

UNRAVELING THE TAPESTRY



"The Lord is my light and my salvation" (Ps26;1)

Sr Rose Cyriac

Date of Birth: 11th June 1951

Date of Baptism: 18th June 1951

First Profession: 8th Dec 1974

Final Profession: 8th Dec 1980

By Sr Bansuk Jyrwa & Sr Debora Lalmingmawii

EARLY LIFE

In the year 1951, on 11th June, a baby girl was born to Mr. Kurian Pullokar and Mrs. Rosamma as their fourth child, and they named her Thankam. Their first born son Pappachan passed away before the birth of Thankam. Thankam's older siblings, Lily and Elsy, were thrilled to welcome their new sister and in the years that followed welcomed other three younger siblings: Annie, Philomena, and Pappachan.

During her early education, Thankam lived with her uncles in Mala, who had requested her father to send her to stay with them for they were unmarried then. She attended Holy Family Sisters' School until grade V and then transferred to St. Anthony's High School in Mala to continue her studies. Her uncles provided strong support and encouragement during challenging times in her studies and personal life. During holidays, her father would come to take her back home to spend time with her family.

The Call

After completing her 10th grade, Thankam received a visit from Sr. Marie Chacko, who inquired if she would be interested in going to the Assam mission. Thankam enthusiastically agreed. She shared her desire to become a sister with her parents; while her mother supported her decision, her father had reservations about it. Nevertheless, Thankam remained resolute in her choice. One day, she received a letter from Mother Mary Rose Thapa, informing her that Sr. Monica and Sr. Jessy Sebastian would be coming to take her to Assam. Upon hearing this news, Thankam's father and uncle traveled several kilometers to Kanoor to meet the sisters, it was after meeting them that her father finally gave in to her desire to be a missionary sister. After spending time with their family in Kerala for the holidays, Thankam set off with them to Assam.

The Accompanied Journey

"A journey to religious life is not the pursuit of career, but the answer of a call, a call to journey towards transformation that losing oneself, we discover our fullness in God." Yes, the journey of Sr Rose, lovingly called Thankam, is one of unwavering faith, where each step is a deeper surrender to God's call. Once her journey began there was no looking back, she embraced her call with a heart

full of conviction for from the moment she heard the invitation to religious life she knew it was the life she was destined for, a life of purpose, surrender and deep connection with God's will. It was a call to step into the unknown, a path of uncertainty, where faith will be her guide and trust in God would be her strength. And thus, Thankam along with Sr Monica Mathew and Sr Jessy Sebastian, began her journey to the Assam mission on 2nd August along with two other girls Grace and Mary Thomas and entered the aspirantate on 7th August 1971 in Barpeta Road. After 10 month of aspirancy, Sr Rose received the postulant medal on 24th May 1972 at Barpeta Road.

Life in the formation wasn't easy, moments of doubts, struggles and setbacks were frequent companions but however the steadfast routines of daily prayer, the dedicated study of scripture and the commitment to prescribed activities provided a grounded force.

After 10 months of pre Novitiate Thankam and her companions proceeded to Peachland Shillong for the novitiate and finally on 8th December 1972 Thankam and her 23 companions received the Novice medal from the hand of Bishop Stephen Ferrando, marking a significant milestone in her spiritual journey, this was indeed a period of deeper formation, prayer and preparation for their future roles in their religious life. She made her first vow on 8th December 1974 and took the name Sr. Rose Cyriac.



Life as a missionary

After the profession Sr Rose Cyriac was commissioned to various ministries within the congregation primarily focusing on village apostolate. Her role involved living among the people she served, sometimes in simple accommodations, working closely with rural communities and immersing herself in their daily lives and challenges. She recalled life as a missionary sister was very good; God has been gracious to her, and she cherished every moment of her religious vocation. Days were filled with purpose and joy as she dedicated herself to serving others and spreading love wherever she went be it in the mission, schools, training Centre, hostels or in the communities. She vividly recalled her life as a pioneer in Siliguri, where they began the mission; life was tough yet rewarding. The days spent touring in the villages around Siliguri and Oodlabari were filled with challenges but each encounter with the local communities brought a profound sense of purpose and fulfillment. The hardships she faced only strengthened her resolve, as she witnessed the impact of her work on the life of those she served. Now meeting those same people years later, she felt an overwhelming sense of joy and gratitude, seeing the seeds of hope and progress they had planted flourish into thriving families and communities. Their joy, gratitude and respect upon meeting the person who had once been their teacher and spiritual guide reaffirmed her commitment to a life of service and dedication; a profound joy washed over her as she saw how her life and teachings had influence their paths.



