



VANI

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Wish You a Prosperous New Year 2013

*Fly Life on free wings
and sing to its Glory*



Editorial...

The end always marks a new beginning, for those who choose to create one. As we stand on the threshold of the New Year 2013, we look back with grateful hearts to all the events that took place in our individual and community life. This year was a year of uncertainty in the national and international level. In our country people held their finger crossed on some tough economic decisions by the Union Government having dire political consequences. For us Catholics it has been a year of rediscovering our faith journey by professing, celebrating, living, praying and reflecting it.



For us SSps, it was a year with many blessings but on the other a year which witnessed the demise of three of our sisters who created milestones in the history of Indian SSps life. On the time scale of the history of the earth an individual human lifetime is a mere blink of an eye. We're born, we live, and we die and then we are 'heard no more' but 'the legacy remains for the generations to come'. May they enjoy eternal reward in the presence of the Lord and may we live their legacy for the times to come.

Each New Year is like turning a page in the story of life. It's a new beginning and the page is always blank. The new page is waiting to be filled with the next part of each person's life story. The twists and turns of the plot of life can be complex, or they can be simpler than the average novel. The exciting thing about each one's story is in the here and now. The decisions one makes, the circumstances, environments and people one encounters, all colour the images in the story. Let's make our story of life more colourful and add colours to others story of life in the coming year.

Wish you all a grace-filled Year 2013

**Sr. Natalia D'Souza SSps
Mumbai**



Christmas is ...



What a Joyous and pleasant experience, that the saviour is born among us. He humbled himself to be one with us. It is really amazing to celebrate this historic event of the Nativity: share gifts, cut cakes, come together joyfully with our family and friends and Oh, what not? Is Christmas restricted only to a day of sharing gifts, cutting cakes and wearing new clothes and going around enjoying with family members? This is how one of my friends challenged me during our conversation about the forth coming Christmas celebration. Surprised at my friend's reaction I asked as to what should we be doing? Speaking on the significance of nativity my friend enlightened me on the many things we could do other than these external and material celebrations. It is also good to think of the faith aspect of our lives on this blessed occasion, as we are in the year of faith. Take Mother Mary as a perfect example of faith. When Angel Gabriel brought the Good News to Mary she did not rationalize rather accepted with faith. We too need to have the faith that of Mary even risking our own lives for the good of others to be favored ones in the sight of God. If we don't imitate the positive elements that are in the birth of Jesus there is no meaning of celebrating Christmas or the year of faith. The same question is posed to all of us. What is our response to the newly born Child Jesus? Let us promise Him that our life is going to be a witness to all those whom we live with. Let our celebrations just not end externally. Let us pray that child Jesus may bless us with a good heart to have faith like His mother Mary so that we may interiorize the good elements and be able to see God in the whole humanity.

**Sr.Vasantha SSpS,
PAN, Bangalore**

Worthwhile is the life given for mission

Sr. Aliciann, Mary Vazhapilly SSPS

It is so truly human that at the passing away of our loved one we experience a profound sense of sadness, emptiness and grief. At the same time, it is a moment of grace as the experience of death puts us in touch with the mystery of life itself, and we begin to see life and death so intimately connected. As Darkness shows the burning beauty of the flame, death reveals life's fragile loveliness. It shows us what is vital and what is worthless. If we have faith, death



shouldn't scare us but enable us to smile as it brings us to the embrace of GOD.

Sr. Aliciann, Mary Vazhapilly was born on July 5, 1936 in Puthenvelikara in the diocese of Trichur. After having taken care of her ailing mother she entered the Congregation at St. Raphael's

Convent, Indore, on June 24, 1957. She made her First Profession on January 2, 1962. In the following year she was sent to Australia to pursue Nursing studies. On completing her studies she returned to India and on January 02, 1968 she made her Perpetual Commitment. Shortly after that she was sent to Goa for theological studies for two years as a preparation for the formation ministry she was to take up later.

"Worthwhile is the life given for Mission" is a

saying given to us by our founder St. Arnold Janssen that is very meaningful and significant for us missionaries. Sr. Aliciann held her missionary vocation to SSPS Congregation in high regard as she gave herself generously in the different responsibilities she held. In the history of the Indian provinces Sr.

Aliciann played a very unique role – She was the first Indian SSpS to whom the torch of leadership in formation and administration was handed over by our pioneering Sisters from Germany and the United States. Being the first Indian Provincial Superior, she had to face many hurdles having had to travel through uncharted paths. She welcomed gracefully the blessings and challenges of that transition. In the 1970s Sister was the pioneer in India to initiate the inculturation process particularly in liturgy and to a certain extent in our way of life. Many of us SSpS have imbibed the values of religious missionary life, having had her as our formator, mentor and companion in our initial formation years; the teaching and learning happened more from her personal witness.

A wide range of Memories of our experiences with Sr. Aliciann fills our minds and hearts as we think of her. In the person of Sr. Aliciann, was wrapped up a great wealth of gifts - of feminine way of reaching out, nurturing life and relationships; an art for making people feel at home, a disciplined and faithful prayer life.

If there is a phrase that could encapsulate the life of Sr. Aliciann in



my experience of her would be, Committed CARE. Caring and nurturing was very natural to sister; it came effortlessly. She exuded a certain vibrancy, warmth and care in her interactions with people. All that she did was in some way permeated with that spirit. She was very personal in her approach to people. Hers was a very warm and welcoming personality with a winning smile and endearing charm. She was there to welcome when we came home and she was there to bid farewell when we left on a journey, even when she was not able to help herself in the later years of her life.

She was indeed a community-person. She enjoyed the company of sisters and friends; she looked forward to gatherings, celebrations and lighter moments; No wonder in death too she managed to have many SSpS around her, as we are here for a retreat which

was scheduled to begin yesterday. I believe it is not a mere coincidence.

The poor and the less privileged of the society had a special place in her heart. Many of them from Khandwa, Bangalore and other places remember her with great love and gratitude.

Her ardent desire for the foreign mission was kept kindled through the years and on her request she was assigned to England for 5 years at the age of 63. There she engaged herself in prison ministry, working with the migrants and gypsies etc., while being the community leader.

A few years ago Sr. Aliciann suffered a mild stroke and since then her memory has been fading and her mental alertness growing fainter. However, her personal touch never weakened as we know it came from her heart. Since one year sister has been in Anugraha community,

Mumbai for better medical care at Holy Spirit Hospital.

