

Missionaries of Christ Jesus

Commemoration

**of all the
faithful
departed**

To die is to prepare for the last celebration.
We remember so many who have departed
And to know that they are heading towards your embrace.
We have no other song left but silence

Perhaps their absence now invades us.
Our eyes shine as we recall their
gestures
Gratitude and nostalgia dance
For all that they once gave us...

...we will all cross that door
And upon crossing that threshold, we
will discover
That they were already waiting for us
That life was the gateway to heaven
We will sing again, and forever
With those who leave us their
memories today

("The Last Door" by Jose M^o R. Olairola, SJ)

In this year of HOPE,
we revitalize
our MISSIONARY PASSION,
remembering
the Missionaries of Christ Jesus
who are in
the community of heaven.

THE TESTIMONY OF THE DEAD: A FORM OF PRESENCE IN ABSENCE?

Death, as an irreversible rupture between the living and the dead, seems to mark the definitive disappearance of being. However, in our societies, the dead continue to occupy a unique place: we read their letters, visit their graves, listen to their stories, study their writings or their past deeds.

Through testimony, whether direct or indirect, the dead still seem to "speak", instruct, warn, or move the living. This survival of speech in physical absence leads me to ask this essential question: **Does the testimony of the dead constitute a form of presence?**

And if so, what is the nature of this presence? Memory, heritage, spiritual or moral authority, or simply a trace? By questioning the value, scope, and limits of these testimonies, I seek to understand how the dead can, paradoxically, "act" within the world of the living, and what this reveals about our relationship to time, memory, and existence.

The testimony of the dead engages in a reflection on symbolic presence, collective memory, and intergenerational transmission. It is part of a tension between physical absence and the survival of speech: although the dead are no longer there, they continue to exist through what remains. Their testimonies, whether historical, literary, or personal, inform our understanding of the world and sometimes guide our moral choices.

This form of presence also raises questions about truth; the testimony of the dead thus reveals a form of dialogue with absence where presence is not played out in the body, but in trace, memory, and meaning. It is also an act of presence, of affirmation, a living and sometimes joyful gesture.

To bear witness is to speak so as not to remain silent, to commit oneself and give meaning to one's own life or to the lives of others. We can see in the testimony of the dead a call to responsibility: what do we do with what they have passed on to us? How do we keep their word alive?

Their memory then becomes a foundation upon which to build our future, a reminder that absence can be fruitful if we know how to inhabit it with meaning and presence. Let us love one another now that we are alive.
 MUMBUNGU MUKANA Rosette – Bogo, Cameroon

The heavenly community prays for us

| N.º | Nombre | apellido | Fecha | Lugar |
|-----|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|
| 01 | María Cruz | Sarasibar M. | 19/03/1964 | Javier - España |
| 02 | Quintina | Pérez López | 11/06/1971 | S.C - Bolivia |
| 03 | Margarita | Cifré C. | 29/08/1971 | Pune – India |
| 04 | Gloria | Tudela C. | 10/04/1975 | Bogotá - Colombia |
| 05 | María | De Borja C. | 02/04/1976 | Javier - España |
| 06 | Magdalena | Cortés T. | 27/04/1977 | Javier - España |
| 07 | María Dolores | Fdez. de Bobadilla | 24/10/1985 | Imbela - Zaire |
| 08 | M ^ª del Carmen | Planelles | 07/08/1986 | Javier – España |
| 09 | M ^ª Dolores | De Borja C. | 01/10/1986 | Javier – Navarra |
| 10 | M ^ª del Carmen | Moltó | 14/02/1987 | Pamplona – España |
| 11 | María Jesús | Sanz U. | 04/07/1988 | Javier – España |
| 12 | M ^ª Concepción | Sagasetta | 15/08/1989 | Javier – España |
| 13 | Elena | Aguirre O. | 11/03/1990 | Pamplona – España |
| 14 | (Tamie) María | Urushihara | 03/01/1991 | Tokio – Japón |
| 15 | (M ^ª del Carmen) | Setsuko Ikoha | 17/03/1991 | Yamaguchi – Japón |
| 16 | María Camino | Sanz Orrio | 06/06/1991 | Pamplona/España |
| 17 | M ^ª Ángeles | Cosculluela S. | 24/02/1992 | Tura – India |
| 18 | Philomena | Coults | 28/02/1992 | Bombay – India |
| 19 | Teresa | Lerga L. | 27/04/1995 | Javier – España |
| 20 | M ^ª Dolores | Cardeña B. | 27/06/1995 | Pamplona/España |
| 21 | M ^ª Josefa | Yanguas A. | 06/12/1995 | Pamplona – España |
| 22 | María Inés | Brondo S. | 30/09/1996 | Madrid – España |
| 23 | María Jesús | González P. | 16/11/1998 | Javier – España |
| 24 | Teresa | Marti F. | 13/04/1999 | Panzi – R.D. Congo |
| 25 | Engracia | Genua C. | 07/07/1999 | Javier – España |
| 26 | Presentación | Iturgaiz C. | 08/03/2000 | Pamplona – España |
| 27 | Leonor | Navarro F. | 30/03/2001 | Pamplona – España |
| 28 | Albina | Bronte M. | 04/04/2001 | Shillong – India |
| 29 | Amalia | Ramos B. | 15/05/2001 | Javier – España |

