

In
Loving
Memory
of

Sr. Mary Minj MSMHC

Born: 12.06.1935
Professed : 05.12.1961
Died: 06.11.2023

One Year Since You Left

A year has quietly slipped away.
Since you left, you couldn't stay.
In the quietness of time, memories bloom,
Echoes of laughter in every room.
Seasons pass, thoughts entwine,
Your absence lingers, a gentle sign.
Moments cherished, held so tight,
In the serenity of day and night.

Though time moves on, your presence gleams,
In quiet whispers, in cherished dreams.
A year has passed, but love endures,
In hearts that ache, in memories pure.
Your light shines on, a guiding ray,
Always near, not far away.
In this past year, your spirit glows
In our hearts, its radiance shows.



Message

ADIEU DEAR SR. MARY MINJ



Dear Sr. Sini Mathew, the Provincial Superior of Kolkata, all the members of the province, the family members of Sr. Mary Minj, the fathers, sisters, brothers and all the faithful present here. I stand here, on behalf of the Superior General Rev. Sr. Philomena Mathew to read this message.

“Whether we live or we die, we belong to the Lord” (Rom 14:8).

This saying is true of our dear Sr. Mary Minj. Her life was one that speaks volumes of the effect of living an intimate union with the Lord. As a kind and tender hearted person, Sr. Mary Minj lived her missionary vocation and proclaimed God’s love more with her witnessing life, than by her words and actions. Moderate silence, radiant with sweet smile and kind words marked her characteristic feature.

Major part of her apostolic life was dedicated to healing ministry, which our Founder called as the „fifth gospel“. She was a nurse by profession and rendered her services whole-heartedly to take care of the poor and needy people in the many villages of our mission stations, through health awareness programs, particularly taking care of the mother and child programs. Her services in the field of health are commendable. Numerous examples speak of her admirable spirit of sacrifice in taking care of the sick in the villages. Promptly she would answer any sick call at any time of the day or night even on days of freezing temperature on winter in Shillong region. She was known spending countless nights by the bed side of the patients in their homes to give them assistance and comfort in their dying moments and even in inclement weather. She has thus saved many lives, by her healing touch and praying lips. She could easily combine healing ministry and pastoral work. Through medicines and her noble service she led many to faith in Jesus, and to the Church.

She was also animator of the communities and boarding assistant, and a touring missionary, through all of these, easily she could win the hearts and affection of the



sisters, children, teachers, guardians and students. She could maintain very good relationship with the neighbourhood and people of the villages where she reached out. The trait of a spiritual mother, to which all religious are called to live, was seen in her dealings with everyone. She was simple in her life style, mature in her interpersonal relationships, always humble before the superiors and ever obedient to the constitutions, and ever manifesting a spirit of collaboration and support in the field of the apostolate. As a missionary she loved to be in the midst of people, to share God's love with everyone.

How can a sister, who lived with such warmth and compassionate heart, be not loved by her sisters in return? Wherever she was, there was family spirit and joy. When she retired from active ministry she was still, very sensitive and attentive to the needs of the community and always enjoyed in giving whatever service she could render. Then she would spend hours in prayer interceding for the whole world. Whenever I visited her she would welcome me with a broad smile and express her joy and happiness and assure her prayerful support.

As she began to experience that her health was deteriorating, sisters surrounded her with affection and much more assisted her with their presence and prayers. I am grateful to Sr. Jacinta Jyrwa and Bandel Community particularly the nurse sisters Sr. Monica Haokip and Sr. Daiman Xaxa who took great care and constantly assisted her and other sisters who assisted Sr. Mary Minj during her few days of ailment. And I express my deepest condolences to Sr. Sini Mathew the Provincial and all the members of Kolkata Province who have lost an elder sister, in the person of Sr. Mary Minj. May God richly bless the congregation with many more holy and genuine vocations like her.

My sincere condolences to the family members of Sr. Mary Minj, especially Sr. Grace Minj MSMHC her niece and Fr. Melchior Tirkey SDB her nephew, and others who are present here to bid their last good bye to their beloved. Thank you for all that you have been to Sr. Mary during her life time.

And now, turning to you dearest Sr. Mary Minj, thank you for your beautiful and exemplary religious life that you have lived for 62 years. You have served the Church to the best of your ability by living and loving the charism and spirit of our beloved congregation. I will always cherish the gift of you to me in particular and to the congregation. At this moment, although I cannot be present by your side physically I deeply mourn your passing away and feel your absence intensely. Pray for us that we too may do our part well in living our religious vocation with joy and fidelity, and be living witnesses of God's love to the world.

Adieu dearest Sr. Mary until we meet at the feet of the Lord.

**Sr. Philomena Mathew
Superior General**



FUNERAL ORATION FOR SR. MARY MINJ

{Tuesday, 07th November 2023, Ferrando Convent, Bandel}

“They who trust in Him will understand the truth, those who are faithful will live with Him in love; for grace and mercy await those He has chosen. Wisdom 3: 9



Gathered lovingly around the mortal remains of our dear Sr. Mary Minj we may try to understand the meaning of death, but CAN WE KNOW and understand the full meaning of death? That is, can the mind be completely nothing, with no residue of the past? Whether with our little minds we can inquire into, search out diligently, vigorously, and work hard to find out? But if the mind merely clings to what it calls living, which is suffering, this whole process of accumulation, and tries to avoid the other, then it knows neither life nor death. It is only by freeing the mind

from the known, from all the things it has gathered, acquired, experienced, so that it is made innocent and can therefore understand that which is death, the unknowable.

Our beloved Sr. Mary had freed her mind from all that belonged to the world and was set on God, thus her transition from this world to eternity was made smoother. She faithfully served God, Church and the Congregation for 62 years with much dedication and commitment. She had lived her life for the Lord, she will continue to live for the Lord with the assurance of St. Paul in his letter to the Romans, “If we live, we live for the Lord: and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Sr. Mary accomplished her mission as a true Missionary leaving behind a legacy of love in the hearts of many wherever she worked. Her earthly sojourn has ended but this mortal end has opened an avenue into eternity. The Lord found favour in her and has taken her to be with Him forever as her mission to serve is over.

Sr. Mary was born on 12th June, 1935, at Kanji in the Diocese of Gumla, Jharkhand. She was the fifth child of Mr. Johan Minj and Ms. Anna Ekka. She had five sisters and two brothers. She began her early schooling in her native place and had to struggle a lot to continue her studies. Even when she had to face the storm and stress of life situation at



home the seed of vocation which was planted by the Divine Master at the early age of her life was growing rapidly unnoticed by others.