Dear Sr. Aliciann, We have been truly blessed to have had you with us for many years; a few of us have experienced you for 50 years; many of us for a good number of years. You have gone only beyond the sound of our voices and touch of our hands Sr. Aliciann, but you live on in our hearts and in our memories. While death brings us sadness, our faith brings us the joy that you have entered into a 'New Home'. We are greatly indebted to you and we will continue to hold you very close to our hearts.

In the name of all the sisters in the province I want to thank you heartily for the gift you have been to the SSpS family. You have made a difference to our life. Worthwhile indeed has been your life given in service!

As we surrender you into God's hands I want to tell you Sr. Aliciann that we love you. May you experience the fullness of joy and life in God!

Sr. Gracy SSpS

Provincial Leader

*(Shared at the Funeral Mass
on 23rd September 2012 at 3pm)*





A Loving Tribute...



Sr. Aliciann, Mary Vazhapilly SSPS

A noble saying goes like this "They who live and live for a noble cause, are virtuous; stand by them. They who live and live for others, are honorable; revere them. They who live and live to brighten this world, are wise; follow them."

These are my deepest sentiments as we bid farewell to Sr. Aliciann, who had been an integral part of this institution as Administrator of the hospital from June 1987 to July 1992. As we pay our last respects to Sister, with deep gratitude, we acknowledge and appreciate her contribution in the building up of this hospital with her commitment to life. Her life is a story of sacrifice and commitment with a deep love for the community of sisters. She accomplished almost everything entrusted to her cheerfully, placing tremendous trust and confidence in the Almighty.

As Provincial Leader, Sr. Aliciann was the President of the Governing Board of the Hospital for 6 years. Then she took over the responsibility as the First Indian and the Third Administrator of Holy Spirit Hospital, thus continued being part of the journey of this Institution, giving herself to everyone – Doctors, staff, patients & their relatives with personal care and attention, compassion and a listening heart.

We shall always remember Sr. Aliciann for her unfailing understanding of each person, who passed through her life. She touched the lives of others with her innate affectionate nature, and her ever smiling presence. Her life can be summarized in these words "The tree does not withdraw





its shadow even to the wood cutter". Everyone - those who loved and even those who hurt her, all had a place in her heart.

For us who believe in the power of the resurrection, this separation is a natural processes of journey passing from life to life. We believe that she has been absorbed into the Eternal light of the Almighty, enjoying full happiness, experiencing freedom from all bondage. May her Blessings be always with us to strengthen us in our healing mission!

Dear Sr. Aliciann, we express our deep sense of gratitude for the service you rendered to this institution as President of the Governing

Board, as administrator of the hospital, and later as a person who has always been keenly interested in the happenings and progress of the Hospital with your prayerful support. You have been a guide, a mentor and a source of inspiration, to many of us in our living and our loving. Today as we pay our tribute to you, we want to let you know that you are very much part of us and you will always be.

Good bye Sr. Aliciann, May you receive the reward which has been prepared for you from all eternity!

Sr.Lissy SSpS
Executive Director, Holy Spirit Hospital

(Shared during the Funeral Mass held on 23rd September 2012 at 2.30pm)



***The happiest of people don't necessarily have
the best of everything; they just make the most of
everything that comes along their way.***



An Ideal SSpS

Sr. Aliciann, Mary Vazhapilly SSpS



In the year 1957 Srs. Bercharia and Wildeena came to Kerala to visit us the probable Aspirants and were scheduled to leave for Indore to join our Congregation. Mary Vazhapilly, Mary Thomman another aspirant, myself and Sr. Luciann Thomas then a Postulant met together in Chalakudy Railway station on 21st June



for the first time. We reached St. Raphael's Convent Indore on the 24th of June. As we communicated very little I have no idea what feeling passed through her mind during the 4 days we traveled in the train. Sr. Mary Celine with another girl had joined our group later.

Initial Formation years: She belonged to a family of a number of Priests, Religious, Bishops and even a Cardinal and was very proud of her 'Tarawad' (ancestry), and behaved accordingly. Though, she wanted to join immediately after passing matriculation she remained at home to take care of her sick mother and joined after her mother's demise. Her two brothers were already in defense service which

worried her during the border disputes between the neighboring countries.

Our Formators Rev. Sr. Bercharia- in Aspirancy, Sr. Ann- in Postulancy, and Sr. Hildegard- in the Novitiate were exemplary Religious Missionaries and were for us the living Constitution. Following their example we vied with one another in practicing virtue and

following the spiritual exercises. In the Novitiate we tried to be transparent during the chapter of faults even though we had no exposure to psychology but practiced Gospel values like forgive seven times seventy, walking an extra mile when called for, did not blame anyone for our unhappiness. All corrections were accepted without defense. After completing our initial formation out of the five three of us Srs. Aliciann, Mary Celine and I made our first Profession.

Nursing Training in Australia: After a year of Juniorate Sr. Aliciann and I were sent to Australia for Nurse's training. Sr. Aliciann was well appreciated for her affectionate and caring nature and was fondly remembered by the patients



whom she had nursed.

I used to feel envious of her as Aliciann made very easily friends wherever she was, deeply attached to some of them and got lots of information about people by listening as well as hearsay. We differed in our approach and opinion but it never brought us to big clash or disharmony. We were comfortable in our way of responding to life situation and adhered to it.

A true daughter of Bharat: Aliciann felt very proud of the beauty and the rich culture of our motherland and resented when the poverty was exaggerated and ignored the rest of its wealth. She was determined to do something about it. Being strong and decisive she got the video of Dance Drama composed by Rev. Fr. Proksh SVD through Fr. Horsefal SVD who was coming on his home leave to Australia and let our sisters and some others view it. Watching the video was ecstatic and many were certainly surprised to see the cultural and

spiritual wealth, presented in rich and beautiful garments adorned with costly ornaments. Having done it she felt a sense of triumph.

Completion of General Nursing: As soon as I got the news that both of us have passed our final exam I rushed to see her; she was so cool and said what else did you expect? She was very confident of passing exams and even topped in some subjects.

After 4 years of studies before our departure the Sisters in Brisbane had made some publicity about the Asians being trained in Holy Spirit Hospital and some journalists from the press interviewed us which was published along with our photographs. One question they put to us was why don't you remain in Australia and earn a handsome salary? Prompt came the reply "No, we have a mission to accomplish back in India".

