

In Loving Memory of



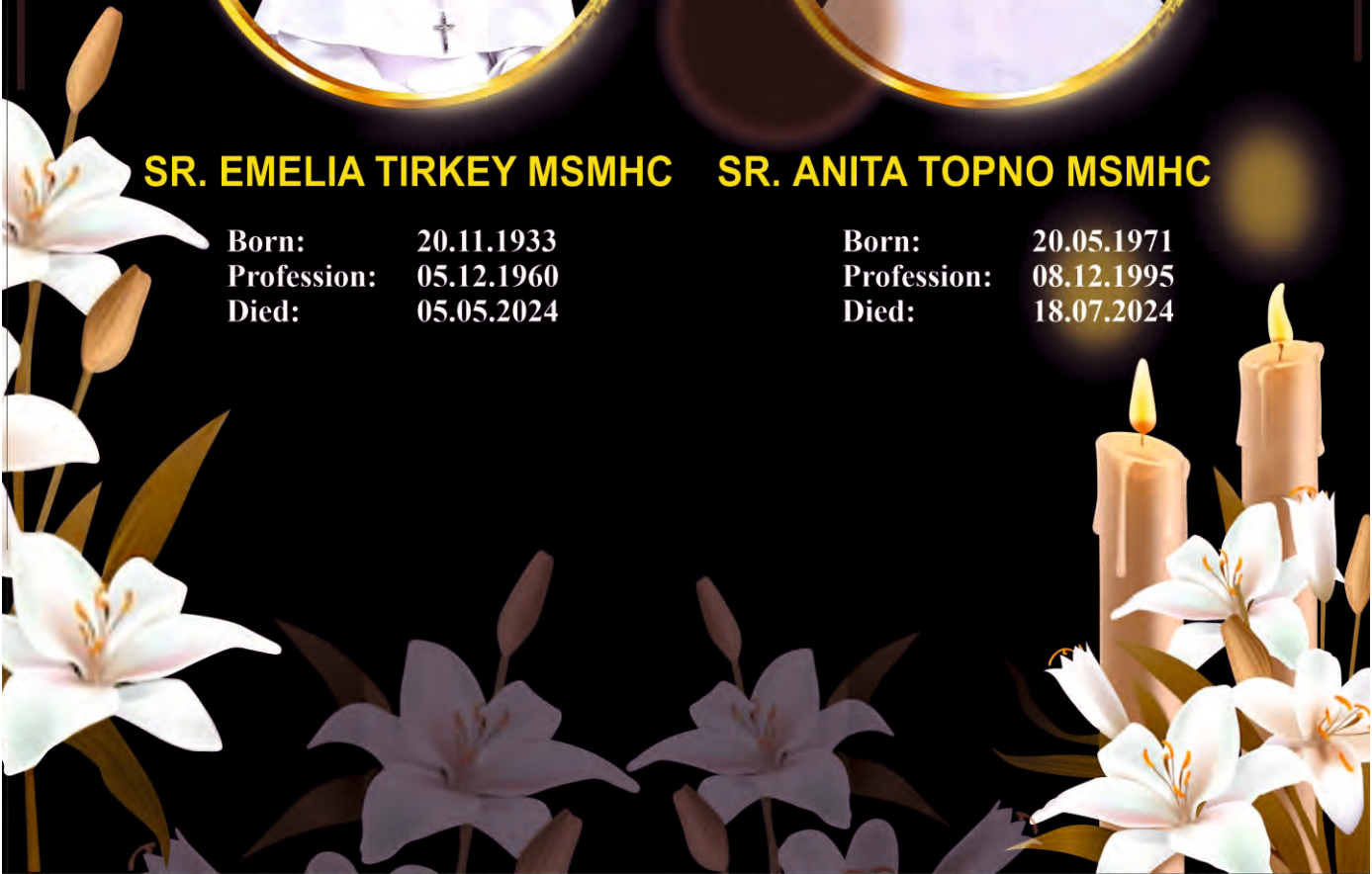
SR. EMELIA TIRKEY MSMHC

Born: 20.11.1933
Profession: 05.12.1960
Died: 05.05.2024



SR. ANITA TOPNO MSMHC

Born: 20.05.1971
Profession: 08.12.1995
Died: 18.07.2024



Eternal Rest Grant Unto them, O Lord



In life we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same.

It broke our hearts to lose you but you didn't go alone.
for part of us went with you the day God called you home.
You left us peaceful memories.





**“He Prepared those
who belong to him for the ministry,
in order to build up
the body of Christ”.**

Eph : 4:12



Message

Goodbye Sr. Emelia Tirkey
"Be faithful until death,
and I will give you the crown of life"
(Revelation 2:10).



Dear fathers, sisters, friends, benefactors, family members and relatives of our beloved Sr. Emelia Tirkey, I am here to convey the heartfelt condolences, gratitude and prayerful accompaniment of Sr. Christine Mynsong, our Superior General and to deliver her message, as we bid goodbye to another pearl of great price who has completed her earthly journey and have reached back home to the Father. This precious pearl, Sr. Emelia Tirkey lived in simplicity, goodness and gentleness radiating the fragrance of tenderness. The physical absence of such a person certainly evokes a sense of loss especially in the members of Kolkata province who shared her life more closely. I wish to express the solidarity of the General Council and every member of our Congregation with the Province of Kolkata as you live through the reality of the sense of loss with the home going of Sr. Emelia Tirkey.

Just a month ago, we bade goodbye to another holy soul, Sr. Theresa Langhu who sanctified herself and the congregation through her intense suffering. Now we are here by the mortal remains of beloved Sr. Emilia Tirkey. As human beings living in flesh and blood, we feel the pain of having to say goodbyes to our dear sisters and other loved ones as they move away from our presence. But beneath the cover of sadness there is the sweet assurance of an eternal home prepared for us, where the best of all Fathers waits with eager longing and outstretched arms to receive every one of us into the joy of unending communion with him and everlasting happiness.

Our saintly Sr. Emelia's humble life of 91 years, the dedicated services of her religious life and her gentle passing away into eternity reminds us of that home. By the way she lived, she made herself ready to receive the crown of life from the Lord Himself and be ushered into his everlasting presence. I have always found her with a smile on her lips. Faithful until death she lived, that the earth couldn't hold her any longer. She didn't belong to the earth but to heaven. A beautiful life worthy of imitation.

At a very young age, she experienced the loss of her parents and missed them painfully. The Lord favoured her and inspired the Salesian sisters to take her to their boarding school in Guwahati where she continued her studies and finally joined the congregation of the



Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians. She had the joy of having in the congregation her own aunt, Sr. Blandina Tirkey who was one of the 6 foundation stones of the congregation and Sr. Josephine Toppo, her first cousin. During the 64 years of her religious life she served the Lord in the congregation mostly as a frontline missionary. Her passion for mission was visible to everyone. Recalling the years she lived in the mission she said on 9th April, 2005 *"though, I did not study or have not acquired any degree, the mighty hands of God and the constant prayer support of my parents have led me all through my life as a religious in His vineyard winning more friends for Him."*

This humble handmaid of the Lord, Sr. Emelia was able to see God's goodness and His works even in difficult and trying situations. She believed that the good Lord turns everything into good for those who love him. Being a person of integrity she lived her life in faith. She was a loving, compassionate, kind and serene sister who shared her life mingling with everyone and worked her way to win many friends for Christ. Her sole purpose in religious life was, 'to win more souls for Christ'. No trials could stop her from fulfilling this desire till the end. Like the widow's mite, the offering of her life was total. In places where she lived, communities where she spent her life and parishes where she worked, all had a place in her big heart; sisters and people, young and old, men and women, kids and children, all found a home in her missionary life. Beloved Sr. Emelia, what fire! What zeal! What passion! You manifested in your years of missionary journeys! You were a true missionary sister in fact and spirit! The whole congregation salutes you for the daring and undying spirit you held within your fragile body.

At this time when our congregation embarks on a new journey resolving to live in total fidelity to our charism and spirit you are one of the valiant missionaries we can look up to, for inspiration and challenge. Your kind deed of bringing thousands of souls to Christ through your unflagging zeal tells us that nothing is impossible for the one who loves Christ and is on fire with thirst for souls.

Beloved Sr. Emelia, today our congregation stands on the foundation made strong by our pioneers, of whom you were one. Support us from heaven that we continue your missionary legacy of building and strengthening God's kingdom. Dearest sister, even in death, you taught us. You breathed your last gently. You went as you lived: serene and calm, absolutely fulfilled. Thank you dear sister, for being part of us. As we lay your mortal remains to rest, we pray that God in His abundant mercy reward you with the crown of life that has been prepared for you. As the angels carry you home, we hold your memory close to our hearts. Do continue to intercede for us.

ADIEU BELOVED SISTER EMELIA UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN!

Sr. Christine Mynsong
Superior General
MSMHC Generalate, Guwahati -781038



Funeral Oration for Sr. Emelia Tirkey MSMHC (07.05.2024)



**“PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD IS THE DEATH OF
HIS SAINTS” (PS: 116:15).**



Death is an unescapable reality. The life of a Christian lies beyond death. The resurrected Christ teaches us that our life is not just confined to this perishable world but rather we hope in the life eternal. 'The life and death of each of us has its influence on others' as St. Paul reminds its profound significance for us as Christians. Therefore, we read in the epistle of St. Paul, "O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:55-58).

Our dearly beloved Sister Emelia Tirkey, lived a life pleasing to the Lord as His beloved spouse and found herself worthy to share in His life and suffering. Standing before her mortal remains this morning with mixed feelings of grief and pain, joy and victory, I bow my head in humble surrender to the Holy will of God who always does what is best for us. She was a luminous guiding star who has drawn many to Christ through her holy and committed life. She lived in communities radiating the beauty and grandeur of a missionary Sister..

Sr. Emelia Tirkey was born on 20th November, 1933 as the youngest child of Mr. Augustus Tirkey and Mrs. Rahel Toppo in a village called Baganpara, Doomni, Assam. Having lost her parents when she was a tender girl of class II, she was brought up under the care of her elder ones. On a village tour when Sr. Nellie Nunes and Sr. Angela Kujur visited her house they were indeed happy to see this little girl. They suggested the elder brother of young Emelia to admit her in the boarding at St. Marys, Guwahati, where she studied up to Class VI. Later on, with a great desire to become, sister she joined the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians in 1958. Her dream was made realistic by the Lord, on December 5, 1960 when she made her first profession at Barpeta Road, Assam.

Her superiors and companions esteemed her for her gentleness and genuine interest in



the welfare of others. She loved her superiors, excelled in her duty, was diligent in teaching and imparting faith. Her fluency in Assamese and Hindi made her affable and acceptable to the people to whom she was sent. She showed great Interest in teaching the children. Hence as a young sister she was sent for Junior Basic Teacher's Training at Howli, Assam, where she successfully completed it. She ventured into the mission field as an ardent and enthusiastic missionary with deep love for Jesus and the souls entrusted to her care. Her simplicity of life and sisterly approach to the people in the villages were the easy means through which she could spread the good news. She also served as a very good assistant in the boarding schools and an efficient teacher to the little ones. Sr. Emelia Tirkey worked in places like Dibrugarh, Golaghat, Surupathar, Moranhat, Salana, Lakhimpur, Tetenbari, Rangapara, Siliguri, Ranchi, Baltikuri, Dumka & Bandel from 2017 advanced in her age. She always remained cheerful in all circumstances of life, with great trust in the One who has chosen her. Sr. Emelia is known for her spirit of prayer and hard work, love for the poor, availability and sociable nature.

"I am not capable of doing big things, but I want to do everything, even the smallest thing for the greater glory of God" (St. Dominic Savio). I am confident that these words of St. Dominic Savio is very apt to the life and spirituality of our beloved Sr. Emelia. She would do all the good she could, to whomever she could and whenever she could during her active life. Holy Rosary was her one and only companion. It was her favourite prayer. One could never find her without the rosary in her hand and praying it. "I am praying for you" was the sincere assurance that she would always give us. In the community, all of us were drawn to her because of the joy she radiated, her humility and simplicity.

Sr. Emelia was one such extraordinary soul, a personification of virtues, faithfulness and courage. From the time I met her, her simple life and character left an indelible impression on my heart. Through her untiring missionary zeal, unwavering commitment to the rules and regulations of the Congregation and her steadfast adherence to values, Sr. Emelia exemplified a life of true purpose and selflessness. Whenever I visited her she thanked me profusely for all the care she received and assured me of her prayers and the various needs of the province. I met her for the last time during my visitation on last Saturday on the 04th of May. Before I left the house I went to her, gave her a hug and made the sign of the cross on her forehead, she could scarcely talk, yet gave me a beautiful smile which was her last message to me and that will linger on in my mind for the years to come. She was becoming weak and passed away amidst prayers and singing in the company of the Sisters of Ferrando Convent, Bandel on 05th May at around 7.30 pm. We are confident that the entire heavens will be waiting for her because she is well known by Jesus Mary and Joseph whom she untiringly called upon day and night. Sr. Emelia was an exceptionally blessed person who enjoyed the favour of the master in an incredible way, which she reflected through her exemplary life of Religious consecration.

A limb has fallen from the family tree of MSMHC KOLKATA. If Sr. Emelia were able to utter her feelings, I believe these would be her words to the sisters/to us who surround her...

Grieve not for me.

Remember the best times, the laughter, the song.

The good life I lived while I was strong.

Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you.
Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.
My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest.
Remembering all, how I truly was blessed.
Continue traditions, no matter how small.
Go on with your life, don't worry about falls
I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin.
Until the day comes, we're together again.



As you set out on your final journey dear sr. Emelia, you leave behind a powerful message to live our lives to the full in love and service, to love passionately, to give generously, to work tenaciously, to discipline the self perseveringly, always spreading the joy of the Gospel and to go till the end unflinchingly until we lay down our life completely for the Master. With an ever radiating smile you went around doing good, without counting the sacrifices. You were ever joyful and pleasant in your dealings, dedicated and generous in service, Friendly and motherly in relationships, straight forward, humorous and simple in your approach to everyone. You would welcome everyone with your friendly and ever beaming smile. You were a person without guile, simple in dealings and frank in expressions.

As your health deteriorated, you accepted the situation without any complaint. You spent your last days praying for the various needs of the Congregation and the Province. In life and in death you witnessed Christ and have run your race to the finish. May you receive the crown of glory prepared for you! We remember you always with a beautiful and serene smile on your face. We will certainly miss you dear Sr. Emelia and calling you lovingly "Nani" in our community, but you will continue to live in our memories.

We remain grateful to you for being a faithful daughter of our mother Congregation, who loved her, with all sincerity and worked hard to make her grow in missionary vitality and holiness. Thank you for being a genuine religious and authentic missionary. We entrust you to the mercy of the Lord that He may welcome you to the bliss of heaven for which you were destined from all eternity. May you enjoy the company of the Blessed Virgin, whom on earth you venerated as your loving Mother. May our beloved Father and Founder Ven. Stephen Ferrando and our pioneers who are already enjoying the glory of God, welcome you to our growing MSMHC family in heaven. Pray for us dear Sr. Emelia and intercede for us from Jesus to guide our path on our journey towards eternity.

ADIEU DEAR SISTER, TILL WE MEET AT JESUS' FEET.

WE WILL CERTAINLY MISS HER ANGELIC PRESENCE AMIDST US.. MAY HER SOUL REST IN PEACE!

Sr. Sini Mathew MSMHC
Provincial superior
MSMHC Provincial House, Ichapur, Howrah-711104



LOVE & GRATITUDE



Those we love never truly leave us. Death is an inevitable reality that all of us will face one day. Though frightening, yet the thought of eternity comforts us and our faith in the risen Lord enables us to accept this reality with hope. Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say again rejoice. Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything"

As I stand here before the mortal remains of our dearly beloved Sr. Emelia Tirkey these words are apt to describe her personality. Always happy and trusting, giving peace to everyone by her gentle presence. I am indebted to God for having been given her as our community member. She sanctified our community with her simplicity, humility, cheerfulness and joy, Concern for others, right humour to lighten the situations and to accommodate persons into her loving company are some of her outstanding virtues.

I truly believe that Jesus found her to take her to Himself during this special month which is dedicated to our blessed mother, it's only because she is an ardent devotee of our blessed mother. Rosary has never left her fingers and frequently she used to kiss the crucifix. Without any complaints she spent her time in the sick bed. Those who visited her never went unhappy but renewed and smiling, for having been met a saintly soul. She always inquired on others well being by asking 'have you eaten' and she generously offered all that she had. She was very fond of sweets, with a sweet smile she accepted the sweetness of others. She enjoyed good health except the weakness of old age. Without much struggle, kissing the crucifix with a tear in her eyes she bade farewell to each of us. She was lucky to be assisted by the candidates and the sisters in her last moments. Surrounded by her dear sisters her soul with a smile gently flew to another sweet home of hers where her spouse awaited her with opened arms.

She glorified God by living a fuller life on earth and continues to ignite the minds of MSMHC through her exemplary life. She lived for others with a motto 'others before self'.

Sr. Emelia Tirkey always used to say "Jai Jesu" Long time no see , thank you, Putting God first and seeing God in others, making another feel at home in her company and remained as a person of gratefulness. So on behalf of our dear Sr. Emelia Tirkey I would like to convey the same to all of you present here. Thank you to each of you present here, thank you for all the prayers you offered for her. Adieu Sr. Emelia till we meet again in heaven.

Sr. Jacinta Jyrwa MSMHC
Superior, Ferrando Convent
Bandel



Homily on the Requiem Mass



Introduction: We are here to thank God for the gift of the life Sr. Emelia Tirkey. We present Sr. Emelia to the Lord Most High, with all the faith, hope and love that is brimming in her heart. She has been a faithful servant and shepherdess after her Lord, the good Shepherd. We pray that she be purified of her imperfections and be found worthy to enter into the bliss of heaven. We pray for the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians, especially for the Provincial Superior, for Sr. Jacinta and all the members of this community who miss their beloved sister who was so much part of this community even during the days of her sickness. May God bless all of us gathered here around the mortal remains of Sr. Emelia to pray for her and to thank the Lord for her.

Homily: Many of us can still recall the first catechism lesson that we learnt..... probably from a Sister like Sr. Emelia. The first question that was in the book was: "Who created you?" and the answer was "God created me". The second question was: "Why did he create you?" and the answer followed. "He created me to know him, to love him, to serve him and be happy with him forever in heaven". This is a very simple sentence..... But it contains the essence of our faith. We have been created to know, love and serve God here in this life and to enjoy being with him in heaven. As we live our daily life, we should always keep this basic lesson from our catechism. When we look at the person and the life of our dear sister Emelia Tirkey, we can say that she understood the deep meaning of the purpose of our life as shown to us in our first Catechism lesson. I am sure as a Catechism teacher in the villages and boarding schools, she taught the little children this basic question – Why did God create you. She not only taught this lesson in her class, but she taught them more with her life. She strove to know him, to love and to serve him with the hope and the deep faith that she will live with the Lord forever.

How did she know him, love and serve him? She did this in her brothers and sisters whom she ministered to in her long apostolic life. The Lord told us clearly in the gospel reading - When you did this to one of the least of these brothers and sisters, you did it for me. Sr. Emelia was inspired by these words and gave herself totally to the service of God. She had a deep love for the poor and simple people especially in the villages. She spent her life caring for them, instructing them about the Christian faith, encouraging those who were weak, looking after the sick. She was really a shepherdess after the heart of the heart of the Good shepherd. She was ready to bear the heat and the cold, fatigue and misunderstandings in her apostolic life. Through the triumphs and tragedies of daily life, she put her trust and faith in the Lord who called her.

When I was asked by Sr. Jacinta, to offer this mass, I asked her to tell me something about the life of Sr. Emilia since I do not know her personally. The first thing that she told me is: "She is our smiling sister". I think this speaks volumes about the life and character of Sr. Emelia. She always had a smile on her lips. I remember the few occasions when I took Holy Communion to her. I can never forget the radiance and joy on her face as she received Jesus. The last time that I saw her face was about two weeks ago during the Easter blessing of this convent. She was lying in bed, but she had a gentle smile on her face as she was told that Father has come to bless her. I



am sure that smile was something that came from the depths of her being. She had that quite confidence that God is with her and that she is in his hands. She knew well that she was advanced in years and that her journey in this world is almost over. But she was not perturbed or in tension because she knew in her heart and believed that she is in the safe hands of the Shepherd who cared for her so far. She believed as we pray in Psalm 23: "I will fear no evil for you are with me. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me. You anoint my head with oil, you fill my cup to overflowing.

Your goodness and your love accompany me throughout my days, and in your house, oh Lord, I will live forever." When we look at the life Sr. Emelia, we who are younger, would feel that she had a very long life. But 90 years of life was a short span of life for her. We know that when we are busy with something and engrossed in it, we do not feel the time passing. I am sure Sr. Emelia felt that way because she was busy with and engrossed in the mission that was entrusted to her. In her humble and simple ways she was really a channel of the blessings of God in the various places that she was sent to especially in the villages.

Leaving this earth at 90 years old, you might think that there would be more people up there to welcome her than down here to say goodbye. Sister Emelia made lots of friends during her lifetime – and, there is surely a great crowd in heaven to welcome her with joy. The saints and angels of heaven are rejoicing today to receive her soul for she fought the good fight and finished her race. Now she will receive the crown of glory that is reserved for those who have remained steadfast and faithful to the end. Though we are sad at the passing away of Sr. Emelia, she does not want us to morose or disheartened. She probably want us to celebrate her victory together with all the saints of heaven. As we say goodbye to our beloved sister and friend, we acknowledge her wonderful legacy, and that of all good religious such as she. We thank the Lord for the many blessings with which he blessed her and the strong faith which he gifted her, and we entrust her warm, gentle soul to the merciful embrace of the God she served so well.

Unless a grain of wheat ... fall to the ground and die, it remains alone, a single grain. But if it dies, it yields great fruit. Whoever serves me must follow me and, where I am, my true servant is there with me. That brings us to the present moment. The great love story of her life, what she was created for, was to run while she has the light of life, going forward to meet face to face her one beloved, the One she has been following and serving all along on the road of faith. We say that Sr. Emelia died yesterday. But you know, we're wrong: She was dying all the time. A life of service is a life of dying. To serve is to love. To love is to die. The only way to live is to die. With every breath, we're dying. But every breath is also a gift from a good God. For each breath we take is a participation in dying, and the rising, of Jesus. She was dying all the time, and so she was never alone, a single grain. Especially towards the end of her life, she was waiting eagerly for this moment. God gave her the opportunity to prepare herself well and to decorate herself with the precious gems or virtues and graces in order to meet her bridegroom. In fact, maybe she has chided the Lord saying: "Lord why do you keep me here so long? I have been waiting for you for a very long time!"

Sr. Emelia's death reminds us that the purpose of life is to know, love and serve God. We



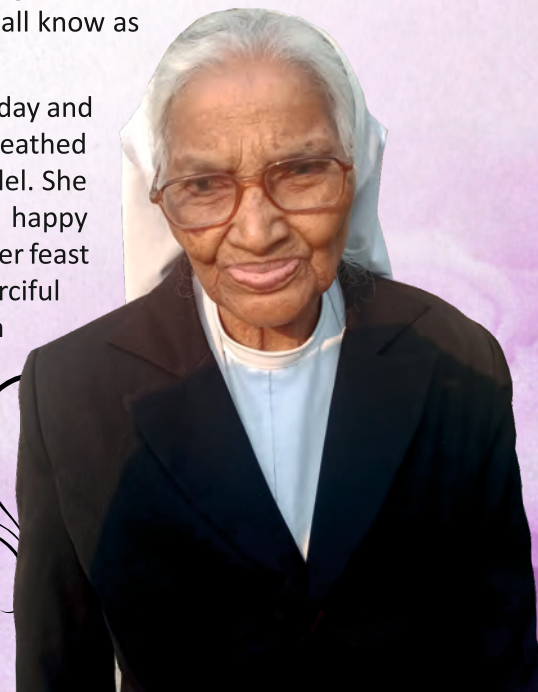
believe there is more to life here than what meets the eye because when we were baptized we became sons and daughters of God. St. John wrote, "Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are" (1 John 3:1). It is of course astounding that God bestows his love on us by allowing us to become his children through baptism. As God's children since baptism, we believe that the purpose of life is knowing, loving and serving God, preparing to meet him in heaven. As God's children, we believe that when we die, we go on ahead and we call what's left behind "the remains."

When we are buried, we are not buried really. We are "gone ahead". We remember Chandrayan, the space shuttle that was sent to the moon from Sri Hari Kota last year. When a shuttle blasts off, booster rockets fall away after a while. Our body is like a booster rocket which falls off after a while and we, the main shuttle, continue on our journey. The booster rocket falls down to the earth again and our body returns to the clay again, but as children of God we are gone ahead.

1 Cor 13 beautifully reminds us that there are three things that last, faith, hope and love and the greatest of these is love. (1 Cor 13:13) So all the love that Sr. Emelia showed her friends and parishioners, students and hostlers will last into eternity and is seen by God. Those who have had near death experiences tell us that they saw all their life flashing before them. So we can say that when God called Sr. Emilia she could see all her love flashing before her, all the love she gave, every sacrifice she made for them. Three things last, faith, hope and love and the greatest of these is love. Paul also tells us that faith also lasts into eternity (1 Cor 13:13). So every prayer of Sr. Emelia lasts into eternity. Every time she said a Hail Mary, that Hail Mary lasts into eternity. She prayed the Rosary every night that Rosary each night endures into eternity. Think of the amount of time that we could waste doing all sorts of things that will not last into eternity, like watching TV. But every time we pray, that prayer lasts into eternity. Three things last, faith, hope and love. Sr. Emelia hoped in the resurrection, hoped in being transformed, "Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known." (1 Cor 13:12).

Sr. Emelia completed her earthly pilgrimage yesterday and is at the threshold of heaven. It is no coincidence that she breathed her last on the Feast of Our Lady of Happy Voyage of Bandel. She had a tender love and devotion to her and the Lady of happy voyage deigned to receive her at the portals of heaven on her feast day. We commend the soul of our dear Sister to the merciful arms of our blessed mother and present her to her son Jesus so that she will be with him together with all the saints and angels of heaven.