It was during those days that Sr. Mary came to know through someone that Sr. Carmela Kujur joined a new congregation known as Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians and the work they do in the villages. After knowing about it she waited for few days more for someone to accompany and help her join the congregation. Knowing her intention Fr. Mattias Lakra her parish Priest made the necessary arrangements for her to join the convent. Thus in the year 1952 Sr. Mary Minj and Sr. Sebastiani Toppo reached Tangla and soon to Barpeta Road. After a week, Mother Lugina FMA helped her learn English and sent her for nursing. She had her nursing training at Guwahati civil Hospital where Mother Lugina was the matron. Though being average academically, superiors recognized in her the great desire to become a missionary, willingness to make great sacrifices, spirit of hard work & passion for souls, thus was sent for nursing studies which she utilised for the people with much love. She was exceptional in caring for the sick.

After a year in 1957 Sr. Mary received the Postulant medal from the hand of our beloved Founder Bp. Stephen Ferrando. In 1959 she completed her nursing and entered the novitiate at Barpeta Road. She made her first profession in the year 1961 and was sent to North Lakhimpur. Due to the outbreak of Chinese war she and other sisters had to move to Dibrugah. For six months she, along with other sisters helped in the refugee camp at Tura in the Garo Hills. The next obedience was to Barpeta where she worked wholeheartedly as boarding assistant and nurse. After four years of service she was transferred to Nongpoh, Shillong to work among the lepers along with Sr. Mary Surin for 4 years. In 1974 she was transferred to Mairang, Shillong. There she worked as a nurse staying in the house of someone who had left it empty along with few of her sisters. Within a year the work of the new dispensary and convent came to its completion, thus she became the extended hands of the divine healer by giving herself totally in serving the people in healing their body as well as soul. She attended hundreds of delivery cases single handedly every year, at times even the complicated cases were made easy and safe at her hand. Even after many decades of her leaving from Mairang, she is remembered fondly by the people there and they had made plans to be here, but due to some mishaps they couldn't be here. But I am sure they are here in their spirit. In 1980 Sr. Mary was transferred to Umsohlait at St. Mary's Convent and later on to Khlehriat spending an year of time in nursing the sick and visiting the villages. The enthusiasm and zeal of this great yet humble missionary was crowned with a silver crown in 1986 at Bengtol. She also served the Lord in many other places such as Damra, Chokihola, Dolda, Babumahal, Agiamur, Kerala, and Dhajea. In fulfilling the command of the Lord to "Go and proclaim" she had to face lot of challenges and difficulties, at times she felt exhausted but the Eucharistic Lord was always with her. In the year 2007 she joined the



community at Kudda, Jharkhand and began her work in the dispensary, engaged in family visit and attending sick calls. Kudda was her all time favourite place and longed to go back there. She readily extended her hands to anyone who was in need of her. The Golden years of her life was crowned in 2011 and she was a part of Ferrando Convent, Bandel since 15 February 2015.

Sr. Mary was a person who was available to the needy at all times. In the hills or valleys rain or sun, summer or winter she was there to heal the sick. Where there were no hospitals or medicine she reached to the sick in their homes with medicines. No sick call was ever unanswered. Even at night she went with people whenever they approached her. Healing the sick was her fifth Gospel. When she was not able to go out much she used to take care of the sisters in the community. Every work was done for the glory of God. She followed the example of St. Teresa of Child Jesus doing everything with so much love. People at the point of death came back to life and wholeness with her prayers and medicine. Even the non-believers have come to experience Jesus through her. She was an embodiment of perfect obedience and humility. She obeyed and respected the authority in a magnanimous way. She was grounded in humility and believed in good relationship with all and maintained it to the end. She loved proclaiming Christ through village visits, oratories and through her unassuming life, she was a missionary par excellence, a missionary after the heart of Jesus. She loved Jesus, founder and people very dearly.

Dear Sr. Mary, you were a dearly loved daughter of the mother Congregation, who remained steadfast in your love for the Lord who called you to serve Him in and through this great family of MSMHC. Your primary identity was truly a missionary identity as the beloved spouse and disciple of your Master. You joyfully and courageously walked the narrow road which has finally led you to your heavenly abode. Your body was subjected to many torments due to age related illnesses, but your soul remained untouched by such torments because you had offered yourself as a victim of love to the Lord, indeed a holocaust for the love of Mary immaculate.

She was an inspiration for many young sisters. I quote Sr. Bincy Philip from St. Mary's Convent Kudda who wrote to me of Sr. Mary Minj, "Wherever, she worked, Sr. Mary Minj always had a missionary heart. She had always a word of appreciation to all those whom she met. I have never heard her gossiping about anyone. She had great love and respect towards superiors. She took to heart every word of the superiors. I had the opportunity to be a pastoral sister along with her in Agiamur for four months at the first year of my religious life. She inspired me much. She was like an angel going to the villages walking and meeting people wherever they were. Language was never a barrier for her to enter into the lives of the people. She used the language of the heart; genuine love. Whenever she was in the community, she constantly looked out what good she could do for others



in order to make their life more comfortable. Though she was the senior most in the community, she did stitching and mending the clothes of others, washing, ironing etc without being asked. She was so helpful and never found her taking rest. She reached out everywhere, garden, kitchen, assisting the boarders etc. She was so appreciative of all that others did. She could find the positive side of everything that was around her. I got another chance to be with her in the community of Bandel. We had the practice of perpetual adoration during that year in the community. I could find her before the Blessed Sacrament herself six to seven hours daily, reading Holy Bible and praying besides being ahead of time for all the community prayers. Her face used to be so brightened up with a special radiant light. I will certainly miss Sr. Mary! She has inspired me much at the beginning of my religious life”.

Sr. Mary had a great love for the Congregation. Even in the last days, when because of her illness, she would be periodically confused, she would still ask how everything was? Sister loved her vocation as a Daughter of Bishop Ferrando and wanted to share it with as many young girls as possible. She never lost an opportunity to invite a young girl to come and see what our life was like and to consider the possibility of giving her life to Christ. It’s amazing how, many sisters have come up to me in these days or sent me a text, saying that Sr. Mary Minj played an important part in their vocation, either because she extended the initial invitation to consider the religious life or because she displayed such joy in her own religious vocation. Sr. Mary was a woman of prayer. She had a childlike love for the Blessed Mother and a real trust in her powerful intercession, I used to hear her calling AAyo/Mother often particularly these days of pain and discomfort.

