

Celebrating the life and call of Sr. Mary Jacquline

(11.06.1968 - 02.01.2020)

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" (Revelation 14:13)

Sr. Mary Jacquline, your mission has ended and you are invited to be with the Lord, enjoying eternal bliss; there is no more suffering, no more pain, you are with Lord! How courageously you have welcomed death with the faith and serenity you have always been endowed with! In your absence, we now feel your presence.

Sr. Mary Jacquline was born on 11th June 1968 at Kadiapattam village, Kanyakumari Dist, Tamil Nadu, as the seventh child to her beloved parents who were deeply spiritual and instilled in her the deep faith, which helped her to join religious life. She was nurtured with the generous love of her six sisters and three brothers, a coveted family bond that withstood all tides and built an armour of strength and encouragement always. One of her older sisters is a religious nun and a younger brother is Salesian priest. She bravely responded to God's call at the early age of 15, by joining the religious of the Good Shepherd in Bangalore, soon after completing 10th grade. She graduated with Masters in Social Work from Loyola College, Chennai.

"Love the girls, love them very much"- Saint Mary Euphrasia Pelletier

She diligently practiced this maxim to the fullest. Every member in the communities where she served, fondly recall her passion and dedication as a loving daughter of the Good Shepherd: Priyadarshini Bangalore, Mysore, Manvi, Vedanthangal, Bellary, Pallavaram, Mangalagiri, St. Michael's Convent Bangalore, Andheri Mumbai and Virar. Her precious time was devoted to the orphans and disadvantaged children bestowed in her care, to whom she was more than a mother and loving friend. She accompanied the candidates and Novices for a period of about five years, a splendid time as recalled by them. For the past six years, she served in the Virar Community as Project co-ordinator for anti-human trafficking and Community Leader. Her glorious innings of 28 years of shepherding as a Good Shepherd Religious is noteworthy.

It is unbelievable to know our beloved Sr. Jacquline is no more. We lovingly called her Jack. She was rooted in God and her actions flowed from this love. A cheerful and humourous person, with a quiet and gentle demeanour, Jack was very sensitive to the needs of the poor, generously contributing for the welfare of the children and the poor. There were many wonderful aspects to Sr. Jacquline's life, and many ways that she touched our lives. She will be remembered as a wonderful daughter, sister, great friend, devoted nun, artist, beautiful singer, caring mother, courageous warrior of peace, a simple soul and blessing to many. Above all, the grace with which she dealt with her sickness was the biggest formative lesson on faith.

It was this simplicity and generosity that attracted such a large gathering for her final adieu on 3rd January 2020 at Good Shepherd Chennai. The funeral mass was officiated by her own brother, who also read a heartrending eulogy to his sister, sharing beautiful snippets of Jack's life.

And when God comes, when life is broken beyond anything we can comprehend, the perfume of grace drips on our brow, not to minimize our loss, but to maximize God's presence and love. Yes, we are pained at your sudden departure, dear Jack. We love you and miss you amidst us, but we know that you intercede for us from heaven.

The angels looked down from heaven one night.

They searched for miles afar,

And deep within the distance

They could see a shining star.

They knew that very instant
That the star was theirs to gain,
So they took you up to heaven,
Forever to remain.

Look down on us from heaven.
Keep us free from hurt and pain.
You'll always be within our hearts
Until we meet again.