



SR. NATAL DIAGO COLACO

**"I have fought the good fight. I have kept the FAITH,
from now on, there is reserved for me the crown of
righteousness, I longed for in ETERNITY".**

2 Timothy 4:7-8

Province of St. Francis Xavier India Centre

Life is like music
SOME HIGH NOTES,
SOME LOW NOTES,
but always a good song!



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A Eulogy for Sister Natal Colaco:

Friends, family, sisters in faith: A Song in our Hearts.

As Ephesians 5:19-21 reminds us: *“Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

With hearts heavy, yet filled with a melody that echoes the life of our dear Sister Natal Colaco, we recall with heavy hearts Sister Natal’s life that was a song, a testament to faith, and a chorus of love for God and those around her.

A Silent Symphony of Strength I had the privilege of knowing Sister Natal for a brief period, and what struck me most was her profound capacity for silent listening and understanding. Her heart was a heaven for those seeking solace. Never a word of complaint, nor a flicker of anger marred her serene acceptance, even in the face of immense suffering during her final years. When I visited her, her quiet strength shone through. She, a nurse herself, knew her condition, yet declared, “I’m happy with what God has blessed me with.” Her endurance, patience, and tolerance were her silent symphony, a powerful lesson for us all.

A Nightingale’s Touch Sister Natal’s profession as a nurse was an extension of her compassionate nature. Stories about her considerate and gentle touch, was a gift she bestowed upon communities in Bareilly, Zaroli, Shirpur, Talasari, and Nirmalashram. She was a true Nightingale, a healer with a human touch.

A Voice That Soothed the Soul Sister Natal's voice was a melody in itself – soft, sweet, and truly a reflection of her beautiful spirit. It resonated not just within the walls of the communities she served, but also within the hearts of those who heard it.

A Faith Unwavering Diagnosed with cancer, Sister Natal's final five years were a testament to her unwavering faith. She found solace in prayer, yearning to participate in services and connect with her sisters in faith. Her concern for their well-being never wavered, a constant thread in the tapestry of her life.

48 Years of Devotion For 48 years, Sister Natal dedicated herself to God and His people. We, along with her loving family, are forever grateful. They gifted the Church and the Canossian Institute with a true treasure, a woman who loved her family deeply but found a home within the Canossian community, wherever she served.

A Song of Gratitude Our hearts are lifted up in thanksgiving to God for the 71 years He gifted Sister Natal. May He, in His infinite mercy, welcome her soul into His eternal embrace.

Sister Natal, rest in peace. Though you are gone from this earthly plant, your melody lingers in our hearts. We will join you again one day, where your sweet voice will rise once more, a beautiful addition to the heavenly choir.

She is now in her real, final homeland, in the father's bosom, a place reserved for all of us from all eternity. Her sudden going away has created a void in our province, especially at the community of Dhule, where she spent the past five years of her earthly journey

Our dear Mother Foundress St. Magdalene said:

‘God often uses our crosses to accomplish his work and He does this – by His Mercy – so as to prepare for us an everlasting crown.’ Our dear Sr. Natal is already singing the praises of God in Heaven.

For the past years, Sr. Natal was suffering from Cancer. The Lord chose her to share His suffering on the Cross. She responded to Him with deep trust, humility, courage and strong Love.

We believe that ‘What we once enjoyed and deeply loved, we can never lose, for all that we love deeply becomes part of us.’

The love that we give is the only wealth we will keep for eternity. Dear Sr. Natal, we are sure and confident that, the boundless, humble and attentive love that you have shared with all the sick and the suffering you encountered during your earthly journey is the true treasure stored for you in eternity.

Dear Sr. Natal, the Lord has given you a share in His Suffering on the Cross. You have responded to Him with deep Trust, humility, Courage and Strong Love and now He has taken you to Himself, rewarding you with His Heavenly abode. As you

cherish Intimacy and Heavenly Bliss, Sr. Natal, please do intercede for us your Sisters.

Sr. Audrey D'Souza (Province Leader)



Singing the Praises of God in Heaven.

Sr. Natal spent most of her life in the mission communities serving the poor people and relieving them with her care as a nurse.

