

A GALLANT MISSIONARY WITH A MAGNANIMOUS HEART



What we are is God's Gift to us and
What we become is our Gift to God.
(St. Fulton J Sheen)

The Story of Rev. Sr. Rebecca Ekka Msmhc

Introduction

The birth of a child is a rejoicing event in every family so as in the family of the protagonist of this write-up. For every child is the plan and creation of God. As St. Paul, the apostle rightly puts it, "It is in Him we live, move and have our being"(Acts 16:28). In other words it is in God alone every human being on earth exists.

So here we have a bubble girl child named Rebecca, is born to Mr & Mrs. Silvester Ekka & Bernadette Kujur on **11th November 1953, at Jayaragi, Pakritoli village**. She is the **second** among the **four sisters and one brother**.



She was baptized at Rajawal parish, in the diocese of Gumla. Her parents and grandparents were Christians therefore she received faith through them and was able to keep up throughout her child hood and school days until she joins the Congregation. Probably, this was also a preparation for her to join the missionary Congregation.

The Lineage

Sr. Rebecca's family consisted of 7 members, father, mother, an elder sister, 2 younger sisters and a brother. Sr. Rebecca is the 2nd member and her only brother is the last child. Among the 5 children today they are only 3 members alive and the other two, her eldest sister and her youngest brother is gone for their eternal reward.

Family's Dependence

Mr. Silvester, the beloved daddy of Sr. Rebecca was a farmer. Along with his wife Mrs. Bernadette, he produced farm products to look after the kids. They were living a happy and contented life with the things produced in their own garden. Even though being the only earning member of the family Mr. Silvester provided education to his children and looked after them with love and care.

Death

Unfortunately, the happiness of that family was suddenly stifled and cut short with the untimely passing away of Mr. Sylvester, when Rebecca was studying in class 2. Humanly speaking, it was rather difficult to accept the sudden loss of her beloved father at a tender age. One can imagine the struggle the young Ms. Bernadette had to shoulder upon to look after the 5 kids at their

tender age. Trusting in the providence of God Ms. Bernadette educated Rebecca and her younger ones too.

Struggles & Hardships

The loss of her father, the only bread winner of the family might have been a severe blow to the family's day to day management. Since she was very tender in her age she has got only a vague remembrance of those struggle days. And so she says, her mother and her mother's family helped the kids to continue their studies.

In spite of all the hardships, when it was time for her elder daughter to give in marriage, Ms. Bernadette gave her in marriage and then the responsibility of taking care of the siblings and the house hold work left to the young Rebecca's shoulders as well. Along with her studies, side by side she had to pay much attention to care for her siblings giving a helping hand to her mother.

Child Hood Days & Schooling

Rebecca did her elementary education in St. Anne's Convent school, Rajawal from 1st to 7th standard and class 8th to 12th standard in Adivasi High School, Jayaragi. To say the truth there was in fact no one to motivate her but she says God had His own plans for her and so she didn't stop her studies but with lots of struggle she completed it without failing in any class. It is very evident from this when God intends someone to follow Him, He does miracles in their lives and that is what happened in her life too.

The Journey -

Initiation to Join the Congregation

While she was studying used to hear about the in abroad and other friends joined in different When they come back heroic work of the stations and that inspired the becoming a missionary away from her



in the high school she missionaries who worked states. Many of her Congregation each year. they used to tell of the missionaries and the mission young Rebecca to think of home land. Also among her friends few of them were talking about a new Congregation in Assam which is mainly started for the

proclamation of the Word of God. After hearing them she expressed her desire to her mother to join a Convent. Being a very pious woman and God fearing person, she allows her to choose the path that will make her daughter happy of course after much prayers. Following the instruction of her Mother, the young Rebecca began fervent prayers to Jesus and His Mother Mary after the reception of the Holy Communion and she did so. Thus one day it happened that she met Sr. Salomi Lakra and Sr. Serophina Lakra msmhc in her parish. They were talking with the people outside the church seeing them she too went to talk to them and enquired about the Congregation and expressed her desire to join their Congregation. Mean time she completed her +2 and was waiting for an opportunity to enroll somewhere for some job or to join any Congregation to become a nun to serve the Lord in His vineyard. Meeting those sisters Sr. Salomi Lakra and Sr. Serophina Lakra her dream was almost fulfilling and that was the beginning of her journey towards the mission land in Assam to join the Msmhc Congregation in the year 1973.

Period of Formation

	Place	Duration
<i>Aspirantate - 1973-1975</i>	<i>St. Mary's Convent, Barpeta</i>	<i>Two yrs.</i>
<i>Postulancy - 1975</i>	<i>St. Mary's Convent, Barpeta</i>	<i>Six months</i>
<i>Novitiate - 1976-1978</i>	<i>St. Magarets Convent, Peachlands</i>	<i>Two yrs.</i>
<i>First Profession - 1978</i>	<i>St. Margaret's Convent, Peachlands</i>	
<i>Juniarate - 1979</i>	<i>St. Margaret's Convent, Peachlands</i>	<i>One year</i>
<i>Final Profession - 1984</i>	<i>St. Margaret's Convent, Peachlands</i>	



The Mission Stations

Being the true daughter of the Founder Ven. Stephen Ferrando, who is a Missionary par excellent, Sr. Rebecca truly and excellently carried out the first Primary Charism of the Congregation from the first year as a professed member till date.

