

SISTER BERNADETTE GOMES



Born	Sunabazu, Hashnabad, Dhaka	28 August, 1950
Postulant	St. Scholastica's Convent, Chittagong	17 January, 1980
Novice	St. Scholastica's Convent, Chittagong	24 March, 1981
First Vows	St. Scholastica's Convent, Chittagong	26 March 1983
Final Vows	Church of Holy Rosary, Chittagong	20 January, 1989
Died	Proggaloy, Mohammadpur, Dhaka	20 December, 2023

Bernadette was born in Sunabazu under Hashnabad Parish. She was the second child of seven children of Late Mr. Robert Monai Gomes and Maria Gomes. Bernadette came from a devout Catholic family. Her parents were faithful, loving and caring towards their children.

Bernadette attended primary education at St. Thecla's School, Golla and went to St. Francis Xavier's Girl's High School, Luxmibazar for her Secondary education. Both the schools were administered by the RNDM. Seeing their way of living, Bernadette was attracted to the religious life.

After completing her academic study at St. Francis Xavier's, Luxmibazar, she then decided to be a religious. She was sent to St. Scholastica's convent in Chittagong as an Aspirant. In 1980 Bernadette entered into Postulancy and she entered into the Novitiate of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions on 24 March, 1981. On 26 March 1983 Sister Bernadette made her First Vows at St. Scholastica's Chapel and made her Perpetual Vows in the Church of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Chittagong on 20 January, 1989. On 5 January, 2008 Sister celebrated her Silver Jubilee.

Sister Bernadette was full of zeal, very committed and dedicated in pastoral work. In 1983 Sister was sent to Diang as her first mission and she worked there for three years. She had a special love for the orphans, poor people. Sister Bernadette gave selfless service to the people in Bolipara, Thanchi, Banderban Hill tracks. Sister fought with Malaria and typhoid several times while she was working there but never said 'NO' or Good bye to the mission or people. Sister Bernadette worked there for more than thirteen years. She visited the families of different remote villages and prayed with them. She worked eight years at St. Martha's convent, Sreemangal, Sylhet Diocese, St. Clara's convent, Jholjolia in Mymensing Diocese for two years, Barbier House at Bhotepara in Dinajpur diocese for three years. Sister worked at St.

Euphrasie's convent, Hashnabad, Dhonun & St. Scholastica's convent, Chattogram several years. In 2021 Sister Bernadette was sent to St. Thecla's convent, Golla, Archdiocese, Dhaka.

Sister Bernadette was a generous, considerate and thoughtful woman who faithfully and prayerfully lived her commitment as a member of Sister of Our Lady of the Missions for 40 years. Sister Bernadette was very kind, supportive, approachable and friendly. Sister Bernadette had a beautiful smiling face always. She touched many people's hearts with her dedication, commitment and simplicity of life style. Bernadette had great devotion to Mass and the Sacraments. She has been a woman of prayer, love and wisdom. We thank her for her inspirational and devoted life.

On 26 March, 2023, while she was returning to the convent after attending the morning Mass, she had a sudden terrible fall over a dog. Immediately she was admitted to the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedic Rehabilitation (NITOR), Shyamoli, Dhaka. Later she was referred to Labaid hospital, Dhaka, where she had under treatment continuously. Sister was placed several times in the ICU unit. She was affected with gangrene in her right leg badly and needed to cut it off after some days. Sister had heart attack for several times. On 20 December, 2023 at 9:30p.m she had a severe heart attack at Proggaloy. Sister Purobi Pascalina Chiran, Province Leader, her councilors, Sisters of Marialoy and Proggaloy were present and prayed with her until she passed away peacefully. Immediately Doctor Bolram was called and declared her death. Sister Bernadette's death was a shock for us all.

On Thursday 21 December, 2023, at 6:30 a.m. there was Holy Mass offered by Rev. Father Jhonny Finney OMI and Father Nitti Gianvito SX for the happy repose of the soul of Sister Bernadette. On the same day, her funeral Mass took place at 3:30 PM at Marialoy Chapel, Mohammadpur, Dhaka, celebrated by Most Rev. Archbishop Bejoy N. D' Cruze OMI, Bishop Theotonius Gomes, nine Priests, Bernadette's family members, Sisters from different Congregations, CSC Brothers and other parishioners were present. Her funeral liturgy was well prepared and the Chapel was decorated beautifully by the Sisters and Aspirants. After the Eucharist, everyone paid the last respect to Sister Bernadette. Rev. Father Peter Channel led the funeral prayer and Sister was laid to rest in peace among the RNDMs in Province Graveyard, Mohammadpur, Dhaka.

May she now rest in God's eternal love and peace!



*"Jesus said to her, I am the Resurrection and the life,
Whoever believes in me will never die." John 11: 25*