God had blessed her with the melodious voice which she offered at the service of the Lord in His Vineyard singing His praises

Though she had been suffering for the last few years; her sudden passing away like this was indeed shocking. Most of us found it very difficult to believe that she is no more.

She served in the Province in different capacities as a nurse, Community Leader and Province Infirmarian. She rendered her loving and attentive care in the Province infirmary as a Province Nurse. Many of our sisters remember with gratitude, her thoughtfulness and generosity in reaching out to them in their pain and suffering.

It was destined by our Heavenly Lord that she spends the last few days of her life in the community of Talasari where she spent most of her enthusiastic years, young lively days among the beloved poor people of St. Magdalene, serving them.

In the past few years we found her cherishing more and more silence but her silence spoke it all. It was Christ that she was daily carrying with her and it was He who strengthened her in her suffering. She was a person with the virtue of forgiveness. She was an **apostle of prayer** for all of us in the community of Dhule and its mission. She never missed her personal prayers. The rosary was always in her hand, even as she travelled to Bombay by vehicle she clung to her rosary throughout the journey

She loved us the sisters of the community and would miss us if any of us were out for any reason for a longer time. She would enquire about the missing community member and would ask frequently as to when she would return to the community.

God Our father prepared her well for her return journey through the retreat she attended at Canossa Ashram from 2nd May 2024 to 10th May 2024. As a loving bride of Christ, He granted her the privileged moments of union with Him through

the Eucharist, the Holy Hour, Confession and the Plenary Indulgence granted to us on the occasion of the 250th Birth Anniversary of St. Magdalene.

Community of Dhule.

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Praying Moses of our Community: Sr. Natal Colaco

When I heard that Sr. Natal is no more, I was taken aback. Though I knew she was not keeping too well, I never thought that she would leave us so early. As an obedient daughter of the Heavenly Father, she jumped into His arms responding to His call.

Her life was a saga of suffering. God chose her to carry the Cross of sickness and she accepted it faithfully till the end of her life. None of us know for sure when our last day on this planet earth is. One thing is sure that God prepares us for our final journey, to our eternal homeland without our knowledge. This fact was very evident in the life of Sr. Natal.

God prepared Sr. Natal for her final journey through the last retreat that she attended at Canossa Ashram in May 2024. Participation in the Eucharistic Celebrations, Holy Hour,

Confession and Plenary indulgence prayer was the bridal preparation granted to her by the Lord before she could meet Him, her Bridegroom.

In the last two months that I lived with her, I found her growing more and more in 'Holy Indifference'. She was least interested in any worldly affair, so much so that she was not bothered about food and drink that is 'not being aware of it', her soul was thirsting for God'. A mango, a water melon and any cold Sherbat mixed with sabja seeds (Faluda seeds) were the only things she would take willingly.

Every day, after recreation, 'Is there a Eucharistic Celebration in the convent tomorrow?' She would faithfully ask. When she was unable to join the community prayers in the morning, she would do it faithfully by herself. She cherished more and more silence and spoke very little. A small ten beads rosary found always in her hand was a clear, visible sign of her devotion to our Heavenly Mother Mary.

Sr. Natal would sit on a chair under the tree outside the chapel and meet and greet the students of the High School with a smile as they visited the Chapel before school starts. This was the first item on her agenda every day for quite a long period. The children of the school would refer to her as 'the mother of Sr. Monica'. In the morning, to sit under the tree outside the Chapel and in the evening, to sit opposite the main entrance gate was her daily schedule.

Her faithfulness to community acts was remarkable especially the ones which her health permitted her to do so. Though she would not get into any conversation, she would be present daily beforehand in the recreation room as if to welcome all the sisters who came for recreation. If for any emergency

recreation was cancelled, we the sisters would first remember to go to the recreation room and inform her. On our request, she would willingly sing, the Marathi hymns in her melodious voice with much devotion emotion, ‘Varnu Kiti Mahima Tujha, Mi Kuthe hi Kasa hi Aso’, were her favourite hymns.

Though she would not talk much, she would notice everything. Missing the absent community member, she would ask about her. Whenever I went out for any important work, I requested her prayers and she would promise to pray. She was a 'Praying Moses' for our community. She is a great example for me of how to endure pain silently without a word of complaint.

