

# *Marvellous* **MILESTONES!!!**

*Celebrating God's Covenantal  
Love*



Province of St. Francis Xavier  
India Centre  
November 2024

# THE JOURNEY OF LIFE

*Dear Sisters*

*Blessings on your Jubilee*



May the Lord reward you for what you have done, and may you receive a full reward from the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.

☞ Ruth 2:12 (HCSB)



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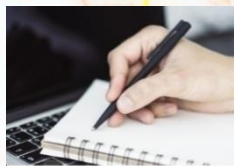
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## **Our Provincial's Heart Felt Message...**



Deuteronomy 7:9 “Understand, therefore, that the Lord your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands.”

### **Celebrating God's Fidelity**

*Our Dear Jubilarians Sr. Annie Thekken, Sr. Rosely Ambooken, Sr. Teresina Pynadath, Sr. Cecília Lopes, Sr. Philo Colaco, Sr. Monica Mascarenhas, Sr. Margaret Terron, Sr. Clarine D'silva, Sr. Matilda Cerejo, Sr. Annie Josephi, Sr. Maria Jacob, Sr. Bharati Macwan, Sr. Lovita D'souza, Sr. Nayana Pawara and Sr. Esperanca Vaz.*

Your Jubilee is indeed a celebration of God's unwavering love, God's constant presence, and God's unshakeable promises in your life.

You have reflected fidelity, and trust in His goodness as a response!

Your personal story of God's fidelity in your life would surely be unique.....I can imagine.....

\*The wonder of your initial call and discernment

\*Significant milestones and challenges.

\*Moments of spiritual growth.

\*Gratitude for community support.

\*Unanswered prayers turned into blessings.

\*Unexpected gifts and guidance.

\*Strength in times of struggle.

\*Health in times of sickness

\*Transformation through trials.

And the list would go on and on.

If I could pen down your Litany of Fidelity: it could run thus:

"Oh God of infinite love and mercy, we celebrate your fidelity

- In our joy and sorrow
- In our triumphs and struggles
- In our living and loving
- In our doubts and fears
- In our every step
- In our every breath.....

We rely only on you and trust in your steadfast fidelity, our mighty Lord and God!

Whilst we thank you, loving Jubilarians for your commitment, sacrifice, and love, we pray that God's continual blessings and guidance find a continual response of awe and wonder in you and your onward journey."

May you experience continued faithfulness, renewed energy, zeal, gratitude and joy in abundance as you near your heavenly goal.

May your Jubilee enable us to celebrate our own Jubilees with confidence and double gratitude!

**Sr. Audrey D'Souza**  
Province Leader



## A Diamond Milestone



### Jesus my Shepherd

“The Lord is my Shepherd there is nothing I shall want”  
With Mother Mary I say my soul glorifies the Lord for the marvellous things He has done in me for me for the past 60 years and more, beginning from my Novitiate days. He has led me through green pastures, fed me with His Body and Blood, and provided for me whatever was needed in life- spiritually, physically and materially, like a Good Shepherd. For all this how can I thank Him enough? Yet I continuously say thank you and praise you Lord. He has made me pass through mountains and valleys, good and difficult times, but He was always with

me, assuring me of His assistance and making it easy for me to surmount them. When I look back, I can see the times when God was leading me by His hand, even in my struggle to trust in Him, He was faithfully by my side. My whole life is not sufficient to thank Him for the marvels He has done in my life. But I know my Good Shepherd understands me and forgives me for all my infidelities.



I joined a missionary Congregation with a great desire to serve the poor, to make Jesus known and loved. By God's grace I was sent to our Zaroli mission soon after my Final Vows thus God fulfilled my great desire to be with the poor. At present I am still enjoying my missionary life in Zaroli, which is my second home. I pray and have the wish to spend the rest of my life in an attitude of gratitude to God and to our Holy Institute, its Superiors, all my Canossian sisters and all those who helped me to love and grow closer to God.

**Sr. Annie Thekken**

Zaroli

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## **A song of joy....**

“My Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour”. These words of Mother Mary resound in my heart because God has done great things in my life. I have spent sixty years in the congregation of the Canossian Daughters of Charity. God's amazing love and fidelity I have experienced on my journey with Him. During the past sixty years I have journeyed discovering God's special love and wonder. I have encountered the most wonderful and loving people along the way. My religious journey started from Shirpur and now I am at Zaroli.

This journey was really pleasant. I have fallen in love with Jesus and His beloved poor. The poor are my first preference. It was a privilege to work with the Adivasis in different places, where I was transferred, I loved them and love their culture.

I thank God for my beloved family where I learned to love. I feel grateful to my higher Superiors, the sisters with whom I

lived and worked and my 'beloved Poor' who have been part of my journey till today. As I look back I have only one song to sing:

*My life is in you Lord  
My strength is in you Lord.  
My Hope is in you Lord.  
In you it's in you.*

**Sr. Rosely Ambooken**  
Zaroli



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## **My journey of Diamond Years...**

Without knowing the Canossian Sisters I joined the Canossian congregation with the help of one of my school mates. My wish



was always to join a missionary Congregation, so God brought me to the Canossian Congregation. I was twenty years old when I joined the convent. After my initial formation in religious life, I was trained to be a teacher. I taught in different schools in the province. In between I had several sicknesses but God worked His miracles and I am alive today!



I am grateful to my Superiors and Sisters of our various communities for their care, concern and understanding that they have shown towards me especially in my difficult moments.

Besides teaching I was asked to take charge of Accounts, for which I had not much knowledge, but obedience worked miracles. I am extremely grateful to God for keeping me alive to celebrate my Diamond Jubilee and my heart sings with joy and gratitude-

*Till the end of my days O Lord I will  
bless your name, sing your praise,  
give you thanks all my days.*

**Sr. Teresina Pynadath**

Divine Providence Convent Belagavi



## A Golden Legacy

50

### My Golden year

“All through the years, You have been at my side O Lord  
All through the years, You have been my guide O Lord  
All through the years You have taken my hand in yours  
Kept me in Your love.”



“My soul glorifies the Lord, My spirit rejoices in God my saviour.”

Our Foundress St. Magdalene of Canossa I cry out with gratitude for all that the Lord has done in my life.

For 50 years I have served the Lord in the Canossian family. I have experienced God's amazing love on my journey. My journey started from my home where my parents sowed the seed of faith and a love for prayer. At Nirmalamata High School I met

Sisters Tambelini and Ursula who were my role models who had been my inspiration to join the Canossian Congregation.

Today as I look back at my journey, it was a pleasant journey where I experienced the love of Jesus. Twenty-three years of my religious life, I had the joy of giving my service out of my Mother Land, i.e., 7 years in Africa where I encountered many poor people as I was working in the hospital and doing pastoral

work. For sixteen years I had the joy of serving our old and sick mothers in Italy, in different communities, where I learned to live our Charism and grow in virtues. I feel happy for that experience it was not easy to be away from my homeland but what sustained me, is my prayer life and my intimacy with Jesus which helped me to face all the challenges. I am ever grateful to God for giving me this opportunity to serve our “Mountains of Gems” who were the reflection of God’s love for me.

Back to my homeland I had the joy of working in the Leprosy Clinic in Talasari and serving the sick and the poor in Shirpur, and now I continue my mission by looking after the elderly and sick Sisters of the Province. I thank the Lord for choosing me to share His love wherever I am placed.

So now I express my gratitude to God in the following words...

*“Lord I offer my life to you,  
everything I have been  
through.*

*Use it for your glory.*

*Lord I offer my life to you.”*

**Sr. Cecilia Lopes.**

Canossa Convent Mahim.



## MY LIFE - A SONG OF PRAISE

I remember the early days of my discernment, the struggles and doubts, but Your gentle whispers reassured me, "follow me".. and I did. And now as I celebrate 50 glorious years of Consecrated life, as a Canossian Sister, my heart overflows with gratitude. Our Foundress, St. Magdalene of Canossa has touched my life with her motherly and compassionate heart and has been my steadfast companion, guiding me through joys and challenges. His faithfulness has strengthened me with His grace.



Through joys and challenges Lord you have sustained me and your Providence has provided for my needs, and your grace has transformed me. Over the years, I have experienced the beauty of community life, wherever I was, I enjoyed my community life, I have grown through the guidance of my Superiors, Animators and my Sisters, the support and the privilege of serving others brought joy into my life and helped me to serve wholeheartedly.

“Now as I look back, Lord, I see your fingerprints, every moment, in every triumph and every trial that has shaped me into the person I am today, and also your reassuring whispers, "I am with you always". Today I stand in awe of God's

Providence, his love as St. Paul says “I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength”(Phil: 4:13).

