

A Tribute of Love, Gratitude and Appreciation for Mother M. Amata Antonini

“Pioneers are compelled by a Vision”.

There is a unique calling the Lord places on the lives of
Certain individuals to venture into a new Mission.

To be a forerunner in a noble Mission
Is truly stimulating and yet challenging.
Mother M. Amata Antonini is a person who
Loved challenges and lived life in its fullness.

These few pages are dedicated to the remembrance of
the matriarch who generously gave the best of herself,
making herself everything for everyone with
unconditional generosity and joyful simplicity.



GUIDE TO OUR DESTINY



Arrival of Mother Amata in India in 01.9.1961
Sr M. Saveria Battistino, Sr M. Immacolata Tresham

When I entered the convent, Mother Amata was
the only Superior and Formator for the Indian
Region. I admired her for the wisdom with which
she guided our communities. She appeared to be
a severe Mother, but her approach was very
gentle. I appreciated her because, although she
was born in Italy, **she not only learned English,
she learned it well.** She also managed with other
local languages, especially Hindi. She did not
waste time and taught us to do the same, that is,
to use every minute to update ourselves, just as
she did to learn the language. She wanted us to
understand the things, not just to recite the
articles of the Constitutions from memory.

at the beginning of our presence in India, she worked tirelessly to build up our Province: she offered
er life for us. She possessed many remarkable qualities. Just to mention a few: sacrificial love and
ndurance, courage and far-sightedness. We give thanks to our dear Mother for having guided our
rovince for many years. May the Lord bestow upon her the eternal reward.

Sr M. Celine Cunha

A contented Soul

Mother Amata was Obedient and committed to all assignments and duties. She was a good teacher
to all. Humble, hardworking and ever-smiling. She united everyone and was very caring and loving
to all. She taught us how to pray and trust in the providential care of God our Father. She was a
loving caring person as Novice Mistress. She was a woman of deep faith and prayer. Her simplicity
and detachment to the world, family, things, and persons were noticed by all.

Sr Gracy, Sr Gloria, and Sr Hilda

Pillar of Strength

I was quite young when I joined the religious life. During my initial formation I used to be hyperactive and made lots of mistakes and used to feel bad about it. It is in those moments Mother Amata would encourage me saying, “you are young and you will grow don’t get discouraged” these words were like a balm to my sore.

Before I came to Bangalore for my Novitiate, she had sent me a letter where she wrote “*The grace of God travels ahead of you and is waiting for you in Bangalore*” these words were like a pillar of strength in my all my transfers and whenever any responsibility was entrusted to me. I completely trusted in these words that *the Grace of God travels ahead of me* and constantly experienced the divine power not only accompanying but really awaiting me.

She was able to discern what we were good at and accordingly she would direct us in the apostolate. Her unique way of handling the young ones always surprised me. On one occasion she had noticed a mistake made by a novice in tailoring a vestment and she was upset about it, since she had just made her confessions she said, “I am unable to get angry because I just made my confession” then she embraced the person for a few minutes and continued to rectify the mistake calmly as if nothing had happened.

She was gifted with an unusual sensitivity for looking into the person’s eyes and perceiving what we were going through. She was my superior in Delhi before she left India. When I reached the community though she was in holidays in Italy she rang me up from there and welcomed me to the community. Since I was taking charge of the cassock department for the first time she brought me a pair of scissors, tailoring scales and some models etc. from Italy which were used by her sister and could be of help in my work. She trusted me and in my potentialities. In her, I saw an icon of a

disciple and experienced in her a spiritual mother who stood by me in moments of my doubts, difficulties and struggles in being a Disciple.



**Mother M. Dorothy Bruno & Mother M. Amata
with Fr J Maurus Ferrero SSP**



**Mother M. Lucia Ricci’s
visit to India**

**Dear Mother
You are a woman, Called by God,
Compelled by a vision,
Constantly trusting in Him
Conveyed God’s Love to everyone.**

**You, indeed are a Noble Soul!
I salute your pioneering Spirit,
Dedication and Commitment
towards the growth of the Indian
province.**

**I thank God who made our paths to cross
And to find in you a sturdy shelter in my youth.**

**As you enjoy the heavenly bliss, do intercede for me
To reach there someday to be with my Master
To sing His eternal praises along with you.**

Sr M. Regina Sebastian

A MOTHER WITH A HEART OF GOLD...