Three years back, when I was with her in the same community of Dhule, I observed that she would never get into justification or argument. True to the hymn that she would sing, 'Arpito me Prabhula'; she placed all her sufferings in the hands of Lord as a sweet offering.

Our dear Sr. Natal is already with Jesus Our Risen Lord, singing His Praises with new zest. She continues to be God's gift to us as our intercessor now. Dearest Sr. Natal, while in the Beatific Vision of God, please do continue your mission of praying for us!

Sr. Mary D'Souza
Canossa Dhule



Let Thy LOVE Play upon My Voice And Rest on My Silence

When we look back to the days spent with Sr. Natal Colaco in Zaroli we can say that she was a calm, gentle, humble, loving sister full of concern for others, self-sacrificing generous and prayerful .We can say that she was a Canossian par excellence.

She was appreciated and loved by everyone in the mission of Zaroli. Every patient she treated in the dispensary felt her love and healing touch. She had an appreciative word of thanks for every little favor done to her. She was a peace loving sister and to live with her was very pleasant.

Dear Sr. Natal the people of Zaroli will ever remember your love care and concern for them at the time of their illness and other times. They will always remember your melodious voice which was your identity.

Sisters have personally experienced her unique and charming personality, with her soft spoken, caring and understanding ways.

When she was unwell and going through treatment she would always show her concern and inquire about the School and other Mission activities. She always assured us of her prayers for them.

She contributed a lot and gave her very best when she could and showed her ability, zeal and responsibility. As a committed

Missionary, her dedicated service is still remembered and admired by many people. Her Passion for mission was strong.

It was a great joy, to be with Sr. Natal and we worked together tirelessly for the sick and suffering. With a smile on her face she approached the sick with love and compassion.

Her very life spoke of the depth of her love for the poor and her spirituality.

She was a sister to all of us, by her very understanding, loving and caring ways. She used to remain before the Blessed Sacrament and pray fervently.

As a nurse she attended to the sick and suffering and alleviated their pain, by her generous caring and loving, practical ways.

Bishop Seby Mascarnahas the Bishop of Baroda was at Vapi when Sr. Natal was in Zaroli and she took care of him, when he met with an accident. He was very grateful to her for all that she had done for him. He expressed his wish of meeting her in person at Talasari.

She was always open to learn anything that is new and for the good of the poor. She learned Gujarati and Varli language in order to be effective in her apostolate. Her sickness brought a lot of pain and suffering to her but she accepted it with serenity and without any complaint.

Thank you dear Natal for what you were to the community and to the mission of Zaroli.

May God grant her eternal peace and may she enjoy the bliss of heaven with Jesus and Mary.

Sisters of Zaroli

An Inspiring Canossian

Natal Colaco was a loving, prayerful, and dedicated sister. We had the privilege of living together in Andheri, where she served as the community nurse in 2009.

During a particularly challenging time when Sr. Faustine suffered a fractured foot, Sr. Natal was exceptional in her care and love.

We remember Sr. Natal as a kind and gentle soul, always dedicated to her mission. She gracefully endured her own pain without complaint, embodying a calm and sober spirit even in suffering.

Her beautiful voice, a legacy of her family, was often lifted in thanks and praise to God, enriching our community during times of recreation with her heartfelt singing.

Sr. Natal was truly an inspiring Canossian, whose gentle, loving, and dedicated nature left an indelible mark on all who knew her.

She now serves as a strong intercessor in heaven, and we ask for her prayers for all the needs of our institute.

Her memory lives on in our hearts, and we are grateful for the blessing of having known her.

Shirlaiwadi Community

A Loving Remembrance

As I lovingly recall our dear Sr. Natal Colaco's life with us my thoughts go to her novitiate days... I was a professed sister but I remember her as a gentle, encouraging, confident presence as she went about being a docile and loving novice....

I have not had the pleasure of living with her except when she was sick and in our community. I admire her patience and endurance in suffering, and her acceptance of all the pain she has had to go through and I see that she had the strength to bear this only because she was attached to Jesus and her prayer life was strong.

