

Beacon of God's Love and Light



Sr. Amala George MSMHC

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Introduction

The life of Sr. Amala George is a tapestry woven with threads of faith, devotion, and boundless service. Born into the serene landscapes of Kerala on 6th November 1952, she was nurtured in the loving family of Mr. George and Mrs. Aleykutty as the fourth of eight children. From an early age, her life was guided by an unshakable trust in the words of Psalm 27: "The Lord is my light and my salvation," which became the foundation of her spiritual journey.

With a heart brimming with missionary zeal and a soul committed to God's call, Sr. Amala George embarked on an extraordinary journey of faith and courage. Leaving behind the comforts of her homeland, she ventured into the far reaches of Assam to serve as a missionary with the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians (MSMHC). Her life's work became a shining example of dedication, resilience, and love, as she touched countless lives and illuminated communities with the light of God's grace.

Early Life:

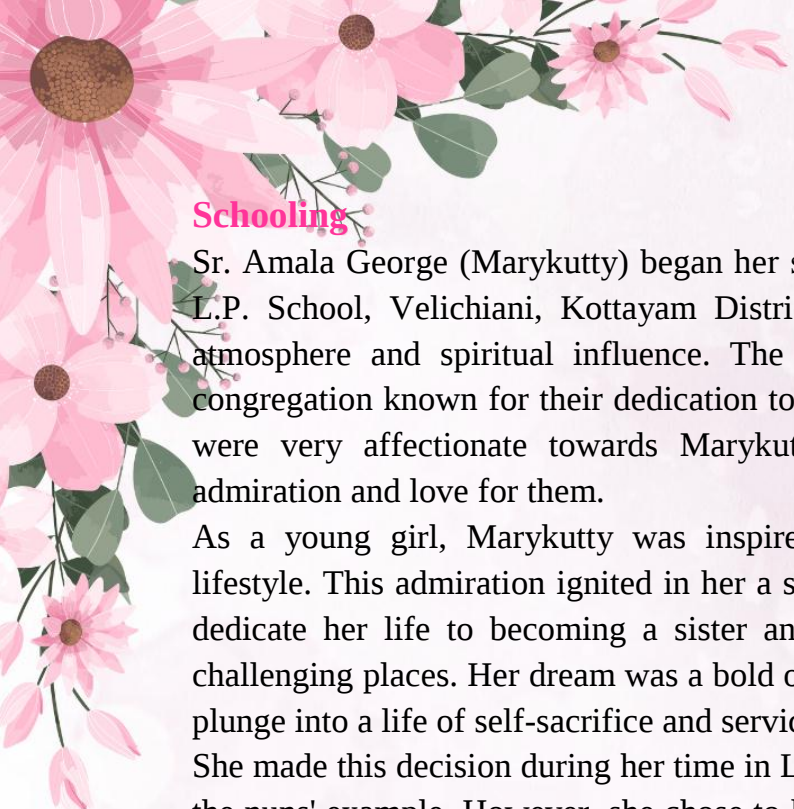
Sr. Amala George lovingly known as Marykutty was born in a place called Palapra. She has three brothers and five sisters. Her father was a business man dealing with coconuts and rubber sheets and her mother was a homemaker. She used to help her father in writing the accounts even as a child. Her Parents are very much devoted to God and prayer. The family would



sit for prayer every evening at 6.30 p.m. They would pray the Holy Rosary followed by the Litany of All Saints. The parents instilled in her the values of faith, kindness, and simplicity. From an early age, she displayed a unique sensitivity to the needs of her siblings and a profound spiritual inclination. Growing up in a close-knit family, she was known for her curious mind, cheerful demeanor, and a remarkable sense of responsibility. Her days were filled with moments of prayer, learning, and helping her family, where she developed qualities of patience and self-discipline.

Her grandmother used to say stories of saints and early missionaries, which sparked her early desire to dedicate her life to God. Her strong sense of faith and the support of her family shaped her into a young girl with big dreams and a heart ready to serve others. Even as a child, her ability to bring joy and comfort to those around her.