**Sr. Philo Colaco**  
Canossa Annexe

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## **My experience of Journeying through the past 50 years**

**“I have loved you with an ‘Everlasting Love .....”**

A Jubilee Year ... a year to announce the Lord’s Mercy!

Yes, as I look back at the past 50 years, I am truly blessed by the Lord’s Mercy.

A day before my First Profession, our Retreat Preacher told us “If you die on your profession day, you can go straight to Heaven” My young mind’s thought then was “O how nice that would be”. However, on the following day whilst reciting the Divine Office, the words “I shall not die, I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord”, confirmed what the good Lord wanted from me.

Today 50 years later, I stand a testimony to God’s ‘Everlasting Love’ which accompanies me through every day of my life...in moments of grace and inspiration, joy and sorrow, suffering and



pain, these words re-echo in my ears. The Jubilee beckons me once again to serve with ever greater dedication and commitment, by dying to all forms of selfishness that obstructs 'Self-giving'. I trust that this 'Selflessness' is my Jubilee Gift, motivating me to 'Selfless Giving', with no boundaries to love and serve God's children in the world and prompting me to put their need before my own.



Today, I see the 'Family Apostolate' as the need of the hour. To ensure through my visits and contacts, that love and understanding, peace and harmony prevail at all times, even in the

midst of adversities. I thank God for having called me to the Canossian Institute, dedicated to the preferential option for the most needy. I am deeply grateful for the gift of vocation, to serve my God and His people for 50 years. I received encouragement and support of my family, superiors and sisters that have sustained me throughout this journey. I am grateful for the opportunities, challenges and sacrifices that have made me the person I am today. No regrets! I have gained valuable insights into human nature, compassion and the importance of empathy. I have learned to find peace in the midst of turmoil. Radiating 'Positivity' gives me JOY and Hope; it inspires others to find joy and happiness in their own journey.

**Sr. Margaret Terron**

Sacred Heart Canossa Convent, Mahim

## Journey with God!

My journey with God began in my childhood with my mother teaching me daily prayers and relating the lives of the Saints. When I was in Std. VII, a three- days retreat was organized by our Parish Priest and that was the time I felt I should offer my life to Jesus. Swami Animanada SJ the Retreat Preacher said to all of us, “Jesus is calling you to be his follower”. Little did I know, those words would become a guiding force in my life. I am the first Religious Sister from my village Kakkeri. My village has given the highest number of Religious and Priests to the Church in Belgaum.



During my teenage years, while studying at High School, I lived in a Canossian boarding house at Deshnur for three years. I witnessed the simple life- style of the sisters working tirelessly, in service to the poor, in a dispensary, visiting the families, walking to the villages, struggling with the local language and local vegetarian food. Witnessing their sacrificial life, I felt an inexplicable pull towards serving the poor. It was during this time that I felt the Lord is calling me to dedicate my life to His service. I still remember the sense of peace and clarity that filled my heart when I said ‘yes’ to this calling.

One of the most significant lessons I have learned on this journey is the importance of trust and surrender. There have been moments of uncertainty and doubt, but each time, I have

been reminded that God's plans are greater than mine. I have learned to surrender my fears and trust in His Divine Providence.

As I look back upon these 50 years, my heart overflows with gratitude for the countless blessings received from my mentors, and friends who have accompanied me on this journey. I thank God for the gift of faith, for the opportunities to serve, and for the love that has sustained me every step of the way. It was for the purpose of making a difference in the lives of the poor. Serving the poor is not just a duty, but a privilege that brings me immense joy and satisfaction. My heart overflows with happiness when I see the positive impact of my service on others especially



women and children. I am grateful to the Institute for the opportunity to serve, and I am constantly inspired by the dignity of the people I serve. In serving the poor, I have discovered a sense of fulfillment that goes beyond words. Indeed, my vocation to the Canossian Institute brings me joy, peace, and a sense of fulfillment! My dear formators and superiors, I am forever grateful for your guidance, wisdom and unwavering support throughout my life. Your selfless dedication and trust in me have shaped me into the person I am today. Thank you for believing in me and my potential, nurturing my spiritual growth and development, for offering me valuable insights and constructive feedbacks.

As I celebrate 50 years of faith, I am reminded that my journey is not my own, but a sacred trust from God. My Golden Jubilee marks half a century of God's faithfulness in my life. It has been a pilgrimage of grace, marked by moments of joy, struggle, and transformation. I pray for God's faithfulness for the rest of my years. Thank you, Jesus.

**Sr. Clarine D'Silva**  
Anand Sadan Shiarpur

## Jubilee Joy.....

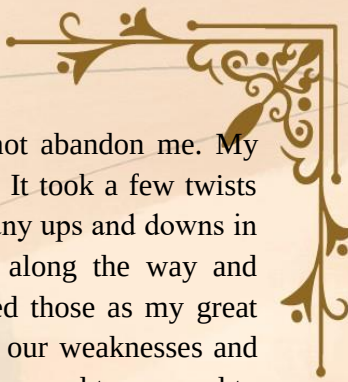
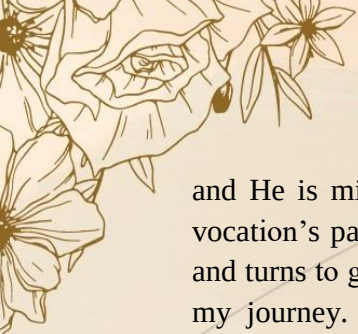


My vocation to the religious life comes along with an abundance of God's unconditional love and blessings. I believe



God planted the seed of vocation to the consecrated life in the Canossian garden. With God's grace, I responded and the same grace has carried me on to this day. I want to express my love and gratitude to our Heavenly Father for his mercy and compassion. I'm grateful to our blessed Mother Mary, who accompanied me on my

journey and is always ready to help me especially when I need help. Her gentle invitation, to follow Jesus call was not a dazzling light of absolute certainty, but the assurance of holding the hand of someone who loves me. Now, His hand in mine has only become stronger. This is the joy of knowing that I am His,



and He is mine, trusting that Jesus will not abandon me. My vocation's path was not straight and clear. It took a few twists and turns to get here. I've been through many ups and downs in my journey. There were wonderful joys along the way and countless sorrows as well, but I considered those as my great blessings. It reminds us that we may have our weaknesses and frailties but we also receive all the graces we need to respond to God who calls us.

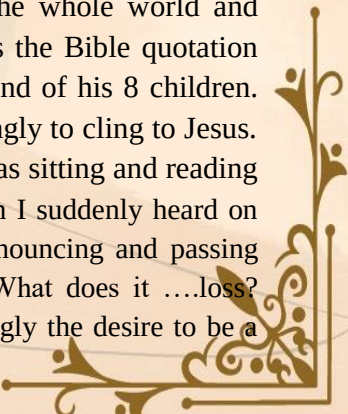
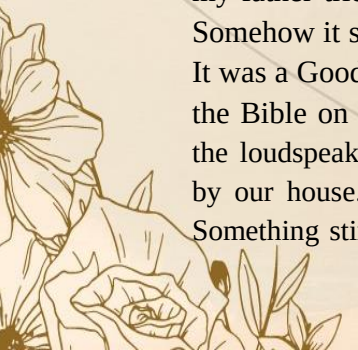
I thank God for my parent's love, my family members and their generosity until this day. I have their prayerful support for me. I'm grateful to Mother Mary and ask her intercession to her Son Jesus to help me follow his footsteps. I have no words to express my thanks to God, for the opportunity to serve people and to serve my sisters in the congregation. I pray for the grace of perseverance. May our commitment bring us the happiness that God wants for each one of us.

**Sr.Matilda Cerejo**

Nirmalamata Convent, Manickpur

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### **Looking Backward to 1974 Looking forward to 2024.....**



‘What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and suffer the loss of his own soul?’ This was the Bible quotation my father tried to drill in the heart and mind of his 8 children. Somehow it struck me and allured me strongly to cling to Jesus. It was a Good Friday in holy week and I was sitting and reading the Bible on the veranda of my house when I suddenly heard on the loudspeaker, some protestant groups announcing and passing by our house. It was the same sentence “What does it ....loss? Something stirred within me and I felt strongly the desire to be a

missionary, to go far away and preach the Gospel. I was in Std. VIII then. This desire kept haunting me but I did not tell anyone till I passed my 10<sup>th</sup> std. The day I got my 10th standard result, my



neighbor came to my house and asked me what was my next plan. I told him that I wanted to join the convent but I didn't know where to go. I think he was my Vocation Promoter. He is none other than Sr. Teresa Chacko's father

(North province). He told me that his daughter joined the Canossians in Cochin and that is the best Congregation. So after making enquiries, my father decided to send me there. So I went to Alleppy and met Mother Carla and Mother Terezina P. We were so impressed by their hospitality that my father confirmed my vocation to the Canossians. Since then I was firm in my vocation in spite of some objections from my uncle. I can truly say that my vocation sprouted in my devout family specially due to my father who was a devout and pious man. He used to take Bible classes for the whole family every Sunday. He used to take me for daily Mass. He instilled in me love for Jesus and for prayer. He was a strict disciplinarian and made sure that we never missed our family prayer in the morning and night. He made sure that all of us knelt in 2 rows according to the age, with father and mother behind each line and recite the prayers and rosary with open arms. I can remember my father correcting everyone when needed and at the same time he loved us without limit and provided us with everything we needed. He was called "peace maker" "saint" etc. by all the people in the village. People called him to make peace

where ever there was a quarrel or dispute. My father was like a good shepherd guarding and guiding his little flock.