I think the words all of us heard most in this last year of Sr. Mary’s life were, “Thank you,” and “God bless you,” – whether it was for a glass of water, helping her up or down on the stairs, or refilling her empty coffee cup. On my last visit to her I had a candy in my hand to give her, although very uncomfortable she accepted it with a beaming smile and said a big thank you, her style was to say thank you very much Provincial.

We are indeed glad that all of you have come to bid farewell to our dear Sr. Mary Minj. We gratefully acknowledge the presence of all the fathers, brothers, sisters, friends, family and well wishers who have gathered here to pray with us for the eternal repose of the soul of our dear Sr. Mary. We warmly welcome the nephews, nieces and relatives of Sr. Mary who have come to bid a fitting farewell to her. We express our deepest condolences to the family members of Sr. Mary. We want to assure you that we are with you at this moment of bereavement and loss of your loved one. We are also privileged and encouraged to have the gracious presence of Sr. Rose Paite, General Councillor for Social Apostolate representing the Superior General, Sr. Philomena Mathew to offer our good bye to Sr. Mary and to share in our sorrow.

We are grateful to everyone for their support and prayers while Sr. Mary was being



nursed in her last days. A special word of thanks to Don Bosco, Communities both Seminary & Shrine for the spiritual assistance provided to Sr. Mary and being at the side of the Sisters. My great appreciation to the community of Ferrando, Bandel under the leadership of Sr. Jacinta Jyrwa in rendering their services to Sr. Mary in her last days. May God reward you amply with His love and grace.

Blessed are you dear Sr. Mary, for you not only fanned into flame God's gift of faith, hope and love but you were a powerful instrument in His hands to share with thousands the same gift of faith. Yes, you lived your missionary vocation with great conviction and passion. You were a missionary in season and out of season. You were heroic in your sense of commitment and hard work, spirit of sacrifice and obedience. Dear Sr. Mary Minj, we sincerely love you and will really miss you. You have won many souls for Christ by healing their body and soul. You have enriched our congregation by your many sacrifices and good deeds. You will remain ever alive in the hearts of all of us and the people you have touched. The Eternal dawn in your life may continue to emanate light of God's blessings to all of us to remain faithful to His love and mission. You inspired us through your joyful living of consecration with conviction and authenticity. We will surely miss your physical presence, but we are proud of you and we firmly believe that you will continue to accompany us and guide us on our onward journey. Intercede for us and guide us as we continue our voyage towards the same destination you have reached. Thank you once again and good bye till we meet at the heavenly banquet. May, Mary our mother unite us all in heaven till the dawn of our lives.

As we begin the Holy Eucharist let us recommend her loving soul to the mercy of the Father, the love of Jesus her spouse and the ever abiding presence of the Spirit in the new life prepared for her.

May her soul Rest in Peace

**Sr. Sini Mathew
Provincial Superior**



Gratitude with Reverence

**"If we live, we live in the Lord; and if we die, we die in the Lord.
So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord"**



Those we love never truly leave us. Death is an inevitable reality that all of us will face one day. Though scary, yet the thought of eternity comforts us and our faith in the risen Lord enables us to accept this reality with hope.

Today as I stand here before the mortal remains of Sr. Mary Minj, I am indebted to God for having been given her as a community member. She sanctified our community with her humble obedience, piety, cheerfulness and sacrifices and her sufferings. She was a person who used to seek permission for every minute thing even to go to take rest when she was sick. She used to spend time before the Eucharistic Lord and was punctual for every community activities when she was in good health. She was eager to render her help everywhere and was sorry when she sees others working hard while she was unable to help. I am sure my sisters too are edified by her life and example. A person of simplicity, sincere love, concern which reached out to everyone, sensitivity to the needs of others were the hallmark of her life. She was a person who always did good for others unnoticed. I am glad that I was able to experience her true missionary spirit and her passionate love for souls and the chance me and my Sisters received to help her during her last days with us. 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. May every MSMHC imbibe the qualities of hers, especially her love for God, Mission and the Congregation coupled with great sacrificing spirit.

Always Sr. Mary Minj used to say "thank you very much, God bless you, you are so good." Gratitude, blessings, Appreciation. So on behalf of our dear Sr. Mary Minj 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. God bless you and your families and endeavours and May you be good and let your goodness be experienced by all.

Adieu Sr. Mary Minj till we meet again in heaven and intercede for each of us.

**Sr. Jacinta Jyrwa
Superior, Ferrando Convent, Bandel**





We miss you dear Aunty

In the name of our family members, I stand here to say few words. First of all I thank Mothers General, starting from mother Rose Thapa, Mother Elizabeth Packumala, Mother Mary Thadavanal, Mother Philomena Mathew and her Councillors who have visited time to time and encouraged her in the time of her illness, provided all that she was in need.