Communities and Apostolic Ministry:

Year	Community	Apostolate
1975	Peachland	Juniorate
1976	Naharkatia	Village Ministry
1977	Mairang	Village Ministry
1979	North Lakhimpur	Vocational Training/Teacher/Economer
1981	Siliguri	Village Ministry/Teacher
1986	Ravulupalen	Vocational Training/ Social Apostolate/Economer
1994	Nemmikal	Superior/ Village Ministry/Economer
1997	Mariapuram Warangal	Superior/Vocational Training(SDB)/Economer
2002	Bandel	Superior? Church Ministry
2006	Ranchi	Superior/ Vocational Training/Economer
2014	Nedungapara	Superior/ Village Ministry
2018	Oodlabari	Ecconomer
2018	Punjab	Village Ministry
2019	Bethel(Prayer Centre)	Director
2022	Siliguri	Hostel In-Charge (Salesian College Girl's Hostel)

A miracle

(Narrated by Sr Rose)

I have great devotion to Mother Mary, and I placed all my prayers and intentions at her feet daily. One day while decorating the Our Lady of Happy Voyage statue in the balcony in Bandel Church, I prayed to her, expressing my desire to visit Rome. The next day I received a letter from one of my benefactors, Fr Antonios Pondecelli from Italy who wanted to see me as well as his intention of providing financial assistance to our Congregation.

Consequently, I asked Mother Mary Thadavanal, the then Mother General, for permission, which was graciously granted for one month. My benefactor's friend Enio Capilli made the necessary arrangement, and I had the opportunity to visit many significant places in Rome, including Milan, Don Bosco's first church, Assisi, Larvana, Florence, Venice, Pope John Paul's tomb and several



other holy sites. While in Rome another miracle occurred in my life when Fr Antonios' housekeeper informed me that her daughter had been married for four years with no children. She asked me to pray for her, so I took her to the chapel and prayed over her for two consecutive days, and behold, by God's grace she became pregnant the following week and informed me a month later. In gratitude her mother and Fr Antonio visited me in Ranchi and

stayed for a week, expressing their desire to experience prayer within our community. They gave financial help to the hostel.

I share this to instill hope and faith in others. Everyone is capable of experiencing miracle in their lives, big or small, if they are open their hearts to the possibility and trust in the power of God. Witnessing such profound blessings has filled my heart with an overwhelming sense of gratitude to God. These experiences serve as a constant reminder of the power of faith, prayer and Mother Mary's unwavering intercession in my life. May my experience serve as a beacon of light, reminding everyone that miracles are possible and that with faith, anything is within reach. Let us all strive to live a life of prayer, service, and a steadfast faith so that we too can be instruments of God's grace and healing in the world.

Life and mission at present

Currently Sr Rose is in Salesian College Girl's Hostel in Siliguri, where she is known for her hard work and dedication. She tirelessly works for the well-being of the girls, her fellow sisters and for the overall smooth operation of the hostel. Her presence has indeed brought a lot of changes in the community and in the hostel overseeing repairs, renovations, improved cleanliness and enhanced welfare for all the inmates. The hostel girls have expressed their appreciation for the improvement Sr Rose has brought about. Despite the inevitable challenges, she with the strength she received from our Lord, moves on vigorously managing the hostel efficiently. In cooperation with the Fathers at Salesian College she faithfully and prudently carries out the work of the congregation. Everyone who enters and leaves the community is treated with love and respect making sure they are received and attended well. She has a great love for the Superiors and is committed to fulfilling her service to the Lord, adhering to the practices of the Congregation serving as an inspiration to the younger members of the community.



Life's Crossroad



Life is a tapestry of choice,
Two paths always lie in wait.
One will lead to our destination
The other, an unknown fate.

Choose wisely, for the road you take
Will shape your journey's tale.
But fear not if you stumble,
For new beginning never fail.

Though the world seems unyielding,
And people's heart grow cold,
Your life remain your own to craft
Be courageous, be bold.

Every journey has its challenges,
Rough beginning tests our might.
Yet with unwavering determination,
We'll weather every storm that comes.

So embrace each choice you take,
Let your heart be your guide.
For in the end is not the path,
But how you choose to ride.



Celebrating Golden Years with Family
2024