As I look back at my religious life I can see that my life was not a bed of roses, I had ups and downs in facing the challenges of community life. Soon after my first profession I was transferred to Cochin. After 3 years of studies I was transferred to Mahim. I taught in Victoria High School, Mahim for 4 years. After school I used to stay back and teach the poor students and take classes for the first Holy Communicants. I was the only religious staff member there, but the Principal and teachers were so good, understanding, friendly, kind and accepting that I soon became one with them. I enjoyed fun and frolic specially during picnics. They always found me joyful and fun loving. One day one teacher asked me 'sister, you are so joyful and full of life, why did you join the convent' I said, The convent needs joyful people.' Teachers and parents still remember me with love. Later I served in Canossa Annexe, Dhule and Andheri as headmistress of the primary for 30 years and for 2 years at St. Xaviers Jesuit School, Churchgate.

Love for the poor and abandoned was a passion in me. When Sr. Nancy asked me to be in charge of the boarders at D.P, I felt a deep joy and satisfaction and I told Sr. Nancy that now my dream of being with the poor is fulfilled. But in one year I was asked to go to Goa to be in charge of the candidates, that too I did it with joy and satisfaction. Throughout my teaching career, I had the joy of teaching the poor and weak children after school. This I did in Andheri, Mahim and Dhule. Another work that gave me satisfaction was teaching large numbers of "first holy communion children" in the parishes of Victoria, St. Michael's Mahim, Dhule and Sion.

Today my heart is filled with gratitude for the marvels God has done in and through me. 50 years have gone by so fast. I can't believe it. I can only say with Mary "My soul magnifies the Lord,



for He has done marvels in my life.” Though I enjoyed my Religious life there were also some moments that were not so pleasant. One thing that kept me going in the midst of adversities and misunderstandings is the very words of Jesus on the Cross “Father forgive them ...” My grace is sufficient for you.”

After 32 years of the teaching profession, now I can say that I have started my 2nd ministry of looking after the sick and the elderly sisters, myself being almost like one of them. I am very happy to be with them and serve them. By the grace of God, I did to the best of my abilities whatever was entrusted to me. I have no regrets whatsoever. I learned to accept with serenity all the different situations in my life. The “foot prints” I did not see during the dark moments came clear to me later on. I experience many little miracles of Jesus daily which are blessings of God in my day today life.

When I look back at the 50 years of my religious life my heart is filled with gratitude first of all to Almighty God who has kept me as the apple of his eye. My life has become a song of gratitude and joy at this new milestone in my life. I am very grateful to my beloved parents, brothers and sisters and all my dear ones, to my Institute, to all my superiors who were instrumental in making me what I am today. I remember with love and gratitude Mother Linda, M. Reena and Mother Ita who were my formators, all the Provincials and superiors who have helped me to come closer to God and to others around me. Thank you God for the 50 Golden Years of my life.

**Sr. Annie Joseph**

Talasari

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## **I will sing forever of Your Love and Faithfulness O Lord**

As I write this article my heart is overwhelmed with gratitude and joy, I can scarcely believe that fifty years have passed since I took my vows. This Golden Jubilee is not just a personal milestone but a celebration of God's enduring faithfulness and the love and support of my beloved communities where I have lived. When I reflect on the past fifty years I see a tapestry woven with moments of joy, challenge and triumph. It has been a journey of faith, commitment, and service guided by the hand of our loving God. I treasure this journey as grace upon grace from His fullness. Throughout these five decades, he has been my rock, my comfort, and my inspiration I remember vividly the day I took my vows, (August 15th 1774) feeling a profound sense of peace and joy. I was young and full of zeal, ready to dedicate my life to God's service. Little did I know the incredible journey that lay ahead.

Today I look back not only at the milestones but at the moments that have shaped me into who I am. From the very beginning the Lord has been my shepherd guiding me through the valleys and the peaks. He has never failed me. Throughout these fifty years I have had the privilege of serving in various capacities in different places in India and abroad. I am ever so grateful for that. Each role, each teaching young minds, working



with youth, guiding retreats, animating the community, running night shelter for the homeless, serving as hospital chaplain or doing pastoral works; I have witnessed God's presence in the everyday interactions and the quiet moments of prayer. These experiences have taught me that service is not just about what we do, but about how we do it.

Today I owe my unconditional gratitude to my parents who brought me up with great love and care and who ignited in me the love for Jesus right from childhood. I recall with gratitude all my formators at various stages who nurtured my vocation, guiding and accompanying me like good shepherds. I owe my gratitude also to our Congregational Leaders past and present, our ex-provincials and their teams, and our present provincial Sr. Audrey and her councillors and all my Canossian sisters who in one way or the other have played a great role in my life towards my growth. My most sincere thanks & gratitude to my present community, Sr. Veronica, Sr. Margaret Chettiar, Sr. Mary K, Sr. Daisy Jacob and all the Postulants who worked very hard with so much love to make my golden jubilee celebration really a memorable one. Looking ahead I am filled with hope, and anticipation. There is still much work to be done, many lives to touch, and much love to share. I pray that God will grant me the strength, wisdom, and compassion to serve faithfully for as long as He wills. Please pray for me.



**Sr. Maria Jacob**  
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## **Reflecting on 25 Years of God's Faithfulness**

As I mark 25 years of religious life, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and awe. Today, I stand in wonder, gazing back at the incredible journey God has taken me through. Twenty-five years ago, I said yes to God's call, and He has been faithful to me at every step. Through joys and struggles, triumphs and trials, God has been my constant companion, guiding and sustaining me.

I think of the countless moments of grace, the tender whispers in my heart, and the unwavering support of my community. I am humbled by the trust God has placed in me, entrusting me with various

ministries and missions.

As I look back, I see God's hand weaving a tapestry of love, mercy, and redemption. I see the faces of those I have encountered, the lives touched, and the hearts transformed.

Today, I thank God for:

The gift of faith that has anchored me

The grace that has sustained me

The love that has transformed me

The community that has supported me

The opportunities to serve and make a difference



The friends and family that have accompanied me on my journey.  
The gift of all those who formed me till today in the Canossian family

As I celebrate this milestone, I renew my commitment to God, promising to continue trusting, following, and serving Him with an open heart and willing spirit. Thank you, God, for 25 incredible years.

**Sr. Bharti Macwan**  
Bilpudi

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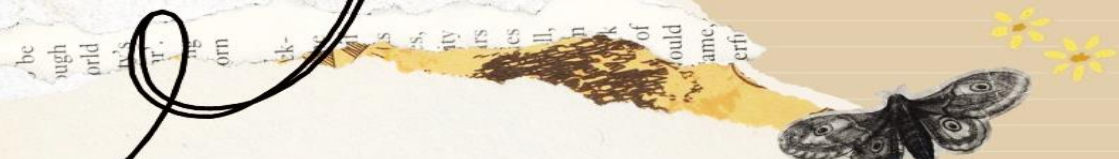
### **What thanks, O Lord, can I render to Thee.....**

*The past 25 years in the Canossian family have been nothing short of a beautiful love story between Jesus my Lord, and me.*

Each moment, every step, has been graced with His unfathomable love and favour—so generously bestowed that mere words seem too small to contain the gratitude that overflows my heart. Truly, my soul is humbled by the abundance of His grace, and I stand in awe of the endless ways He has graciously poured His blessings upon me. With a heart full of gratitude, I thank all who have walked alongside me during these past 25 enriching years. I cherish the memory of my Provincials and formators, whose wisdom and guidance were vital to my growth and maturity. Their love, care, understanding, and the trust they



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placed in me are gifts I hold dear. I also deeply appreciate my Superiors and the various communities I've had the privilege to live with, for nurturing my vocation and filling my journey with joy, happiness, and treasured relationships that have blessed me abundantly.