Her passion for the souls especially in the villages makes one of the great missionary person that the Congregation produced. Glancing through her life as Missionary sister, it's very clear that by her proclamation about Jesus many souls are being saved. For her there is no sun or rain, hills or valleys, cold or hot as long as souls are there to serve, she just gives her heart to the full.



Picture of her Missionary Life:

SN.	Name of Places	Mission	Year/s	Diocese
1.	Barpeta Road, Assam	Evangelization	1978-83	Tezpur
2.	Doomni, Assam	Evangelization	1983-88	Tezpur
3.	Salana, Assam	Evangelization	1988-90	Tezpur
4.	Barpeta Road	Evangelization	1900-91	Tezpur
5.	Siliguri, West Bengal	Evangelization	1991-96	Jalpaiguri
6.	Bandel, West Bengal	Evangelization	1996-98	Kolkata
7.	Siliguri, West Bengal	Evangelization	1998-2003	Jalpaiguri
8.	Dumka, Jharkhand	In-charge & Evangelization	2003-2005	Dumka
9.	Bandel, West Bengal	Evangelization	2005-2007	Kolkata
10.	Siliguri, West Bengal	Evangelization	2007-2011	Jalpaiguri
11.	Kudha, Jharkhand	Evangelization	2011-2013	Ranchi
12.	Siliguri, West Bengal	Evangelization	2013-2015	Jalpaiguri
13.	Oodlabari, W.Bengal	Evangelization	2015-2020	Jalpaiguri
14.	Kudha, Jharkhand	Evangelization	2020-2022	Ranchi
15.	Oodlabari, W. Bengal	Evangelization	2022-	

2 Samuel 22:3-4

“My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior— from violent people you save me”.

“I called to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and have been saved from my enemies”.

Her life in the Congregation

She is happy and contented in her religious life because she was totally engaged in the primary Charism of the Congregation and has seen hundreds and thousands of people accepting Jesus. In other words she is a CHRIST-CARRIER wherever she worked. She proudly speaks about the places she worked and says that she gave Jesus to people and has seen many people converting to Christianity through her work of evangelization in places like Doomni, in Assam & Siliguri, Saraswatipur, Oodlabari etc in West Bengal. In Oodlabari, West Bengal, the present day where she is working, there are 13 sub-centers in our parish. Among these 13 centers hardly a handful of Christians were there before. But now there are 1500 families and among them 5 to 6 villages, there weren't any Catholics before, but now there are many Christian families which are exclusively of Sr. Rebecca's initiative and hard work. She says by the great grace of God she visited all these families years ago, with different sisters travelling from Siliguri to Oodlabari, far- flung places staying with the people in their houses, sitting with them and talking about their family matters etc..., in the evening hours collecting them all to a family and praying with them and then slowly begins to talk to them about Jesus, the healings, and the miracles Jesus performed. After hearing her they voluntarily expressed their desire to follow Jesus. Thus the whole family people began to come to listen to her and received baptism and so at present there are many Christian families in all these sub-centers like Pathibari, Bagrakote, Sonali, Tukuria, Ellenbari Changmari, Leesh River, Saraswatipur, Pathaljora and Targhera where Sr. Rebecca is residing at present.



The Life's Passion

Sr. Rebecca is always a beacon of light to the people in preaching the word of God; she has witnessed many miracles, like pujaries becoming Christians in Doomni Parish. She never got tired or retired from proclaiming Christ to all people in all seasons. As for me personally she is a vibrant missionary, having no guile in what she preaches and teaches. Wherever she sowed the seed of faith in the hearts of people have grown abundantly. Sr. Rebecca is a well-known missionary among the diocesan priests in the diocese of Tezpur, Assam and among the Salesian priests of Kolkata Province, West Bengal. For those priests who worked with her learnt the Art of preaching through her work of Evangelization and they speak about her openly whenever they get a chance of speaking about evangelization and Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians even occasions of Golden or Silver Jubilee of other sisters too. She is a model Missionary Sister, for the older and younger generations of MSMHC.



Sr. Rebecca has passion not only in proclaiming Christ but also in farming. She never remains idle, whenever she is not going for the pastoral work her days will be spend in the garden, cleaning, planting etc. God has endowed her with good and fruitful hands. Whatever she plants, be it fruit trees or vegetables, it always bear fruits in abundance. As she enjoys to be surrounded by the people in the parish and villages, she enjoys equally to be in the midst of plants and vegetables as well.



The Secret of her Successful Life

She says Prayer is the secret of all her success. She was very faithful in her practices of piety over the years; obedience to her superiors made her what she is today. She is a person of simplicity. Hardworking, is her second nature. As the person is, so her every work, she has a good hand in cultivation and is a known horticulturist, anything she plants bears much fruits. She is not time bound to proclaim Christ and to work hard whether in the villages, parish or in the garden always available for any type of work.

A GEM of the Church & to the MSMHC

To speak of such a charismatic person we feel so proud and privileged. She doesn't hold any record of studies or high-posts but what she is –rich in itself. As for us and for all others who knows her well, she will always stand for what she is and we salute her for being tall in **Proclaiming Christ through all circumstances** no matter whether the situation is suitable or not. Thank you Sr. Rebecca for being TRUE to your call and leaving a great legacy before us to follow and for the generations of Msmhc to come.

Compiled by

**Sr. Mary Nemi & Sr. Ancy Joseph
Ferrando Convent
Oodlabari.**

I am the lord,
I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you...
Isaiah 42: 6-7