Return to India: We were booked on Ship Marconi an Italian ship on her virgin voyage. We left Brisbane by train to Sydney (24 hours), Melbourne (48 hours), Fremantle or Perth (72 hours) and Singapore (five days). Sr. Rosemina's brother Robert and Gloria took us to their home in Melbourne, the Redemptorist Priest and Brother who were on board took us to their House in Perth and in Singapore.

Sr. Aliciann was appointed in the Regional House while I was appointed in Sirpur Dispensary till Tertian ship.

Tertianship: We four of us Aliciann, Mary Celine, Hermanelde and I were once again were together in formation. As usual we competed in practicing virtue though not so foolish as we were in the novitiate. After our Final vows Sister was again appointed in Regional House. Since then our contacts have been limited.



Recognition by the Congregation:

Appointment as first Indian Formator: Formation is the last ministry usually entrusted to a native member of the Congregation to ensure transmission of the Spirituality and Charism of the Congregation in its pristine purity. The Authorities recognized the qualities of Sr. Aliciann as an ideal SSpS. She was the first Indian to be appointed as Postulant Mistress. The first person is always subject to severe comparison and criticism and she was no exception. As true to her conviction she introduced

some element of inculturation and Indian spirituality as she thought was appropriate for India for which she had to pay a prize.

As Local Superior: She fondly cared for our orphan children in Khandwa and those children were attached to her and remembered her for years.

First Indian Provincial: Once again, as the first Indian SSpS to be appointed as Provincial she was recognized again by the Congregation, She had to face criticism, comparisons and the rest of it again. She took it all in the stride of life.

First Hospital Administrator: Sr. Aliciann with little exposure to the Hospital Management was appointed as Hospital Administrator, once again the first Indian to be appointed to this post. The Doctors and staff respected the foreigners irrespective of their degree and when an Indian comes in their place was looked upon through critical eyes and with great demands which she faced bravely.



Option to go to England: I do not have much of information about that period of her life except a short meeting in Steyl where she was having a holiday. It was shocking to see her. She was no longer the Aliciann that I had known; found her rather depressed, was not her real self. She communicated very little with me.

Suffering Mission: I had only a few short encounters with her after I had left for the North East. Soon after her return from England she was diagnosed as having multiple infracts of the brain and she suffered terribly especially when she knew that her memory was failing because till this episode she could easily remember the face and name very well even after meeting just once and could not understand why others could not.

Golden Jubilee: We four of us batch mates including Sr. Hermanelde looked forward to celebrate our Golden Jubilee together in Bangalore. Unfortunately prior to the celebration Sr. Aliciann had to be shifted to Holy Spirit Hospital for good. Therefore, after our celebration in Bangalore, I decided to join her celebration in Mumbai on 11th January 2012.

Since, we had time over a week I decided to work on her with acupressure and I am happy to have nursed her.

When we were alone I asked Aliciann regarding the harsh treatment one of her caretakers was giving: "Why are you tolerating such rude treatment, why not tell her to be human; is it that you want to suffer in silence like the saints?" She looked very intently at me and promptly answered "That is what you think, I am not like that." and I saw tears trickling down. Being a person who complained very little of her personal discomfort and would not easily depend upon others for her needs she must have suffered and tolerated a lot of humiliation during those months she was bedridden.

Golden Jubilee celebration: The only consolation was that she seems to have recognized her relatives and SSps on her Jubilee celebration day. She was able to sit in the wheel chair and join the service and the meal.



On August 9th when I met her again she had deteriorated very much and I don't know if she recognized me at all.

Responding to my call she turned and had a blank look and as usual a drop of tear rolled from both the eyes. My prayer was "Lord, relieve her of this struggle". That was my last meeting of Sr. Aliciann.

Dear Aliciann, You have been an example for many of us, thank you for having been an ideal SSpS and the Superiors could find you worthy to be entrusted with formation and Administration. Thank you for handing down our Congregational Spirituality to

many of the Indian Sisters; So exemplary was the way you suffered silently during your declining years; do pray for us to be likewise. As you enjoy the beatific vision whether declared a saint or not, do continue to pray for vocations for Religious and Missionary life and those of us who are in it that we may live a deeply committed life. Thank you and Goodbye. With fond memories,

yours lovingly
Sr. Berndetta SSpS.
Halflong, INN



**When I stand before God
at the end of my life,
I would hope that
I would not have a single
bit of talent left,
and could say,
'I used everything
you gave me'.**

Erma Bombeck



Giving from the heart



Sr. Mary Vivian, Anna Thomas Puzhakara SSps

Moments such as the death of a dear one puts us in touch with the human life-journey. Each of us irrespective of our age stands at the gate of tomorrow, facing a future unknown. At times we walk in wonder and awe; at other times we move along in the

midst of fear and uncertainty. Looking back we realize that it is always in the company of the one who holds us in being. This reality has been quite outstanding in the life of Sr. Mary Vivian.

Sr. Mary Vivian was born to her parents Thomas and Annamma on 18th December 1939, as the second youngest of the seven children, at Privithanam, in Kottayam Dt., Kerala. After having spent a few years in helping the family while working in the office of



a Convent school, she joined our Congregation on June 6, 1962. After her initial formation she made her first profession on June 6, 1967, after which she completed her studies in Social work followed by Catechetical training and ANM course at St. Elizabeth's

Nursing Home, Mumbai. She made her final commitment in May 1974.

Sr. Mary Vivian worked in various communities in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bangalore; she worked also in Holy Spirit hospital several years, already in its initial stage and later as in charge of Canteen and Mess department. She was also blessed to breathe her last in the same hospital where she had served for many years.

Sister had a heart for the poor and was friendly and helpful to everyone. She felt at home among the poor of the different villages she often visited in her active years. She was known for her hospitality. She served the Congregation as community leader of different places. In 2004, while she was community leader in Bangalore she



suffered a heart attack and so was transferred to Holy Spirit Hospital, Mumbai for better care and treatment. In spite of her weak heart and kidneys she had been doing all kinds of odd jobs whenever and wherever necessary. Towards the end of her life she wished to be with people giving her service as much as possible. Even though her body did not cooperate, she had an indomitable spirit and a clear mind till the end. It was truly very inspiring to see her reach out in spite of her failing health.