She brought us up as her own children...she taught us to be real Pious Disciple.

No one can forget her love and affection to each of us.

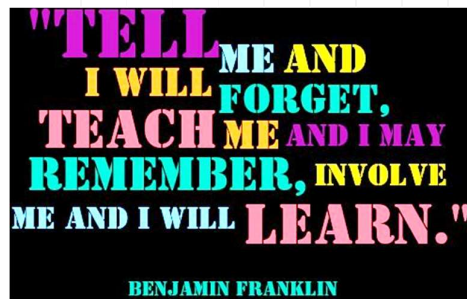
She was my Novice mistress and a guide all my life through.

She gave a good foundation, so that today we can all stand on our own feet...

If we are here in this house of Mumbai, it's because of her, she had founded and worked hard to put up this house of Mumbai, brick by brick. She had real taste for Art and Architecture, she had wonderful creativity....

She was such a spiritual person that is what we imbibed from her. Thinking of Mother Amata brings Warmth in my heart and smiles in my days gone by. Thanking her for being a loving mother and a friend all throughout my life. May the Lord welcome her in his kingdom.

Sr M. Patricia Fernandes



Fruits of Mother Amata's Work Still Harvested Today



**Sr M. Scholastica, Sr M. Elizabeth,
Sr M. Patricia, Sr M. Nirmala & Sr M. Juliana
Castelino with Mother Amata and
Mother General M. Lucia Ricci**

Memories of Mother Amata will always be coupled with gratitude for what she had been to the PDDM in India. She was the instrument the Divine Master used for the growth and spread of our presence in different parts of our Country.

Some of us in the Indian Province are born and grown up in the PDDM family under her care. ie - all our formation – Aspirancy, Postulancy, Novitiate and Juniorate was accompanied by her. Her unshakable faith, deep rooted commitment to the Lord, diligent obedience to the Superiors, love for the Congregation – all these were remarkable

in her life, and that is what she constantly tried to inculcate in us.

Live “Evangelical values” was the constant exhortation. Even after leaving India, when there was any chance to communicate – this would be her wish - to Live Evangelical values.

Personally, I cherish the values she imparted, experience she had shared with us about the beginnings of our Congregation – Our founder and Bl. Timothy Giaccardo etc.

The news of death of Mother Amata is not sad for me, but good news. Because I know now, she will intercede for us more powerfully.

Sr M. Elizabeth Palakatt

A Pioneer, Formator, and Leader

Mother Amata was a visionary, courageous, and confident in facing challenges. She had the ability to create, articulate and drive Dreams to Reality. Her life was inspirational and a challenge for me to live my Religious life. She loved the congregation and its expansion. She rejoiced to see progress at all levels, creativity, apostolic initiatives, and vocations.

Her strength was from the Tabernacle. Her simple faith and spiritual depths were her assets. Trust in Divine Providence, self-discipline and hard work motivated her to move forward and she generously imparted skills to us for the progress of the Apostolate.

She was Firm but loving in her relationship and corrections.

She loved recreation and at the end of the day, she enjoyed playing Chinese checkers and winning the game. She integrated Prayer and work and this blend was evident in her. I thank God for her life spent with us. May she enjoy the presence of the Divine Master and her soul rest in Peace.



Sr M. Kanikai Mary Issac

My thoughts about Mother Amata



*"I thank my God, each time I think of you!
and when I pray for you, I pray with joy."*

Rest in peace dearest Mother. You deserve this rest after all your toils and labors. India can never thank you enough for all that you have done for us PDDM here in India.

Today when I look back, 50 years have gone by since the day you welcomed me with open arms among the PDDM. You believed in me, you trusted me and had great hopes in me, though at times I disappointed you. During novitiate when I went into crisis, you understood

me, you helped me to see that God wants me here, that this was my place. You helped me and guided me not so much by your words but by your example. I can never thank you enough for all that you have done for me, for what you were to me. May the Divine Master reward you with eternal bliss. Good bye till we meet again!

Sr Miriam Gonsalves

MY Guiding Star

Mother Amata was a golden star in my life. When I came to Prarthanalaya to join the PDDM, as she welcomed me, I remember the bright smile she had on her face. I felt so overwhelmed by her welcoming attitude. Mother Amata's smile was like that of the radiant sun, which brightened the day for everyone.