I thank God for her faith and the increase of faith that the Spirit gave her all through her years. She was humble and accepted the help we would offer her, and believe in the graces she received through the prayer of her community and her sisters. She loved praising the Father, Son and Holy Spirit with her golden voice and she prayed as she sang with unction lifting praises and honour to the Lord.

She was always free to express how she feels and would confidently make known her needs and trust that they would be fulfilled. She offered her sufferings and her prayers for the works and for the poor whose lives she had touched down through these years.

It is because of the attachment she had for the Crucified Lord that she bore whatever the Lord made her go through and accept with faith her life situations. She was always grateful.....

The Lord called her to Himself at the time when it was best for her to enter His Kingdom before any other changes on earth....She loved her Superiors and was grateful to them.

Thank you Sr. Natal for your fruitful life among us and for walking the path to Calvary chosen by the Father for you....
Enjoy bliss forever.

Sr. Clemy Mascarenhas
Nirmalashram

Sr. Natal –A Canossian to the Core

"I have fought the good fight. I have kept the FAITH, from now on, there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, I longed for in ETERNITY.

These are perfect words of St. Paul to our dearest Sr. Natal"

Sr. Natal Colaco, was an ex-student of Nirmala Mata High school, Manickpur.

As a Canossian, by profession she was a "Trained Nurse".

She worked in our missionary Communities as well as in North India. She was a very talented sister and a good singer like her brothers.

Since she was in the Medical field and I in Education, I had little opportunity of meeting her.

While she was working in one of our mission houses a tragedy took place and with that, fear overtook her and from then on began her **silent suffering**.

After many years she was transferred to our Community, Canossa Convent Dhule, where I had the opportunity to stay with her. She suffered patiently and ALONE, without any complaint. Her family supported her much in her sickness. Her people took great care of her and celebrated her on her Birthday. I want to thank her family for the care and concern during her home visit etc.

Oh! She had a smile on her face with a dimple on her cheek.

Natal was a Canossian to the core. She was a prayerful person and the Rosary was her constant companion.

Towards the final journey she was a ray of holiness that she revealed in her silence and smile.

We do not know how much she must have suffered....finally she is laid to rest

Oh! what an everlasting happiness, it is Sr. Natal,... Celebrate
“New LIFE” as you enter into ETERNITY!

We thank God for the gift of Sr. Natal Colaco to our
Canossian Family.

Rest in Peace dear Sr. Natal.

Sr. Maggie Vaz
Canossa Convent Mahim

सिस्टर नाताल कोलासो यांना श्रद्धांजली

सुमने होऊनी गळूनी पडावे प्रभूच्या पदकमळाशी देह झीजावा अखंडित हा
ख्रिस्त प्रभू सेवेशी.....

ईश्वरी सेवेत स्वतःला समर्पित केलेल्या स्वर्गवासी सिस्टर नाताल डायगो
कोलासो यांच्या स्मृतिपित्यर्थ त्यांना श्रद्धांजली वाहण्यासाठी जमलेल्या सर्व
भाविकांचे कोलासो कुटुंबीय ऋणी आहे.

सिस्टर नाताल डायगो कोलासो या आपल्या धर्मग्रामातील श्रीमती मेरी
मरूली बाय आणि डायगो डेगुल्या कुलास यांच्या संसार वेलीवरील पाचवं
फुलएकूण आठ भावंडांमधील हसरे व सर्वांचे लाडके असे गोजिरवाणे फुल.

ईश्वरी पाचारणाला होकार देऊन सिस्टर नाताल ह्यांनी कनोशियन संस्थेत
पदार्पण केले व तब्बल 48 वर्षे निस्वार्थी सेवा केली त्यांचे हे कार्य कसे? तर
मिशन विभागात त्यांनी सुपीरियर म्हणून नेतृत्व केले व परिचारिका म्हणजेच
नर्स म्हणून कुष्ठरोग्यांची, आजारांची, दलितांची व गोरगरिबांची सेवा अंधेरी,
धुळे ,तलासरी ,शिरपूर, झरोली अशा अनेक मिशन विभागात केली.