As I saw Sr. Mary Vivian in the last years of her life, one of the sayings of St. Joseph Freinadamez, an SVD Missionary to China came to my mind: the greatest work of a missionary is the transformation of the inner person! It was very evident in the life of Sr. Mary Vivian. There was a marked difference between the person she was years ago and in the recent years. She had grown to be very human, gentle, kind, loving and compassionate. There was a radiance on her face that spoke of an inner beauty and an inexplicable closeness to God.

She spent a lot of time in prayer. She could be seen in the chapel often praying the Rosary, alone or with the elderly sisters.



Since the last few years of her illness, God had been leading her in a journey of self-surrender which at times was tough for her, having had the strong desire to live, to visit her home once again etc. From resistance and control that come naturally to human beings when faced with a serious illness, she moved gradually to a point of letting go and letting herself be embraced by a love greater than everything else.

Having witnessed the turn her life has taken, the gifts of faith, trust, surrender and courage intertwined with our fears and doubts as we stand between what we have known and what is yet to be. Both in our knowing and in our unknowing we are escorted into tomorrow by Love who gives us everything we need.

Dear Sr. Mary Vivian, as we accompany you in your final journey, we remember you with love and gratitude. In your

tenderness, loving service, gentleness and warmth, endurance in pain, your cheerfulness in the midst of suffering; your gift of love and friendship you have become a part of us. On behalf of all the sisters in the province I want to thank you heartily for the gift you have been to us the SSpS family- for having been a

dedicated SSpS in our province.

May you experience eternal bliss and peace in God!

Sr. Gracy Antony SSpS
Provincial Leader

Shared at the funeral mass,
on 19th November 2012 at 3 pm



To you with Love...



Sr. Mary Vivian, Anna Thomas Puzhakara SSpS

When we lose someone we can't get over the sorrow by forgetting, but we can get over by remembering and continuing to love and bless the time they were with us. With deep sentiments of sorrow and loss, we gather together this afternoon, to bid farewell to Sr. Mary Vivian who has been part of this institution with her



missionary presence for almost 8 years. We gratefully pay our last respects for all that she has been to each of us, and for her committed service during these years. We believe that though Sr. Mary Vivian has gone out of our view, she is with God, enjoying full happiness, experiencing freedom from all earthly bondage.

After serving in different missions at various places in the country as per the need of the province, Sr. Mary Vivian joined Holy Spirit Hospital in 1994, carried out her responsibility as the In-charge of OPD canteen and Dietary store, serving everyone with love and compassion. A pleasant, friendly and sociable person by nature, she associated herself with anyone and



everyone, because she was interested in human persons.

Sr. Mary Vivian with her life of simplicity went about doing her daily duties reflecting her caring personality. She made friends quickly, and the poor and the suffering had a special place in her heart. It is praiseworthy that she could accept everything what life offered her with contentment, without any high expectation. Even in the later years of her suffering and sickness, her personal mission seemed to be, to welcome visitors and strangers alike. She showed her love to others through her forgiveness, kindness, and thoughtfulness. May her Blessings be always with us to strengthen us in our healing mission!

Dear Sr. Mary Vivian, You heard God's whisper calling you home, and all of us who were at your side time and again, know how eagerly you waited to reach your eternal home giving your heart to

God and slowly drifted away into that everlasting abode that has been prepared for you. We express our gratitude for your presence and dedicated service rendered to the patients, relatives and staff of Holy Spirit Hospital over the years. Today as we pay our tribute, we want to let you know that we shall always remember you, for your understanding, kindness and your friendliness.



May you receive the reward which has been prepared for you from all eternity!

Sr. Lissy SSps
Executive Director, Holy Spirit
Hospital

(Shared during the funeral Mass held at Holy Spirit hospital on 19th November 2012 at 3pm)



*"You only live once,
 but if you do it right,
 once is enough."*

— Mae West

A Journey of Love... Sr. Mary Vivian,
Anna Thomas Puzhakara SSPS

*Dream what you want to dream,
go where you want to go, be what you want to be.
Because you have only one life and
one chance to do all the things you want to do.*



An Ode, to the Dear Departed

*With your departure in succession,
In a short duration,
I took time to ponder
What life is, up yonder!*

*Myriad thoughts meander,
With wistful memories of you;
Three Sisterly dew drops,
Now gone from our view!*

*What's new for you above,
an abode of untainted love?
And 'eternity', what be it,
does an 'Ever Present Now' fit?*

*Is 'Time' only a creation,
a fantasy of human imagination?
Whose trail we endlessly battle with,
And seem, never to catch up with?*

*Now that with grace you're born again,
You must be free of flesh and pain,
Crossing the threshold of Eternity's door,
The body's chains entwine you no more!*



*Sweet joy enraptures your souls!
Great beauty and great peace!
Sorrows and grieves they've ceased
And benevolence is what you weave.*

*Trained to think that you are up there,
In a Cloud Nine in the air;
Do you perchance earthly places dwell,
Watching & guiding, so that all's well?*

*Come dear Sisters, when we blunder,
When egos run high and turn us blind;
Guide us then to a sweet surrender,
To be an image of all that's kind!*

*I know it's not mine to question how,
Or wonder what the beginning and
when the end;
Its mine but to live mortality now,
And to my maker my own gift to send!*

**Sr.Molly Rego, SSps
Anugraha, Mumbai**

Legal profession as a Prophetic Mission

Women Religious Lawyers Forum Meet

The 5th Women Religious Lawyers Forum Meeting was held at Asha Kiran, Mumbai on 29th Nov. - 1st Dec. 2012. The Forum aimed at promoting the mission of legal education, intervention and support by women religious.

It is a joint initiative of Streevani (Voice of Women), Pune, and Montfort Social Institute (Centre for Human Rights, Sustainable Development Education and Good Governance), Hyderabad. 31 women Religious lawyers from across the country deliberated on the theme: **"Pursuit of Justice: A Prophetic Response of women Religious in India"**.

Sr. Merlene Hsp, Convenor of the Forum welcomed the participants. Bishop Agnello Gracias, Auxiliary Bishop of

Mumbai, reflected on the use of the justice delivery system and law as a means for freeing human beings from oppression, and to create an equitable society in the biblical tradition of the prophets.

Sr. Julie George SSpS, Director, Streevani, highlighted the effective legal intervention of the Forum to bring justice to the victims of the communal violence in Khandmal. The Forum has inspired 30 Religious lawyers, especially women, to work in Khandmal during the last two years. Montfort Brother Markose, a Delhi registered Advocate, living in solidarity with the victims for over two years, has been able to help people of seven affected villages to reclaim their ancestral properties and to rebuild the houses demolished by the attackers during the carnage in 2008. He has also helped to protect the rights of the victims to worship by facilitating to rebuild as many as eleven churches.