A heartfelt thanks to my parents and family, who have been my greatest source of support and strength, constantly uplifting me with their love and prayers. There were indeed moments when both my faith and vocation were put to the test, yet through it all, God remained faithful. As a loving Father, He ensures that His purposes are fulfilled in us, guiding and sustaining us through every trial.

There were seasons when I felt pressed on all sides, challenged by the inevitable ups and downs of life. Yet, in those very moments, I could sense the Lord gently drawing me closer to the reassuring words of 2 Corinthians 12:9: My grace is sufficient for you. This scripture text became my steady anchor in the storm, a divine reminder that His grace alone was enough to sustain me. It lifted me, guiding me upward and forward, encouraging me to surrender completely and trust in His boundless grace and unfailing mercy. Through every challenge, His grace carried me and renewed my strength, allowing me to embrace each trial with faith and perseverance.... Believe me when I say He worked wonders in me and through me.

As I reflect on these 25 years, I see how God has faithfully drawn out the best in me, as long as I remained firmly connected to Him—the true Vine, and we, His branches. Through the seasons of cutting, pruning, and even the moments of crushing, I trust that He has been at work, refining me and drawing forth the finest wine from my life. I will forever sing of the Goodness Of God

**Sr. Lovita D'souza**



AMAZING

## 25 years of my journey in Religious Life

*What thanks, O Lord, can I render Thee,  
For all the gifts Thou has showered on me  
Each day I'll sing of Thy praise and glory, Allelu, Alleluia.*

What a delightful opportunity for me to share with you my dear sisters, the wonders the Lord has done for me! When I look at



my spiritual journey, I can say it is God who has been leading me. From the time I made my decision, till today He has always been there with me. He knows me through and through. This is my experience of Him in my daily life. I notice that I just recall my desire in my mind and it turns into reality in my life. I am so grateful to God for all the care and concern I have received from my congregation. In times of sickness He was always there at my side. He cared for me. He gave me new life.

**Spiritual life:** From the time I left my home and joined the Canossian family, every year's annual retreat brought a change in my life. And He continues to draw me closer to Him through different situations in my daily life.

**Community life:** I was fortunate to get experiences of small, middle sized and big communities. In every community I learned different things.

Apostolic life: When I was in Std.8, I had a desire to become a nurse and a nun and serve the poor. When I look back at my life I see how God granted my wish. He has given me the chance to work in our Talasari mission, in the Hospital where we run MJPJAY Scheme and IPF Scheme through which we provide free treatment to the patients who are below the poverty line. I thank God for giving me the talent to handle the situation silently and peacefully. It is a big gift I have received from God.



I am grateful to my formators, Sr. Josemary, Sr. Lily, Provincials, all the superiors in different communities, my present community; Sr. Jessie and my community members. Special thanks to Sr. Audrey and Counsellors who always supported me in times of need. Overall I thank all the people who came in contact with me, specially my family members, their love, care and concern for me. Lord bless them all.

**Sr. Nayana Pawara**  
Talasari

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## **25 Years of Grace – A Journey of Faith, Love, and Service**

As I celebrate my silver jubilee, marking 25 years as a religious journey filled with the whispers of Divine love revealing moments of grace, encounters, struggles, and hope. This milestone is not just a testament to the passage of time but a celebration of a life that shaped my soul and deepened my connection with God. It's a

journey intertwined with grace and blessings, faith and doubts, challenges and growth, moments when God felt near and moments when God seemed distant - each resonating with His purpose and plan. A milestone that fills my heart with immense appreciation and reverence for all that God has been and done in and through my life.



My journey began with a call - a divine invitation that stirred my heart and set me on a path of discovery. The early days were filled with a mix of excitement and uncertainty, learning to embrace the rhythm of religious life, discovering and accepting oneself and others, shaping my spiritual journey and drawing me closer to God. Now, even before I realised it, 25 years have

passed. In the quiet corners of my heart, I find the tapestry of my religious life woven with threads of faith and doubts, joys and pains, hope and love. The past 25 years have been a testament to the love, faithfulness and the grace that God has poured upon me. These were years of learning to surrender - to yield to the rhythm of His Divine plan and purpose.

As I look back at these silver years, my heart overflows with gratitude for His constant presence. I am deeply grateful to all those who have been a part of this journey and who walked alongside. Their love, support, and faith have been instrumental in shaping these 25 years. I am thankful for my parents and family who have shaped my life and have instilled the love of God and His values in me. I am indebted to my formators and leaders who have guided me and have shown the path, the communities that have supported me and have been by my side in the ups and downs of life, and the countless individuals whose lives have touched mine. Their prayers, support and love have carried me through challenging times and have been a beacon of light on my path. Each encounter has been a gift, a reminder of God's love and grace.

Looking ahead, I am filled with hope and keenness. And as I turn the page, I pray for courage to embrace the unknown, to keep my heart open to the whispers of the Divine, to serve and spread His love with renewed zeal and sense of mission. May the years to come be a continuation of this sacred adventure, a journey deeper into the mystery of God's love.

**Sr. Esperanca Vaz**

Canossa Niketan, Andheri

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## ***A Tribute to our Jubilarians***



### **My experiences about our Jubilarian, Sr. Annie Thekken**

My experience with Sr. Annie is that she is very committed and is a perfectionist. She has been a caring superior and showed great concern for me. Age has never been a barrier to her to keep the mission and vision alive in her heart. I join with Sr. Annie in thanking God for the gift of herself to our community and to the institute and pray that God's blessings may always remain with her. She is a person of prayer, of strong faith, courage and values. She loves the poor and reaches out to all who approach her happily and willingly. Her spiritual life witnesses to the joy of living the Gospel values and her vision of giving dignity and respect to every human person. Her simplicity is much appreciated by the community sisters and others.



Sr. Annie, your 60 years of dedicated service as a religious sister are a shining testament to your devotion, love and commitment to the Lord and humanity. Your selfless work has touched countless lives, and your kindness, compassion and generosity have inspired many. May this milestone be a celebration of your remarkable journey. May God continue to bless and guide you always.

Sharing the word of God and nurturing faith as a catechist is a remarkable testament of your dedication and love for the Lord. Your tireless efforts have helped to shape the spiritual lives of countless individuals, guiding them on their journey of faith. Your patience, wisdom and generosity have inspired many to deepen their relationship with God. May God continue to bless you with wisdom, joy and the ability to continue spreading His word.

Dear Sr. Annie you have been a pillar of hope and strength for the sisters where you had served as a community leader. We wish you the very best Sr. Annie as you journey forward in grace living your life in service and prayer. May the good Lord continue to bless you with good health of mind body and spirit.

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## **Journey of faith**

As a community our experience living with Sr. Rosely is that she is a person who takes care of every person who approaches her. She is gentle and simple in her ways. Always ready to serve others. She loves

the poor and the needy. Her smiling face makes others feel at home. Sr. Rosely, your sixty years of compassionate care and selfless service as a nurse and religious sister is a remarkable achievement. Your dedication to healing body and souls has



made a profound impact on countless lives. Your kindness, expertise and gentle touch have comforted the sick, the suffering and the marginalised.

We too join you in singing God's praises as you recall God's fidelity to you in all your ups and downs of life. We thank God for you dear sister for generously responding to God's call and for the many lives you have touched with your service. May this milestone be a celebration of your tireless efforts and may God bless you with joy, peace and with continued strength to serve the Lord. We ask God's blessing on you to carry on the mission entrusted to you.

The Sisters of Zaroli

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### **Sr. Teresina Pyanadath – Our Gem**

We, at Divine Providence are privileged to have the Diamond Jubilarian Sr. Teresina Pyanadath in our community. Sr. Teresina Pyanadath is a very humorous and kind person. In her younger days she used to be a very sporting and lively person. At recreation time she used to keep us in splits with



her witty quips. She still retains her sense of humour though more wry and not so vocal now! Sisters used to feel at home with her due to her composure and non-retaliatory ways even if

they reacted hastily to her. This is a dominant trait that has matured in her, like wine to become sweet and pleasant to this day. She is mostly remembered as a meticulous, perceiving and punctual accountant whose work was neat and clear. She is remembered as a walking calculator who would immediately spot out any errors in an account presented to her! Most of her ministry was in our various Primary Schools. She displayed warmth and kindness to the children, parents and staff alike. They would easily be won over even in their disgruntled moments and be transported to the higher plains of spirituality. Sr. Teresina has been through challenging times not only in her apostolate, but especially in her health. She has come through brilliantly, thanks to her faith and resilience. Her inner strength makes us reflect and encourages us too, to be calm in the trials and tribulations of life...especially when we feel lonely or inclined to think that our life is of no import! Like a river that has reached the plains after having bounded over hills, irrigated the valleys, and reached the plains flowing gently now, Sr. Teresina as a senior sister now, displays a quiet journeying unto the Lord and the immensity of His love. Her stillness in prayer reminds us that this Diamond is placing itself in a position to best capture the rays of The Son so as to attain the greatest degree of radiance in His presence. And the joyous sight is ours to behold!