These formative years laid the foundation for her unwavering trust in God and her readiness to embrace a life of sacrifice and service. Her childhood experiences instilled in her the resilience and compassion that would later define her missionary journey and her profound impact on the lives of countless people.



Schooling

Sr. Amala George (Marykutty) began her schooling from Class I to IV at St. Mary's L.P. School, Velichiani, Kottayam District, Kerala, a place known for its serene atmosphere and spiritual influence. The school was run by the Clarist Nuns, a congregation known for their dedication to education and missionary work. The nuns were very affectionate towards Marykutty, and in turn, she developed a deep admiration and love for them.

As a young girl, Marykutty was inspired by their selfless service and spiritual lifestyle. This admiration ignited in her a strong desire to follow in their footsteps, to dedicate her life to becoming a sister and serving as a missionary in distant and challenging places. Her dream was a bold one for her age, a profound calling to take a plunge into a life of self-sacrifice and service.

She made this decision during her time in L.P. School, driven by her early exposure to the nuns' example. However, she chose to keep her aspiration a secret, continuing her academic journey without revealing her inner calling.

After completing her lower primary schooling, she joined Gracey Memorial School, Parathode, where she studied from Class V to X. This school provided her with a solid foundation in academics and values, further nurturing her determination and faith.

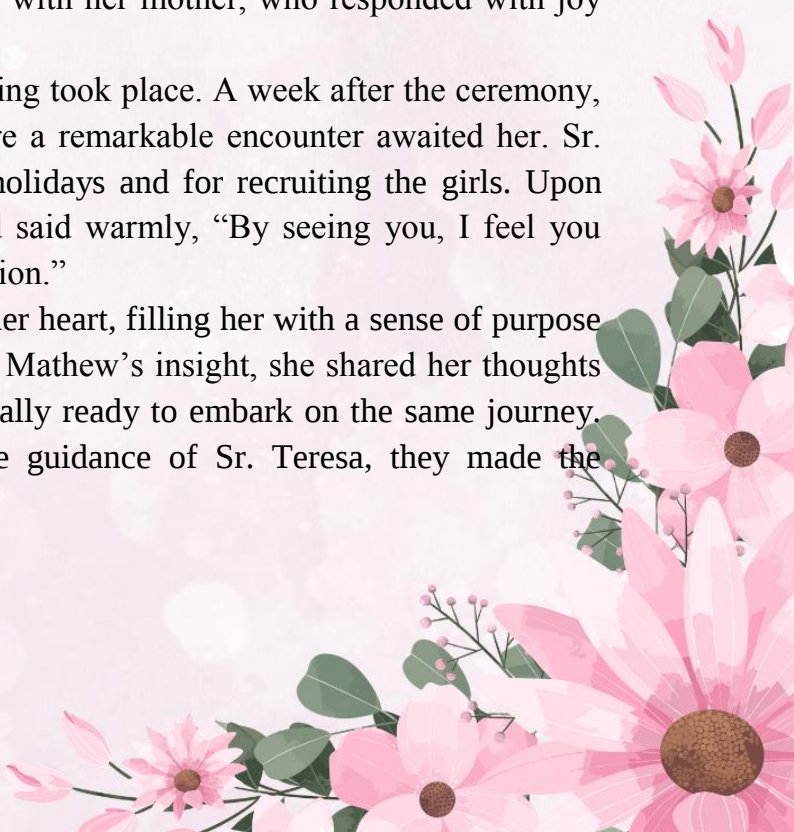
Her inspiration was deeply rooted in her community, where an impressive 121 priests and sisters from her parish were serving in various parts of the world. This strong representation of missionary work from her hometown reinforced her conviction and gave her the courage to dream of joining their ranks one day.