Bro. Varghese Theckanath SG, Director, Montfort Social Institute (MSI) said that the recent years have seen a growing interest among religious women in



India to take up the legal profession as a prophetic mission. The time has come for networking and collaboration among religious lawyers not only to learn from the experiences and expertise of one another, but also for mutual support in the profession. Thanks to the initiative of the Forum; 30 murder cases in Khandmal in which the accused were acquitted by Fast Track courts, have been admitted by the Supreme Court for possible retrial. Religious lawyers, he said, need to continue to proactively participate not only in the justice delivery system, but also in the adoption of just laws.

Fr. P.D. Mathew SJ, Advocate of the Supreme Court spoke on networking and collaboration. He encouraged the lawyers to use the Constitution of India to build the kingdom of God and to proclaim the divinity and dignity of every person. God's kingdom is the kingdom of Human Rights, Justice, equality and peace to all.

Dr. Hazel D'Lima DHM, reflected on the prophetic response of religious to obtain justice for the poor. She explained that a prophetic response is the reading of a social situation in the light of God's will and purpose. Ms. Flavia Agnes, a pioneer in jurisprudence

related to domestic violence, spoke on the role of religious women in defending the rights of women.

Justice Suresh, a former Judge of the Bombay High Court and a well-known human rights activist elaborated on the current challenges in the justice delivery system in the country. He quoted the famous saying from the Gulliver's Travels to caution us and to stress the need for standing for truth. "I said there was a society of men among us, bred up from their youth in the art of proving by words multiplied for the purpose, that white is black, and black is white, according as they are paid. To this society all the rest of the people are slaves." (Part IV, Chapter V). Gulliver explains to his Houyhnhnm master how, in his society, law can ruin people's lives because of the corruption into which the justice system has fallen.



Bro. Varghese spoke on the need for innovation and enterprise in the legal profession. Finally, Mr. Arun Pereira, a social activist who was imprisoned for over four years for protecting the rights of the poor, in the name of national security, narrated his harrowing experiences as a political prisoner.

The participants resolved to stand by the poor, especially vulnerable women, as legal professionals. Their shared experiences provided a great impetus to the participants to

develop assistance, networking opportunities, collaborative programs and strategies to become more effective in their profession.

A new Core Committee was elected to lead the Forum, with Sr. Merlene HSp (Convener), Sr. Julie George (Secretary), and, Sr. Shanti Priya BS and Sr. Nirmala Mathew SSA, as members. Bro. Varghese was chosen as an Advisor to the Forum.

Sr. Reena D'Souza, SSpS
Streemani, Pune



Congratulations!



Sr. Jenet Rego SSpS



Sr. Thelma Lewis SSpS

***For having received
THE BEST TEACHER AWARD
for the year 2012.***

***Thank you for your outstanding contribution
to the field of education.***

Pearls from the Lazy River

River generally reminds us of constant flow of life. But here was a river which was the other way round rightly named as Lazy River. Well, I came across this river as part of our picnic package. The upfront board "Lazy River" amused me. The sight of it was totally unattractive and less inviting. But I noticed people rushing towards it to have a ride and I too followed in with my community members. It was interesting to know that the base of the river was lazy and the one who wishes to have a ride must have the goal to reach the destiny. I learnt my first lesson: ***Have a clear goal in life....***

With enthusiasm we got into the water. We were provided with one ring where two people have to move, sitting in opposite directions. Seated on one single ring both could not travel in two individual directions but one single destiny. So we had to make a choice. Once we were in the water with a clear destiny the most interesting facts unfolded. In the middle of the river if we did not help ourselves we would reach nowhere. Sometimes we were with the crowd; we helped each other to move the rings, but it did not last long. Throughout the journey the presence of the companion was most precious and

life giving. I learnt my second lesson: ***We are interconnected. We need each other.***



Remember the base was lazy. We never felt its movement. We could have blamed the river for not flowing, instead we started talking to each other making fun and seriously teaching one another on how to paddle the ring, where to hold and how to push. Time and again we reminded ourselves about the destination. As the time went on we started enjoying the journey unpacking the stories, childhood memories etc. I learnt my third lesson: ***Have courage, and the journey will unfold itself.***



It took almost half an hour to reach the destined place. And we did not want to come out of the water. We were absolutely happy in the lazy and flow-less river. Yes, we enjoyed the flow of energy and positive vibrations that kept us moving. I learnt my fourth lesson: ***Positive vibrations keep us going.***

As I came out from the river, I remembered a quote that was written in my dairy gifted by my sister long ago. ***"The day you take complete responsibility of yourself, the day you stop any excuses, that's the day you begin your journey to the top".***

Sr.Cynthia D'souza, SSps
Vijayawada



Eventide

We bless that eventide!
Bringing our family & loved ones at our side
Sharing concerns, joys and sorrows that abide
Fun and frolic, sing song & chatting let all burden fade

We bless that eventide!
That ushers joy enveloped in serenity
Fragrance of incense, oneness with divinity
Relaxing in assurance, of day's acceptance in the Trinity

We bless that eventide!
Where individual & community plans evolve
To let our lives with purpose revolve
No life remains meaningless, nor in oblivion dissolve

We bless that eventide!
That awakens life with its shadows & mist
Every grey cloud with silver lining insists
Wide open are shores of eternity that no one can resist

Sr. Ranita SSps
Pamboor

TRAINING ON GOOD GOVERNANCE

As part of the capacity building programme, a training was organized by the Karnataka Regional Organization for Social Services in Sevalaya, Dharwad. The purpose of this was to understand the concept of good governance at the local governing systems and the effective implementation of available government schemes in Gram Panchayats.



I along with 7 animators and 2 Panchayat members from Gulbarga attended this work shop. The total number of participants was 30 from Bellary, Belgaum and Gulbarga dioceses. The training consisted of sharing of experiences by the Panchayat members and inputs shared by the resource persons from the KROSS. We also got an opportunity to visit the Yadavada Gram Panchayat. This Panchayat was honored recently with the National Award for the effective implementation of MGNREGAS for the year 2012.