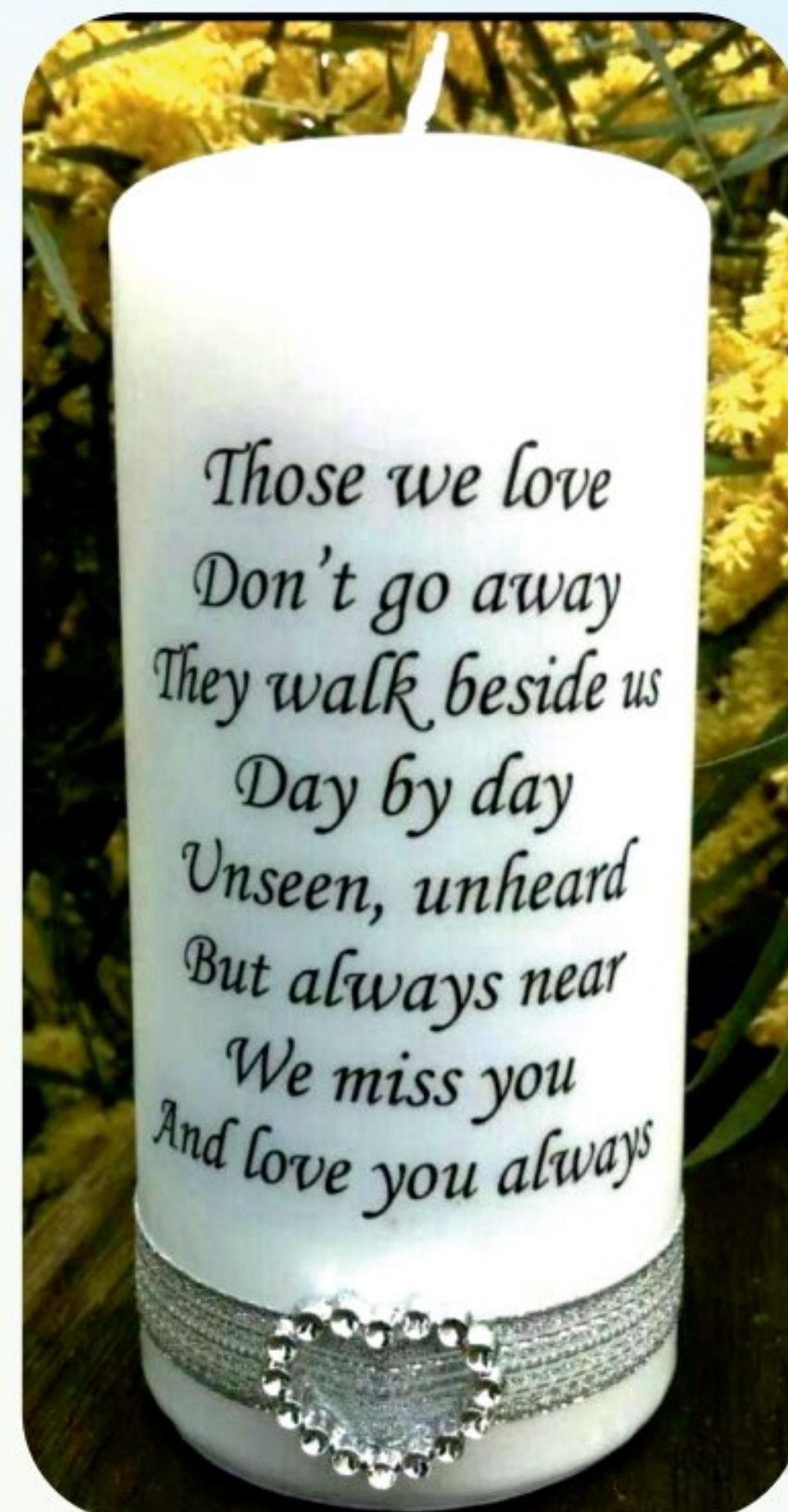
Special thanks to Sr. Provincial of Kolkata Province and all her team members, who were with her to see all her needs. Thanks a lot for all the Superiors in a special way Sr. Nancy Augustine and Sr. Jacinta Jyrwa and all sisters, Aspirants, all the children and helpers who were with her for everything when she was in sick bed. Thank you Sr. Mary Gangte, Sr. Monica and Sr. Daiman Xaxa for taking her to hospital, staying with her and looking after her. Thank you for all the arrangement which all of you rendered.

Thank you Fr. Rector and all the fathers who have taken spiritual care. In return we the family members pray to God for all your intentions. Death can be very unfair, but we can never run away from it. Losing someone is very painful experience, especially someone you loved. Aunties are very important people in every one's life as they influence how you grow up to be, losing a loving aunt can be heart breaking and hard to come in terms with. Over all she was very caring and loving aunt we have ever had.

Thank you dear Aunty for being with us, giving us advice, encouraging and praying for us. Even though all your brothers and sisters have gone before you but your presence was with us. We ever remember you for all that you were to each one of us. You were so happy to see your nieces and nephews coming up, this is because of your prayers and encouragement. Thank you so much for everything. We the family members will miss you. Do pray for us from heaven together with all your brothers and sisters. Love you dear Aunty and miss you.

May your soul rest in peace.

Mr. Jeffrinus Kishore Minj (Nephew of Sr. Mary Minj)





Sr. Mary Minj: A Life of Dedication and Love

In April 2020, I was transferred to Bandel, where Sr. Mary Minj was already a part of the community. This marked my first opportunity to live and interact closely with her. Over the next two and a half years, I came to know her beyond the impressions I had previously heard from others. As I reflect on those memories, a few distinct qualities stand out vividly.

From the beginning, I noticed Sr. Mary's deep reverence for authority. She held her Superiors, both at the local level and especially the Major Superiors, in high regard. Whenever news arrived of a Provincial or Major Superior's visit, even if casual, she would light up with joy and anticipation, eager to welcome them with admiration and respect.

Sr. Mary was also a model of punctuality in community life. Unless she was unwell, she was always present for spiritual exercises. She faithfully attended meditation, pious practices, recreation, Good Night sessions, and night prayers. Once, she shared that she would rise at 4:30 a.m. daily to ensure she was never late for meditation. Her rosary beads were a constant presence, always moving through her fingers. She also took her turns for adoration with quiet devotion and enjoyed sharing all community meals, fostering a spirit of unity.

A lover of order and cleanliness, Sr. Mary maintained her surroundings with care. While the girls in the community helped clean her room and wash her clothes, she often gave certain items an extra wash herself to ensure they met her standards. Her religious habits were always neatly pressed, reflecting her meticulous nature.

When she felt well, Sr. Mary was full of energy, quick to lend a hand wherever needed. I recall one amusing occasion when she unwound two entire reels of white thread, tying it from pillar to pillar across the veranda. No one could enter for a time, as she skillfully rewound the thread to make cords for the Sisters' crucifixes. Her creativity and resourcefulness were always at play. She felt at home in the garden and among the poultry and welcomed visitors with warmth, no matter who they were, embodying a natural sociability and kindness in her interactions.

Sr. Mary loved her apostolate and embraced every community she served with dedication. Her former parishioners from Mairang, where she had served many years ago, were heartbroken to learn that her health was failing. They even booked tickets to visit her but, unfortunately, had to cancel their trip due to an unexpected illness.

As a nurse, Sr. Mary embodied compassion and sacrifice, but she was also firm when the situation demanded. During her time at the dispensary in Dhajea, she discovered many unpaid dues. Displaying both persistence and care, she visited these families after



morning Mass, collecting payments in cash or kind to support the community. This tireless commitment reflected her responsibility and her unwavering love for both the congregation and the people she served.

May the Lord, in His infinite mercy, bless Sr. Mary for her selfless service, steadfast dedication, and profound commitment to her mission. Her loyalty to the congregation and her love for her vocation remain an enduring inspiration to all who knew her.