She was a woman of faith. That's why she could endure every struggle and conquer them. She was a Spiritual mother, guide and help to all those who approached her. She had a solution to every problem and challenging situation. She esteemed honesty and loved those who were open and sincere. I will always cherish the sweet memories I had with her. I Love you Mother.



Sr M. Veronica Dongarkar

Icon of Obedience

As fundamental to our Life as Disciples of the Divine Master

I have many good memories of Mother Amata. But I would like to share just one of that. It has been most important memory in my life, especially during my Novitiate where I learnt the hard way one important lesson.

Mother Amata taught me by her kind words and actions something that at the time I did not fully understand. This experience has been very powerful for me on my journey of configuration with Jesus.

I will summarize what happened, but in these words, there has been a great learning and understand which made a profound impact on me.

It happened that, on the day of my first profession I was assigned to the community of Mumbai by Mother Amata. She was the Regional Superior. I was placed in charge of the embroidery department.

It was a very challenging time for me. There were so many orders, it was quite difficult for me to know how to organize everything and to do it well. I used to go to bed very late and spend time preparing for the next day's work. I was anxious that I would not complete the work and have it ready for the candidates who needed it for the next day.

When the orders were completed, Mother Amata told me to be in bed by 9pm. She knew I was working extra and so desired to help me. I took her advice very lightly. After the recreation, I was putting all the velvet in order. The bell had already struck at 9pm.

I said to myself, *"I will just remain a few minutes more and complete this work!"* I continued to work away, quite happily.

Mother was so good to me. She called me from upstairs and I heard her kind and polite voice, *"Who is in the workroom?"*

I came out onto the patio, and I said, *"It is I, Mother, Juliana!"*

Then Mother replied very quietly and kindly: *"Juliana, this is disobedience"*

There were only four small words, but from that day on I understood fully what the vow of obedience is in my life.

Today I am here as a Sister Disciple of the Divine Master because of the love, encouragement and clarity that Mother Amata gave me. Despite everything, I knew that she loved me and cared for me. I knew that she prayed for me and today I share this story so that you who read this may be encouraged too. I am deeply grateful to God and to Mother Amata for her love for us all and the way in which she knew how to educate and help others to grow. She helped our Province and our Congregation to grow.

Since then, this story has been deeply embedded in my soul and I continue to learn, not only what the vow of obedience means, but also a lesson to a closer following of Jesus Master.



Sr M Juliana Pereira (Ireland)

Novices of 1981 & 1982 Batch



A Pearl from Milan

Mother Amata is an unforgettable person indeed, in my Life. If today I am a Sister Disciple it is because of her guidance and help, for this, I am greatly indebted to her. When I left home to join the convent my family and relatives were not so happy about my decision. But after few weeks when they visited me, Mother Amata welcomed them wholeheartedly embraced and kissed my mother. This gesture left

my mother with happy and comfortable feeling, believing that I am in a safe hand. I remember when Sr M. Little Flower made her final profession in Nagarcoil, Mother Amata came with a fractured hand all the way from Bangalore along with Sr M. Scholastica. During that visit my family had an opportunity to meet her and they were genuinely happy and pleased and they relished her presence and company.

Before entering the convent, since I already knew tailoring mother assigned me in the cassock department. Every day she would enquire how much work I have done? If I tell her that I made twenty-five pockets for the cassocks, she would reply saying you made twenty-five pockets for Jesus. She always encouraged me to improve my stitching each day. She would tell us that whatever work we do stitch cassock or manual work like cleaning, washing etc... must be done with great love for Jesus. Through this 'little way' we can become saints. Whatever work we do she would connect it to Jesus. Can we forget a mother who gave her life for Indian Province, above all for our congregation?

During our formation, she would be there without fail for the recreation. She would encourage us to make as much noise and would enjoy our games by cheering us. The Jesuit fathers from neighboring community (Ashirvad) always appreciated our lively and noisy recreations. Her sharing about her life and the initial moments of the congregation brought us closer to her.

She was a person of deep interior life and prayer; she had deep faith and love for the Lord, and her heart was filled with compassion. She was sensitive to the needs of others and was willing to sacrifice herself for others. As for me she was truly a perfect model of a Sister Disciples. She valued and respected each person. I will always remember her as my mother from whose life I learned many valuable lessons. Whenever we make a mistake, she would correct us tenderly. Accidentally if we break a cup or plate, she would remind us gently that things can break but never break charity.