Rev. Fr. John Maliekal SDB
Administrator, Bandel Basilica



Sr. Emelia Tirkey

A life of joy and happiness



When I recall the life of Sr. Emelia Tirkey, the first thought that comes to mind is how she consistently enjoyed good health. She was always lively and active, performing her duties with neatness and timeliness. She had a deep love for cleanliness and orderliness; I often saw her holding a sickle in her hand, trimming and tidying up anything that made the surroundings look shabby or untidy. She frequently used the phrase, *“chem-chem for neat and clean.”*

Her endurance was remarkable. I witnessed an incident in her old age when she accidentally burned her leg with hot water. Despite the pain, she bore it courageously, saying, *“God allowed this to happen; He will heal me soon”* such was her unwavering faith and trust in God. I would also like to highlight her generosity. She always loved giving whatever she had to those who came to visit her. She carefully preserved the things she received so that she could share them when the occasion arose. She never sought recognition for herself and would give quietly, without drawing attention.

Sr. Emelia was a jovial person, capable of making others laugh and enjoy her company. Her presence was truly memorable, filled with warmth and happiness. She lived a tension-free life, embracing each moment fully. I had the privilege of enjoying her company for three years. During that time, although she was unable to go out on mission herself, she remained a driving force for us through her fervent prayers. She lived a happy-go-lucky life, always full of faith and joy.

I sincerely thank God for granting her good health and for the beautiful calling He gave her—to serve humanity through her exemplary life.

Sr. Jacinta Bhengra, Vice-Provincial
Maayer Asha, Ichapur



A Life of Unwavering Kindness and Joy



I lived with Sr. Emelia Tirkey at St. Mary's Convent, Dumka for 3 years. She was fondly called “Nanni” by our Bishop, Priests, Sisters, Parishioners and all people of our neighbourhood. She really proved to be a loving and caring grandmother to all. She was growing so gracefully in her consecrated life, a true witness of joy to everyone and at all times. I never found her sad or grumpy for whatsoever reasons.

Sr. Emelia's characteristic trait was her spontaneous and perennial cheerfulness. Her contagious smile and radiating joy came from her deep union with the Lord. Sr. Emelia walking around with the Rosary in her hand and whispers of prayers on her lips, was a familiar scene which attracted many to ask her blessings and prayers. All those who visited our convent experienced her friendliness and hospitality. The school children would flock around her with sweets and flowers as tokens of their pure love.

In the community she was an example - be it for practices of piety or other community activities. For any act of kindness or service rendered to her, she would reciprocate with thousands of “Thank you” and “God bless you.” She was contented with minimum and ever generous towards the poor and needy with whatever should save or spare. On Sundays after the Holy Mass, she would greet most of the people and everyone knew her as “Nanni Sister”. In those days, in her early 80's, she would manage washing and ironing her clothes (habit) and would keep everything neat, clean and orderly. As for me, her cleanliness was a manifestation her godliness.

Sometimes she would crack jokes and make everyone laugh heartily, which at times made “even the walls of the Convent to smile”, to use the words of our Father and Founder Venerable Stephen Ferrando. When the sisters would be busy with their various apostolate's, Sr. Emelia would take care of the house and our little kitchen garden and keep everything in order and attend to the guests if any turned in. When we returned from village or other places, she would be there to serve us hot tea with her smiling face.

Her simplicity and innocence were proverbial and at the same time magnetic. In the course of time she became like little child fit to enter into the Kingdom of heaven. Every year she looked forward to November 20th her birthday, which we would celebrate with such solemnity and excess of love, making her feel great. She would share her many past experiences and weaving tapestries from her memory lane. Now from heaven she is smiling and showering petals of blessings upon us that we may live like her, pure, holy and innocent in the sight of God.

Dear Sr. Emelia, rest in peace and pray for us.

**Sr. Philomena Mathew
Superior, Ferrando Convent
Bandel**



A Life that Radiated Joy



"There are people in our lives who never leave us, even after they are gone. Time may pass and fade away, but memories will always stay". -Junaid Hassan

I see Sr. Emelia before me - smiling, committed, simple, and radiating joy to everyone. Our dear Sr. Emelia faithfully accomplished the mission that the Lord entrusted to her. She bravely held on to life for many fruitful years, and when the Lord called her to Himself to receive the crown of glory, she peacefully took flight to the heavenly kingdom.

Sr. Emelia was a gentle, kind, soft-spoken and polite missionary sister. She greeted everyone with a cheerful countenance and managed her community with remarkable grace and warmth. She lived her vows in imitation of Christ, demonstrating filial dependence, a deep sense of responsibility and genuine care for people. She heeded the exhortation of our beloved Founder: "All our good and humble works will go straight to Jesus. Be simple with people—your simplicity and availability will bring them closer to you, and they will love you more and more, which in turn will help you love God and His people."

Humility was one of Sr. Emelia's most remarkable virtues. As a senior member of the Congregation, she did not have the same access to education as younger generations do today yet; she humbly acknowledged her limitations and sought assistance whenever necessary. She was never ashamed to speak about her academic background; instead, she shared it with a joyful spirit. Being in her presence was always a delight, as she had a warm and welcoming nature that made everyone feel at home. No matter where she was placed, Sr. Emelia carried out her responsibilities with peace and diligence. She truly embodied the words of Venerable Stephen Ferrando: "Keep joy and peace always in your heart, and let nothing trouble you, for it is through suffering that we must enter into joy and peace."

I had the privilege of spending time with Sr. Emelia on numerous occasions, and her love, care, and deep respect for others were truly inspiring. She had a remarkable ability to recognize goodness in everyone and was always quick to express appreciation. Sr. Emelia welcomed guests with joy, making time for them despite her many responsibilities. Even in the kitchen, her creativity shone—she skillfully prepared a variety of dishes and crafted an array of delicious pickles. She lived out the vow of poverty with great mindfulness, using resources wisely and ensuring that nothing was wasted. Instead, she found creative ways to transform even the simplest ingredients into something valuable. Sr. Emelia taught us invaluable lessons on how to live our consecration more meaningfully, embracing a simple and humble lifestyle.

As our Founder urged, "A Religious must always have a cheerful disposition because joy belongs to you, not the world. Rejoice in the Lord, and let nothing trouble you, for the Lord loves a cheerful heart." Sr. Emelia embodied this exhortation until the very end of her life, radiating happiness through her jovial nature and unwavering cheerfulness. Her life remains a profound inspiration to us all.

**Sr. Molly James, Superior
Nirmala Niketan, Nedungapra**

Sr. Emelia Tirkey MSMHC **A Tribute on her first death Anniversary**



“God loves a cheerful giver” (2Cor. 9:7).

Sr. Emelia Tirkey was known as our joyful and smiling Nanni in Bandel community where she came to spend the last years of her life. I was really privileged to have lived with her for four years. What was most impressive about her was her cheerfulness that was contagious and I realized how much I need to cultivate this virtue that was given so much importance by our Father and Founder Bishop Ferrando who said “ *Be always of a cheerful disposition, because joy is yours and not of the world* ”. All those who came into contact with her always took leave of her with a smile on their faces.

She was a source of joy and laughter in the community. I never saw her sad or gloomy; she was always smiling and deeply concerned about the well-being of others. The sisters and aspirants often playfully teased her about her age, and she would always respond with “24 / 34,” which inevitably led to a hearty laughter. She loved to remind us that age is simply a matter of the mind. Whenever visitors came to the house—especially those arriving for the first time—she went out of her way to ensure they felt welcomed and at ease. Her kindness and warmth left a lasting impression on everyone she encountered.

As we commemorate the first anniversary of Sr. Emelia Tirkey's return to the Lord, we thank God for the wonderful legacy she has left behind. She was a shining example of devotion, compassion, and service. Throughout her life, she wholeheartedly dedicated herself to serving the Lord and His people. Her tireless efforts to spread love, kindness, and hope touched and inspired countless individuals and communities. As a devoted member of our Congregation and Province, Sr. Emelia embodied the values of our religious order. She was a true servant of the Lord, always prioritizing the needs of others above her own. Her selflessness, humility, and generosity continue to inspire us to be better disciples of Christ.

Her life of simplicity and cheerfulness reminds us that what truly matters is not how long one lived, but how well one lived—not how many miles one walked, but how many times one paused to lend a helping hand to those in need along the way. As we remember our dear Sister prayerfully, we take comfort in the knowledge that she is now at peace with the Lord. As St. Paul tells us, she is enjoying today what no eye has seen, ear has heard or mind can possibly imagine, the things that the good Lord has prepared for those who love Him. We pray that her example will continue to inspire us to live our lives with purpose, passion, and devotion as committed and cheerful members of the congregation.

Sr. Jacinta Jyrwa
Auxilium Pre-novitiate, Siliguri



A Life of Joyful Service and Unwavering Faith: Remembering Sr. Emelia Tirkey



Whenever I met Sr. Emelia Tirkey, she radiated joy, humility, kindness, and warmth. She had a deep love for the congregation and a special affection for children, always greeting everyone with a sweet smile. She often prepared food and generously shared it with others.

As a missionary, she truly cherished being among people, spreading God's love at each encounter. Sr. Emelia was blessed with good health, and I never once heard of her falling ill. She was always punctual for community prayers and faithfully spent time with the Lord. In her later years, she became lovingly known as "Nanni", and those around her deeply enjoyed her presence. She was like a mother, sister, and friend to all of us—her unwavering spirit continues to inspire us. One day, I asked her, *"Nanni, I always see you holding your Rosary. Please pray one Hail Mary for me."* With her gentle voice, she looked at me, held my hand, and said, *"I pray for you and others every day."*

I thank God for her support and the countless ways she served the Province and each of us. I firmly believe that she is now interceding for us from heaven, continuing to bless us with her prayers and love.



Sr. Emerencia Ekka
Lourd Prakash Bhavan, Ranchi



Symbol of God's Beauty



Sr. Emelia was a true example of the beauty found in simplicity. She showed us that true wealth is not in material possessions but in love, faith, and the joy of giving. She left a lasting legacy, not through monuments or riches, but through the lives she touched with her grace and humble spirit. In a world that is often rushed and cold, she brought warmth that never faded. Her kindness flowed like a gentle stream, and her compassion lit up life's dreams.

Sr. Emelia's heart was a sanctuary for those in despair, a soul that was selfless and eager to care for others. Through her actions, she taught us the true way to love and serve, no matter the circumstances. Though Sr. Emelia now walks in the heavenly light beyond the sky, her love will always remain a guiding star for those of us who are left behind. Her kindness and gentle smile will live on in every heart she touched. Until we meet again, she will continue to sing her favorite song:

***"Hende sim pundisim pata pataya
Balaing pussy chom chommanka;
Dundui durbilakanachokei pentyakana".***

Rest in peace, dear Sr. Nanni above,
Wrapped in God's eternal love.
May your soul soar beyond the sky,
Where joy remains and no tears lie.
Until we meet again, dear Sr. Nanni, goodbye.

**Sr. Rose Khriam, Superior
Maria Nivas, Boropahari**



A Legacy of Love, Compassion and Grace radiated by Sr. Emelia



During my three years with Sr. Emelia at Dumka community, I personally experienced her deep love and care for everyone around her. She treated her superiors with with utmost respect, always seeking their permission and demonstrating unwavering obedience. Sr. Emelia embodied cheerfulness, peace, kindness, generosity and humility. She maintained a meticulous sense of order, ensuring that everything remained neat and tidy. Her strong devotion to prayer was evident in her daily life, reflecting her steadfast faith and commitment to the Lord.

Her love for prayer was clear, as she often prayed the Rosary and recited prayers like, "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them," and "Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I love you." She had a special devotion to Mary Help of Christians and a deep love for the Blessed Sacrament. Every day, without fail, she made time for Adoration and personal prayer.

Sr. Emelia possessed a gentle grace that was always evident, especially in a manner she greeted everyone with a warm and welcoming smile. Her hospitality was truly remarkable, as she took great joy in receiving guests and visitors. Whenever the Bishop of Dumka visited, she delighted in serving him coffee and snacks, humbly asking for his prayers and blessings. Sr. Emelia lived a life filled with joy, continually growing in grace and kindness, leaving a lasting impression on the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Sr. Kanti Aind
Auxilium Convent, Siliguri



A Cherished Experience with Sr. Emelia



I fondly remember my time as a novice, doing my practical training in Salana Parish. One particular experience remains close to my heart—our visit to a distant and remote village for two weeks, though I can no longer recall its name.

During that time, Sr. Emelia was incredibly caring and understanding. As we visited families, she introduced me to the people, explaining that I was from Shillong and did not know Hindi. She made sure I felt included by asking me to teach the children prayers—the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father—the only three prayers I knew by heart. Sr. Emelia was truly a holy sister. We often prayed together late into the night. She embodied simplicity, joy, devotion, cleanliness and an admirable work ethic. She was a great missionary, tirelessly visiting families and villages, ensuring that we were constantly engaged in service—never staying home for long. When she was at home, she always wore an apron, with a needle and thread tucked into her pocket. She would sew buttons and mend clothes for the children. She often reminded me and my companion, *"This is what the Salesian Sisters taught us—do small acts of love for these children, and God will be pleased."*

This is how I remember **Sr. Emelia**, the first sister to take me into the villages. I truly enjoyed those days with her—it was my first experience staying in the village. I vividly recall how she would pray the Rosary while walking from one family to another, saying, ***"Let Mother Mary reach the family first, then we will follow."***

Sr. Philomina Kharryja
Ferrando Convent, Ambari



Honouring a life of Radiant Spirit, Faith and Kindness



As I reflect on the past three years of being with Sr. Emelia, her memory continues to inspire me through her simplicity and unwavering spirit. Through both trials and joys, she remained radiant, embraced by love and care. With great joy and confidence, Sr. Emelia often shared stories from her younger days, recounting her experiences with enthusiasm. She was deeply committed to her duties and always gave her best to the children in the boarding house and the villages she served. Among her many admirable qualities, her generosity, cordiality, orderliness and cleanliness stood out.