The training gave new insights, when the President of this Panchayat was presenting his views and strategies. He emphasized that "The concept of good governance begins from me; first I learn to manage myself and then move to the community around me". He showed a number of developmental activities done in the village like building compound walls, planting trees, solid waste management, mini water tanks, road repairs etc. All the documents were available for the public. It looked like the model Gram Panchayat. The transparency, sincerity and commitment on the part of the Panchayat Members and co-operation from villagers attracted the National Award.

**Sr. Jenifer Vas, SSsS
Deepalaya, Gulbarga**

Holy Spirit Hospital
M.C. Shah Memorial Ward, "C" Surgical
Blessing & Inauguration - 8th December 2012

8th December 2012 was another important day in the life history of Holy Spirit Hospital, as it geared itself for the Blessing & Inauguration of Dr. M.C. Shah Memorial ward, "C" Surgical, a state-of-the-art CSSD Dept. and a Cardiac ward. The day was chosen as auspicious for the Blessing & inauguration, for more than one reason. Firstly, 8th December is a feast of Mother Mary and secondly, this day has great significance for us Holy Spirit Sisters, as it is the Foundation day of our Congregation.

The Blessing service was led by Fr. Eddie D'Mello SVD, after which the inauguration ceremony of cutting the Ribbon, separately for each of the Departments was done by the following persons: Dr. M.C. Shah Memorial Ward, "C" Surgical – by Sr. Gracy, our Provincial and President of the Governing Board & Dr. S.M. Shah, General Surgeon & son of late Dr. M.C. Shah, CSSD Dept. by Dr. M.B. Shah, our Medical Director and Cardiac ward – by Sr. Lissy our Executive Director.

Before the blessing Sr. Lissy briefed the gathering about the project. In her speech she shared about the inception



of this Ward. She said, many options were suggested for better utilization of the M.C. Shah Hall and the place behind it after building the Auditorium. Finally, from the various options proposed, it was decided to convert the hall into a surgical ward. This ward will have 30 beds – 5 rooms with 4 beds, and 1 Room with 9 beds. It was also decided to continue perpetuating the Memory of late Dr. M.C. Shah, who served as Surgeon at our hospital, from its initial years, 1966-1982 (16yrs), naming the ward "Dr. M.C. Shah Memorial ward, "C" Surgical.

Behind this ward, an up to date CSSD is also being built, fulfilling all the NABH and other Sterile Units standards, with the current model of Sterilizer and complete steel fittings & furnishings.

Adjacent to that, there is another private ward, with 3 single rooms & 2 semiprivate rooms (i.e. 7 beds) with preference for admitting cardiac patients.

Taking the opportunity Sr.Lissy acknowledged and thanked the construction team as many minds, hearts, and hands have helped & contributed in converting this place from a Hall to a Surgical ward, and the place behind, into a modern day CSSD & Cardiac ward. She thanked in particular Mr. Bosco Fernandez, our Architect, Mr. Ankush Mohile, our Structural Engineer, Mr. Cyril Mendonca, our Civil Contractor, along with his site Supervisor Mr. Sudam, Mr. Noel, our Contractor for renovations, repairs, & interiors.

She said a very special thanks to Dr. M.B. Shah, for being an integral part of the project, for all his valuable suggestions



and guidance from its planning and designing stage onwards, all along its implementation.

She too acknowledged the presence of Sr. Gracy Antony and the Provincial Leadership Team, for granting permission in implementing the project and for their continued support in the progress of the hospital.

Appreciating the enormous contribution from the maintenance, purchase, housekeeping and nursing staff from its planning phase to its completion, she concluded imploring God's Blessings on all doctors, nurses, paramedical & all other staff, who will be rendering their services here, and healing on all those patients and their families who will be availing the facilities of these wards & Departments.

Sr.Malar SSpS
Holy Spirit Hospital

A New Milestone

Holy Spirit PU College, Bangalore

Holy Spirit School, Bangalore reached a new milestone in the field of education by starting an independent Pre-University College on 16.06.2012. As every mother forgets the unbearable labour pain in the joy of seeing the child at the time of delivery so was my experience on the day of celebration of the inauguration of Holy Spirit PU College. The



process of getting permission was not an easy task. The repeated visits to the home of MLA and to the Education Minister have taught me patience and endurance. All the same, there were good samaritans in these offices who came to my aid without expecting anything in return. I also gratefully remember Sr. Sheela, Sr. Shalini, Sr. Gracy, Sr. Pushpa Sr. Adrin and Sr. Sushma who accompanied me to MLA's house and Vidhana Soudha as moral support.

Since the permission was obtained much later than the scheduled time, the number of students for the 1st batch of PUC is just 24 with 3 combinations, 2 of science – PCMB & PCMCS and 1 of commerce – EBACS. I am fortunate to have Sr. Jeyanthi as Vice - Principal of the College with her rich & long experience in school administration. The lecturers, (part time or full time) are very dedicated and exemplary. They take keen interest in the knowledge & growth of the students and give their best to them. The students too enjoy a lot of personal attention since the



number is small. Parents too cooperate well with us, when they are called to discuss the performance of their children.

God's blessings have been enormous on our Educational Institution. May the institution flourish which will nurture the potential and be a cradle for the young minds.

**Sr. Theresa Rebello, SSps
Bangalore**

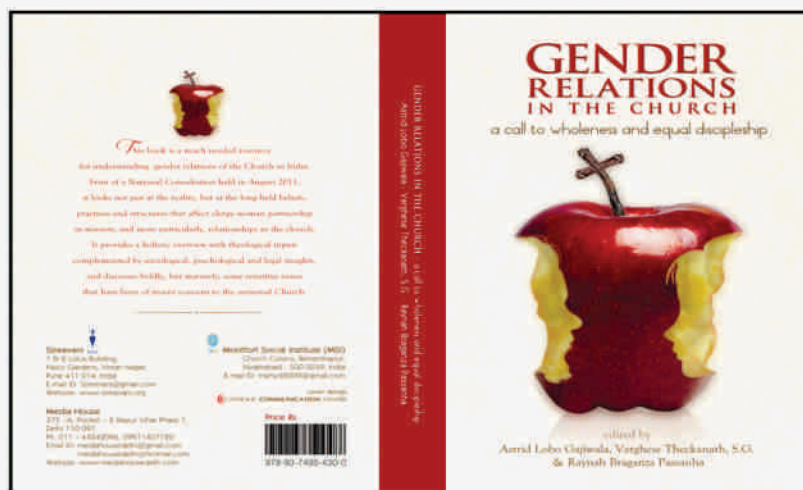
Streevani Publication:

“Gender Relations in the Church: a call to wholeness and equal discipleship”

On 15th August Streevani in collaboration with the Women's commission of Poona Diocese organized a Program for the women religious and the members of different commissions in Poona Diocese on Partnership in the Ministry of the Church. During the inaugural session 'Gender Relations in the Church – a call to wholeness and equal discipleship' a resource book for understanding gender relations in the Church was released by Dr. Evelyn Monteiro, Provincial of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod and gave the first copy to Bishop Thomas Dabre, Bishop of Poona Diocese who was the Guest of Honour for the program.