### **The Sisters of Divine Providence**

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## **Down the Memory lane with the Canossians....**

### **50 Golden Years of Love**

I still remember that, golden day! 15th August 1969, when I entered Canossa Convent Mahim, you, dear Sr. Cecilia Lopes, Sr. Philo Colaco and others who were there to welcome me. I still remember my separation from my family. Thank you dear sisters for your great love and affection I experienced during the first 2½ months. How the days, weeks, months and years have passed and today you dear Sr. Cecilia are on the threshold of celebrating your Golden Jubilee as well. In these 50 years of dedicated service you have spent 16 years in Italy and 7 years in Africa mainly serving our elderly mothers and people in need.

Thank you dear Sr. Cecilia for all your sacrifices and dedication to look after the needy with love and affection. It must have been challenging for you to be away from your family for 23 years, all these for the sake of the suffering “Jesus” you served in the needy sisters and people. May you continue to spread the fragrance of God’s love wherever you go. May Jesus, Mama Mary, St. Magdalene and St. Bakhita forever shower their blessing on you and your mission. As you celebrate your Jubilee we rejoice with you and wish you lots of heavenly blessings. May you continue to live His golden presence as you thank our God for these 50 years. What you



have accomplished is absolutely wonderful.... Along with you, we offer praises to our God for your faithfulness to Him and your living a life of witness. Your abiding love for the Lord Jesus and your selfless service to the sick and elderly has touched many hearts and inspired many. Yes, believe me, you are a blessing to many of us. May God bless you with good health and many more years of dedicated service in God's vineyard. Take care and stay blessed.

Sr. Maggie Vaz

Sacred Heart Canossian Convent Mahim.

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## **50 years in the vineyard of the Lord**

Sr. Monica Mascarenhas was born at Manickpur in Vasai . She has two brothers and five sisters. She was brought up in a God-fearing and faith filled family which generously offered two of their daughters to follow the Lord. Sr. Monica did her schooling at Nirmalamata School, Manickpur. She was an intelligent but naughty girl. She passed her SSC with flying colours. Her father wanted her to pursue her studies, but the Lord had different plans for Sr. Monica. Thus she decided to join the Canossians. After completing her novitiate, she pronounced her temporary vows on 15 th August 1973.As a junior Sr. Monica completed her B.Sc Nursing from SNDT university, She worked among the adivasis of Shirpur and Talasari. To help the poor people she did her law and helped many poor families specially those oppressed under the heavy burden of poverty, injustice, and exploitation.

Sr. Monica Mascarenhas is the pioneer of the Nursing School at Talasari. She left no stone unturned to get the necessary permission to start the ANM for the poor adivasi girls of the area. She gave her fruitful 7 years to bring up the nursing school. We see her hard work bearing fruit as every year many girls are qualified as nurses. As the Administrator of the Dayanand Hospital Sr. Monica served many sick and poor people, she organized many medical camps, also fought for the



rights of the poor and the marginalized of the area. Her love for the poor attracted her to the earthquake stricken areas of Latur, where she served many wounded and poor people. Her love and care towards our elderly sisters at Divine Providence and Canossa Mahim are deeply appreciated.

Sr. Monica highly values punctuality. The word *procrastination* does not exist in her dictionary. She likes to

complete her work before time. We too highly appreciate her commitment to the work.

We rejoice with you dear Sr. Monica as you cherish the 50 golden years of your religious life. May God bless you and fill you with new zeal and vigour to carry the mission of the Lord forward

**Ad Multos Annos!!!!!!**

**Sr. Martina Pereira**

## **The Flower In Our Garden: Sr. Margaret Terron!**

Margaret! - This beautiful flower of Canossa blooms and flourishes in our community of Sacred Heart, Mahim. Her fragrance spreads within the community and all around. In our community we find her as a very loving, simple, humble, loyal, supportive and sincere person. This is very edifying for all of us. She generously shares her gifts of nature and grace with us in such a way as to bring out the best in each one of us and the community as a whole. Sister is a motherly person who takes care of everyone. She is of a pleasant demeanor, and all of us feel at home with her and are able to approach her with ease. Sister Margaret's melodious voice uplifts our hearts specially during the liturgy, transporting us to super-natural realms to encounter the Divine! We sense how deeply she is rooted in God, living a Spirit-filled life. Sister is very dedicated to her work and always reaches out to the poor, the needy, the parish community and the homebound. Her tender heartedness captivates people towards the Lord. Sister's dedication and hard work truly inspire everyone. Indeed, Sr. Margaret's positivity and enthusiasm makes a world of difference in our school. She is so understanding towards the sisters. Staff and students alike respect and appreciate her for her honourable ways. She treats each one with dignity.

We are truly BLESSED to have Sr. Margaret Terron in our life, a smiling angel...God's messenger, bringing us the Good News of God's love. Thank you Sister Margaret Terron for the fragrance of your life and love poured out for Jesus and for us! God reward you abundantly and place you among our saints:

Magdalene, Bakhita, Fernanda....May Our Lady of Sorrows  
bless you as you console her with the holiness of your life.

With love and respect

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*50 years, 50 years, 50 years of love.*

*Golden years, happy years*

*all for Heaven above.*

*Jubilee, Jubilee happy Jubilee.....*

Dearest Sr. Margaret Terron

Congratulations on your Golden Jubilee.

Yes, you are a mentor, facilitator, educator, a person skilled in planning, a person who inspires, guides and an efficient leader! We are grateful to you for guiding us with efficiency and supporting us in all our undertakings. Thank you Sr. Margaret for your extra sacrifices for the community and reaching out where we do not reach. Thank you for your night services when any sister is in the hospital. Thank you for your faithfulness for Wednesday Novena services. when we your sisters are unable to reach because of the school and the elderly who cannot give their services. Thank you Sr. Margaret for always thinking to keep the community happy and joyful.

Thank You Sr. Margaret for all the trouble you have taken for the maintenance of the building which gives a fresh look and a clean atmosphere. Breathing fresh air we feel uplifted and raise our hearts in prayer. In the past you have also contributed very much for our Province as Asst. Provincial and carried on the responsibilities as Secretary with much dedication and sacrifice. Fifty years of faithful service! These are the golden moments of grace and joy -We thank God for the gift- of your vocation and

the sacrifice your family has made in sending you on a mission of love. Many thanks for not- sparing yourself to build our Province and Congregation. May God be your reward now and all the days of your life. Your selfless devotion has inspired many more souls to come closer to God. Yes, we your sisters join with you for the 50 year of tireless service and a true testimony of your faith and love. God bless You always!

**Sr. Maggie Vaz**

Canossa Convent Mahim

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### **Few lines on Sr. Margaret Terron.**

Sr. Margaret Terron is a God gifted and a beautiful person.

Sister has a melodious voice.

Sister is very loving, simple, humble, loyal, supportive and a sincere person.

Sister is very dedicated to her work and always reaches out to the poor, needy, parish community and the homebound.

Sister is a motherly person who takes care of everyone.

Sister never says NO to anyone who approaches her.

Sister willingly fulfills all the needs of others.

Sister is dedicated and her hard work truly inspires everyone.

Sister's positivity and enthusiasm makes a world of difference in our school.

I am BLESSED to have lived with Sr. Margaret Terron in my life, who is truly a smiling Angel.

Sr. Fernanda Riva, St. Bakhita, bless and intercede for her and keep her in good health. God bless her always.

**Maria – K.G. Teacher**

Mahim.



**A tribute to Sr. Clarine for her dedication and service  
*Golden Jubilee of Faith and Love***

Fifty years of devotion, prayer, and care,  
A legacy of love, a story to share.  
From humble beginnings to a noble end,  
The Golden Jubilee of Sisterhood, we intend.

In the footsteps of St. Magdalene, you took the vow,  
To serve, to heal, to love, and to show.  
With heart ablaze, with soul on fire,  
You dedicated your life to the divine desire.

Through trials and tribulations, you stood strong,  
Through joys and sorrows, your bond remained long.  
With each passing year, your faith grew deep,  
A bond of sisterhood, a love that would not sleep.

With hands that healed, with heart that listened,  
You brought hope to those who were distressed.  
In hospitals, villages, and homes, you served with might,  
A shining light in darkness, a guiding light.