Indeed, she had been and will be a source of inspiration for me.

I have preserved many of Mother Amata's letters even today. I would like to quote here a few sentences that keeps inspiring me.

"May Jesus Be your only GURU and your sole LOVE".

"Continue to Preserve the enthusiasm of your profession day; Establish your life at the supernatural level so that you may always dwell in light".

"Look at life in its reality to avoid discouragement and worries. See in Jesus a person alive at the center of your life, the reason for your apostolate, the explanation for all things.

"The religious life is for the fervent souls who make of their life an offering to God for the benefit of others who never measure what they give but store up treasure for heaven".

Whenever Mother wrote a letter to me, she invoked upon me and my dear ones the abundance of God's blessing.

I nurtured a great desire to meet her in Rome during the pilgrimage to Rome but I missed the opportunity; I believe that one day I will certainly meet her in heaven.



Sr M. Anceline Enoch

A Women of Perfection

Mother Amata came across as a multi-talented personality, yet very humble and unassuming. She was blessed with intelligence, wisdom, a discerning heart and a creative mind.

A woman of few words that enhanced a rich interior life and intimacy with God.

She was an avid reader and an eagerness not only to learn but to share and enrich others with what she learnt.

A deep faith the manifested itself when she took up new initiatives. She was able to face challenging situations and accept failures with a lot of courage.

A person who practiced poverty and trusted in Divine providence. She taught us not to waste anything and utilized even small pieces of cloth to make babies cloths in order to get some extra income.

She was self-sacrificing for the common good.

She had great taste, an excellent tailor and excelled in perfection, and those who learned under her were taught to do things with perfection and to be refine.

Thank you, Lord for Mother Amata, a great gift to the Indian Province. May God reward her for her generosity and dedication.

Sr M. Fides Enos



Mother M. Amata Antonini
Sr M. Michael Chittattuvadakel
Sr Miriam Gonsalves
Sr M. Angeline Doddi
Sr M. Lucia Bouche
Sr M. Catherine Ethicaipurathu
Mother M. Dorothy Bruno
Sr M. Celine Cunha
Fr Jose Pottayil SSP
Sr Jyothi Correia
Sr M. Caritas Cunha
Sr M Luisa Cunha

Radiant with God's Love

I knew Mother Amata from 1974 as she had received me in the house of Mumbai. She had been an inspiration to me. In Italy I had tried my best to visit her in Rome and Sanfre once in every three or four months. My last visit was on 25 May, 2021 and she was in good health, had good memory, good hearing, good sight. I had showed her the photos of many Indian sisters as well as the video of Sr Rosa Saldana's funeral. she watched with interest...she told me to wish all the sisters in India. she was very happy and overjoyed when I had told her that Indian province is progressing in all its activities. I told her mother you should reach centenary. She told me, "No, it's enough".

The sisters, nurses and outside workers at Sanfre house were very happy to look after her because she was so serene with sweet smile and never complained of anything. She always said, Grazie, Grazie with very sweet smile. Until she could she attended the morning eucharistic celebration and took her turn for adoration. May she rest in peace and intercede for members of the Indian province whom she loved so much.

Sr M. Jyothi Correia

A unique and precious gift

We thank God for the unique and precious gift of Mother Amata to our Indian Province. Her life of commitment, sacrificial love, strong faith, deep conviction with which she gave shape to the PDDM family in India from its very initial stage and given herself for its firm establishment, certainly we owe much to her.

Her exemplary life and love for the Congregation, spirit of prayer, will speak volumes to us pddm. Indeed, she has been a person of vision and mission. We are very grateful to God for this beautiful gift as we partake and cherish our vocation as pddm in the Indian soil. We join our hands in love, gratitude for all that you had been to us. Oh, our loving Mother Amata! May she intercede for us from heaven.

Sr M. Martha Binduc

**Mother Amata & Sr M. Teofana Montanari
with Miss Purification a benefactor**



MOTHER AMATA

You are the first mother to our Indian region.

Oh! how wonderful was your presence

You led each one of us with love

Your sacrifice was great.

You moulded us with prayer and your very life

Your hard work is the result of what we are today

Though you are not present with us on earth, but your presence is alive in us.