**Sr. Nancy Augustine
Maayer Asha, Ichapur**



Sr. Mary Minj: A Selfless Soul, beloved of Jesus



Sr. Mary Minj holds a special place in Jesus' heart, and her devotion to Mother Mary is truly inspiring. I'm blessed to have shared moments with her for a few years, witnessing her extraordinary love and compassion.

Her heart beats for the school and boarding children, whom she affectionately called 'Babu' or 'Mayya'. She always carried medicines in her pockets to tend to their needs. With utmost care and concern, she nurtured the children and her fellow sisters.

Sr. Mary's respect for superiors is exemplary, and she treated everyone with equal kindness, regardless of position. Her humility shines through in every task, from ironing clothes to ensuring every button is in place. Dear Sr. Mary Minj, you're a treasure, and your selflessness touches hearts.

May God give you a fitting place in Heaven.

**Sr. Anice Sebastian
MSMHC Provincial House, Ichapur**



Sr. Mary Minj – A Precious Jewel



Sr. Mary Minj was a passionate missionary and a dedicated nurse whose warmth and compassion left a lasting impact on everyone she encountered. She had a genuine interest in the well-being of everyone. Her presence made us feel at home, and her sense of humour brought joy and laughter into our lives. She was deeply appreciative of the blessings she received and remained grateful to God, her superiors and sisters.

One of her greatest joys was connecting with people. She carried out her mission with passion. She would visit villages and neighbourhoods, sharing the love of Jesus with everyone she met. She had a special concern for children that she reached out to them as a wonderful mentor and friend to them. Even when her health declined and she could no longer fulfil her responsibilities, she maintained her life pattern and remained serene.

Her commitment to the congregation was evident in the meticulous way she carried out her duties, always with great dedication. As a nurse, her compassionate nature resonated with people of all ages, and her gentle touch was especially comforting to the sick. Sr. Mary Minj had great concern for the poor in the villages and she found immense joy in helping them. She found fulfilment in small acts of kindness rather than in grand gestures. She cherished her time with her fellow sisters, especially when her health began to decline and she was no more able to carry out her apostolic work.

The last years of her life at Ferrando Home were challenging, as her life over there was not so much in line with her preferences. However, the companionship of Mother Packumala brought her great joy and inspiration. Gradually, she got adjusted with the time as she spent her days in prayer and with children. Although the departure of Mother Packu saddened her, she regained her enthusiasm for life and settled into a new routine.

Whenever I interacted with her, she expressed her gratitude and assured me of her prayers for my mission. Those moments of my encounter with her were grace-filled as I could feel encouraged and inspired to carry on with my life with dedication. Sr. Mary Minj's life has inspired me in countless ways, and although she is no longer with us, I am sure that her memories continue to guide and uplift us.

Sr. Molly James
Nirmala Niketan, Nedungapra, Kerala

A TRIBUTE TO MY LOVING AUNT



Sr. Mary Minj left an inedible mark in our hearts, and nothing will ever erase it. She was a gem and will remain to be cherished.

Sr. Mary left the family to join the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians when I was just a year old. In fact I met her for the first when I was twelve years old. In my early childhood days my mother would often narrate to me that she was very fond of me.

When she knew that I wanted to become a priest, she always encouraged me with her assurance of prayers to pursue in my priestly vocation. She was happy to be present for my vestition, first profession and perpetual profession in Shillong. She was overwhelmed with joy

when I was ordained a priest.

We kept on moving as religious obedience placed us in different places/ communities for our ministries. But whenever we met each other, she always showed herself to be a loving and caring aunt. In May 2018 during my short visit to her in Bandel, though she was sick, she walked all the way to the shrine, grotto and up to the balcony to pray for my well being. Her faith in God and Our Lady was edifying.

Sr. Mary was optimistic and cheerful. She spent her life serving the Lord and radiating joy, warmth, empathy and love for the poor especially the sick.

During her home visit she made sure to meet all the relatives, neighbours and acquaintances. Her warm smile attracted all. The people of the village flocked to meet her. She had a loving and caring word for all. Her passing away has left an immense void, but her legacy of love, joy, kindness, faith and devotion will continue to vibrate in our hearts.

Her commitment to her calling was a beacon of hope and inspiration to all of us in the family. We thank Sr. Mary our dear aunt for showing us the power of prayer and faith, teaching us the importance of kindness and compassion, being a role model of selflessness and service, and above all for inspiring us to live a life of purpose and meaning. We express a deep sense of gratitude to the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians for accompanying her all through but



Sr. Mary Minj MSMHC 1935-2023

more especially during the sunset of her life.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of Sr. Mary. May her soul rest in your eternal peace. Give her the crown of life which you have promised to those who are faithful unto death. "Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).



Fr. Melchior Tirkey SDB (Nephew of Sr. Mary Minj)
New Delhi





My Memories of Sr. Mary Minj Our beloved Aunty

To us and very specially to me she was a real source of inspiration for total commitment and dedication. Whenever we were at home, she had plenty to share about her missionary activities in the North East about which we knew nothing. She had to share about the place, the culture and the work. She would narrate her adventures with lot of joy, emotions and affection. I can say she too was instrumental for me to become a religious and when I joined the congregation she would regularly encourage me to be serious about my vocation. I could say that she was a cheerful giver. This cheerfulness reflected on her face even during her illness.

Finally I would say that it was very fortunate that so many from our family could be present for her final farewell at Bandel. Well I recall the love and affection I experienced from her. May she enjoy the fruit of her hard work and be crowned with His Eternal Presence.

**Sr. Grace Minj MSMHC (Niece of Sr. Mary Minj)
Guwahati Province**





Sr. Mary Minj

'A Dedicated Missionary With Compassion'



"If we live, we live in the Lord; and if we die, we die in the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."
Romans 14:8. Those whom we truly love never die. No one is really dead until she or he is forgotten.

With great joy I recall back the fond memories of our dear Sr. Mary Minj which flows from my heart. I have been associated with her since in the year 2004 at Hatigaon. At the first meeting itself I was so impressed by her esteem and love for the superiors, she would join her hands and greet them. Again for the last three years of her life from 2021 to 2023, I had the joy of having her in our community. It was edifying to hear her greeting every morning praised be Jesus Christ Sr. Superior. And if she did not see me she would climb up the stairs looking for me just to greet. Even small act of love done for her she would say profusely "thank you very much, God bless you, you are so good." Gratitude, blessings, and appreciation were part of her life. She lived a life of gratefulness. She was a person who lived for others, whoever comes to the house she made sure that she meets and enquired of their concern and matters, and she made sure that they feel comfortable and met their needs. When she was still able to do some work she used to stitch and iron others' cloth and habits quietly. When she was very ill she used to ask me; 'Superior what shall I do to help you all, you all are so hardworking and I am not able to help.' She was indeed a blessing to our community by her prayers and sufferings. A person who gave herself totally in the service of others with much love and dedication.