Through the decades, you've witnessed change and growth,  
From traditional to modern, in spirit and in truth.  
Yet your core remains unchanged, a constant beam,  
A beacon of love, a shining dream.

As we celebrate this golden jubilee year,  
We honour your dedication, your perseverance and cheer.  
For fifty years of service, of love and of light,

We thank you, dear Sr. Clarine, for being a guiding light.

May your jubilee be a time of reflection and praise,  
For the countless lives you've touched with love and grace.  
May your bond continue to grow stronger still,  
A testament to faith and love that stands the test of time.

Here's to the next fifty years of devotion and might,  
May your sisterhood continue to shine with all its light.  
For in your service, we find hope and peace,  
And in your love, a world that finds release.

Golden Jubilee of Faith and Love

**Sr. Romalin Monteiro FdCC**  
Anand Sadan, Shirpur.

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सिस्टर क्लेरीन!!

सुवर्ण महोत्सवी उमर गाठली  
अभिवादन आमुचे स्वीकारा.  
व्रतस्थ जीवनाचा हा सोहळा  
आनंदे हर्षततो साजरा करा.

चंदनापरी झिजला देह हा तुझा  
लोक कल्याणार्थ धडपडला  
जिथे ना कोणी पोहचले अजूनी  
त्या गाव परिघावर श्रमला.

भावरूप ती ख्रिस्तभक्ती  
मॅगदलेनाची प्रेरणाशक्ती  
शुद्ध निरामय वचन पूर्ती

रानामध्ये, वनामध्ये, जनामध्ये  
आहेस तू सर्वांच्या सेवेमध्ये.  
जरी हाती काटे टोचत असे  
परीवर हास्य तू दाखवित असे.

जेथे वेदना व्याकूळ जीव रडले  
त्या सांत्वना तुझे हृदय हालले  
परदुः खेरडला प्राणी देवरूपे  
तूच प्रकटली त्याच ठिकाणी.

उतरती उन्हे क्षितीजावर आज  
अन्भीवविती संध्या छायातरी

रात्रीच्या गर्भातही असेल तुझ्या  
सेवेचाच उषःकाल.  
त्रिवार ११११११११ अभिवादन

फादर वेन्सी डिमेलो.एस.जे.

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## Golden Jubilee – Sr. Clarine D'Silva

I am writing to express my sincere feelings of love, gratitude and appreciation for Sr. Clarine, for what I have seen in her and with her. My first meeting or rather encounter with her was at Shirpur after my std XII. A slim figure, active, alert, friendly, approachable, very close to the people, went to the villages when there was intense heat and the climate was unbearable. I saw her commitment and dedication, she gave me a message without words. It remained etched in my memory. Somewhere it got imprinted in my heart -the Charism of the “Greatest Love” “the Beloved poor”. I got another opportunity to meet her when I joined in 1992, I began my postulancy in Belgaum. There I saw once again a WOMAN who cares, reaches out daringly, beyond all barriers. The culture and context of St. Joseph's was quite contrary to what she proclaimed. I felt she was a prophet then, among the rest she spoke and proclaimed the Gospel of the poor, for the poor. Sr. Clarine was like a ray of hope for us. She was a shining light for the poor and the less privileged. I am sure she had her share of struggles, but she was an interiorly strong person and the values and convictions, which she held were everlasting.

God gave me a big gift by placing me at Maria Niwas, Halkarni with Sr. Clarine as my guide and mentor. Community life is the best place for our formation and with deep faith I say that indeed I learnt so many great lessons of availability, openness, concern, large heartedness and generosity from her. In that canvas of Maria Niwas and through the great apostolic interventions I learnt lessons for life. I learned to care for the poor not only economically poor but anyone at the periphery. I learned to share, I learned to give, I learned to take care of sisters, share with them, be sensitive to them. I learned to be daring, plan ahead, to be organized and systematic.



Today, when we meet, she is still that eager person, an efficient listener, a learner who yearns to learn something new and different. Sr. Clarine, you are celebrating 50 incredible and amazing years. You move around with great strength, foresight and vision. The fire that I witnessed years ago is still burning bright. Your sense of purpose and the desire to give meaning to those around you is still alive! For this I thank you and praise God for the marvelous works He has done through you. God fulfills His plan with our Yes. A Yes, every day and every moment! Seeking our oneness with Him. Years ago, you heard the call, responded and surrendered to His great plan. Your heart searching for something deeper than the friends and foes shaped your life, hundreds of lives you touched, gave them vision and hope, guided them to accomplish the purpose of life. In the process you fulfilled the purpose God has for you. Seeking God and His glory. For the beloved poor you gave your best to urban or rural areas children, youth, adults, women, non-formal, formal education, health & hygiene, Schools & boardings, community leader & manager, a community member, social worker & pastoral worker – you gave your BEST, because you believe in the BEST.

May you continue to share this light for there is still darkness.

**Sr. Neeta Lopes**

Nirmalashram, Andheri.

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## **50 Glorious years of Sr. Clarine D'Silva**

From 2007 to 2013 Sr. Clarine was the Superior of Canossa Convent, Mahim. As a close friend I leared

several good things from her. I shall highlight only 3 qualities that impacted me forcefully.

Humility: With rural social-work background experience, Sr. Clarine was entrusted with the responsibility as a community Animator of Canossa Sacred Heart community here at Mahim. She humbly accepted the assignment, trusting in God and in the cooperation of the Sisters.

As the manager of 3 Sections:

1. Canossa High School,
2. Night School
3. KG sections.

Sr. Clarine would often give speeches to various audiences. “Sr. Fatima can you please help me?” she would say and I never refused her the help she needed for this mighty task. Within her first year, Sr. Clarine became an expert. God always rewards a humble person!

Concern for the Sisters: Once I had a severe fall from the platform of St. Andrew’s College. Sr. Clarine took me to 3 orthopedic doctors. Finally I was taken to the Provincial to finalize my right knee- replacement operation. When Dr. Nair declared, it had to be total knee-replacement surgery, Sr. Clarine did not spare herself to get the best knee-patella for the replacement. I could only admire her silently and appreciate her hard work. Going thrice by the ambulance to Holy Family hospital, Bandra, was not a joke either! Yet Sr. Clarine was concerned about my days and years ahead, even though I was a retired person! May God reward her abundantly.



Love for the poor: Pragathi Shikshan School-girls had to stay back after school till 4.30/5p.m. Sr. Clarine had a soft corner for them. Sponsors came forward to support the hungry little ones. Sr. Clarine would personally supervise the food distribution and ask me to relax and rest my replaced-knee! This is where I learned to love the poor. God always blesses those who love the poor. With the two beautiful and solid Angels, Sr. Audrey D'Souza and Clarine D'Silva, by my side how could I not fly very high and carry the 34 poor children on my back for 10 years? A deep love for the poor I personally imbibed from the two Angels. The older I get the wiser I become! I realize that nothing really matters in this life except relationship with God and with those around us. By the end of her six years Sr. Clarine was a self-liberated person and all because of her attitude of forgiveness.

### **Sr. Fatima Rebello**

Canossa Convent Mahim

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### **Celebrating God's Faithful Love**

"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever" (Ps 106:1).

Our hearts resonate with gratitude along with Sr. Mathilda Cerejo, as we the Community of Nirmalamata Manickpur, Vasai thank the Almighty God for the gift of our Sister on her commitment and fidelity over these 50 golden years.

Celebrating a Golden Jubilee is not just an accomplishment but an act of gratitude. Today we are happy to celebrate the gift of Sr. Matilda, her religious vocation, and her life of service; but

above all, we celebrate God, His faithfulness and mercy which has been the anchor of Sr. Matilda's religious life. God did not see her ability, but her availability to fulfill her role in building His kingdom. We thank her for her generous service to the people of God and to the mission of the church. We are grateful to God for her unique contribution, which has been part of God's plan in the development of the Institute and our own Province.

Jubilee is the celebration of the unfathomable love and faithfulness of God. Her deep faith has enabled her to live her "yes" in the various tasks which she fulfilled with dedication and responsibility. Sr. Matilda served with eagerness to make a difference, to the schools, and communities she lived. We are sure that every experience has shaped her, taught her, and transformed her. As she recalls the struggles, – the doubts, fears, ups and downs, success and failures, joys and sorrows and uncertainties, but through it all, she has come to realize that it is in the darkness that we discover the true power of faith. We thank all those who have brought Sr. Matilda to this day – her parents, her family and friends, the sisters of our congregation and other mentors who may have influenced her life and helped her along the way.