This book is the outcome of the consultation on the same theme held in Anugraha, Mumbai on the 14th and 15th August 2011 by Streevani along with our networking partners where some of the recent happenings in the Church were discussed and deliberated on within the context of the Gender Policy of the Catholic Church of India. It is published by Streevani and Montfort Social Institute and Media House, Delhi. The book is co-edited by Astrid Lobo Gajiwala, Varghese Theckanath S.G., and Raynah Braganza Passanha and it is the first of its kind published in India.

**Sr. Reena D'Souza, SSps
Streevani, Pune**



“Spot, Recognize and Promote the spark of Innovation”

JPIC Meeting of Divine Love Province, India

9-10 December 2012, Pavitratma Convent, Valigonda

The 1st JPIC International Conference held from 1-21 Oct 2012 in Steyl, and the just concluded Major Superiors of National CRI on the 31st October in Hyderabad invite us to focus our attention on similar thoughts - **Religious must re-vision our lifestyle, mission and formation to remain authentic to our calling and relevant to the local Church.** It is in this context the JPIC Coordinator Sr. Margaret together with Srs. Gracy and Julie initiated the process to hold JPIC workshop on the 9-10 December 2012 to bring its members together to take note of all that we are doing in the province and what better and effective plan can emerge as a result of our collaborative efforts.

The theme of this gathering was “**Spot, Recognize and Promote the Spark of Innovation**” in Religious Life. Sisters of Pavitratma Convent, Valigonda made necessary arrangements to accommodate all our sisters. 17 sisters from Velvarthy, Pattancheru, Valigonda, Kuchipudi, Vijayawada, Koodalapad, Pune, CHS & PAN communities Bangalore, and Gulberga took an active part in the deliberation.

Sr. Reena D’souza set the tone to the gathering by leading us into a meaningful prayer for Integrity of Creation. Sr. Margaret welcomed the sisters and introduced the purpose of the gathering at this given point of time, reflecting the urgency and the need of the hour to come together, renew, revive and strengthen the bond



among us in order to remain authentic to our calling and relevant to the local church.

Sr. Julie then briefed us about the 1st JPIC International Workshop/conference which was held from the 1-21 October, 2012 in Steyl.

The question that provoked the deliberations of this gathering was “As prophetic women & men how do we dream the dreams of Jesus our Liberator and our founding generation?” Sisters from 48 countries from 44 provinces were part of this workshop. There were several resource persons who gave input on various related topics that kept the participants fully occupied. JPIC is not a ministry of those involved in the social work field alone rather it is a way of life and hence how do we practice JPIC in our formation, administrations, community life, hospitals, schools, hostels, children’s home, HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, domestic workers movement, legal and various other areas of involvement. The two exposures that captured the attention of Sr. Julie were Steyler Bank and the ZOO. St. Arnold was much ahead of his time in practicing promoting JPIC in all walks of religious life.

The sisters took turn in sharing about their ministry - focusing on their learnings, challenges and future vision. Listening to one another was a deepest moment of communion in sharing each others pains, struggles and hardships. It was a grace filled moment to realize that each one of the sisters were filled with meaning, purpose and hope in doing what they are doing with joy and vigor.

The recent incident of dealing with Maria’s case from Holy Spirit Children’s Home gave rise to lot insights in learning and acquiring knowledge especially in the care and protection of vulnerable girl children. In this direction Sr. Ida who works as a Child Welfare Committee (CWC) member in Gulberga was the resource person to guide all ours sisters involved in this ministry. She shared the 5 principles of child care:

1. Right to Participation
2. Decisions made in the best interest of the child
3. Work towards re-union with the family and encourage the parents to own up the responsibility- institutionalization of the child would be the last resort.
4. The child has the right to be heard
5. Ensure Safety, Care and Protection of each child.

Sr. Ida then elaborated on the Juvenile Justice Board; Child Welfare Committee; special Juvenile Police Unit – their role/functions.

On 10th much of the time was spent discussing on the practicalities of JPIC and its Coordination in the province. Since there is no one exclusively assigned full time for the JPIC work in the province, the sisters worked out the modalities as follows:

Children's Homes: **Srs. Ida**, Rose, Mary Thomas and Mary Paul

Domestic Workers: **Srs. Reena D'souza**, Alice Joseph and Ida

Home for the elderly: **Srs. Julie George**, Sunitha Mathew and Merlyn

Prison z: **Srs. Ida** and Rekha

Education: **Srs. Neethi**, Philo James, Gladis and Therese Rebello

Legal: **Srs. Julie George**, Ida, Helen, Reena and Vasantha

HIV/AIDS: **Srs. Jessie Mary**, Jaya and Deepti

Women Empowerment of Religious: **Srs. Margaret** and Julie

Gender Sensitization: **Sr. Reena D'Souza**

Pastoral: **Sr. Sunitha Mathew**

Differently Challenged: **Sr. Thelma**

The above mentioned sisters in-charge will ensure to visit or through regular contacts gather reports or disseminate information respective to their ministries.

JPIC Coordinator's role: She will visit the ministries at least once a year; disseminate information; organize workshop/seminar as per the need at the zonal levels; submit reports to the concerned offices; attend meetings when asked for and communicate coordinate among the in-charges of various ministries.

In addition to this, reporting of ministries, project writing, JPIC Core Team Members, sharing of resources and Corpus Fund were discussed.



Up coming meetings

30th January 2013 – SVD and SSps VIVAT India meeting

10th February 2013- JPIC meeting at the IPC level in Bangalore

9-10 November 2013 – Province JPIC Coordination Meeting at Kuchipudi.

Sr. Margaret SSps
JPIC Coordinator

Life is a song, sing it!