She saw beauty in the young sisters' neat and tidy habits, lovingly calling them "*Chunu Munu*", a phrase she often hummed. During my time with her, I always found Sr. Emelia in the chapel before anyone else, her love and devotion to Our Blessed Mother Mary evident as she held the Holy Rosary in her hands, lips moving in prayer. Her hospitality made everyone feel valued and cared for. Visitors to the convent were always warmly welcomed, served tea and snacks with her characteristic kindness. She carried chocolates in her apron pockets, joyfully offering them to everyone she met—whether young or old, priest or religious. Whenever she encountered a child, her face lit up with joy, and she would sing for them, filling the atmosphere with happiness.

Though her work was humble, its impact was immeasurable. She was always grateful, even for the smallest acts of love shown to her. As we approach the first anniversary of her journey to heaven, let us give thanks to God and to Sr. Emelia for the invaluable contributions she made to our Congregation during her life on earth. May her spirit continue to inspire and uplift us all.

Sr. Janees Varghese
St. Mary's Convent, Agiamore



Recalling Sr. Emelia Tirkey A life filled with joy, devotion, love and gratitude



Some individuals leave an unforgettable mark on the lives of those around them, not through grand gestures of achievements, but through the warmth of their presence. Sr. Emelia Tirkey was such a person; who could bring smile on all those who met her.

I met Sr. Emelia when I was a novice in Siliguri. She radiated positivity and was always cheerful. As a young person I was so touched by her simplicity and humility. She used to make delicious soup with cabbage and send to the novices. Though I was not fond of either soup or cabbage the love with which she prepared changed all my attitude and taste. She had a way of making people feel valued and at ease. She used to ask us from where we were and greeted us all in our own dialects. I used to be so amazed to see a sister remembering so many languages and able to remember it for a long time. In the later years when I met her in Bandel and having being lived with her the last year of her life I realized that her cheerfulness was her way of life; uplifting others with laughter and encouragement. Her cheerfulness was contagious lighting up even the dulllest moments. She expressed her gratefulness with a bright smile and her facial expressions.

Another great virtue I saw in her was her sense of responsibility. She was constantly aware of locking the gates and reminded us to do the same. She walked around the convent, seeing the protection of everyone. Cleanliness was one of her cherished virtues. She kept everything tidy and organized even when she had dementia, she often went to the terrace to collect her cloths and settle things. Her peaceful demeanour and caring heart touched all who came in contact with her. The children and aspirants found joy in being with her. The aspirants who got chance to look after her were so happy and often told of the joy which they experienced. Her holiness and love for God made her like a little child trusting in God and others. She was able to grow old gracefully and spread the same grace around her. Sr. Emelia was blessed with good health, well into her late 80's and was able to move about except for a few months. She could speak till the last day except few hours before her death. We realized that her end was near, so the aspirants and sisters accompanied her with prayers. When the moment of farewell arrived, she looked upward as though seeing a vision beyond this world. A gentle smile graced her face and with a peaceful breath she left this life amidst prayers of the sisters and candidates.

Sr. Emelia was more than just a wonderful presence; she was a reminder that a cheerful spirit, a loving heart and a kind soul can make the world a better place. Though she is no more with us in person, her joyful spirit moves on among us.

Sr. Lincy Varghese
St. Mary's Convent, Kudda

Cherishing the Legacy of a Life Well Lived



Sr. Emelia Tirkey lived a remarkable life, spanning 90 years, yet remaining young at heart. Her humility and playfulness were evident in her response to inquiries about her age – she would always say she was younger, with a twinkle in her eye. Sr. Emelia's generosity was boundless. She would readily share her resources and offer kind words to those in need. Most importantly, she was generous with her prayers, often whispering, *"I am praying for all"* with the rosary in her hands. Her warm hospitality welcomed everyone.

When she was bedridden, I had the privilege of administering Holy Communion to her in the absence of Sr. Superior. After receiving communion, we would encouraged to say, *"Thank you Jesus, Praise you Jesus and Love you Jesus."* However, in her humility and gratitude, she would instead say, "Thank you sister." For every small act or help render to her, she would say thank you joyfully. She brought joy and vibrancy to the community with her favourite songs, which she would often sing with zest. Her choices included lively tunes like *"Aina dekhe khopa bandhe ure ganda phul"* and *"Hende sim pundi sim phata phataya."* As Sr. Emelia's life drew to a close, she was surrounded by love and prayer. With peaceful grace, she bid farewell to everyone, ready to meet her Creator. Her parting words were a heartfelt blessing for all who knew her. Sr. Emelia's life serves as a testament to the power of kindness, affection, serenity, compassion, simplicity and prayer. Her legacy will continue to inspire us all.

Sr. Christina Ekka
Ferrando Convent, Bandel



Heaven's light on Earth lived with Grace



Ninety years, yet young at heart,
With ageless joy, she played her part.
When asked her age, she said softly,
"A little less," and smiled away.

In giving hands, she knew no lack,
But prayers she never held them back.
"I pray for all," she always said,
Her whispered words lit up the day.

Her voice so sweet, a song so bright,
She sang with joy, her heart so light.
Obediently, she lifted her tune,
Spreading cheer like a shining moon.

No complains, no sighs of pain,
She embraced life of joys and sorrows.
With open hands and willing soul,
She made God's love her only goal.

Then came the day to say goodbye,
She met her Spouse beyond the sky
With love and prayers, her soul took flight,
A farewell wrapped in heaven's light.



Sr. Christina Ekka
Ferrando Convent, Bandel

Treasured Memories of a Beautiful Soul



“BE FAITHFUL IN SMALL THINGS BECAUSE IT IS IN THEM THAT YOUR STRENGTH LIES”.

St. Teresa of Kolkata

Sr. Emelia Tirkey was a pious and devout sister, always holding her Rosary and whispering prayers on her lips. As she entered the evening of her life, she grew even closer to the Lord, finding strength and joy in her deep prayer life, especially as her physical health declined.

Although I never had the opportunity to live with her, visiting her in Bandel was always a source of great joy. Her cheerful and grateful nature never failed to inspire me. Sr. Emelia's simplicity, approachability, and purity of soul made her a truly special person.

God, the author of life, found her worthy and called her to her eternal reward. Though I miss her dearly, the beautiful memories she left in my heart remain a lasting blessing. Sr. Emelia has been a source of inspiration and I firmly believe she now intercedes for all of us from above.

Dear Sr. Emelia, I miss you and will always cherish the love and grace you shared with us.

Sr. Agatha Rai
Ferrando Convent, Oodlabari



Fond memories of Sr. Emelia Tirkey

Sr. Emelia, for the first time I saw
Asked her name and place as normal so
Her face blossoms with a smile aglow.
Hails from Assam, from tea garden, you know?

Though her age is ripe, she always feels young.
Says 25 to whoever asks, with charm.
Stands erect and vibrant, enthusiastic
No worries, tension, peaceful, and calm.

Always happy, joyful, and gay.
Never sad or distressed anyway.
Expressing gratitude to visitors so
“Thank you, at least you came to see me ?”

For everyone, whether young or old.
Familiar or first time seeing for all
Always said, “After a long time, I am seeing you.”
Send off cheerfully, “God bless you.”

Time spent with her seems short.
Being with her, though, no words of thought
With her beautiful voice, she sang the songs.
And shared the laughter for no reason.

Tightly she held the rosary in her hand.
Walks upright, never cares.
Moves her lips as she goes
If asked, praying for you, she says.

In the chapel or at the refectory,
Talks and chats all made it jolly;
She has been a joker for many
Which lingers still in our memory.

Sr. Bellora Momin
St. Mary's Convent, Agiamore



A Heart that Prayed and Loved

Lovingly called 'Nanni' by all,
Her heart so warm, her spirit tall.
A gentle soul, a light so bright,
Her love is a beacon of hope and peace.

Her hands, so often clasped in prayer,
A rosary turned with tender care.
For each of us, she prayed with grace.
Her faith, a light we can't replace.

Her smile, a warmth that filled the air,
With love so deep, she gives to all.
Jovial and bright, she shared her heart,
Her kindness, a work of untold art.

She lived with joy, content and true,
In every moment, love grew.
A simple life, but rich in soul,
Nanni's love made broken hearts whole.

Now, in her rest, her prayers still rise,
Echoing through the endless skies.
Though we miss her in this world below,
Her spirit guides us on our way.

Rest, dear Nanni, rest in peace.
Your love and prayers will never cease.
Intercede for us now and always.
Adieu until we meet at Jesus feet.

Sr. Krisdalin Timung
Mariam Niwas, Nagaon

A Heart that Gave All

Sister Emelia, so full of grace,
With laughter lines upon her face,
Not from age, but joy she would share—
You'd feel her love just breathing air.

She smiled like sunshine after rain,
A quiet balm to ease your pain,
And even on the hardest days,
She would find a light in simple ways.

She laughed with life—not loud or grand,
But in the way she would hold your hand,
Or crack a joke when least you'd guess,
To lift your heart and ease your stress.

Hospitable down to her core,
You'd never feel outside her door.
Tea and time, she would always give—
In her warm way, she helped you live.

She didn't float like saints in books,
But walked with joy and knowing looks.
She knew life's weight, and still she chose
To be the kind where kindness grows.

So here's to her, with smiling eyes,
Who showed us where true love lies.
Her memory lingers—soft and bright,
A sister who made hearts feel light.

Sr. Regina Sunwar
Mariam Niwas, Nagaon

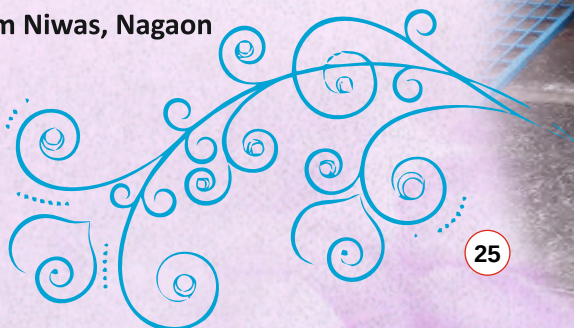
"A heart full of love: Reflecting on Sr. Emelia's impact"



Joy is brought to the community by a gentle heart and a simple mind. After two years of living with our dear Sr. Emelia Tirkey, I truly appreciate her purity and simplicity of heart. Oh, what a wonderful life she led as a religious person. She was the joy of every soul and in our community, her presence brought joy and blessings. She was loved by everyone, and she loved everyone. She was like a medicine for sadness because when she was around, no one could stay sad for long; all our sorrows vanished just by looking at her.

Dear Sr. Emelia, although you are no longer with us, your happy memories will always be with us. Now that you are sharing your delight and joy with Jesus, angels and saints in paradise, I am missing you, my dear loving Sister. Please pray for us from above till we can meet in person.

Sr. Iohdahun Bongrung
St. Mary's Convent, Kudda



Forever in our hearts



Some people leave footprints on our hearts—not just through their deeds, but with the warmth of their presence. Sr. Emelia Tirkey was one such soul—radiating joy, love, and simplicity, touching every life she encountered with her unwavering spirit of happiness. She was truly a candle in the dark, bringing light and warmth to all who knew her.

My encounter with her after my first profession at Ferrando Convent, Bandel, remains one of the most cherished experiences of my life. She deeply loved the young sisters and was always in our company, radiating warmth wherever she went. I will never forget the times we spent together—the laughter we shared, the joyful moments that made her presence so special. She carried an undeniable light, her radiance of joy sparkling with every step she took. We loved playing around her, and despite her age, she was never offended—her greatest joy was in making others happy. Whenever she was asked why she loved making others laugh, she would simply reply, *"To get to laugh."*

Her sweet voice still echoes in our hearts, calling us with love and affection: *"mini mini,"* meaning *"my niece."* Every conversation we shared remains a treasured memory, lingering in both our hearts and minds. Sometimes, we seem to hear her footsteps making their way towards the terrace, her favorite place, whispering prayers on her lips: *"Jisu Maria Joseph hampar daya kar"*. She was a woman of deep prayer, always united with God through ejaculatory prayers and the Rosary. She never failed to say, *"I am praying for all sisters, all fathers, and all children."* Her movements carried an angelic grace—she was both gracious and ever grateful. I feel so blessed to have lived alongside Sr. Emelia, a truly holy and saintly soul. I will never forget her gentle smile, which brought light to all who encountered her. Sr. Emelia remains forever in my heart and mind.

I love you, Sr. Emelia, and I pray that your humble life continues to be cherished by younger generations. You are now in heaven above—bless us so that we may follow your example and live lives of joy and peace.

You are forever in our hearts, dearest Sr. Emelia.

**Sr. Danisha Mary Lyngdoh
Mariam Niwas, Nagaon**



Sr. Emelia, a beacon of faith and love



Every person who comes in our lives is God's special gift. Life offers us with countless opportunities to connect with others and to celebrate the sweet, invaluable experiences that come from these encounters. It is my privilege to reflect on a few cherished moments spent with our late Sr. Emelia Tirkey, with whom I had the honour of living at Ferrando Convent Bandel. She consistently prayed, *"Jesus Mary and Joseph; I love you save souls."* This prayerful spirit inspired and has touched my life. Her cheerful disposition was contagious and her gentle moves and her lovely song allowed her to connect with many sisters and people. Sr. Emelia was a person whose life was a testament to dedication, faith and compassion. Her journey was marked by the selfless service she gave to others, and the deep love and care she brought to everything she did. It was a joyful moment for me to know her during my stay at Bandel. Sr. Emelia was known for her kindness and her unwavering commitment to the values that guided her life. Her generosity extended far beyond material gifts; she shared her heart with everyone around her. She used to be always clean, cheerful, and made everyone happy.