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|----|---------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------------|
| 30 | M ^a Mercedes | Vitrián E. | 19/06/2001 | Pamplona – España |
| 31 | Teresita | Anaut M. | 23/06/2002 | Pamplona – España |
| 32 | María Oliva | Martínez V. | 18/06/2003 | Tura – India |
| 33 | M ^a Josefa | Haro | 07/09/2003 | Kole – R.D. Congo |
| 34 | M ^a Milagros | Azpiroz I. | 22/10/2003 | Pune – India |
| 35 | Concepción | Arraíza J. | 05/11/2003 | Javier – España |
| 36 | Amparo | Álvarez G. | 20/05/2004 | Javier – España |
| 37 | María | Del Villar A. | 10/06/2005 | Pune – India |
| 38 | Eugenia | Nagore N. | 03/11/2005 | Javier – España |
| 39 | Concepción | Martel C. | 06/11/2005 | Javier – España |
| 40 | Teresa | Ustrell J. | 23/11/2005 | Javier – España |
| 41 | Margaret | Sangma | 10/01/2006 | Mendal – India |
| 42 | María Paz | Almazán H. | 02/05/2006 | Madrid – España |
| 43 | Isabel | Fuster R. | 12/06/2006 | Javier – España |
| 44 | M ^a Ángeles | Azanza S. | 26/09/2006 | Pamplona – Navarra |
| 45 | Teresia | Alappat | 20/12/2006 | Tura – India |
| 46 | Pilar | Figuerola B. | 14/03/2007 | Javier – Navarra |
| 47 | María | Rodríguez G. | 25/04/2007 | Granada - España |
| 48 | Fumiko | Kondo | 13/05/2007 | Hofu – Japón |
| 49 | Kishie (Lucía) | Urushihara | 08/06/2007 | Hofu – Japón |
| 50 | Pilar | González G. | 22/03/2008 | Pune – India |
| 51 | Feliciano | Alfaro J. | 05/01/2009 | Pamplona - España |
| 52 | Ana María | Suescun O. | 26/05/2009 | Suka – R.D. Congo |
| 53 | Caridad | Carbonell C. | 08/10/2010 | Shillong - India |
| 54 | Julia | Jimenez M. | 21/05/2010 | Pune – India |
| 55 | Asunción | Peña M. | 18/10/2010 | Javier – España |
| 56 | Amparo | López S. | 17/12/2010 | Valencia – España |
| 58 | María | Gordon | 25/12/2010 | Shillong - India |
| 57 | Trinidad | Goñi G. | 17/01/2011 | Pamplona – España |
| 59 | Amparo | Virto | 18/06/2011 | Valencia – España |
| 60 | Teresa | Rodríguez | 29/08/2011 | Javier - España |
| 61 | Isabel | Sagaseta | 22/10/2011 | Pamplona – España |
| 62 | M ^a del Carmen | Ruiz - Cortazar | 01/10/2011 | Pamplona – España |
| 64 | Lydia | Sequeira | 19/12/2011 | Sonapahar - India |
| 63 | Juana | Amengual C. | 29/01/2012 | Javier – España |
| 65 | Amalia | Pereda | 13/02/2012 | Shillong – India |