As Sr. Matilda moves forward, we pray that she reflects with gratitude, Gods' blessings and humbly recognize her own limitations and weaknesses. May she continue growing in wisdom, compassion, and courage and deepen her roots in prayer and contemplation. God isn't finished with you Sr. Matilda, and this Community of Nirmalamata continues to need you – in the words of Isaiah– to be "a light to the nations." This Golden Jubilee marks a milestone, but it's not the end of the journey for our dear Sr. Matilda. It is a new beginning, afresh chapter, a renewed commitment to living fully, loving deeply, and serving generously. Congratulations! Dear Sr. Matilda... Ad Multos Annos!!!

**Sisters of Nirmalamata Convent Manikpur**

## Remembering the Golden Jubilarian- Sr. Maria Jacob

I can picture a lively fifteen year old girl named Maria at Junior College. My joy was great when I heard she wanted to become a Canossian missionary. She took part in some elocution and all were so impressed. That quality of doing things well and putting in her best has been outstanding all these fifty years of her religious life. It was so because she has chosen no greater personality than the Son of God made man- JESUS as her ALL.

As a teacher in the midst of children, she taught them with her charming ways, whether it was in Ranikhet as a young junior or as the Principal in Vypeen school and later as a teacher in Andheri. As a warden in Bangalore she endeared herself to the hostelites, bringing them security and hope. Her golden years were spent in Leyton, U.K where she was animator of the community and later as Provincial Councillor of Europe Province. Here she excelled as a spiritual guide in the parish and was the right hand of the Parish Priest, helping as hospital chaplain, sheltering the homeless be they English, Asians or Africans. Her leaving the place brought a great void in the Canossian apostolate in the U.K. but helped the Postulants in Andheri, whom she formed.

Sr. Maria's closeness to Jesus and Mary was seen in her apostolate at Canossa Ashram which made it brimming with spiritual life, having people flocking to this place. She used her qualities of intelligence and organisation to build God's kingdom of love..Indeed God has blessed her in these 50 years by carrying her on His wings through thick and thin and crowning her with grace in all the places she worked, journeying with Him with a trail of postulants, children, teachers, parishioners (very recently the Jesus Youth) and your very own Canossian family.

May the years that follow make your life ever brighter, so that its radiance will reach far and wide.

Ad multos annos !

**Sr. Olive D'Silva**  
Canossa Ashram

## Sr. Annie Joseph Puthenpurakal

**"I HAVE CALLED YOU BY YOUR NAME, YOU ARE MINE" IS.43:1**

An important aspect of the Religious life is the celebration of milestones, such as golden jubilee of religious profession. This is a time to remember and rejoice, rejuvenate and renew the commitment that has been such an important part of life of Sr. Annie and the congregation.

*50 years, 50 years in god's service  
In the vineyard of the lord  
As years of your dedicated life  
Mellows into gold  
And as your heart is filled with  
Joy and thanksgiving  
A note to let you know that we too share  
Your joy and jubilation*

*May the benevolent lord who called you  
To serve him in all these 50 years  
be your joy, strength and rich reward  
For many years to come  
And continue to walk with you  
To be your light and inspiration  
Hearty congratulations!!!*

*Each chapter that is ending  
Leads you to a new beginning.  
The past that you are leaving  
Means  
A future you are winning.  
Each change that fills the present  
In every new beginning spirit plays a vital part.*





*You must approach tomorrow  
With a strong and steady heart.*

Annie Joseph Puthenpurackal hails from UAE (UNITED ARAB EMIRATES EXTENDED), none other than GOD'S OWN COUNTRY – KERALA, IN THE DISTRICT OF ERNAKULAM, THE FINANCIAL CAPITAL OF KERALA, a village called Kallorkad, near Vazhakulam, between Thodupuzha & Moovattupuzha-a land of rivers. Her parents Annie and Joseph, God-fearing and loving, were blessed with 8 beatitudes, 4 boys and 4 girls, and Annie is the 7<sup>th</sup> beatitude "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons/daughters of God". No wonder Annie is a peacemaker.

There are many things in Annie's life that is true to her house name "Puthenpurackal" means 'at New House'. It is not so common we, the Canossians work outside our institutions, but Annie worked in Victoria School run by the Archdiocese of Bombay. Again efficiently and efficaciously she led St. Xavier's Primary school run by the Jesuits as Headmistress. Apart from her 5 years of teaching she was heading the various Canossian schools and animating different communities. Now once again Annie is in-charge of the new venture of our Province, here at Talasari – something puthen-something new.



As I said earlier, Thodupuzha from where she hails is a land of rivers. Probably that may be the secret that she can swim against the current even in stormy life and facing the odds of life. Vazhakulam, the small village in Thodupuzha is famous for pineapple and a place of latex i.e. rubber. Sr. Annie is sweet and medicinal like pineapple, anyone can live with her and she is flexible like rubber.

Annie Joseph Puthenpurackal

Annie, amiable and approachable

Natural and dependable

Nothing with God impossible

Interested in others commendable.

Earnest in making things lighter and agreeable

Jovial, spreading joy and happiness

Obliging and open in service of others

Sociable & sincere in her dealings

Earnest and egalitarian in her cares

Passionate & patient in her innings for souls

Humorous in numerous ways.

FIFTY years, oh what a feat!

Long-lived, wise, and still upbeat.

The next milestone is 75, it's true,

But for now, let's celebrate you! ANNIE

AD MULTOS ANNOS SR. ANNIE

**Sr. Theresa Joseph Kalarickal**

**Talasari**

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## **Silver Years of Religious Life**

Sr. Nayana Pawara is the first fruit of our mission at Shirpur to be a member of our Canossian family. Her father was a devout and faithful Catechist, Sr. Nayana imbibed the same faith from her parents. She was a boarder at our boarding at Shirpur. After having completed her Std XII in Dhule she responded to the deep yearning of her heart to follow Jesus and decided to join the Canossians.



As a young girl Sr. Nayana loved to help the poor. She enjoyed their company and would take part in their celebrations. She was loving and adapted herself to their way of living. People were very happy to have her. Seeing her great love to serve the poor by giving them medical aid, she was sent to St. Luke hospital, Shrirampur to do her GNM studies. Sr. Nayana still continues to serve the Lord in the poor and the sick.

In all her undertakings as the administrator of our hospital at Talasari, Sr. Nayana puts her trust in God alone. In the face of difficulties she finds solace in Jesus her Master. We deeply admire her deep union with God. Her serene and understanding nature makes others feel comfortable in her company be it the sisters, doctors, staff or patients at the hospital.

May God bless you dear Sr. Nayana as you celebrate the silver years of religious life. May His grace continue to accompany you as you fulfill God's plan in and through your life and mission.

**Sr. Martina Pereira**

Talasari

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### **Silver Bells of Sr. Lovita**

“ Give thanks to our God for His Faithfulness and Love”

Silver Jubilee is a time of recalling all the faithfulness of God and all the blessings God our loving Father has showered on the person.

Sr. Lovita is a wonderful person who could achieve great things with the help of Jesus whom she follows intimately.

This intimate following can be seen as we take a walk down the memory lane of the last twenty-five years. She had been a very obedient daughter of the Father following the promptings of the Spirit and has chosen the special way of following the footsteps of Jesus Crucified with an undivided heart, leaving everything behind to put herself at the service of humanity. The Silver Jubilee is a milestone in Sr. Lovita's life, and at this time we want to express our love and appreciation for her gift, to her family, to our Congregation, to our Province and in a special way to each one of us here at St. Joseph's. We also thank her and appreciate her for all the wonderful



things she has accomplished in the vineyard of the Lord, in the different mission places of our Province and to the people of varied cultures. She has a soft corner for the poor and needy specially the children. She goes out of her way to reach out to them and to make sure they study. She will leave no stone unturned to get help for these under privileged ones to make their study journey smooth and comfortable. She has given 100% of herself in our mission stations of Dharampur-Gujarat, Talasari, Goa, Halkarni etc. She has done great and wonderful works for the migrants and tribals through various Social work centres of Mumbai, Dharampur, and Canossa Samajik Vikas Kendra of Goa. She is very enthusiastic, creative, hard working and above all a very loving and compassionate sister. She is blessed with an artistic taste and creativity in constructions and

renovations. She is friendly, caring and loving towards the sisters, youth and to the people with whom she comes in contact with. She has a healing touch with the sick. Her love for the Master of her heart is very much visible in her actions and in her dealings with people and in her spiritual journey. She is an agent of joy to all around and her life is a joyful witness. May she continue her joyful witnessing and bring many more souls closer to the Lord. May she attract many young people to the Master of the Vineyard to follow Him more closely and love Him more ardently. May the Good Lord be your light, guide, strength and comfort all the days of your life dear Sr. Lovita. This is our prayer for you today and for all the days of your life.