As a devoted member of her religious community, Sr. Emelia was an example of spiritual strength and humility. Her faith was the foundation of her life, and she inspired many through her prayers, actions, and unwavering devotion to God. Her humility was a guiding light, never seeking recognition or praise instead she focused on the well-being of others. She had a unique way of making people happy by her jovial nature. Sr. Emelia had the ability to offer comfort in moments of grief and advice in times of uncertainty. Her words were always filled with warmth and insight, leaving a lasting impact on those who were fortunate enough to know her.

Sr. Emelia will be remembered for her legacy of love, faith and kindness. She leaves behind not only memories but a powerful example of how to live a life filled with love and compassion. Her presence in this world made it better, and her spirit will continue to inspire and guide those who knew her. I raise my prayer of gratitude to God for gifting a beautiful soul among his people whose life has inspired and touched thousands of lives. May the lord grant her eternal reward and intercede for us from above.

Sr. Krestica Inghih
Auxilium convent, Siliguri



Reminiscing our dear Sr. Emelia with love



Sr. Emelia is a very precious sister, and everyone was inspired by her humility, obedience, cheerfulness, gratefulness, piety, and her love of God, Mother Mary, and St. Joseph. She was such a good sister that, to write down all her goodness, there wouldn't be enough paper. She cannot be compared to anyone because she was so unique and wonderful.

I feel so privileged to know and meet her in my life. Her love for Jesus was so tremendous. In the winter season, getting up early in the morning for Holy Mass is quite difficult even for the young, but Sr. Emelia would get up willingly. Whenever we woke her up to get ready for the Holy Mass, she would only say "Thank You" to anyone who helped her; even for the smallest thing, she would never miss or forget to say, "*Bahut Bahut Dhanyawad*" and everyone, starting from me, felt so happy to be in her presence, for she was so cheerful and full of virtues like a saint and an angel. She had so much concern for others whenever we visited her; she would wish us lovingly and used to ask, "*Have you finished eating?*" or "*How are you?*" If we answered not yet eaten, she would give us her sweet or chocolate, though she liked them so much. Her compassion for others made her share whatever little she had. One of the most evident virtues was that of obedience. If we asked her to do anything like sing, walk, dance, or bless, she would never say "No"; rather, she would do it willingly and cheerfully. She was a precious treasure for everyone in our community as well as the congregation because she had no partiality but treated everyone equally, imitating her good Lord, who is Love.

She lived her life to the full by doing God's will and bringing immense souls to Christ. We still feel her loving presence whenever we walk past to her room, and we are encouraged by her exemplary life to be obedient, grateful, prayerful, etc. Nothing could be comparable to her beautiful smile that she shared with every one of us. She usually said, "*I pray for all, all sisters, all children, all aspirants,*" even if we asked her to pray for individuals; she would say, "*I pray for all,*" assuring that she would really do it; such was Sr. Emelia. She received lot of love from everyone because she loved them all first. When she was weak physically, going to her creator, everyone, starting from small children, felt sad. But we just have to say that she belonged to God alone. We believe undoubtedly that she is in the house of God, where she sees Him face to face and adores Him with all the Angels and Saints and we ask her to send her blessings upon our community and pray for us. God bless us.

**Aspirant Lucy Dim Siam Muang
Ferrando Convent, Bandel**







“But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of
God and no torment shall touch them”.

(Wisdom 3:1)



GOOD BYE DEAREST SR. ANITA TOPNO

(19.07.2024)

*“And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast”.
1 Peter 5:10*

Dear and Rev. Fathers, Sr. Sini Mathew the Provincial Superior, the Provincial Councillors, sisters, family members, parents, brothers, friends and relatives of our beloved Sr. Anita Topno, I stand here deeply saddened by the departure of our beloved Sr. Anita Topno to her eternal reward yesterday morning! I wish to share with you our heartfelt condolences and prayerful accompaniment of the entire General Council and every member of our Congregation to all of you who mourn the early demise of our dear Sr. Anita Topno.

Having been blessed with a natural inclination towards caring for the sick and elderly, Sr. Anita dedicated her life to the service of the Church and the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians. Throughout the 29 years of her religious life, Sr. Anita remained steadfast in her faith, found solace in prayer and nurtured a deep love for the Eucharistic Lord. She lived out the values of the congregation, lovingly learning the languages and cultures of those she served, ensuring that everyone felt valued and cherished in her company. Her love for people knew no bounds and she endeared herself to all with her approachable nature and welcoming presence. As a devout missionary and compassionate nurse, she put others before herself and her life was a living testament to spiritual selflessness, unwavering faith, deep compassion, and boundless enthusiasm for missionary work. She had a special grace of devoting herself to serving others, and dedicated her life to spreading the message of love and hope, especially among the sick, the poor and the forgotten.

Sister Anita's commitment to her vocation was exceptional. She embraced challenges with grace and met them with determination, inspiring all who worked alongside her. Whether teaching, or nursing, or pastoral care, she always filled it with an abundance of kindness and offered solace to those in need. Her profound love for God and humanity shone brightly in every task that she undertook, leaving an indelible mark on everyone she encountered. In addition to her missionary zeal, Sister Anita possessed a gentle spirit and a warm heart that endeared her to both young and old. She was a beacon of light and a pillar of strength within our congregation and beyond.



As we all know, for the past five years, Sr. Anita was battling with cancer. But she did it bravely with unwavering faith and a never fading smile. She faced her illness with grace, never complained, and as an ideal nurse, cooperated totally with the medical procedures. Even amidst the crucial moments of her health crises, Sr. Anita's commitment to her spiritual practices was inspiring. She remained faithful and punctual to community moments of prayers and meals, leaving everyone in admiration for her disciplined and faithful spirit. She loved her community and the inmates, especially the elderly at Nirmala Niketan, Kerala and was there with them to the very end. All the sisters who lived with her, testified to her loving and daring spirit, and her ability to smile amidst pain and to spread love and joy.

Sr. Anita Topno's life resonated deeply with 1 Peter 5:10 "And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast." Throughout her battle with cancer, she demonstrated faith and service to others, enduring suffering as embodying the promise of God's grace, restoration, and strength. She leaves behind a legacy of love, faithfulness, and trust in God's eternal glory through Christ, inspiring all who knew her to persevere in faith and service despite life's challenges.

Beloved Sr. Anita, the Lord willed to call you home from amidst us, maybe because you were ready and fully resigned to His holy will and eternal plans. Though your time with us has been too brief, you have gone before us without regrets, having lived a life of profound purpose and devotion. You have touched countless lives with your loving and caring demeanour. Your infectious smile, brought joy to all who had the privilege of knowing you.

It is true that we mourn your loss deeply, but we also celebrate your remarkable life and the profound impact you have made on the world around you. Beloved sister Anita, as we bid you farewell today from this earthly life, we find solace in knowing that you have found eternal peace in the loving embrace of your Heavenly Father. May your soul rest in that eternal bliss. As we lay your lifeless body to rest, we are united with you, thanking the Lord for the precious gift of you to us and the invaluable lessons you have taught us by your life and suffering. Pray for us dear Sr. Anita, that we all have the grace to love the Lord and to trust him with unwavering faith. Do continue to inspire and guide us all.

Holding dear the cherished memories of you, we bid you Goodbye with love, until we meet again, in the eternal abode prepared for us before the foundation of the world. May you rest in peace our beloved sister. Eternal rest grant upon her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her...

May she rest in peace, Amen.

**Sr. Christine Mynsong
Superior General
MSMHC Generalate, Guwahati**



FUNERAL ORATION FOR SR. ANITA TOPNO

(19.07.2024)

*"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff,
they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4).*



The words of Psalm 23:4 is very much alive in the person of Sr. Anita Topno who lived her life in complete surrender to the will of God, an embodiment of versatility at all times. We have gathered here today in deep sorrow to honour and remember Sr. Anita Topno a devoted servant of God who has left us to join our Heavenly Father. This gathering is not only a time to mourn our loss but also to celebrate the beautiful life, Sr. Anita lived, a life dedicated to faith, service, and love. She was a remarkable person whose life touched each of us in unique and special ways. Sr. Anita departed from our midst yesterday on the 18 July 2024 in the presence of our dear sisters leaving behind a legacy that speaks volumes of her holiness of life. She is indeed a beacon of grace, known for her unwavering faith, diligent spirit, and gentle demeanour. Born into the devout family of Mr. Joachim Topno and Ms. Flora Bage of Kamdara Village, Jharkhand she is the only daughter and one and only sister of her two elder brothers, and we are glad that both of them are present with their families to bid farewell to their dear younger sister. We appreciate their being there with us also the presence of Fr. Florence Demta sdb and other relatives. With a profound sense of mission, she responded eagerly and wholeheartedly to God's call to bring His message of hope and comfort to those in need. Throughout her life as a dedicated religious and a professional nurse Sr. Anita tirelessly ministered to the poor and the sick offering them the invaluable gift of God's presence and healing love.

As I stand here, it is difficult to find the right words to express the depth of our loss, for words fall short in describing her person. She is known for her enduring capacity amidst trials and tribulations. True to her name Anita which means "grace" in Spanish, she was a source of inspiration, a shining light and a constant presence of warmth and kindness. She possessed the rare ability to make everyone feel valued and loved, and this gathering is a testament to the many lives she has touched. Her memories are etched in our hearts as we have witnessed the heroic life of Sr. Anita Topno. We all have our own memories of our dear Sr. Anita, the moments that we will carry with us for the rest of our lives. Some of us remember the laughter we shared, the adventures we embarked on, and the quiet moments of understanding. We recall the wisdom she imparted, the support she offered during tough times, and the joy she brought into everyone. These memories are now treasures, remains of Sr. Anita's spirit that live on in each of us.

Sr. Anita devoted her life to serving others with a sense of total commitment and great love. Her journey was marked by profound humility and an unshakeable vow to the values she held dear. She is a model of hard work and responsibility, diligently carrying out her duties with quiet determination. Her days were marked by acts of kindness, compassion, and a steadfast devotion to her religious calling. She approached every task with meticulous care, incarnating



the essence of conscientiousness and reliability. She worked in various communities in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. As a nurse, she cared for the sick with tenderness and skill, easing their suffering and bringing them solace. As a superior, she led her community with humility and grace, fostering an environment where all felt welcomed and cherished. As a touring sister, she travelled far and wide, spreading the Gospel message through her words and actions. And as a teacher, she imparted wisdom and faith to her students, nurturing their spiritual growth and guiding them on their own paths of service. Sr. Anita was a dynamic and itinerant missionary, echoing the spirit of our founder Ven. Stephen Ferrando in her tireless service and perpetual motion. She embraced her calling with fervour, traversing distant lands and taking on diverse groups of people with open arms and a heart full of empathy. Her enthusiastic spirit mirrored her profound belief in the universality of God's love and the boundless reach of her mission. Her journey was one of trust and confidence in God. She carried with her the light of faith and the warmth of her compassionate soul. Her encounters with people from all walks of life left an indelible mark, inspiring many to embrace the values of love, humility, and service. Though her earthly journey has come to an end, Sr. Anita's legacy as a roving missionary continues to resonate through her enduring impact of spreading God's love to the far corners of the world.

Endurance was the hallmark of Sr. Anita's expedition in her life and mission. Through the trials and challenges that marked her alleyway, she remained steadfast in her commitment to her faith and Vocation. Her spirit was indomitable, drawing strength from her deep-rooted trust in her Divine Master. Her every action and decision were guided by this love, which illuminated her calling and infused her service with kindness and fondness.

Throughout her battle with cancer since 2019, Sr. Anita's faith in God never wavered. Her relationship with her Divine Master deepened, becoming a source of comfort and guidance during her most challenging moments. She faced her illness with remarkable grace and fortitude, never, once allowing her personal struggles to overshadow her commitment to her vocation and faith. She bore the physical test of her illness with a silent strength, hope in God and resilience that inspired all who knew her. Her enduring spirit was an inspiration of optimism and verification to the force of faith in overcoming adversity. She made no complaints about her declining health. Her focus remained steadfast on serving others and fulfilling her religious duties with keenness and love. She approached each day with a serene acceptance of God's plan for her life, finding relief in prayer and drawing strength from her deep spiritual convictions.

On 6th July 2024 she was brought back to Bandel from Kerala owing to her deteriorating health and she was surrounded by our sisters, family and friends. Ever since her arrival to Bandel she was found with difficulty in movements, breathing and was becoming weak. Yet, Sr. Anita remained calm, serene, deeply grateful to the congregation, her superiors, and the dedicated medical professionals who cared for her with compassion and skill. She expressed her gratitude with humility and sincerity, recognizing and cherishing the support and care she received with a heart full of appreciation and was well prepared to be in the embrace of her beloved, Jesus. Sr. Anita lived her life with a sense of purpose and passion that was truly inspiring. She had a way

of seeing the best in people, encouraging us to strive for our dreams, and reminding us of the importance of love and kindness. She bore witness to the passion of Christ in her body through the sufferings she underwent while she possessed an enduring smile and her lips moved in constant prayer to God in praise and supplications. Whether through her prayers, her acts of charity, or her gentle words of encouragement Sr. Anita was a beacon of light and hope for all who knew her.