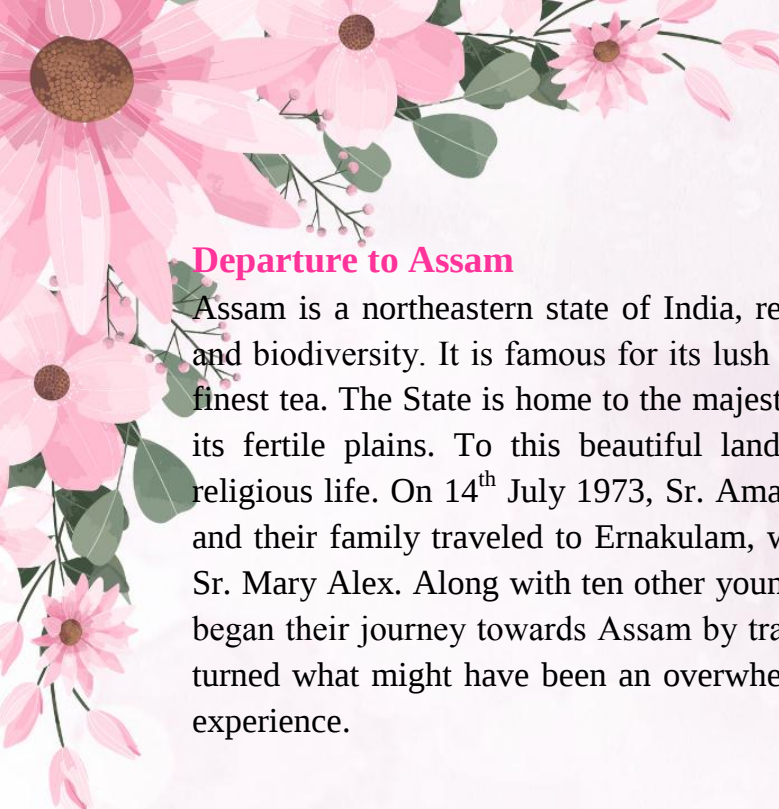
Vocation to MSMHC

After receiving her Class X results, she began reflecting deeply on her vocation. It wasn't until then that she shared her plans with her mother, who responded with joy and unwavering support.

Around this time, her elder brother's wedding took place. A week after the ceremony, she visited her sister-in-law's house, where a remarkable encounter awaited her. Sr. Teresa Mathew, MSMHC, came for her holidays and for recruiting the girls. Upon meeting her, Sr. Teresa looked at her and said warmly, "By seeing you, I feel you have a vocation to MSMHC, our congregation."

Those words struck a chord in her heart, filling her with a sense of purpose and excitement. Encouraged by Sr. Teresa Mathew's insight, she shared her thoughts with her sister, Elsa George, who was equally ready to embark on the same journey. With the blessing of their father and the guidance of Sr. Teresa, they made the decision to leave for Assam without delay.





Departure to Assam

Assam is a northeastern state of India, renowned for its rich culture, natural beauty, and biodiversity. It is famous for its lush tea gardens, producing some of the world's finest tea. The State is home to the majestic Brahmaputra River, which flows through its fertile plains. To this beautiful land Sr. Amala George travelled to start her religious life. On 14th July 1973, Sr. Amala George and her relative Sr. Elsa George, and their family traveled to Ernakulam, where they were warmly welcomed by Late Sr. Mary Alex. Along with ten other young girls, including late Sr. Jane Francis, they began their journey towards Assam by train. Late Sr. Mary Alex's kindness and care turned what might have been an overwhelming transition into a nurturing and joyful experience.