Sr. Mary Minj left us a year ago. She has gone ahead of us to the place where the Lord has prepared a beautiful mansion for her. I do not think she would like to exchange place with us, if she is ever given a chance. For she is enjoying today, as St. Paul says, "What no eye has seen or ear has heard or mind can possibly imagine, the things that the good Lord has prepared for those who love him" (1Cor. 2: 9). Sr. Mary Minj loved the Lord dearly. Sr. Mary Minj truly lived her life to the full in service at the Lord's vineyard and grew old gracefully and moved away from our midst almost imperceptibly. Sweetness in



life comes with old age just as at Cana the sweet wine was served at the end.

Our years are like a cup of coffee—the final sip is often the sweetest. In life, tenderness and compassion reveal a soul truly alive. And what will linger in our hearts for years to come are the endearing qualities of Sr. Mary Minj—her unwavering commitment, tireless dedication, hard work, and profound sense of the divine.

She was more than just a devoted member of our congregation; she was a saintly soul among us, enriching our province and community with her presence. I thank God for the gift of her life, which has served as a personal inspiration to me.

It is my prayer and hope that we may all embody the virtues she lived so beautifully—her deep love for the congregation and respect for superiors, her spirit of selflessness and humility, and above all, her willingness to sacrifice, reflecting the compassion of our Lord. Truly, Sr. Mary's life was a beacon of grace, showing us the path to holiness through simplicity and service.

Sr. Jacinta Jyrwa
Ferrando Convent, Bandel

Sr. Mary Minj: A Heart Full of Love and Prayer



Sr. Mary Minj was a woman of radiant joy, humility, and a self-sacrificing spirit. Her cheerful presence uplifted everyone around her, and her deep love for the mission was reflected in her prayerful life and motherly care.

I had the privilege of living with her during a time when I was unwell. She stood by my side with unwavering concern, offering words of encouragement: "Don't worry, you will be okay." Her kindness and loving reassurance brought me strength when I needed it the most.

Sr. Mary's devotion to the Blessed Mother was extraordinary. She would spend long hours in adoration, praying fervently for the congregation and each sister individually. Her life was a shining example to me, inspiring my own journey. She often reminded me, "Be a person of prayer; only prayer will make us successful missionaries."

Her legacy of prayer, love, and dedication remains a guiding light for all who knew her.

Sr. Emerencia Ekka
Lourd Prakash Bhawan, Ranchi

Fond Memories

Fondly and joyful memory,
Of our dearest Sr. Mary.
On her first dead anniversary;
Sixth Eleventh Twenty - twenty three.

The most charming person you are,
Ever live in this planet earth;
Full of love, joy and enthusiasm,
That was one of your charism.

Precious, unique and wonderful soul,
Devoted service and commitment;
To the poor, needy near and far,
Overflows like dayasagar

Long live dearest Sr. Mary Minj ,
With your humble life & simplicity
May you be the beacon of inspiration
to every Msmhc

**Sr. Rose Khriam
Maria Niwas, Boropahari**

Wealth is worthless in the
day of wrath, but
righteousness delivers from
death.

—Proverbs 11:4

My experience of Sr. Mary Minj



During my initial formation at Bandel, I was sent to St. Mary's Convent, Kudda, for a week, along with two friends, to assist in the school while the Sisters attended their retreat. It was there that I had the privilege of encountering Sr. Mary Minj for the first time. Though brief, this experience left a lasting impression on me. Her humility, gentleness, simplicity, and motherly warmth deeply touched my heart. Being with her kindled in me a stronger desire to become a good sister like her. At that pivotal moment in my formation journey, she gave me hope, assuring me that someone was there for me.

Years later, the memory of Sr. Mary stayed with me, and I longed to meet and live with her again. By God's grace, my wish was fulfilled, and I was blessed to spend two years with her at Ferrando Convent, Bandel. During this time, I saw firsthand how she treated everyone with kindness and love, never raising her voice or speaking harshly. Her genuine care for souls and the poor was inspiring—a virtue to admire and emulate. Even as age took its toll, she remained humble, simple, approachable, and always willing to extend a helping hand to those in need. Sr. Mary Minj, as you now rejoice in heaven with the angels and saints, please intercede for us. Bless us from above, so that we may live our religious life faithfully, just as you did. May we one day join you in singing the praises of God in heaven.

**Sr. Debora Malangmei
Maayer Asha, Ichapur**

Remembering Sr. Mary Minj: A Life of Kindness and Service

Today, we honour the memory of Sr. Mary Minj (on her first death anniversary) a remarkable nun and nurse who left an indelible mark on the lives of countless individuals. It has been one year since her passing, but her legacy of kindness, compassion and dedication continues to inspire us.

A Life of Service

Sr. Mary Minj embodied the values of her religious congregation (MSMHC), living a life of selfless service to others. As a nurse, she tended to the physical and emotional needs of her patients with unwavering care and empathy. Her gentle touch, warm smile and reassuring presence brought comfort to those suffering.

A Ministry of Healing

Throughout her nursing career Sr. Mary Minj worked tirelessly in various healthcare settings. Her expertise and compassion earned her the respect and admiration of colleagues and patients alike. She was more than a nurse; she was a healer, a listener, and a guardian of hope.

A Testament to Her Faith

Sr. Mary's commitment to her faith was evident in every aspect of her life. Her devotion to God and her community guided her actions, inspiring her to serve with humility and kindness. Her example encourages us to live our own faith with greater purpose and conviction.

Remembering Her Legacy

As we reflect on Sr. Mary's life, we remember:

- Her unwavering dedication to her patients and community
- Her compassionate heart, always willing to listen and support
- Her generosity, sharing her time and talents selflessly
- Her joy, radiating from her love for God and humanity

Sr. Mary may be gone, but her spirit remains, inspiring us to follow in her footsteps. May her life be a testament to the power of compassion, kindness, and devotion. As we celebrate her legacy, we pray:

"May Sr. Mary Minj's love, kindness, and dedication continue to inspire us. May her memory be a blessing to all who knew her. May her soul rest in eternal peace, surrounded by the love of God."