As we move forward, let us carry her spirit with us, striving to live our lives in a way that honours her memory and the values she held dear. We are confident that she continues to intercede for us, praying for our holiness and well-being, guiding us from her place of glory.

I am reminded of the words of John Donne from the poem "Death be not proud."

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee,
Mighty and dreadful, for thou are not so;
For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow,
not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.
rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,
Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow,
And soonest our best men with thee do go,
One short sleep past, we wake eternally
And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.



Death opens a space in which a different kind of talk is possible, a different kind of remembering and a different kind of thinking are possible. As we continue with this memorial, dear Sisters and brothers, let us share our stories, our tears, and our laughter. Let us remember Sr. Anita, who is known for her, vibrant spirit, loving nature, and a person possessing extraordinary qualities within. May the beautiful soul of our dear Sr. Anita Topno rest in God's abode and may we find peace in the knowledge that her spirit will always be with us, guiding and comforting us as we continue on, our own journeys of faith. Rest peacefully, dear Sr. Anita, in the presence of the Lord, whom you loved and served so faithfully.

As we celebrate this Eucharist, we commend your soul to the Lord and pray that he clothes your soul in the garment of salvation and give you a rightful place to dwell with him forever in the heavenly mansion. Intercede for us before Jesus, beloved Sr. Anita Topno.

Sr. Sini Mathew MSMHC
Provincial Superior
Mary Immaculate Province, Kolkata



Fond Remembrance

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith” (2 Tim 4:7).*



The words of St. Paul are very much true in the life of our dear Sr. Anita Topno. She knew very well that the blessings she looked forward to had been provided, as she held on her faith in the one to whom she committed her entire life. Sr. Anita was an amazingly brave woman, who faced all difficult situations of life with undaunted courage and faith. She had the ability to endure hardship without bitterness or despair.

It was in May 2019 Sr. Anita was diagnosed colon cancer. The news was shocking, as she was the first person in the province to be diagnosed with cancer. As she travelled to Kerala with this fatal illness, none of us knew that she will stay on in Kerala and become part of Nirmala Niketan community. She co-operated well with her treatment and happily responded to the care given to her. She was gentle, calm and generated joy around. She lived in joyful surrender the last five years of her life, because she knew the purpose of her life. Her unflinching faith in God and to the Superiors was very visible in her life journey. The joyful acceptance of sickness proved that she was preparing to meet the Lord.

We, the members of the community of Nirmala Niketan would like to express our sentiments of gratitude for all what she had been to the community and mission over here. Sr. Anita could manage any area of work, in spite of the language barrier and ill health. From the moment she felt better, after the first phase of treatment, she had been very active in the community for almost three and half years. She was everywhere, cleaning the house, helping in kitchen, helping in Parish for weekly cleaning and decorations, welcoming guests and preparing their rooms, etc. Her presence brought in much relief and comfort to every member in the community. She also found joy in maintaining the flower garden and did as much as possible to add beauty and colour. In every way, she made effort to contribute to the community and all the inmates.

She was very friendly with the parish people and was able to communicate God's love through her few words of Malayalam and smile. She took pain in learning Malayalam. She was able to read to certain extent and by hearted all the possible prayers. Many people kept enquiring about her health condition when she was unable to go for Holy Mass. Her friendly and compassionate nature with the senior citizens in the house was very much appreciated. She spent time with them listening and doing little things for them. She was with senior citizens daily an hour of adoration and Rosary. Her active participation in adoration and rosary is very much valued and our senior citizens enjoyed her presence. She knew very well the medicines of each of them and she could easily dispense those. She was available even at night to assist the inmates who were sick. She also taught sisters to be more organised in maintaining the medical record and follow up the medicines of each of them. She really practiced the fifth Gospel, even though she was not familiar with the place and language.

She foresaw the needs of others and reached out to all in need. She thought of the comfort of

others and went many extra miles with her love and kindness. She was energetic and enthusiastic, vibrant and young in spirit, courageous and optimistic. Her conversations were always encouraging others to think positive and to do good in life. She always spoke the truth in love, expressed her opinions firmly, but gently, and always with respect. Dear Sr. Anita, we treasure the time we spent with you in the community and thank God for the blessings He showered upon us through you. Your life of fidelity, commitment to your mission, unflinching devotion and your loving nature, will continue to inspire us.



Adieu dear Sr. Anita till we meet at Jesus feet!

Sr. Molly James
Superior, Nirmala Niketan, Kerala



We Will Miss You Dear Sr. Anita Topno



“Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I'll give you rest" was the invitation given by our Lord to Sr. Anita Topno at the early dawn of yesterday (18.07.2024). Sr. Anita literally received this invitation of our Lord, and flew to heaven silently free from all her pain, and struggles of life.

With heavy hearts and tear-filled eyes, we received the news of the untimely passing away of our beloved batch mate Sr. Anita Topno. Yes, the Lord who was the author of her life called Sr. Anita back to himself, who was her sole companion during her last 5 years of extreme lone journey of life.

On behalf of my batch mates 52 of us, I stand here to accord our heartfelt love, prayers and gratitude to Sr. Anita Topno for being with us during the last 29 years of her life as a true friend to each of us and the unceasing prayers she had offered for us especially during her last 5 painful years of her earthly sojourn. Today as we stand before her lifeless body, we treasure the sweet memories of our living together and with deep sorrow we raise our minds and hearts to God in prayer for the repose of her soul.

Bloom where you are planted is the beautiful song of symphony comes to our mind when we remember our dear friend Sr. Anita Topno. She bloomed to the full wherever she was sent and emanated the fragrance of God's love to everyone around and whomever she served. She was a person of deep faith and full of indomitable courage. She lived her commitment wonderfully well till the end.

We knew the untold suffering she was going through these past 5 years of her life, yet we never heard a whisper of regret or complain about her illness instead she faced it bravely and thus, today she stands as a model for all of us. After knowing fully well the seriousness of her fatal illness she was more fervent and sacrificing in carrying out her responsibility and being faithful in living her commitment to the full. Her fight against cancer was marked by incredible strength and resilience. Even in the face of immense challenges, Sr. Anita remained positive and hopeful, becoming a source of inspiration to us and to all who came into her life. Her courage and determination to suffer for the sake of Christ were truly reflected in her silent suffering. She was ever ready to meet her beloved Lord. We were professed 65, and sad to say that Sr. Anita is the 3rd member to succumb to this fatal illness Cancer.

In God alone she sufficed. And this she proved through her very life of involvement in the daily chores of her community activities cheerfully and welcomed each day as God given opportunities to be battled with in the midst of pain and helplessness. In Sr. Anita we lost a genuine friend, an authentic missionary above all a beloved batch mate of 29 long years of our togetherness. Yet, we feel proud today that she has gone ahead of us to meet her Lord in heaven to intercede for us.

With deep sentiments of sorrow, we cherish your sweet memories of cheerful life and bid you good bye dear Sr. Anita till we meet again in the kingdom of God.

Sr. Ancy Joseph
St. Mary's Bhavan, Dumka
Batchmate of Sr. Anita (1995)

Sr. Anita Topno- A life lived for others



Sr. Anita Topno was a simple soul known by most MSMHC. She had the enduring power as I have witnessed in a particular case: once when the school community was going for a picnic, she stayed back as she was not keeping well. Meantime, she was undergoing acute pain and called for a woman of the parish to help her. She tried her level best to soothe her pain, but in vain, so she was rushed to the hospital. In spite of the great pain, she remained serene and peaceful with a beautiful smile and welcomed everybody.

She had the great power of endurance and accepted the pain with much love for Jesus Christ her Divine spouse. She was always other-centred. She never cared for herself, rather for others and their well-being. She was already sick then but was not aware of it; she went to the villages walking and most of the time without food as her stomach could not adjust to it any longer. Sr. Anita Topno was indeed an exceptional soul who would go to the extent of meeting the needs of others, forgetting her own self to make known the love of God and to spread His kingdom. I wish I could have a little bit of that spirit to a blessing for others to reach out to many and to save a thousand souls.

**Sr. Jacinta Bhengra, Vice-Provincial
Maayer Asha, Ichapur**



A Flower that has blossomed in the garden of God's love



Sr. Anita Topno proved that her life is a mission. No more looking forward to achieving evangelical heroism by seeking martyrdom or persecuted life, as in the case of Sr. Anita. We remember what Paul wrote to Timothy 'it is sanctified by God's Word and by prayer' (1 Tim 4:5). God had a different plan for Sr. Anita with the diagnosis 'Carcinoma Colon' from May 2019. With this she was compelled to be away from the active mission to mission that is within the walls. Her life speaks that the primary task is to preach the Gospel in today's world not by pressure or coercion, but by compassion and tenderness in the given situation.

Looking at the past years of her life in community, we are privileged to have her. Her role in the community was not something specific but she did get inserted in the various activities of the house. Sr. Anita remained wholly faithful to the vows she made to the Lord. She inspired others to face the challenges of life joyfully. It was easy to take care of her as she co-operated with the medication and the care given. Often travelling to hospital was never a burden, but it was relaxing hours. Occasionally, she had to be in bed with discomfort, but to the sisters she says 'I will be okay by tomorrow', expressing it very pleasingly. Her cheerfulness and laughter stimulated and inspired one to take religious life more faithfully. Her passion for mission was not diminished during her illness as she kept doing whatever possible from the limited opportunity. She enjoyed doing small things, with great love making the work of others easier. While living with Cancer she made every effort to adapt the culture of Kerala where she was placed. She learnt in local language, the prayers, devotional hymns and tried to communicate with others, picking up the essentials. This empowered her to be with senior citizens and more participatory during daily adoration with them. Her dedication and commitment were very evident throughout her life.

"A religious must be ready to teach or to go to kitchen, to look after the cleanliness of the house, or to stay in the playground with the children, because we have only one desire to please our Lord and to do what pleases Him", exhorted Ven. S. Ferrando. It was very much true; the disease did not keep her back from living the urgings of our beloved Founder. Sr. Anita was happy to spend time in the garden, kitchen, cleaning rooms, talking with senior citizens etc. She found joy in doing something every day. Whatever she did, she made sure that it was done perfectly. Sr. Anita was very much aware that life is very short and every passing hour is precious which can never get back. Her life proved that the time left should be used rightly for His mission. She made use of the opportunities available in the community to serve others in various ways. Talking to senior citizens and listening to them was another important mission she could do joyfully while she was sick.

"Be simple with people, your simplicity and availability, will bring people closer to you and people will love you, more and more, which will help you to love God and people" Ven. S. Ferrando. Hospitality and availability are part of MSMHC way of life. The community



could enjoy the presence of Sr. Anita and it could depend on her for many things. Celebrations are part of Salesian spirituality and it plays a great role to keep the community vibrant. Sr. Anita would be the first person to take initiative, to make it more creative and participatory by everyone. She was found more active on such days and be around to make everyone happy and energetic with her laughter and fun. Her presences particularly during celebrations were very visible and cheering. Her sincere love and gratitude to the congregation made her to be what she was. Her joyful participation is something to be valued and copied in one's life.

God has a specific plan for each of us. For Sr. Anita the illness brought her closer to Jesus. The intimate closeness with Jesus gave her the energy to face the last part of her life cheerfully. She shared the joy and her experience of the Lord with all those who visited her in hospital for the last time. When sought her consent to go for further treatment and to make a final decision, she said "I do not want to give you any trouble, I shall do whatever the province ask of me, I am ready to leave for Kolkata now." The cheerful departure from Nirmala Niketan home after having lived for five years, showed her detachment from the world and attachment to the Lord. Sr. Anita bid a fitting good bye to everyone, leaving a joyful note of blessing. Later at Bandel, Sr. Anita asked for the anointing of the sick as final preparation to meet the Lord. She said "I have to be ready for anytime, better to receive it". Satisfaction and gratefulness had become part of her. She proved that our mission is nothing but preaching the gospel by life.

Sr Anita was smiling even when she knew that her days in this world are just countable. She did not want further hospitalization but wanted to remain peacefully in the presence of Sisters in the convent. She could say with prophet Habakkuk, "I will rejoice in the Lord, I will exult in the God of my salvation" (Hab 3: 18). The following words were often on her lips, "I am always grateful, I pray for you all". During the last few months

Sr. Anita remained composed, serene and in complete acceptance of the sickness. She resigned to the will of God in joyful surrender and breathed her last in calm and tranquillity. May the soul of Sr. Anita rest in eternal peace and may she intercede for us that we too may prepare for a peaceful evening of our lives.

Sr. Molly James, Superior
Nirmala Niketan, Nedungapra



A Life of Faith, Service and Simplicity

“We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord” – 2 Corinthians 5:8.



As I remember Sr. Anita Topno, especially during her final months of life, I am filled with admiration for the faith, endurance and even joy in suffering that she displayed until her last breath. Despite the intense pain and suffering she endured; Sr. Anita silently carried her burdens without ever complaining. Throughout the course of her suffering, the Lord strengthened her, confirming her in her pain and calling her to a place of light and love.

Sr. Anita's life was characterized by simplicity, serenity, gentleness and an unwavering focus on serving others. She was humble and innocent, always attuned to the needs of those around her. During the three years we spent together at Nirmala Niketan in Kerala, I witnessed firsthand her willingness to make sacrifices with joy and dedication. She strived to fulfil every duty and responsibility with utmost care, even learning Malayalam so that she could read, write and converse with the people. She was always ready to serve the needs of the community at any time.