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|-----|------------------------|---------------|------------|-------------------|
| 66 | Nuria | Farré M. | 06/08/2012 | Pamplona – España |
| 67 | Amparo | Mateu C. | 25/08/2012 | Pamplona – España |
| 68 | Flavia | Carvalho | 31/08/2012 | Shillong – India |
| 69 | Teresita | Villanueva F. | 30/08/1012 | Pune – India |
| 70 | Montserrat | Martorell B. | 26/01/2013 | Javier – España |
| 71 | Isabel | Martin A. | 17/03/2013 | Mumbai – India |
| 72 | M ^a Ángeles | Ercilla V. | 25/05/2013 | Shillong – India |
| 73 | M ^a Amparo | Martínez V. | 03/09/2013 | Javier – España |
| 74 | M ^a Dolores | Hernández G. | 01/11/2013 | Javier – España |
| 75 | Isabel | Aurusa U. | 03/12/2013 | Madrid – España |
| 76 | Joaquina | Pijuan V. | 03/01/2014 | Javier – España |
| 77 | Teresita | García G. | 02/02/2014 | Javier – España |
| 78 | Natividad | Minguito E. | 15/02/2014 | Cbba – Bolivia |
| 79 | Mary | Lobo | 27/02/2014 | Pune – India |
| 80 | M ^a Teresa | Ercilla V. | 05/06/2014 | Pamplona - España |
| 81 | Teresita | Vericat | 07/06/2014 | Pamplona – España |
| 82 | Usha | Kujur Kindo | 22/06/2014 | Shillong – India |
| 83 | Amalia | Maestre A. | 13/07/2014 | Pamplona – España |
| 84 | Celia | Fernández | 09/07/2014 | Hofu – Japón |
| 85 | María Pura | Menchaca | 19/06/2014 | Javier – España |
| 86 | Magdalena | Bosch S. | 13/08/2014 | Pamplona – España |
| 87 | Rosa Carmen | Vizcay A. | 08/10/2014 | Javier - España |
| 88 | Isabel María | Reinoso | 02/03/2015 | Pamplona – España |
| 89 | Juana | Bellido G. | 20/03/2015 | Pamplona - España |
| 90 | Amelia | García A. | 11/04/2015 | Cbba - Bolivia |
| 91 | Ascensión | Benítez C. | 14/05/2015 | Javier - España |
| 92 | Consuelo | Doménech | 08/06/2015 | Pamplona – España |
| 93 | M ^a Teresa | Valentí | 15/07/2015 | Javier – España |
| 94 | Aiko | Tonomura | 11/11/2015 | Onoda - Japón |
| 95 | Carmen | Tallo | 11/03/2016 | Javier - España |
| 96 | Maria | Rodríguez | 29/06/2016 | Ccs – Venezuela |
| 97 | María Cruz | Arriezu | 26/07/2016 | Javier - España |
| 98 | Yasuko (Magdalena) | Sakurai | 22/08/2016 | Hofu - Japón |
| 99 | M ^a Teresa | Morencos | 04/09/2016 | Javier - España |
| 100 | Carmen | Doval | 06/09/1016 | Pamplona - España |

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|-----|--------------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|
| 101 | Anunciación | Ereza | 16/09/2016 | Tokyo - Japón |
| 102 | Maria Lourdes | Palomas | 04/12/2016 | Javier – España |
| 103 | M ^a Francisca | Rovira | 13/03/2017 | Javier – España |
| 104 | Elena | Ángel Díez | 28/11/2017 | Cbba - Bolivia |
| 105 | Mary Joseph | Kadipurakat | 02/07/2018 | Shillong - India |
| 106 | M ^a Socorro | Ladrón de Guevara | 10/11/2018 | Javier - España |
| 107 | Lucia | Yarza | 12/11/2018 | Javier – España |
| 108 | Margarita de la C | Fdez. del Castillo | 02/02/2019 | Pamplona - España |
| 109 | Orosia | Sanz Bronte | 18/02/2019 | Javier - España |
| 110 | Concepción | Marca E. | 15/06/2019 | Pamplona – España |
| 111 | Maria Teresa | Nogué Felip | 21/06/2019 | Barcelona - España |
| 112 | Helen | Nongrun | 11/01/2020 | Shillong - India |
| 113 | Marina | Gastón | 25/01/2020 | Javier - España |
| 114 | Josefina | Alfaro | 13/02/2020 | Pamplona - España |
| 115 | Guadalupe | Velasco | 11/03/2020 | Shillong - India |
| 116 | Juliana | Bazán | 19/04/2020 | Pamplona |
| 117 | Fumiko | Watanabe | 05/11/2020 | Tokyo - Japón |
| 118 | Margarita | Coll Frau | 15/01/2021 | Javier – España |
| 119 | Amparo | Alandes Pascual | 17/01/2021 | Javier – España |
| 120 | Elena | Albizuri A. | 27/01/2021 | Pamplona - España |
| 121 | M ^a Dolores | Aloy C. | 09/04/2021 | Javier - España |
| 122 | Nuria | Cabecerán | 17/04/2021 | Javier - España |
| 123 | Meena | Lopes | 21/04/2021 | Tanakla - India |
| 124 | M ^a Pilar | Ledesma | 27/07/2021 | Javier - España |
| 125 | M ^a Dolores | Coca Nuño | 02/12/2021 | Javier – España |
| 126 | M ^a Teresa | Unzu Lapeira | 20/01/2022 | Pune - India |
| 127 | Maria Dolores | Gomez Ramon | 21/03/2022 | Javier - España |
| 128 | Maria Ana | Colts Lena | 31/03/2022 | Elizondo - España |
| 129 | Maria Teresa | Martin M. | 08/06/2022 | Javier - España |
| 130 | Maria Consuelo | Gosalbez Martí | 29/11/2022 | Javier - España |
| 131 | María del Carmen | Oblanca L. | 05/01/2023 | Javier - España |