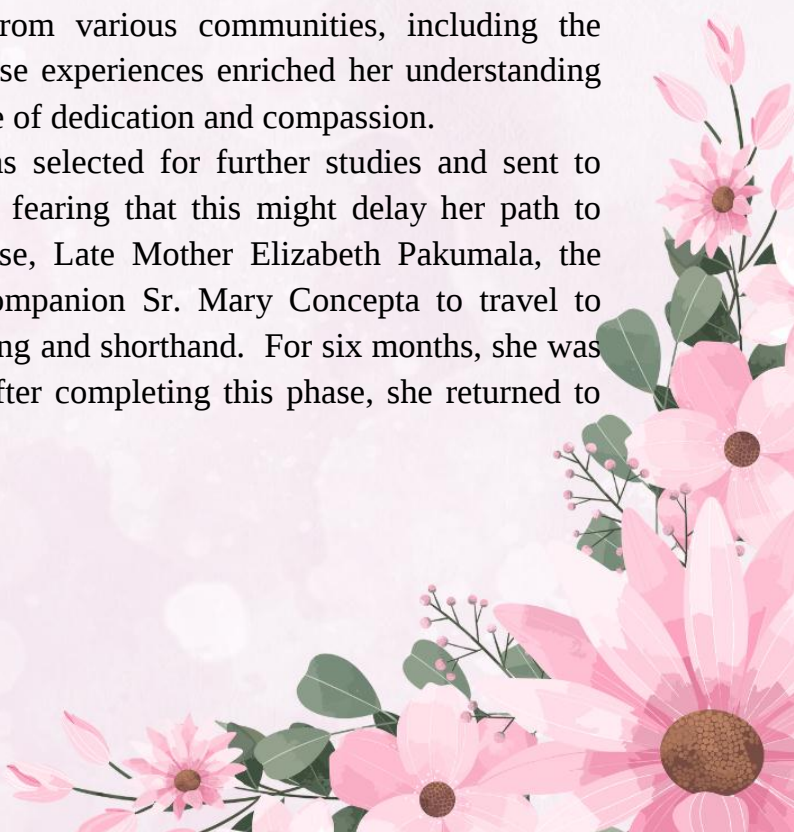
Formation Period

Finally, on 17th July 1973, Sr. Amala George arrived in Assam, at Barpeta Road, where her Aspirantate began. This marked her first steps toward a life devoted to God and service to His mission. It was a pivotal moment, filled with both excitement and trepidation.

Late Sr. Tessy Sebastian was her first Aspirant mistress, who stood out as a guiding light, embodying warmth and love for everyone under her care. Just three days after arriving, on 21st July, the principal of St. Mary's School, Barpeta Road, informed her that she would start assisting late Sr. Betty in a Kindergarten class the very next day. The idea of managing a class of 76 children was daunting, but with faith and determination, she embraced the challenge.

In time, she not only grew to love the children but also found great joy in caring for them and guiding them in their studies. Beyond her work with the children, she formed deep connections with people from various communities, including the Assamese, Boro, and Adivasi groups. These experiences enriched her understanding of service and cemented her calling to a life of dedication and compassion.

In 1974, Sr. Amala George was selected for further studies and sent to Malki. Initially, she was deeply troubled, fearing that this might delay her path to becoming a sister. Recognizing her unease, Late Mother Elizabeth Pakumala, the principal of Malki School, arranged a companion Sr. Mary Concepta to travel to Dibrugarh. She was sent there to learn typing and shorthand. For six months, she was engaged in both learning and teaching. After completing this phase, she returned to Barpeta Road to begin her Postulancy.





On 7th December 1976, Amala George entered the novitiate in Peachlands, along with nine other Novices. Late Rev. Fr. N.J. Kenny served as their spiritual director, guiding them in their study of catechism and teaching them the constitution. She was privileged to be taught by him. She was inspired by his simple living and high quality of spiritual life.

Sr. Teresa Mathew, the Novice Mistress, played a pivotal role in Amala George's formation, guiding her with unwavering joy and dedication to becoming a true spouse of Jesus. In January 1977, during her second year of novitiate, Amala George was entrusted with teaching Class III students. With over 75 children in the class, the task was formidable, but Roset, her companion, provided steadfast support. Together, they found fulfillment in educating and nurturing the students at St. Margaret's School.

On 8th December 1978, Amala George made her First Profession, fully dedicating herself to God as a member of MSMHC. Following this significant milestone, she continued her Juniorate formation while also teaching at St. Margaret's School in Peachlands.

A Preeminent Educator

Sr. Amala George continued her religious life as remarkable teacher touching the lives of many. She is more than just a teacher; she is a beacon of knowledge, inspiration and innovation. Her journey as an educator is marked by unwavering dedication, a passion for learning, and an innate ability to connect with her students. She spends her years educating the students and teaching them different skills for life. She enjoys being in the company of children and teaching them. Much of her time is spent meticulously correcting their assignments, ensuring every error is addressed and every success is celebrated. Her feedback is always thoughtful and constructive, reflecting her deep commitment to helping her students to grow and improve. She is a tireless and dedicated educator who devotes herself fully to her students.