May the beautiful soul of Sr. Anita Topno now have the privilege of seeing the face of God. May her soul rest in peace.

**Sr. Merlyn Jacob, Superior
Auxilium Convent, Siliguri**



A Beacon of Compassion and Missionary Zeal

Sr. Anita Topno was a very affectionate, loving, caring, generous, cheerful, humble, and hardworking person. She was always approachable and dedicated to her work. When I was In Oodlabari, I had the opportunity to visit Patibari Tea Garden for marriage class preparations, and Sr. Anita was there as an excellent teacher. I learned a lot from her, especially how to encourage others, offer prayers and reach out to people in need.

When she was in good health, Sr. Anita visited many families, making friends with both the young and the old. As a nurse, she took care of the sick, and many people were healed through her care. She was a living example of a simple soul who trusted in God's plan. Her missionary zeal and enthusiasm helped to bring many people closer to God.

Even when Sr. Anita was ill, she bore her suffering cheerfully, offering it up to the Lord. Through her faith, she brought blessings to all of us. She lived a graceful life and has now received her eternal reward. Sr. Anita was a faithful religious, and I pray that she enjoys eternal happiness and continues to bless us from above.

**Sr. Emerencia Ekka
Lourd Prakash Bhawan, Ranchi**



My Heartfelt Memories of Sr. Anita Topno



As I sit, penning down few words on our beloved Sr. Anita Topno, my heart is overwhelming with a mixture of sweet memories and deep gratitude. I am so thankful for the privilege of knowing her personally, and the beautiful moments we shared. We journeyed together from the aspirant days onwards. We spent time together in Barpeta for a few months, and then two years at Borpukhri, Tezpur, for our P.U. studies. After completing our studies, on December 8th, 1991, we received our postulant medal, and spent a few more months together at Damra, continuing our formation. But then, Sr. Anita had to clear some subjects, which led to our separation for a while. During our P.U studies, we shared a lot of laughter, fun, tears and struggles as we walked the path together. Even after our profession, we stayed in touch through letters, phone calls and checking on each other's well-being. I visited her a few times when she was in Dhajea community and Pindari, and I accompanied her on family visits to attend to the sick. Sr. Anita's gentle hands and tender smile made her a comfort to those in need. She never once said "no" but was always ready to serve others.

When she left for treatment in Kerala, she would often call or text me, sending me warm and encouraging messages. I remember many times she uplifted my spirit, saying, 'Rose I can't no longer do now like what I was doing before, but I'm really praying for you that you may continue to do good as long as your health allows you to do, at the same time, remember me at the Lord's feet, pray for me that I may remain steadfast till the end. A year before she moved to Bandel, she asked me to visit her in Kerala, a request I

thought would be impossible to fulfill. Then, one time when she was feeling a bit better, she asked me, "Rose, will you come for my funeral?"

When she arrived in Bandel and her days were numbered, I visited her on July 16th, along with Sr. Rita Kullu and Sr. Taramani Kujur. We spent precious time with her, and the next morning before we left, we sat beside her once again. With great effort, she thanked each of us with a feeble voice and joined in prayer with us. On July 17th, I returned to Boropahari, and the following morning, July 18th, I was stunned to hear the sad news that Sr. Anita had passed away. She had gone to the place of Eternal Rest.

Dear Sr. Anita Topno, your selfless love and dedication have touched my heart deeply. You have inspired so many of us to walk the path of kindness and humility. You taught us to embrace simplicity, to find strength in prayer and to always serve others with love.

The memories of your guidance and care will always remain in my heart. Thank you for being such a beautiful soul, a true reflection of God's love and mercy. These sweet memories of your guidance and care will ever linger engraved in my heart. Thank you for being such a beautiful soul and a true replication of God's love and mercy.

*Ribbons are blue, reminds me of you,
There will be no another you;
Dear Sr. Anita Topno,
For everything thank you.*

**Sr. Rose Khriam, Superior
Maria Nivas, Boropahari**

A beacon of dedication, lighting the path of service and commitment in MSMHC



I am deeply grateful to share on my experience with Sr. Anita Topno, a person so special and a faithful, dedicated member of the MSMHC. From the time we were postulants, I became a close friend with Sr. Anita. We lived together, supporting each other in studies and she always helped me with her knowledge of English and various activities. She had a special love for me, and I, too, loved her very much. Unfortunately, we were separated during Postulancy as she stayed back for another year to complete her studies while I entered the novitiate.

After her first profession, she was sent to the community where I was at St. Mary's Convent Pasara, Andhra Pradesh, which gave me another opportunity to live with her for two more years. This was a golden chance for us to reconnect, share experiences, care for each other and even learn Telugu. We quickly became proficient in speaking Telugu and embraced the local culture which helped us in our catechism classes. The people were simple and humble, making our work with them a joyful experience. After the division of the Province, I had the privilege of staying with her again in three different communities, experiencing a wide range of moments with her. Sr. Anita worked wholeheartedly without complaints, always with a smile on her face. People loved her and she had a natural ability to connect with them. As a nurse, Sr. Anita's vibrant and energetic personality was a gift to everyone she encountered. She was always cheerful, optimistic, and passionate, bringing joy to others. Her love, laughter, acceptance of others and ability to connect with people of all ages made her mission and ministry truly

successful.

When Sr. Anita was brought to Bandel, Sr. Provincial announced that those who wanted to visit her could come. I immediately asked for permission from Sr. Provincial, and she kindly allowed me to visit. Along with my batchmates, Sr. Rita Kullu and Sr. Rose Khriam, we planned to visit Sr. Anita. When we arrived, she recognized us immediately, calling out our names with joy. We spent the whole day with her, praying and encouraging her during the painful moments of her last days. We thanked her for her immense service and sacrifices to the Church, the Congregation and each of us. She, in turn, thanked us and blessed us.

After our visit, we left at 1:30 pm, heading back to our respective communities. The next morning, as I checked my WhatsApp message, I learnt that Sr. Anita had passed away. While I felt sorrowful, I was also at



peace knowing that I had the opportunity to meet her for the last time and support her during her pain.

Dear Sr. Anita Topno, I will always treasure the times we shared in the community. I thank God for the blessings you poured into my life. Your life of fidelity and commitment to your mission will continue to inspire me. I am grateful for the wonderful example you set and the many good experiences we had together. I will cherish those memories forever.



Goodbye, Sr. Anita. May your beautiful soul rest in peace!

**Sr. Taramani Kujur, Superior
Nirmala Sadan, Khategaon, Indore**



**A soul of compassion, a heart of service: remembering
Sr. Anita's inspiring legacy.**

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints” (Psalm 116:15).

Sr. Anita Topno was an exceptional and distinguished missionary, known for her compassionate nature and profound commitment to serving others. Her presence in the community and among those she encountered was a source of comfort and healing. I had the privilege of sharing a year with Sr. Anita during our Postulancy at Damra. Our Superior had entrusted us with a specific duty: to rise promptly at 4:30 am and chase the parrots from the coconut trees. I admired Sr. Anita's strong sense of responsibility, as she consistently adhered to the schedule, and on several occasions, she would courteously remind me of the time.

It was undoubtedly part of God's divine plan for her to endure prolonged suffering. However, amid her pain, she exhibited extraordinary patience and maintained a joyful demeanour. For me it was a sign of the interior peace that she possessed and her abandonment to the Lord's will. I was struck by her serenity and the resignation with which she had accepted her sickness.

God, in His divine wisdom, deemed her worthy to be in His eternal presence and has called her from our midst. Though the loss of a loved one is a profound sorrow, we are called to submit to God's will and trust in His sovereign plan.

**Sr. Baiju George, Superior
Ferrando Convent, Malbasey**



A life of Humility and care



Sr. Anita was a close friend of mine, both as an aspirant in Borpukehuri, Assam, and as a postulant in Damra. We were together in Dhajea in 2007, where we shared many meaningful experiences. I remember the times we would go on family visits and sick calls, climbing the hills, even during the rainy season. She never hesitated to go, even if it was at night or in the worst of weather. Sr. Anita was a humble, cheerful and adaptable person. One memory that stands out is when we would visit the village, especially during the rainy season. The steep hills would make it hard for her to descend, so she would sit down and walk slowly, but she was always happy and never complained. We would cross the river to get to Balasan village and despite the challenges, we always enjoyed ourselves. The people in the villages loved her for her friendly and patient nature, especially when it came to caring for the sick.

I recall an instance when a man was brought to us with severe bleeding after a fight. He tried to claim he had fallen down, but Sr. Anita, with her honesty, knew something wasn't right. She gently asked the man's family to tell the truth. The man's sister-in-law, fearful of the consequences, offered to pay, but Sr. Anita was firm and said, "This is the house of God; do not come here with lies." Eventually, they admitted the truth, and Sr. Anita gave them a valuable lesson about honesty, reminding them that God sees everything.

Sr. Anita was very passionate about her nursing duties. She had a deep patience and commitment, even when she spent two days attending to a difficult delivery. When the mother finally delivered the baby, no one offered her any money. Yet, Sr. Anita simply

smiled and said, "It's alright, the child is safe." She always reminded us that while she did her duty, only God could heal. Her kindness and cheerfulness were remembered by everyone. When we used to visit the tea garden managers, they always appreciated her positivity. After she was transferred, they would ask, "Where is that smiling sister?" They still remembered her for her simplicity and warm smile.

I also remember how she used to teach catechism classes on Saturdays. One time, she was teaching the Ten Commandments to older children. When she came to the commandment, "You shall not commit adultery," a woman in the class, who had ran away with a Catholic man, asked her, "Sister, I didn't know it was wrong, but my husband knew. Why did he let me do it?" Sr. Anita responded kindly, "It's alright, you didn't know before, but now you know. Be faithful to him and don't run away again. Be a good Catholic and a good mother."

When Sr. Anita was sick, we didn't get the chance to meet in person, but she always kept in touch through phone calls. She would always ask how I was doing and reassure me that she was praying for me. Her care for me was a true reflection of her love and friendship. Sr. Anita was a remarkable person humble, loving and always ready to help others.

Sr. Philomina Kharryja
Ferrando convent, Ambari
(Batchmate 1995)



Reminiscence of a True Friend (Sr. Anita Topno)



It says time and tide waits for none, so with our life here on earth. We are only passers by, yet we make our own castles to stay in forever despite the fact of recognizing our true HOME in Heaven.

The Holy Bible says, “Our citizenship is in heaven” (Phil 3:20) so all our endeavours here on earth is only a time being errands. It is very true in the case of Sr. Anita Topno who lived a short while on this earth and left for her permanent home recently. Personally I was very close to Sr. Anita and whenever I remember her, I feel nostalgic about our being together, sharing and the loud laughter at the end of each meeting. I met her last in Maayer Asha Ichapur, in 2019 taking photos for our next year silver jubilee as were instructed to send it earlier to the provincial secretary. Fortunately or unfortunately, we didn't celebrate our jubilee together due to pandemic and we never met again as she went down south for her treatment. In fact I never knew that it was my last meeting with Sr. Anita. But when I heard that she was going through intense suffering I called her up and spoke with her; and even in that terrible suffering she was consoling me rather than I console her. That was her nature.

Sr. Anita was altruistic and always had a soft corner for others. When she heard that she was suffering from advanced cancer she didn't get shattered instead accepted it as God's will for her life.

She was a good friend of mine. Being batch mates we lived 2 years together, one year of aspirantate in Barpeta Road and one year in Damra, as a postulant. Our novitiate was different for we were 73 novices altogether. Since the number was so huge we were divided into two groups and so Sr. Anita was in Mawroh novitiate and my novitiate

was in Tezpur.

As far as I know Sr. Anita was courageous and willing to take up any task assigned to her. She was firm in taking decisions and was also a person deeply rooted in her practices of piety, she was humorous and a good friend to all, a great missionary, genuine in her approach to others. Her enduring capacity was admirable, five long years of her suffering made her holy and simple. She never lamented over her sicknesses and pain but gracefully accepted God's will in everything. I have heard from other sisters that, though she was suffering intensely she never took holidays from doing her daily chores and of being non participatory in the community's activities, instead joined the community activities full well and made herself feel that she too belonged to them.

Lastly, she expressed that she was grateful to everyone for praying for her and taking care of her till the end. Acknowledging deeply the love, care and concern the sisters who took care of her right from the beginning, the best of treatment and the unceasing prayers of her batch mates made her feel comforted and lessened her pain each day. When I pen down these few words in honour of her I feel proud that she has completed her earthly sojourn and reached her permanent place where she supposed to be and later each one of us also. Therefore I am certain, that she will definitely intercede for us from heaven.

Dear Sr. Anita Adieu till we meet again in heaven and continue to intercede for us to complete our earthly sojourn benevolently.

**Sr. Ancy Joseph
St. Mary's Bhavan, Dumka
(Batchmate 1995)**

A Life of Selfless Service and Smiles

*“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death”
(Romans 8:1-2).*



Sharing my life with Sr. Anita Topno over the past two years has been a true blessing. I remember her with deep love and gratitude. She always wore a smile, even when enduring great pain and hardship. She was contented and happy with whatever was provided, always thankful to the Mother Congregation. Sr. Anita was an exceptional nurse who dedicated her time and energy in to caring for the people in the villages. Even when she was bedridden, she was still ready to serve others.

