English and Hindi.

FIFTH GOSPEL A WAY OF LIFE -A daring care giver

According to our beloved Founder, Healing ministry is the fifth Gospel for the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians. As a well-trained nurse Sr. Cecilia went around near and far villages like Jesus. Through her profession of healing she not only healed the sickness but also the souls and drew them closer to God. There are so many wonderful incidents occurred in her life. All was the work of the Lord in her mission work.

As a spiritual mother full of love and compassion she always moved in caring people. She was full of joy to share her mission in Dhajea as a nurse. She could

heal many sick persons with little medicines but Deep faith in Jesus Mary and Joseph. When she flashed back her life she mentioned very clearly that around 100 delivery cases she had attended alone. God's care to those women came in tangible way through the healing touch of Sr. CiciliaTopno. Through her gentle care many lives were saved and brought glory to God's creation.

GOD LEADING THROUGH THE YEARS...

25th Anniversary of the religious Life- Acknowledging the steadfast love of God in her 25th Anniversary of the religious Profession the Silver Jubilee of Sr. CiciliaTopno was celebrated in the year 1997 at St. Mary's Convent Kudda, Ranchi. She reflected the Vows made on the day of her "Yes" to the Lord through and to be submissive to the will of her superiors. Once again with renewed vigor she started her journey, serving Lord in His vineyard.



Golden Jubilee- Gracious God accompanied her very closely and led her from Silver to Golden years of her Religious Profession. Perseverance in the Religious call is being reflected in the constant effort and personal desire of Sr. CiciliaTopno who walked with the Lord in the thin and thick of Religious life. In the year 2022 God gave another chance to rejuvenate life with love. St. Mary's Bhawan, Dumka community celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Sr. CiciliaTopno in the presence of her dear ones.

Jeremiah 9:24 "But let the one who boasts, boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice, and righteousness on Earth, for in these I delight". Declares the Lord.

Graceful days: Praying ministry- Based on the above lines Sr. Cecilia's life became a constant celebration of God's love each a day drawing herself closer to that perfect love the Christ she continues her journey with contentment and total surrender to God's will. She spends time in personal prayer with the Lord. In her spontaneous prayers she would express, *Lord help me to love you more*. She never misses any of the practices of piety. She is always punctual and fervent. One of the outstanding strength of her is found in the Lord through meditation, Morning Prayer, holy Eucharist and then moves for the Physical food. If she is late for the community prayers she takes extra time to be with Jesus and complete her prayers.

OVERALL IMPRESSION:

As we gaze the past 53 years, of Sr. Cecilia Topno, as **MISSIONARY SISTERS OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS**, we find her journey with unwavering faith towards promise land. She becomes for us a channel of God's grace and companion. Our hearts over flow with immense joy for the precious life Sr. Cecilia Topno has spent as a close follower of Jesus Christ our Master. She is humble, obedient and willing to take extra miles for the Lord and His people. She spends time with Children, Sisters at the recreation. In spite of her illness she is always present for every activities of the community such as community meetings, conferences, extra Adoration etc. She is always like a mother first one to welcome and attend the guest in the community. She enjoys with everyone in the community. She also gives her valuable suggestions and shares her idea when needed. She is a blessing in the community. We wish her all happiness, good health, and long life.



Time with Children





**True Daughter of Mary help
of christians Sr. Cicilia
Topno daily honors our
Blessed Mother Mary**



Drawing strength from the Lord.



Connecting with Family and Friends.





Daily New's Updates



Union with the Lord

Celebrations and Outings.







Joyful Moments in Life.





*Bishop Ferrando says,
"the more we love Jesus, the more we long to be united to Him and
the more we long to pray."*

"The innermost strength of the congregation is withing your Soul."

"Always more always better"