**Sr. Shoba V.**

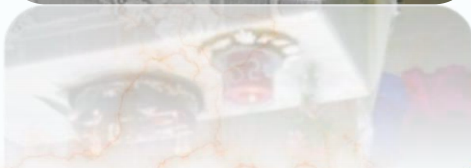
St. Joseph's Convent, Belagavi

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## **Celebrating 25 Years of Service: Honoring Sr. Esperanca**

We, the Canossian community, are thrilled to celebrate Sr. Esperanca's 25 years of devoted service. True to her name, which means 'hope' she has been a shining example of hope, kindness, and dedication throughout her remarkable journey. Sr. Esperanca is straightforward, direct, and frank in her approach, always showing active creativity and a deep sense of duty. Her unwavering support and genuine care have touched countless lives. She is assertive, enthusiastic, and energetic, bringing vitality to everything she does. Her heartfelt compassion and sincere support during challenging times have been a source of

As we honor Sr. Esperanca's milestone, we are profoundly grateful for all she has done and continues to do. Her life embodies the hope and faith her name represents. Congratulations, Sr. Esperanca, on this incredible achievement! We celebrate you and the countless ways you have made a difference in our lives with your unwavering dedication and kindness.

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## **"A Tiny Seed Blooms into a Mighty Tree"**

### ***25 years of Empowering Tribal Girl Children***

#### **Silver Jubilee –Ashadeep Convent, Fulwadi**

On August 19, 2023, Ashadeep Convent, Fulwadi , a beacon of hope for tribal girls, celebrated its Silver Jubilee, marking a momentous milestone. Twenty-five years ago, in April 1998, a tiny seed of faith and service was sown in Fulwadi mission. This seed has grown into a mighty tree, providing shade, shelter and substance to countless tribal children. The hostel, built with the generous support of Mr. Samuel C, an Italian Benefactor, has transformed thousands of lives over 25 years, empowering them with education and creating a brighter future for generations to come. The unwavering dedication, selfless service and compassionate presence of the sisters have inspired the tribal community. Their efforts have borne fruit, with many former students becoming teachers, nurses, government employees and dedicated wives and mothers. Among them two students Srs. Paru Borsa and Shejal Rathad have even joined the religious life within our institute. On this auspicious occasion Rt. Rev. Bishop Sebastian Mascarenhas, Bishop of Baroda Diocese, celebrated the Thanksgiving Mass alongside the Parish Priest and other priests. In his homily, the Bishop expressed his gratitude to the sisters for their dedicated service in sheltering and nurturing tribal girls.

The celebration coincided with the 250th birth anniversary of our Foundress St. Magdalene of Canossa. To commemorate these twin occasions, mango saplings and other tree plants were distributed to the families of the villages.

Sisters from Gujarat and Bombay, including those who had previously served in Fulwadi, attended the celebration. Sr. Bharti highlighted the sisters' dedication to this mission while Sr. Juliana, Vice Provincial, represented the Provincial team. Ex-students, village leaders and current students shared their experiences and sang melodious songs and performed graceful dances during the celebration. The Silver Jubilee celebration was a day of rejoicing and thanksgiving to God for His bountiful blessings on this beautiful mission. The Fulwadi Hostel continues to be a shining example of compassion, service and dedication to empowering marginalized tribal communities.

#### **Ashadeep, Fulwadi Sisters**

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### **Diamond Jubilee Blessings at Nirmalashram, Andheri**

Six decades of Blessings and a heritage of sixty years! We celebrating with gratitude all that Nirmalashram has been to every Canossian in our Province and to many in the South, North and Andhra- Odisha Delegation.

Nirmalashram continues to cradle the values and ideals of Canossian traits and legacy handed down to us by valiant Canossian Sisters and women of great faith and commitment who have lived the gift of the Greatest Love.

The challenge of Magdalene beckons us to make Jesus known and loved. The beloved poor continue to be our inspiration and strength. The many sisters who visit Nirmalashram invite us to



share the warmth and charity of belonging to one great Canossa Family.

The roots to the distant past are very interesting, and indeed a sense of gratitude fills our hearts as we contemplate the dream of our sisters to serve God and to make Him known and loved by all, become a reality.

At the very outset, let us recall how God led our sisters in making this dream come true. It was on 26 November 1889 that a group of 5 European Canossians Missionary Sisters arrived in Cochin, India. In 1891 they came to Belgaum and started the novitiate there. As the years passed by the number of novices was on the rise. The place in Belgaum was very small so the sisters had to find some place that would house them. The sisters knelt in prayer as no place was in sight. God showed them the light and through the gracious presence of M. Sala, a plot of land along Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri East, that was vacant, was bought for a very good price. Darkness had now turned to light and Nirmalashram was set to begin in full swing from October 1963. On 15 September, 1964 the last group of postulants arrived in Belgaum. The Novitiate in Belgaum was shifted to Nirmalashram, Andheri, after 55 years of existence in St. Joseph's Belgaum.



The need to reach out to the poor children who had no education inspired the novices to start teaching these little ones. The first initiative to hold classes under the shade of the huge mango trees in the compound had its own golden future. Later they turned into K.G. classes and from 1969 this tiny seed grew and branched into two schools-1969 Canossa Primary School was recognized and in 1975 the High School received recognition.

The Technical school opened in 1972, offered not only tailoring classes but also shorthand and typing. The tailoring classes continued and trained many young women and married ladies to stitch their own garments and also to earn a living, if they so wished.

In 1974 the Provincialate was shifted to Nirmalashram, Andheri, from Canossa Mahim. All the Canossian ministries were held in this campus, including the formation of Novices.

Several sisters have distinguished themselves in the socio-pastoral ministry. The most outstanding was the Alcoholics Anonymous started by Sr. Gracy Sequeira after visiting the slums in Shantinagar. She realized the root cause of family problems; poverty and depression led to the consumption of alcohol in almost every hutment.

During this time M. Griselda Vettore started the Education Sponsorship programme together with the midday meal for poor students. This project helped countless poor families.

In June 1979, the Jesuits rented two small rooms at Achanak Colony to (serving as chapel and residence) to care for the poor. In 1980 a small community of three sisters was set up in Munshi Colony to assist Fr. Fredrick Sopena S.J. As the activities of the new substation expanded, our basement hall was used for Sunday mass and slowly evolved into a parish. Some sisters assisted in the Sunday school catechism conducted in Andheri and Jerimeri Parish. The Canossians served the parishes of Amboli, Chakala and Saki Naka as well.

From 2003 Nirmalashram house has been entrusted with the special mission of welcoming our sick and convalescing sisters of



the Province and that of other provinces as well whenever required and in 2010 Nirmalashram has been re-dimensioned to provide a well-furnished infirmary for this purpose.

Socio-Pastoral activities like camps, retreats, seminars and other activities are conducted for youth, and for those showing an inclination for religious life. Canossa Jeevan Vikas Kendra conducts various social outreach programmes for the underprivileged and the marginalized categories of people. Children, Kishoris, Women, the AA group and the members of the LGBTQ+ community are part of our pilgrim journey. The Canossa Academy of Skills, a new project started in 2005 helps young ladies to earn their living through various courses like tailoring, embroidery, fashion designing, beautician, English classes and teachers training.

Nirmalashram continues to welcome everyone in need spreading its rays of love and compassion, hope and faith, knowledge and wisdom. May St. Magdalene, our Foundress, whose 250<sup>th</sup> Birth anniversary and our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary "Set on Fire" our journey ahead living her maxim of "Making Jesus Known and Loved"

*Nirmalashram Convent, Andheri 60 YEARS and still  
blooming...*

**"A MILESTONE ACHIEVED"**

## **Dear jubilarians,**

In consecrated lives, you've walked the way,  
Through trials and joys, in faith each day.  
Decades of devotion, love, and care,  
A lifetime dedicated to serving with prayer.

With grateful hearts, we celebrate,  
Your jubilee years, a testament great.  
Your vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience true,  
Inspire us all, in a world anew.

Through ministry and service, you've shown,  
The face of God, to those unknown.  
In hospitals, schools, and foreign lands,  
Your compassion and kindness, joined God's hands.

Your perseverance, a shining light,  
Guides us on our own spiritual night.  
Your wisdom, born of experience and age,  
Illuminates the path, on life's turning page.

We thank you, dear jubilarians, today,  
For your selfless gift, in every way.  
May God's blessing, peace, and joy abound,  
As you continue, on your sacred ground.

May your example, inspire and motivate,  
New generations, to consecrate.  
May your love for God, and humanity too,  
Endure forever, a legacy shining through.

Congratulations, dear jubilarians, on this special day,  
May it be filled, with joy in every way.

From the Spandan Team



# Nirmalashram



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1963 - 2023-24