Her hospitality was unmatched; everyone who came into her presence felt at home. Despite her pain, she made every effort to join the community for meals and prayers. Her smile brought life and joy to everyone around her, especially to elderly parents and those who came in contact with her. People, who came to visit, expecting to find her bedridden, were amazed to see her walking around with a smile on her face, right in the midst of her personal struggles with her illness.

Her life was truly an inspiration to all, especially for those who are sick or facing challenges. I personally experienced her love, encouragement and care, and I thank God for the opportunity to live alongside such a saintly person. I believe she continues to intercede for us from above.

Sr. Elcita George
Nirmala Niketan, Nedungapra

Grace, generosity, and love: Her heart of gold lives on

Some are born to serve, to love and to give – no matter the cost. Sr. Anita Topno was a true missionary, a nurse whose heart knew no limits when it came to caring for others. For her nursing was not just a profession; it was a calling, a sacred mission she embraced with unwavering dedication.

Hardworking and tireless, she gave her all, to those in need. She faced everything with determination. Long hours, difficult situations and personal sacrifices never deterred her. She never said no to sacrifices, always putting the well being of others before herself. Even in the face of her own suffering, she remained a beacon of strength. As cancer took toll, she never let pain overshadow her compassion. She still smiled, still cared, still showed concern for others. Her spirit refused to be broken, and her love never wavered. I have never seen her angry or sad, even in the midst of negative situations she could be calm and composed and give her best to others.



For her, mission was everything. Whether in the school or dispensary she gave all without expecting in return, embodying the true spirit of love and service. When people were so demanding she could work day and night fulfilling her responsibilities. She carried out every responsibility with grace and selflessness. She carried herself with dignity radiating warmth and kindness until her final days. I remember her when she was taken to Kerala for treatment though helpless with radiation and chemo still she struggled to smile and say a word of thank you. She was such an amazing person never uttered a word of complaint to God even jokingly. She used to talk with all the mothers over there learning from them Malayalam and within no time she picked up the singing and prayers and leading others to prayer. She was truly an inspiration for me how to accept difficult situations when it touches the core of our being. She could be a model for us to learn how to give oneself selflessly. Though difficult to practice the extraordinary endurance she possessed, she owes a standing ovation of ours. Though suffered much for five years her last hour was peaceful as though she never suffered. She didn't lose her consciousness but was very much aware of what was happening. She thanked everyone and when the time came she passed away peacefully surrounded by prayers and the love of those who cherished her. A gentle smile graced her face; a witness to a life well-lived a mission well-fulfilled.

She lived a life of extraordinary service and love. Though she is no longer here with us yet, her sweet smile, her life of legacy remains in the heart of those she healed, comforted and inspired. Thank you dear Sr. Anita for having been a loving sister to me, remembering me daily with prayerful wishes. I miss you till we meet in heaven.

Sr. Lincy Varghese
St. Mary's Convent, Kudda

A saintly soul becomes the beloved of the Lord

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:4).

This verse perfectly reflects the life of Sr. Anita Topno, who, after a long and brave battle with cancer, has now entered eternal rest. Sr. Anita was a simple and dedicated religious sister whose life inspired me deeply. I had the privilege of living with her at St. Mary's Convent, Agiamore, Jharkhand (2011-2012). As a house economer and nurse sister, her tireless services to the community and the sick was extraordinary. Known as "Doctor Sister," she cared for everyone, often saving lives even at midnight, especially those suffering from snake bites.

In 2019, when she was confined to her sick bed, I was blessed to spend six months with her. Her unwavering faith, patience, and endurance during her suffering were truly inspiring. Despite her pain, she prayed, read the Bible and greeted visitors with a warm smile. Sr. Anita may no longer be with us physically, but her love, faith and good deeds remain in our hearts.

Sr. Agatha Rai
Ferrando Convent, Oodlabari

May her soul rest in eternal peace.

A Loving Tribute to Sr. Anita Topno



I am grateful to have had the opportunity to share my life with Sr. Anita Topno, a truly remarkable individual. I vividly remember her visit to our convent in Ambari, where I was a newly professed sister. She embarked on a journey to a nearby village to recruit kitchen staff and I was privileged to accompany her.

During our trip, I was deeply impressed by Sr. Anita's exceptional qualities. Her simplicity, humility and readiness to serve were inspiring. Her friendly demeanour and warm hospitality made everyone feel at ease. Even in challenging situations, she remained calm and composed, exuding a sense of peacefulness.

One particular incident that left a lasting impression on me was when we faced difficulties in finding transportation back to the convent. Sr. Anita's calm strength and guidance helped us find a solution. Her selflessness, wisdom and dedication to serving others continue to inspire me to this day. Though our time together was brief, Sr. Anita's impact on my life has been profound. I am thankful for the opportunity to have known her.

Sr. Christina Ekka
Ferrando Convent, Bandel

Her life, a Prayer; Her pain, an Offering

“If we live, we live in the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord .Therefore whether we live or die we belong to God” [Romans 14:8].

Loving memories of good soul of our dear sister Anita is always present in my heart. On 29 March 2022 when I reached my new community I took my step towards Sr. Anita Topno's room. As soon as I opened her room door I saw she was waiting for me with a bloomed rose flower. She smiled and presented me the rose flower and said bloom like this beautiful flower in your new mission field. For almost two and half year I was with her, taking care of her, going to the hospital and staying with her. Each moment of her life taught me different lessons for my life.

Sr. Anita was like an elder sister to me, she was very cooperative in any work of our community. She always tried to hide her pain and said that she was okay. She was truly a dedicated soul of our Lord. She was like a fresh flower smiling always in the midst of her sickness and suffering, she was loved by our Jesus very much; whenever her pain increased I was finding difficult to see her suffer intensely but she would look at me and say “JESUS loves me too much”. Her great love for Holy Communion and Holy Adoration was extraordinary; these sacraments were the strength for her life. She spent her precious hours with the Lord which increased her love and faith towards our Lord ever deeper. She gave priority to Jesus in her life. She was a

devoted and prayerful leader, a guiding angel who often led our inmates into Adoration. With a heart full of grace, she sang with them, prayed alongside them, understood their joys and struggles, listened to them with compassion and loved them deeply.



After a while, her health began to deteriorate as cancer cells began to spread throughout her organs. She was aware of how close the Lord was to her. She was spiritually ready to meet her spouse, Jesus. I used to often feel that the Lord endured the same pain on the cross as she did. She had many sleepless nights in pain, and though I urged her to rest, she always refused, saying we should support one another. In those moments, the only words that escaped her lips were 'Jesus, Jesus.'

Dear Sr. Anita, I deeply appreciate you for being such a loving, understanding, and caring sister to me. I pray for your soul and ask for your intercession, that I may serve our congregation with devotion and bloom like a flower.

Sr. Anupama Purty
Nirmala Niketan, Nedungapra

Planted in God's love, nurtured in faith, she is a flower that will never fade

Way back in 2016, I had the privilege to be with Sr. Anita Topno, who was then, the Superior of Pindari Community. I had gone there to spend 15 days of Mission experience as a Post P.U. from Bandel, along with two of my Companions. Those 15 days though measured short, is laden with sweet, lasting memories and great experiences. She was truly an inspiration for me to be in the midst of the people with her simple gestures of love, smile, kindness, gentleness and patience in her approach to the people in the mission field. I observed that she carried love for the mission and had predilection for the poor in her heart. People in the villages easily approached her and were taken up by her patient listening, that enabled them to share their concerns of life openly. She was a passionate Missionary Sister that people adhered to her with great flexibility. She manifested gracefulness and motherliness in her interaction with the people that she deserved to be close to the peoples' heart. She made everyone feel at home in her presence.

Her life mirrored deep seated faith in God and the acknowledgement of His hands at work in all the circumstances of her life. I gladly recall her words that she would say "I will do anything for the people". In fact, during those few days, I saw her in pain with a wound on her foot, yet she never complained, but was ready to set out on foot to visit families. One remarkable expression, I remember of her is a special laughter that she had that seemed to ease her pain, while silently bearing it. These experiences made me learn how, one should be dedicated to the mission one is entrusted with, even at the cost of foregoing one's comfort zone, pain and self interest. Thus, I humbly cherish these experiences that I have of her, which never

grows old but stays afresh.

Like a flower in God's beautiful garden, she had been unique in her personality of bearing credible witness to God and His Divine Mission. Today, she has been plucked as the favourite flower of God, while leaving her fragrance of life amidst us to be cherished. May her graceful soul rest in peace in the presence of her Divine Master and intercede for us all from heaven above.



Sr Christina Momin
Lourd Prakash Bhawan, Ranchi

In Her Pain, God's Grace Shines

Although my acquaintance with Sr. Anita Topno, the Lords chosen bride, was brief, it was sufficient to reveal the essence of her extraordinary character. She was not only a devoted servant of God, consecrated to Him as a bride, but also someone chosen to bear the dignity of suffering with grace and faith.

Sr. Anita exemplified an extraordinary capacity for patience and tolerance. Her serene and uncomplaining demeanour throughout the various phases of her illness was truly inspiring and exceptional. Even amidst pain and hardship, she radiated the Lord's smile, a witness to her unwavering faith. Tireless in her service despite her physical struggles; she was a beacon of selfless love and altruism.

What remains most vivid in my memory is her ever smiling face, always inquiring about the well being of those around her. She found joy in sharing lighter

moments and offering care, making everyone in her presence feel like esteemed guests of the Lord. Her dedication to serving others was exemplified through her remarkable interest in cooking, where she poured her heart into preparing meals with love and care.

Sr. Anita's faith and devotion to the Lord was shone through her in every aspect of her life. I fondly recall a conversation I had before she left for Kolkata, at the final stage of her illness. Despite her condition, she never spoke of her suffering; instead she only mentioned our prayers to the Lord. This strength and humility embodied her essence and in my humble opinion, she truly fulfilled her calling as the Lord's chosen bride.

Sr. Anita was a humble servant of God steadfast in her faith and duties. I will always remember her as a true reflection of humility, love, and devotion. May her soul rest in eternal peace embraced by the Lord whom she so faithfully served.

Ms. Roseline
Senior Citizen, Nirmala Niketan
Nedungapra



Gone from Our Sight, Never from Our Hearts

A sister, so loving, gentle, and kind,
With a heart that always sought to find
The needs of others, large and small,
And answered each with love's sweet call.

A caring nurse, with hands so true,
Healing the sick, both old and new.
Compassion flowing from her soul,
Her mission was clear: to make hearts whole.

With every soul, she shared her grace,
Her simple smile, a warm embrace.
Generous, humble, a hand that serves,
Her faith, a constant, lifelong song.

Down to earth, her spirit pure,
In service, she was ever sure.
A lover of souls, she would gently lead,
With tender care, meeting each need.

Holy in spirit, a shining light,
She walked in faith, both day and night.
Now in heaven, her love remains,
A legacy of peace that still sustains.
Sr. Anita, your journey's complete,

But in our hearts, you are so sweet.
With every prayer, with every tear,
We'll hold you close; you're ever near.
May you rest in peace, dear Sr. Anita
For we know in heaven, you shine anew.

Sr. Krisdalin Timung
Mariam Niwas, Nagaon



The hands that healed, the love that stayed

Sister Anita was the kind of person
Who made you feel seen, even in silence.
She didn't need big words
Just a gentle look, a nod,
and somehow you knew you mattered.

She was a nurse, yes
but more than that.
She was care itself.
She'd sit by your bedside without a fuss,
bring you medicine with a kind word,
and maybe a little joke to make you smile.

She was always cheerful
not in a noisy way,
but in that quiet joy
that made you want to be near her.
You could laugh with her,
cry if you needed to,
and never feel judged.

She understood things
even when you couldn't explain.
You'd start talking,
then stumble,
and she'd already get it.

That was her gift.
She didn't try to be perfect.
She just showed up
with warmth, with presence, with heart.

And that's what we'll remember
not the long speeches,
but the way she made us feel safe,
cared for and loved.

Sr. Regina Sunwar
Mariam Niwas, Nagaon

Sr. Anita – A constant source of comfort and wisdom

Sr. Anita has been, in every sense, an angel in my life. Her heart was a wellspring of love and kindness, extending effortlessly to everyone, regardless of their background or status. She exemplified selflessness, always prioritizing the needs of others and offering her unwavering support even though she had to endure her own pain and challenges. Her extraordinary strength, courage and devotion set her apart as a truly remarkable soul.

She cared for me deeply, always ensuring my well being and offering words of comfort during my most difficult moments. I will forever treasure the memory of her radiant smile, a symbol of her resilience and grace, even in the face of adversity. The time we shared remains a source of solace and inspiration to me. To me, Sr. Anita was truly a Guardian Angel, and she will always hold a cherished place in my heart and prayers.

Ms. Kalyanikutty
Senior Citizen, Nirmala Niketan
Nedungapra





In realms beyond mortal sight,
Where love and joy shine with endless light,
Eternal life awaits, a gift divine,
A promise kept, a hope that's mine.

Through faith, we're born anew,
In Christ's love, our souls renew,
A life that transcends earthly bounds,
Where peace and happiness resound.

With every breath, we'll live for Him,
In His presence, our hearts will brim,
With gratitude, we'll sing His praise,
In eternal life, where love's the way.

In heaven's gates, we'll stand as one,
With saints and angels, forever won,
Our hearts aglow, our spirits free,
In eternal life, with God we'll be.

May this hope guide us on our way,
As we journey through life's fleeting day,
And when our time on earth is done,
May eternal life be won.







*You were placed on this earth
to make a*
UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION



*“I am the Resurrection
and the Life”*

Jn 11:25