M- mother means love and sacrifice

O- O give thanks to the almighty

T- taught us to be true disciples

H- hundred folds of blessings to receive here on earth

E- everything was guided by your prayer

R- remains today and always in our midst

A- all that is done was

M- meritorious and example

A- award(reward) in heaven

T- thanks to the almighty

A- a first mother to all of us.

- *Sr M. Muriel Yesudas*

**Silver Jubilee celebration of our
presence in India – 1979 (Mumbai)**



OH! MOTHER DEAR



The First group who made their Novitiate in India, under the guidance of Mother Amata. Sr M. Lilian Roche, Sr M. Clelia Parathazhum, Sr M. Gesualda Njarakattu, Sr M. Paulina Mendes, Sr M. Angela Karukaparambil & Sr M. Apostolina Mezhukanal

Mother is the Queen of the house
And Crown to her children
Whom they trust; problems resolved
With the gentle touch of a mother.

In sleep and in slumber
Her desire is to please the Lord of her heart;
Forget herself, and her joy was their
happiness
It's a tender love of a mother.

33 precious years of yours
Mother, you had spent for us.
Day in and day out, winter or summer
Rain or sunshine your only thought was
To teach us your daughters
The Love of the Lord – your secret.

With firmness, strong will and
With maturity of heart, you taught us.
With wisdom and courage
You gave us rebirth in the Lord.

We, learned to walk holding your hand,
Looking at you, we learned to speak.
You are our trust
Your kindness and goodness followed us.

With wisdom you spoke,
The language of Love and Courage.
With intelligence you listened, while
Heart and hand worked together
Wise and cautious of everything.

In poverty you lived, in richness you shared
The hidden wisdom and knowledge were your patrimony
The stories you narrated became a sure guide
And life for us, the tender heart of a mother.



**Sr M. Annie Ethicaipurathu,
Sr M. Theresa D'Souza, Sr M. Stella
Cornelio, Sr M. Valsa Madakacherry,
Sr M. Grace Lopes & Sr M. Fatima
D'Sa with Mother M. Amata**



Sr M. Rita Collaco with Mother

Happy is she who had gained a good sense,
The life of sacrifice was never wanting.
With the sweat on your brow, you fed your little ones
Ever eager to learn your secrets.

Your words were brief and short-spoken,
You preferred the quietness of a home.
Every moment was precious in your sight,
Your only desire was to gather merits for heaven.

As the years passed by, we flourished
 Foundations and members increased.
 The Indian Province spread far and wide
 Like terebinth, it spread its branches.
 Like wine, it caused loveliness to bud
 And its blossom became glorious with abundant
 fruits.

The poverty in material richness
 Richness in heavenly wisdom
 You had been our guide on our way to the Master
 On the way to meet Mary and Paul.

As you narrated the lives of the exemplary sisters
 With exhortations of our Founder
 You enriched our lives and we learned
 The selfless service, tireless days and nights
 And constant colloquy with the Master
 Was the secret to your success.

Like the stars in the sky during the day
 All hidden under the shade of the sun
 So, Mother, you concealed your vision from us
 But we are sure that still, you are with us in our homeland
 As we part from you for a while and say "ARRIVEDERCI"



**Sr M. Immacolata Tresham, Mother
 M. Amata Antonini, Sr M. Teofana
 Montanari, Mother M. Lucia Ricci,
 Sr M. Dorothy Bruno, Sr M Lucia
 Bouche, Sr M. Josephine Vas,
 Sr M. Juliana Castelino, Sr M.
 Catherina Ethicaipurathu, Sr M.
 Alphonsa D'Souza, Sr Casmira
 Mascarenhas & Sr M. Estella**



**Sr M. Ausilia Monteiro, Sr M. Angela Karukaparambil,
 Mother Amata, Mother General Tecla Molino,
 Sr M. Dorothy Bruno, Sr M. Christine Gervasis
 (General Councillor) & Sr M. Lucy Bilung**

There is a time for everything
 Time to sow, time to plant
 Time to flower, time to reap
 Time to cry, time to laugh
 God is the Master of everything
 He knows each one of us perfectly
 To Him be glory forever!

Sr M. Clelia Parathazham



*Gratitude is the Memory
 Stored in the Heart not in the Mind
 - PROVINCE OF INDIA
 On the First year of entry into Eternity*