The teaching methods of Sr. Amala George are simple and profound always encouraging active participation of the students. She is deeply committed to fostering a culture of excellence and growth, always challenging her students to reach their fullest potential. Her classroom is a space of collaboration, creativity, and mutual respect, where every student felt valued. She is very artistic and helps her students to reach excellence. She has touched the lives of many students and continues her mission with cheerfulness. Even at the age of 73 she is very active in the school and teaches English to the student. She is an inspiration to many young Msmhc Sisters in the field of education.

A Builder of God's Kingdom

Sr. Amala George, when she was serving as an Economer of the Region in Emani (AP) devoted her life to the mission of establishing convents, creating spaces that serve as centers of faith, education, and community living. With a deep sense of purpose, she has worked tirelessly to oversee the construction of numerous convents each serving as a home of prayer, learning, and service.

Under the guidance of the Regional Superior Rev. Sr. Ivy Joseph, she has meticulously supervised every stage of growth, from acquiring land and securing resources for the construction of these Institutions. Through her vision, these establishments have become sanctuaries where the MSMHC Sisters can carry out their mission and provide quality education to children. She fondly remembers the hardships she endured due to the lack of financial resources in the region, reflecting on the struggles that shaped her journey.

St. Joseph School at Emani, located in the Guntur Diocese, stands as a testament to Sr. Amala George's dedication and hard work. She closely witnessed the construction work of the school building, even as the region faced a financial crisis. Despite these challenges she successfully completed the project, overcoming many hurdles. Today, the school is recognized as one of the best in the area, providing quality education to many students from nearby villages. While building a school in that village once seemed impossible, her unwavering determination and perseverance made it a reality.

Beyond Emani, her contributions extended to other regions as well. Among her many achievements, she holds in her records the successful construction of St. Mary's School in Iritty, Kerala, and St. Mary's Convent in Kudda, Jharkhand. Each of these institutions stands as a beacon of faith, education and service. Her legacy continues to shine, inspiring future generations to dream, persevere, and serve with love.

The mission closest to Sr. Amala's Heart

Sr. Amala George found immense joy in being with children. She nurtured them with good manners, encouraged them to use proper language, and insisted on the importance of neat handwriting. She believed that even the smallest acts of kindness could make a difference in a child's life.

Deeply inspired by Don Bosco's Preventive System, she was always present for her students. Without fail, she assisted them during lunch breaks, patiently listening to their stories and guiding them with care. Her dedication went beyond school hours—she willingly took extra steps to support struggling students, offering remedial classes after school and even during holidays. Her mission was not just about teaching but about shaping young lives with love, patience, and unwavering commitment.

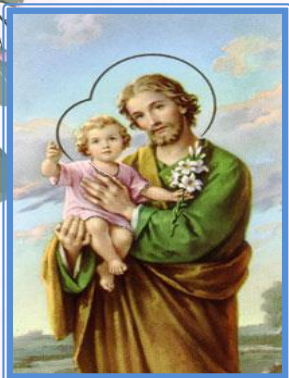


Life at Glance

1	1976	Peachlands	Novitiate
2	1978	Peachlands	First Profession
3	1978 – 1979	Peachlands	Teaching
4	1979 -1982	Udalguri	Teaching
5	1982 -1986	Sonaiguli	Teaching& B.A.
6	1986 -1987	Damra	H.M.& Teacher
7	1988-1989	Hatigaon	T.T.C Student
8	1989 -1991	Iritty	Head Mistress
9	1991-1996	Siliguri	Superior& H.M
10	1996 -1996	Tezpur	Payer & preparation
11	1996 to 2002	Emani	Regional Economer
12	2003 -2009	Siliguri	Superior & H.M.
13	2009-2010	Amabari.	Teacher &Economer
14	2010 -2013	Kudda.	V.S.& V.P.
15	2013 -2014	Dumka	Superior & V. P.
16	2014- 2017	Kudda	Vice Provincial & Superior
17	2017-2019	Dumka	Superior & V.P.
18	2019-2021	Kudda	V.S.& Teacher
19	2022-.....	Kudda	Teaching

Personal Stories and Experiences

St. Joseph as a Guide



In 1997, while serving as a Regional Economist, Sr. Amala George was traveling from Vijayawada to Mysore for work. She arrived in Bangalore at 10:30 p.m., where she had to wait for her connecting train to Mysore, scheduled to depart at 11:30 p.m.