हेच कार्य करीत असताना कॅन्सर सारख्या जीवघेण्या आजाराने त्यांना ग्रासले परंतु त्यांच्या संस्थेची आश्रयदाती संत मागदालेना हिच्या मध्यस्थीने कुठलीही कुरकुर न करता पवित्र मरियेचे एकमेव शस्त्र पवित्र रोझरी कायम हातात घेऊन अगदी हसत हसत आपल्या सर्व वेदना सहन केल्या. आपल्या मधुर आवाजाने ईशस्तुती गाणे गाऊन आपल्या वेदना शमावल्या.

दरवर्षीप्रमाणे यंदाही मे महिन्याच्या सुट्टीत त्या दहा दिवसांसाठी घरी आल्या, सर्व कुटुंबीयांची भेट घेतली व आनंदाने तलासरी येथील त्यांच्या घरी परतल्या, परंतु ही भेट शेवटची असेल अशी पुसटशीही कल्पना नव्हती.

29 मे रोजी आपला 71 वा वाढदिवस साजरा करून दिनांक पाच जून रोजी नियतीचा आघात झाला व हृदयविकाराने त्यांची प्राणज्योत मावळली परंतु त्यांच्या जाण्याने रात्रीच्या आकाशातील तारे आता थोडे उजळले आहेत कारण त्यांना एक नवीन देवदूत मिळाला आहे.

देवराज्यातून त्या आज आपणासाठी नक्कीच प्रार्थना करीत आहेत. शेवटी एकच म्हणेन ,प्रिय सिस्टर आतू आठवणींच्या बागेत फिरताना आम्हाला कायम तुझ्या गालावरची पडलेली खळी,तो तुझा हसरा चेहरा आमच्या हृदयात कायम फुलून राहिल.

तुझ्या आत्म्यास चिरकाल शांती लाभो हीच आम्हा कुटुंबीयांची भावपूर्ण श्रद्धांजली.

Sr. Natal Colaco A humble, simple, generous person.

Sister Natal Colaco was a very simple, humble and generous personality. I remembered her when my daddy was sick in Shirpur, how she accompanied me during his sickness. And now when she was brought to Talasari Dayanand hospital, what I liked about her was that she never complained about anything. She bore her

sickness silently. Thank you Sr Natal for all that you have done for our Institute. Rest in peace in the bosom of our Heavenly Father.

Sr Nayana Pawara

Saluting Sr. Natal Colaco

I was serving communion at Mass one day at Nirmalashram, and was suddenly startled at a large palm open in front of me to receive the Body of Christ! Looking up I saw that it belonged to Sr. Natal Colaco! Nervousness gave way to compassion.

I steadied the trembling within me and then gently placed the Body of Christ in the palm of the body of Christ!

Yes, Christ suffered long and bravely in the body of our dear Sr. Natal Colaco. It was a heart rending trial for her, yet she sought not for pity! I can only salute her for her patient forbearance as she waited on the Lord with great affection.

May she gracefully repose and enjoy the Eternal Banquet spread out at His Table for her!

Sr. Berlinda D'Cruz

The Memories still linger.....

Dear Sr. Natal,

**I have seen you serving our sick sisters
with love....**

**I have seen you cleaning the wounds of
the leprosy patients in Talasari.....**

**I have seen you courageously returning late at night
from Shirpur villages.....**

**I have heard your melodious voice in Shirpur and
Talasari while teaching the songs to the boarders.....**

**I have tasted the food which you have cooked for the
community with love....**

**I have seen you wiping the tears of the sorrowful
families.**

**Thank you sister Natal for the fond memories you
have left in our hearts.**

Rest in peace.



**Sr. Sheela D'Souza
Canossa Annexe**

My Experiences with Sr. Natal

I encountered Sr. Natal Colaco as a young girl when I went for a camp at Zaroli in my early teens. A beautiful peaceful soul, radiating the goodness of God! She shared in the healing power of the Lord with the simple folks of Zaroli mission through the dispensary and the village health workers.

A person of few words but spoke much with her simplicity and good will. Her melodious voice gave glory to God through the Gujarati and Marathi bhajans that she sung with much unction and depth. Her voice was a gift to all! She had a ear for music. Having a ear for music is having the gift to hear what others cannot. A ear for music is a ear for the divine and I think that was the yearning of Sr. Natal which I saw and experienced whenever I met her as a Canossian.