Sr. Sini Mathew
MSMHC Provincial House, Ichapur



A Magical Hand

I wonder at the marvels of the Lord
Amazed at the beauty around,
Wondering how wonderful is He who created
This special person of Magic.

She had a magical hand
To heal the broken heart ,body and the mind
She proved 'not important to be scholarly'
But simply being lovely.

She was an embodiment of love
Taking care of the sick, even in difficult times
She proved, 'not important to be known'
Be willing at any cost and be love for all.

She was a missionary after the heart of the Master
Reaching out to people of hills and valleys,
showering love to the last and the least,
Everyone found a true friend and mother in her.

She did all for Jesus her Beloved
Hidden sacrifices, magical little deeds of love;
Sisters got ironed cloths ,chords and delicacies,
Out of the blue to rejoice and wonder.

Her love was so pure for all;
Being little, putting others first,
Respecting the superiors with pure heart
A life lived to the full, with a magic of love.

Sr. Lincy Varghese
Ferrando Convent, Bandel



The joy of Simplicity: A tribute to Sr.Mary Minj

What I know about Sr. Mary Minj may be limited, but her simplicity and humility in attitude left a deep impression on me. She was always cheerful and found joy in serving God. Sr. Mary was approachable at any time, ready to offer encouragement to those who were downhearted. Her respect for Superiors was unwavering, and above all, she was deeply prayerful, with a special devotion to our Blessed Mother Mary.

May her life continue to inspire us, and may her prayers from heaven help us walk the path of faithfulness in our religious vocation.

Sr. Susmita Soren
Maayer Asha, Ichapur



"A Life of Healing, A Mission of Grace"



In the tapestry of time, some threads glow bright,
Woven with love, in day and night.
Sister Mary Minj, a soul so rare,
A nurse, a missionary, beyond compare.

Her hands were steady, her heart sincere,
Tending the sick, erasing fear.
With every touch, she soothed the pain,
Like drops of hope in life's harsh rain.

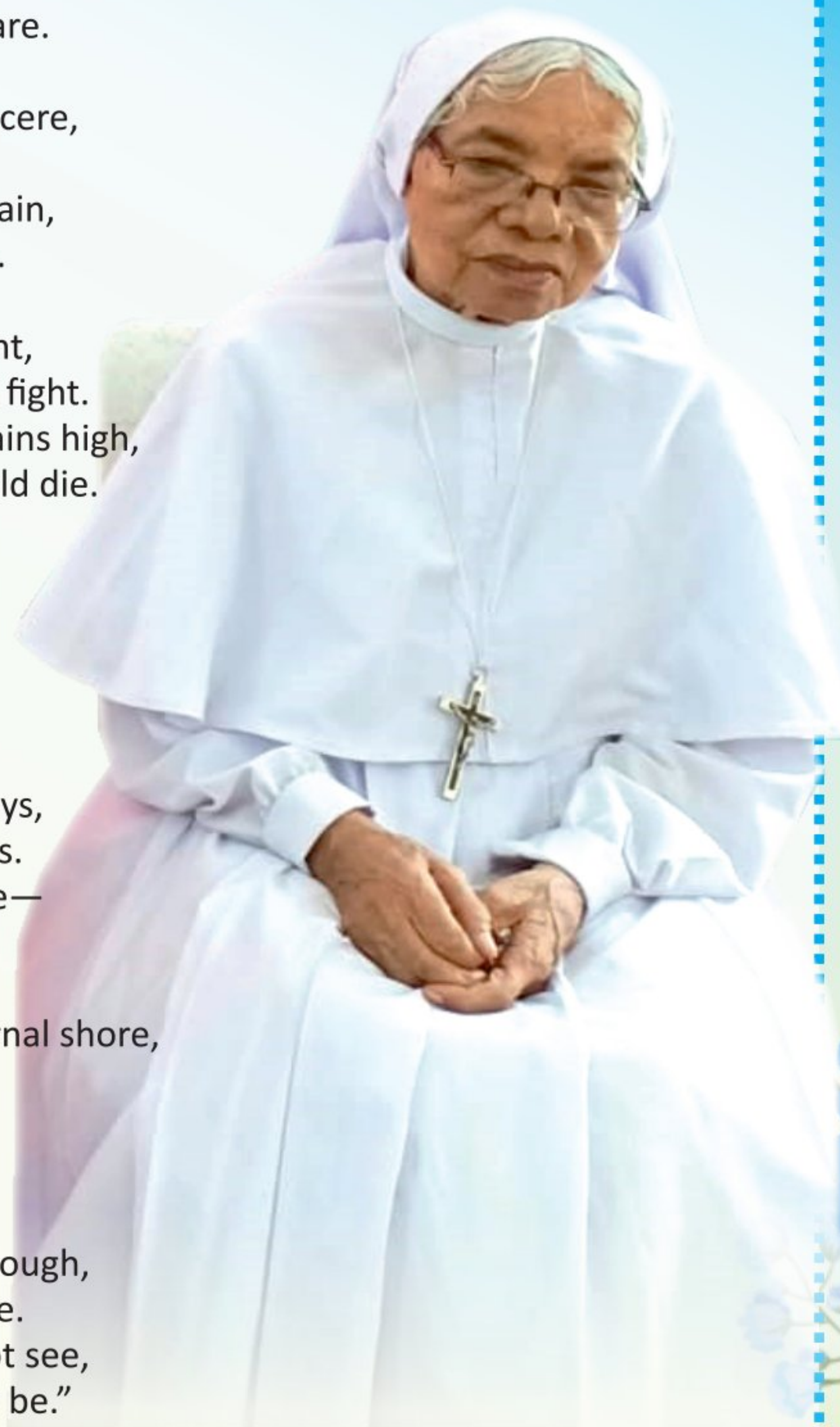
Not just a healer, but a beacon of light,
In distant lands, she fought the good fight.
Through valleys deep, across mountains high,
Her mission spoke where words would die.

Generous and kind, she gave her all,
Answering faithfully every call.
Her joy was found in giving more,
A life lived fully at mercy's core.

Though she has passed, her spirit stays,
In hearts she touched and silent ways.
For life is more than breath and bone—
It lingers in love that's widely sown.

One year since she reached that eternal shore,
Her work lives on, forevermore.
In every act of kindness shown,
Sister Mary Minj's legacy is known.

The soul, unbound, must journey through,
To realms where love is pure and true.
And though her presence we may not see,
Her life still whispers, "Be all you can be."