As she approached the ticket counter to purchase her ticket, she noticed two men watching her intently. After obtaining her ticket, she proceeded to the waiting room. At 11:00 p.m., she decided to move toward the platform, which was a little distance away from the waiting room. To reach it, she had to cross an underpass. As she made her way, she realized that the two men were following her.

Just before entering the underpass, she encountered an elderly man who spoke to her, saying, "Sister, are you going to Mysore? I am also traveling there. Come, I will help you. I have no luggage." The elderly man then accompanied Sr. Amala George to the train. They boarded the general compartment and sat there.

A few moments later, she noticed the two men outside, scanning the train as if searching for her. The elderly man advised her not to step out of the train and reassured her of his presence. Sr. Amala George arrived safely in Mysore at 4:00 a.m. and took an auto-rickshaw to her community. Before leaving, she turned to express her gratitude to the elderly man—but he was nowhere to be found.

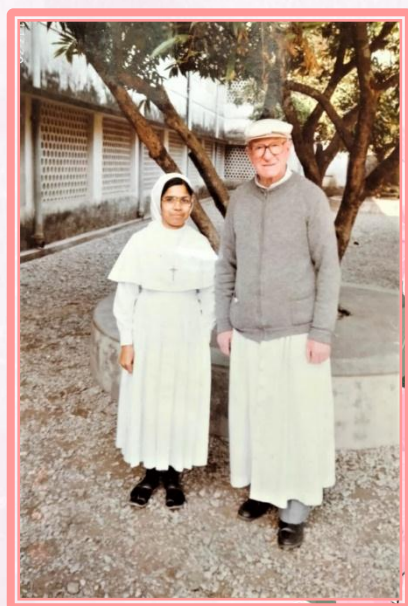
At that moment, she deeply felt the presence of God's mighty hand guiding and St. Joseph protecting her throughout the journey. Sr. Amala Strongly believes that it was St. Joseph who came to save her from those two unknown and malicious men.

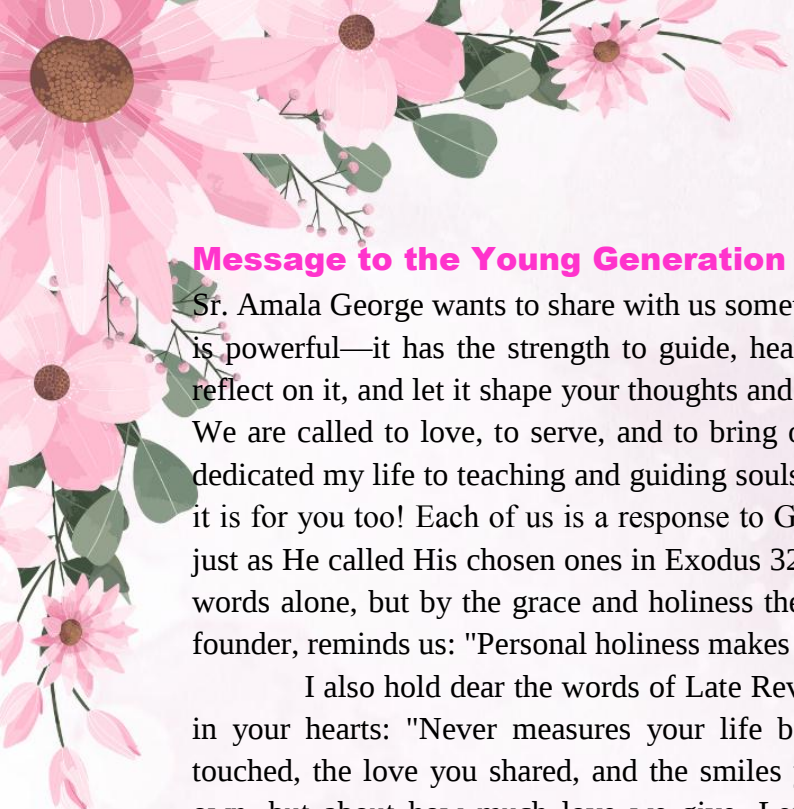
Fond reminiscences with Rev. Fr. Paul Taverna SDB- An Italian Missionary

