

SR. TERESA ANTHONY MSMHC
SPARKLE OF JOY & RADIANCE OF HOPE



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BIRTH AND CHILHOOD

Sr. Teresa Anthony hails from God's own country Kerala, a blessed land from where sprang forth saints to disseminate seed of faith to other parts of India. In the year 1950, on 29th September, she was born to the Anthonian Family. Her father Mr. Anthony and her mother Mrs. Mary Anthony were very pious and God fearing. They instilled love of God, faith and prayer to all their children. Sr. Teresa Anthony had a lovely cherished childhood in the company of her five brothers and one sister. Fondly she was called as Teresa Kutty in her childhood.

SCHOOLING

She did her primary schooling in Mary Matha Middle School, at Mannampetta. In Assumption High School, Varandarappilly she completed her matriculation. After the matriculation she did one year of training in short hand typing in Mumbai. Family members wished that she would join central government job after the completion of her training, like her father. But God had another plan in her life. She was inspired to follow the footsteps of the Lord before the completion of her training.

VOCATION TO MSMHC

Every vocation has its conception from the heart of God and it's so mysterious to comprehend. The call of God and vocation story of Sr. Teresa Anthony too is very profound tinged with God's favorable love for her. Word of God was the source of her call. She was passionately inspired and touched by the phrase "For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?" (Mk.8:36). She felt the irresistible voice of God calling her whenever she read the word of God in her family prayers. Further, her love for God and faith was nurtured through sacraments, catechism classes and story of the saints which she heard from the sisters. She was very keen to attend the catechism classes and always stood first in the catechism exams. During her training period of short hand and typing, she deeply felt to give herself totally to God and serve Him in the religious life. She expressed her desire to the family members and to her parish priest. Family members were not so happy with her decision to join the religious life, instead they discouraged her. Yet, she was firm with her sole desire. After few days one of the elder brothers responded positively and encouraged her to join the congregation with a promise that if she desire to return back, she should come back before the age of twenty seven. And thus she went along with her brother to meet Sr. Rosy Mathew MSMHC in Kannur Kerela, who was at home for home holiday. After three weeks she left beloved home and family in 1971 and travelled towards Assam with Sr. Rosy Mathew with a dream of becoming a sister and reached Barpetta Road. After one year of Aspirantate she was sent to Dibrugar to complete her shorthand and typing. Then, she

received the Postulants medal in 1973 at Barpeta Road. In 1974 she entered into Novitiate at Shillong, Peachland. In 1975 she made first profession and her perpetual profession was in the year 1981 in Guwahati, Assam.

MISSIONARY SERVICES AS AN MSMHC: Being called to be a missionary Sr. Teresa Anthony gave herself completely in the service of God's people. She found enormous joy and contentment in serving the Lord in His vineyard. She has rendered her service in many schools as Principal, vice-principal, teacher and economer. She has been animator of the community as well as given her service as an assistant to the boarding children. Most of the places she rendered her service as an English teacher. God has endowed her with unique talents of dance and singing, through which she has benefitted many students in schools and boarding in her younger days. In all cases she has proved to be a caring mother to all the souls who have passed from her hands. She has imparted not only bookish knowledge but has shared God's tender love to all.

During her younger days she was involved in the Primary Charism of our Congregation and she has toured many villages in Garo hills and Assam namely: Baghmara. At times she had to climb the mountain and on the other times she had to cross flowing river. And sometimes she had to walk miles and miles to reach the message of God's love to the people. She has learnt the local languages and adopted cultures of the people. During this period of her life she faced many challenges yet; gladly she shared the love of God to the poor people in the villages and remained firm in her vocation.

She felt the guiding hand of God very closely in her life. God's presence was experienced in every sphere and circumstances of her life. Once, she had saving experience of God where she was chased by a young man by a bike. He wanted to kill her. But, she ran for her life and cried to God saying, "Jesus, save me". And she reached at the parish gate, where the gate keeper allowed her to enter inside and closed the gate. Likewise she has faced many difficulties and challenges in her life and experienced God's protecting hand.