Sr. Regina Sunwar
Mariam Niwas, Nagaon

Sr. Mary Minj MSMHC 1935-2023

A Life Well-Lived: In Memory of Sr. Mary Minj



One year has passed, yet your presence remains,
Like a soft breeze that eases all pains.
Sr. Mary, your mission was clear and bright—
To serve with love, be hope's quiet light.

You walked with simplicity, humble and true,
Giving your all in all that you'd do.
No need for praise, no thought of gain,
Your heart beat only to ease others' pain.

A missionary spirit guided your way,
In distant lands, you chose to stay.
With hands that healed, and words that cared,
You gave yourself, and love was shared.

Authentic you were, in thought and deed,
A soul who responded to every need.
Not bound by titles or worldly show,
You nurtured with grace, helped others grow.

In joy and sorrow, you stood by each friend,
Listening, comforting, till the very end.
Your life was a hymn of kindness rare,
A song of God's love beyond compare.

Now Heaven holds what earth could not keep,
Yet in our hearts, your memories sleep.
We feel you near when we laugh or pray,
In little things, you guide our way.

Thank you, Sr. Mary, for being so kind,
For teaching us love, both gentle and blind.
Though you rest now in God's embrace,
Your spirit shines through every face.

We celebrate you with grateful hearts,
Your legacy lives, though you've taken part.
A year may pass, but love never ends
Forever, Sr. Mary, you are our friend.



**Sr. Krisdalin Timung
Mariam Niwas, Nagaon**

A woman with a healing hand: Sr. Mary Minj



A year since you left, yet memories stay.
Sister Mary Minj, nurse, and angel true,
Your legacy lives, forever shining through.

With skilled hands and a compassionate heart,
You tended the sick, a loving work of art.
Your vows of service, a lifelong call,
Echoing still, beyond the final fall.

In dispensaries and villages, your presence remained,
A soothing balm, a gentle, caring aid.
Patients' smiles, a testament to your care,
A reflection of God's love, beyond compare.

Now in eternal peace, you rest,
Your labour of love, forever blessed.
We remember your kindness, your gentle way,
A beautiful soul, in God's light of day.

May your example inspire us still,
To serve, to care, with a loving will.
And as we honour your memory today,
May your spirit continue to guide us on our way.

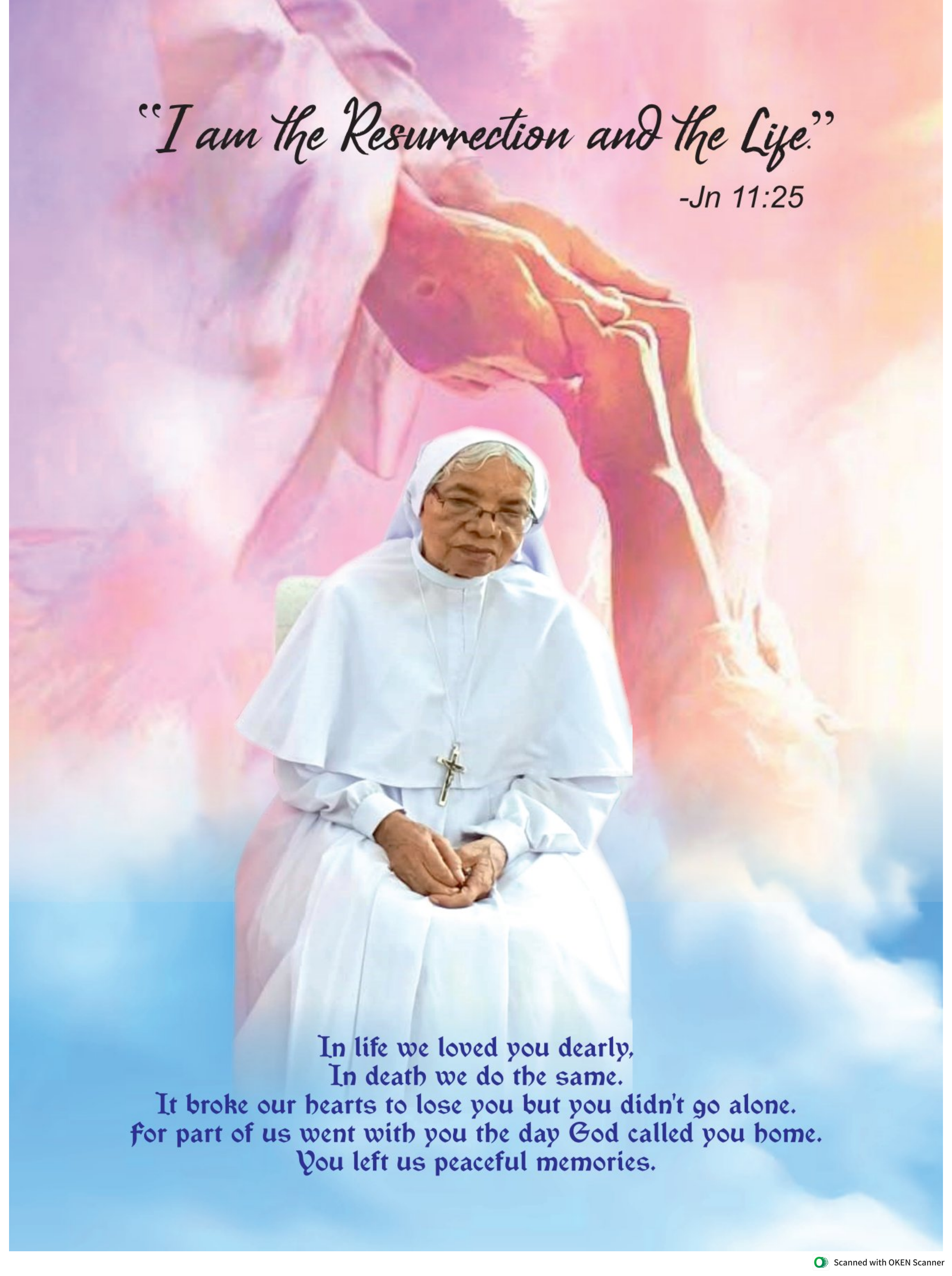
**Rest, dear Sister, in God's loving embrace,
Your legacy of love, a timeless, sacred space.**



Sr. Sini Mathew
MSMHC Provincial House, Ichapur







"I am the Resurrection and the Life."

-Jn 11:25

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.