Rev. Fr. Paul Taverna Sdb, is the founder of Siliguri Don Bosco. He was the one who invited the Msmhcs to work with the Salesians. Fr. Taverna was a man of great patience and humility. In 1991, Sr. Amala George was transferred to the Auxilium Convent as the Superior and Headmistress. The community was entrusted to take care of his food. The sisters took good care of him. His presence at Siliguri left a profound impact on Sr. Amala, who saw in him a deeply holy, kind-hearted, loving, and faithful servant of God.

One day, Fr. Taverna said to her, "Let's go for a walk." As they walked together, they reached the Salesian College Hostel. Pointing to the unused space, he told her, "This place is not in use at the moment so you can cultivate it. Later, we shall see what to do."

Taking his advice, the community began working on the land, growing vegetables, tapioca, and various other crops. Fr. Taverna had a vision for them.





Message to the Young Generation

Sr. Amala George wants to share with us something very close to her heart. The Word of God is powerful—it has the strength to guide, heal, and transform our lives. Read it every day, reflect on it, and let it shape your thoughts and actions (1 John 2:27). Our lives are a mission. We are called to love, to serve, and to bring others closer to Jesus. As an MSMHC, I have dedicated my life to teaching and guiding souls toward God. But this call is not just for me—it is for you too! Each of us is a response to God's love. He calls us to be light in the world, just as He called His chosen ones in Exodus 32:29, 33:1-9. People are drawn to us not by our words alone, but by the grace and holiness they see in us. Venerable Stephen Ferrando, our founder, reminds us: "Personal holiness makes our congregation rich."

I also hold dear the words of Late Rev. Fr. N. J. Kenny, which I hope you will carry in your hearts: "Never measure your life by possessions. Measure it by the hearts you touched, the love you shared, and the smiles you created." Life is not about how much we own, but about how much love we give. Let us build a community where we uplift one another, where kindness is our language, and where Jesus is at the center of our lives. He will bless us, lead us, and guide us through every joy and struggle. And in all things, let us turn to our Blessed Mother Mary. She is always by our side, in our joys and in our sorrows, bringing our prayers to her Son. Approach her with confidence and trust—she loves us deeply, as only a mother can.

Conclusion:

Sr. Amala George's life is a reflection of her deep faith and trust in God's presence. Through every challenge, she has remained devoted, surrendering her difficulties to Jesus and finding comfort in His love. Inspired by scripture and strengthened by prayer, she continues to grow in her spiritual journey. With unwavering faith, she believes that God walks beside her, guiding and protecting her every step. Her life is a testimony to God's grace, a journey of love, trust, and divine guidance.





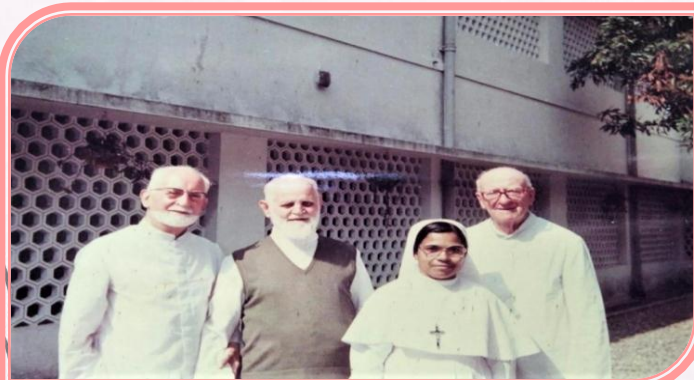
With Siblings



With Family members



With her beloved Mother and Cousins



With Bishop Orestes Marengo, Fr. Paul Taverna
Sdb and Fr. Luigi Jellici Sdb



With Companions

A Life Dedicated to Children



Light moments with the Community members