Life is a song, sing it! That's what Sr. Mary Vivian lived through her pain and discomfort in her final days. She was always joyful, uncomplaining person. She loved to sing & walk back even after dialysis. Her dedication for the work and love for the poor was remarkable. She loved to feed the poor. She used to say "If your heart is generous towards the poor & needy, God will be generous toward you".

Being very close to Sr. Mary Vivian, it was very painful for me to accept the fact that I couldn't be present in her final journey. Daily spending with her at least five minutes was very life-giving for me and we had a lot of sharing about life. Her attitude to sickness and life was very inspiring. She was strength for me. Through her encouraging words and smile I experienced peace, no matter what the situation is. She believed in certain principles of life, so she lived till the last breath of her life. I remember her usual word that found her way to others connecting life: "HELLO". Now she will say "Hello" from heaven. Her life as she lived speaks to us the following.

Life is an opportunity, benefit from it,
 Life is a dream, realize it.
 Life is a challenge, meet it.
 Life is a song, sing it.
 Life is a struggle, accept it.
 Life is too precious, do not destroy it.
 Life is life, fight for it.

May her soul rest in peace.



Sr.Sabena, SSpS
 Mumbai



**"There are only two ways to live your life.
 One is as though nothing is a miracle.
 The other is as though everything is a miracle."**

— Albert Einstein

My Soul Magnifies the Lord

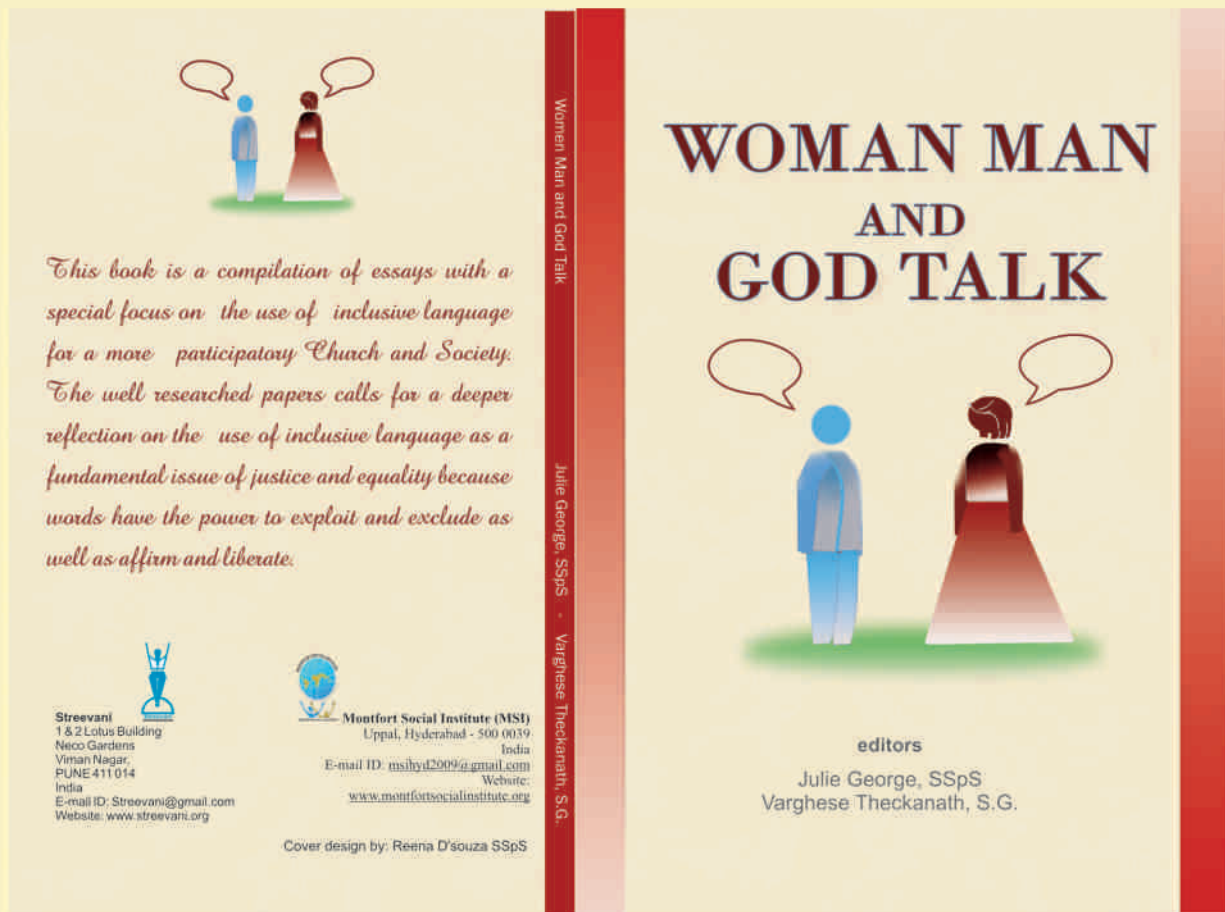
My Soul Magnifies the Lord
My Spirit Rejoices in God My Savior
Like ripples in water, I was with questions of my life.....
Then I was led by the spirit to a stream of water
Showed me what my life looks like.....
Praying I saw the ripples disappear



And I realize...
Clear water shows better what lies within it.
Likewise I saw what lies within me, my dependence on the worldly things
It was your Love, mercy and compassion that called me
To a vocation to be healer for your healing mission
You confirmed my vocation and mission by anointing my hands
To heal your very own people
I prayed... meditated....on Jesus' Life, reflecting on the temptations ,
And Lo! My temptations surfaced
To do his will I die to the flesh of my desires
Understand and realize the meaning of the Resurrection
Sure I pledge I will be a faithful witness to His Love, grace and forgiveness.
Yes Lord! My Soul Magnifies
And My Spirit truly Rejoices in my God!

Sr.Vasanti SSps
Tertiary, INN

Streevani Publication:



This book is a compilation of essays with a special focus on the use of inclusive language for a more participatory Church and Society. The well researched papers call for a deeper reflection on the use of inclusive language as a fundamental issue of justice and equality because words have the power to exploit and exclude as well as affirm and liberate.

STREEVANI TEAM

A Tribute of Love



Sr. Aliciann SSpS (Mary Vazhapilly)
(02. 02. 1936 - 22. 09. 2012)



Sr. Mary Vivian, SSpS (Anna Thomas Puzhakara)
18-11-1930 - 18-12-2012

