



**ADIEU TO OUR DEAR
SR. M. CELESTINE BARBOZA C.J.**



“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”

Sr. Celestine was born on 10th August 1940 in the village of Philar, Udipi in South Kanara (Mangalore) to a devout Catholic couple, Mr. Balthazar Barboza and Mrs. Concepta Barboza. She was the youngest of 7 children- 2 boys and 5 girls. After completing her schooling, Celestine, inspired by her uncle, the late and revered Bishop, Baptist Mudartha, joined the Congregation of Jesus, then known as the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary and entered the Novitiate at Patna in 1959. In 1961 she made her first Profession and her Final Commitment in 1966 at Allahabad. After committing her life to the Lord in 1961, she continued her higher studies, doing B.A., M.A. and L.T. after which she began her teaching career. She served in a number of our institutions, as a teacher, as a Head Mistress, as a Principal, as a superior of community and also as a social worker. Sr. Celestine has rendered valuable services to the church, to the Congregation and to the people in places such as Lucknow, Patna, Allahabad, Mumbai, Jhansi, Kanpur, Meja, Ghazipur, Korao- Taroan and Shampura in Sagar diocese.

It is her love for the poor and the needy and her dedication to their service that distinguishes her as an outstanding person. In her varying roles as teacher, Principal, social worker she made every effort to reach out to the down-trodden, the afflicted and the neglected. Sr. Celestine initiated many measures to bring the poor into the mainstream society- she made sure that the poor in the neighborhood had access to good education. While serving as a social worker in Koraon she, with the assistance of a funding agency, reached out to a number of physically disabled children providing them with medical aid, physio- therapy and basic education. Wherever she served, the people loved and appreciated her for her generous service and her self- sacrificing, compassionate nature.

Sr. Celestine was a woman of deep faith who lived a life of constant prayer. She tried every means to bring Catholics to deeper faith and prayer, visiting Catholic families regularly, teaching Catechism to

children and adults, preparing them to receive the sacraments and inspiring them to remain firm in their faith. She was indeed a true missionary, who, despite scorching heat and biting cold would be seen going out on her cycle, to visit the sick, the old and the needy. Even in the last months of her life at Sagar and Ghazipur she visited the neighbourhood families regularly, praying with them and instructing them in faith. Despite her age and health problems she continued to serve the people as well as her sisters in the community and never sought exemptions from work or community exercises. She was ever willing to take up any work asked of her even in the advancing years of her life. In short she was a model religious, who remained simple, genuine and down to earth in her ways, fearless in the face of adversities, committed to the service of people to the last minute.

In her death we have truly lost an ideal religious, a loving sister, an inspiring example but we are sure we now have an intercessor in heaven.

At the time of her demise Sr. Celestine was 72 years old. Though she suffered from health problems such as back pain and diabetes, yet these were not of such serious nature as to be life threatening. So we were taken aback when on 27th August she was brought from Ghazipur, where she was posted at, in a serious condition. Immediately she was admitted in Nazareth Hospital where she was given all possible care and medical aid. None of us thought it was to be her last visit. But death came suddenly, unexpectedly, robbing us of a loving sister and guide, leaving us shocked and bewildered.

Our Dear Sister Celestine,

*As we bid goodbye to you, we say a heartfelt 'thank you' to you
for the rich legacy of a truly inspiring life you have left for us.*

We shall cherish the memories of a life lived for others

*Your compassion and care for the poor,
the needy and the afflicted,*

Shall keep challenging and urging us

To continue the same mission with zeal and enthusiasm.

Thank you, dear sister and guide.

May you continue to inspire us

From your heavenly abode!

Adieu! Till we meet again in our Father's Home!