Places she has worked

Year	Place	Responsibility
1976	Salana	Economer/ teacher/ boarding assistance
1978	Bagmara Garo hills	Teacher
1981	Tikrikira Garo hills	Vice principal
1984	Datmala	teacher
1987	Chokiacola	Vice principal
1989	North Lakhimpur	Teaching / Economer
1991	Barpeta Road	Teacher / in-charge of girls

1993	Kudda	School Principal
1998	Iritty Kerala	Teacher / Economer
1996	Bandel	teacher
2002	Nirmala Niketan Nidungapra Kerala	Superior / Economer
2005	Auxilium Convent, School, Siliguri	Teacher
2008	Kudda	Teacher / Boarding assistance
2014	Bandel	Teacher
2017	Auxilium Convent, Siliguri	Vice Superior / Teacher
2019	Oodalabari	Teacher
2020	Oodlabari	Praying Ministry
2022 -24	Auxilium Convent, Siliguri	Praying Ministry

UNIQUE QUALITIES THAT DEFINES SR. TERESA ANTHONY: She is a very affectionate, tender hearted, loving, caring, sensitive, motherly, and generous and a community person. She is very friendly, jovial and jolly. She loves to make fun and being friendly to everyone. During her novitiate, she was fondly called by her batch mates “Padua” after the name of St. Anthony of Padua. There after she is lovingly known as Sr. Padua in the whole Congregation. She shares her wisdom quoting the Word of God. “Remember the days of old, consider the years long past; ask your father, and he will inform you; your elders and they will tell you”. (Deuteronomy. 32:7) It reminds that wisdom gained through life experience is much better than theory. The elders who have lived and experienced religious life much more than the young generation can inspire a lot.

SENSITIVITY

Sr. Teresa Antony is a person who feels for the community. Her ideas and suggestions are valued in the community. Her concern for the sisters are often noticed especially those who are out from the community due to mission work. She appreciates and encourages the young sisters when they do well.

SOURCE OF GRACE

Sr. Teresa Anthony is now a powerful instrument to intercede for all, who at present spends her time in praying for the whole world. She draws down blessings of God by interceding for all in front of the Blessed Sacrament. She loves to sing hymns that we often hear during her personal adoration. She makes frequent Confession and desires to be with the Lord.

CHEERFULNESS

Cheerfulness is a virtue that helps us to find joy. Sr. Teresa is a cheerful person. Everyone who come into her life feel loved, accepted and encouraged by her gentle smile and cheerful face. In the evening of her life she wishes to see others happy. She also makes others happy through her fun and wits.

JOY

Sr. Teresa Anthony is indeed joy of the community. Her presence radiates joy to everyone especially when she is at table for meal with all the community members and during recreation. Her absence is very much felt, when she is away.

WRITER

Sr. Teresa Anthony is a gifted writer. She has good vocabulary. Through her creative writing of poems, prayers and reflections she has inspired the younger generation. She is one of the resource person to contribute for the Province magazine. The following prayer has sprung forth from her heart in intimacy with the Lord.

PRAYER OF SR. TERESA

Lord I am here, I am your tabernacle to give you an account of my life. Forgive me Lord if I have gone against your ways.

In the sunset of my life, Lord, come to me.

In the darkness, pain and accusation, Lord come to me.

In rejection and loneliness I experience, Lord Come to me.

In frustration and despair of everyday life, Lord come to me.

Above all in the dryness of my spiritual life, Lord come to me.

At the end of my life, Lord come to me.

Lord, enable me to spend my time totally for you. Bless me that I may have deeper intimacy with you in the evening of my life. Amen.

CONCLUSION

At this golden age Sr. Teresa Anthony delights to be with the Lord in His presence. She is a channel of blessings to all through her prayers. She transmits God's love to all souls who encounter her. She enjoys the company of her sisters in the community very gracefully. She is the source of lot of fun and laughter in the community. Though at times petty argument occurs but soon she forgets and forgives. In a word spark of joy and hope she shares to all, through her inspiring lives, lived daily in the community, in a most humble way.



Sr. Teresa Anthony- joy of the community



Gladly involved in Mission



Time of intimacy with the Lord.