She had a quiet wit and enjoyed a hearty laugh over a simple joke. She spoke little but her presence was filled with deep concern and sensitivity for the other. Unassuming and not overbearing on the other she reached out to the sisters who were in need of care and solace with the healing touch that came from her union with our Lord Jesus, the Healer.

Her own Way of the Cross, she endured and walked the path of suffering without any show and glamour. Kahil Gibran says, “Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls, the most massive characters are seared with scars.”

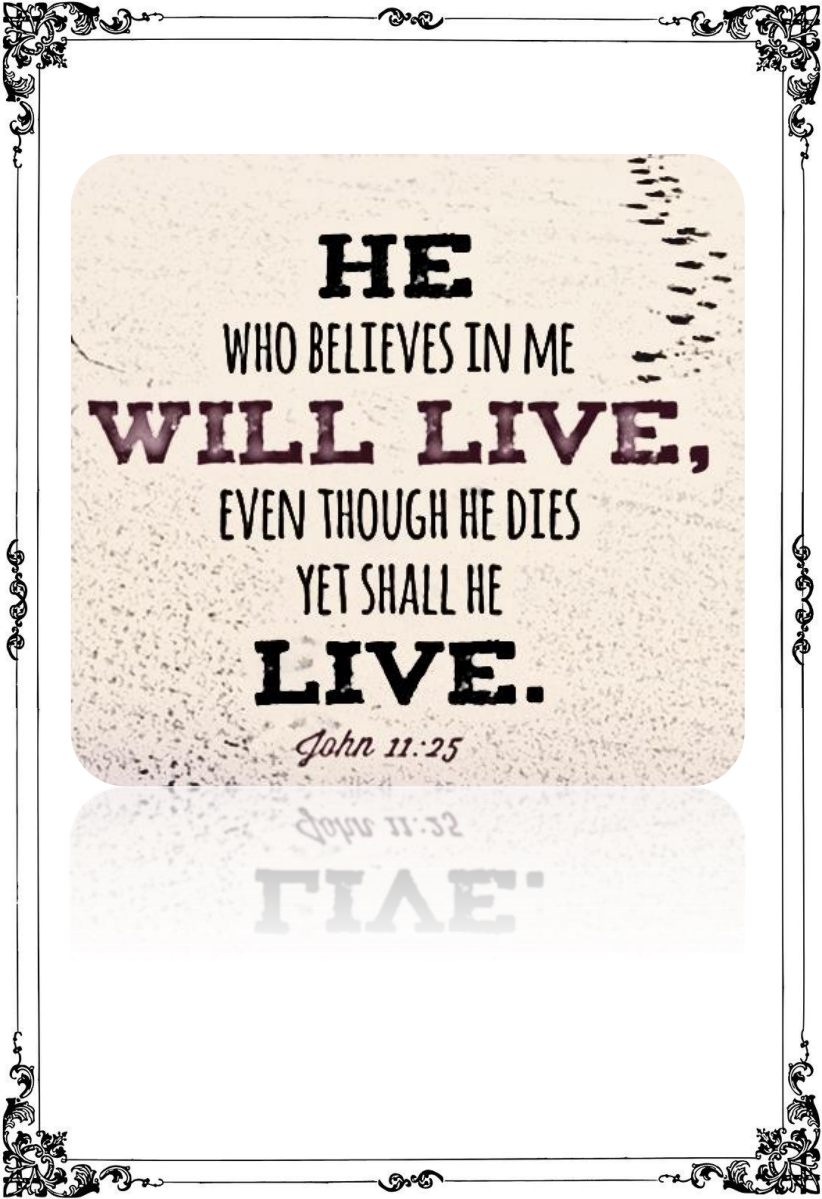
May Sr. Natal intercede for us all and especially for the missions where she worked tirelessly and with a selfless spirit.

Sr. Neeta Lopes
Nirmalashram, Andheri



*Music is my life,
so that journey
will never stop.*

Shibani Dandekar



HE
WHO BELIEVES IN ME
WILL LIVE,
EVEN THOUGH HE DIES
YET SHALL HE
LIVE.

John 11:25

John 11:25

LIVE