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|-----|------------------|--------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 132 | María Pilar | Guedea Martin | 08/03/2023 | Javier - España |
| 133 | Carmen | Juan Ramos | 21/05/2023 | Javier - España |
| 134 | María del Carmen | Morales Meseguer | 30/05/2023 | Javier - España |
| 135 | Fuencisla | Albuquerque | 22/07/2023 | Javier - España |
| 136 | Emma | Limorte Cortes | 07/09/2023 | Caracas/Venezuela |
| 137 | Teresita | Valdés Sarasa | 11/10/2023 | Hofu - Japón |
| 138 | Marina | Val Dávila | 21/01/2024 | Javier - España |
| 139 | María Josefa | Magallares | 23/01/2024 | Madrid - España |
| 140 | Ana | Molins Llorens | 20/02/2024 | Javier - España |
| 141 | Rosario | López H. | 29/03/2024 | Shillong - India |
| 142 | Ana María | Farré Maluquer | 20/04/2024 | Javier - España |
| 143 | María Asunción | Villar Martínez | 08/05/2024 | Javier - España |
| 144 | Gloria | Indurain Ederra | 27/10/2024 | Javier - España |
| 145 | Catalina | Claverol Mut | 06/11/2024 | Javier - España |
| 146 | Fernández S. | Marita | 27/12/2024 | Javier - España |
| 147 | Bofarull Utges | M ^a Teresa | 13/01/2025 | Javier - España |
| 148 | Ikopo Ngenya | Odette | 03/02/2025 | Kimwenza RDC |
| 149 | Diaz | Ana María | 09/02/2025 | Javier - España |
| 150 | Beck | Christina | 08/06/2025 | Pune - India |
| 151 | Valls | María | 05/07/2025 | Javier - España |
| 152 | Rodrigues | Ida | 06/07/2025 | Shillong - India |
| 153 | Perez Bobillo | M ^a Pilar | 14/07/2025 | Javier - España |
| 154 | Montagut F. | Montserrat | 30/07/2025 | Javier - España |
| 155 | Coutinho | Marie | 02/08/2025 | Pune - India |
| 156 | Montagut F. | M ^a Francisca | 08/08/2025 | Javier - España |
| 157 | Hualde Aoiz | Encarnación | 08/09/2025 | Javier - España |

INDIA:

All Souls' Day Reflection – Maria D'Silva

Today is a day of remembrance — a day to honor and give thanks for our loved ones who have journeyed before us, especially those who have contributed so deeply to the life of our Institute, our Region, and our community.

It is a moment to pause with gratitude for all who have shared our mission, walked alongside us, and helped shape the story of who we are. Their lives were gifts of faith, love, and service — gifts that continue to inspire and guide us even after they have gone.

As we remember them, we give thanks not only for what they did, but for who they were — for the values they lived, the joy they brought, and the spirit they left within our hearts and our communities. May this day renew in us the same spirit of dedication and love that they once shared so generously. May their memory continue to bless us and strengthen our commitment to carry forward the mission they served so faithfully.

We remember with deep gratitude the lives of remarkable women — **Sr. Christina Beck, Sr. Ida Rodrigues, and Sr. Marie Cutinho** — women of profound faith, daring spirit, and generous service. Their lives among us were testimonies of love, courage, and unwavering dedication to the mission of Christ.

Sr. Christina Beck was known from the very beginning for her inner strength and vibrant energy. She embraced every responsibility wholeheartedly, giving her best in all that she undertook.

Multi-talented and deeply committed, she never sought praise or recognition, but simply desired to serve where she was most needed.



Her missionary journey began in Damanpur as a hostelite, where her leadership and enthusiasm shone through. After her vows in 1980, she served at the Bombay Cheshire Home, Nirmala Convent School in Rajkot, and among the tribal communities of Sabarkantha in Gujarat. She nurtured hearts as a pastoral worker, enlightened minds as a teacher of science and mathematics and stood with courage during times of political unrest.

Later, in Gomia, Jharkhand, she served as Assistant Headmistress at Loyola School, harmonizing education and faith formation while empowering women and youth alike. She also prepared novices in Mumbai, Shillong, and Bolivia, embracing every challenge with openness and grace. Even her work in building structures, like the multipurpose hall in Gomia, reflected her deeper mission: building communities and nurturing values.

What we cherish most about Sr. Christina is not merely what she accomplished, but who she was. Her faith was lived, her dedication total. She walked closely with God, attuned to His call, trusting in His providence. Her life became a reflection of His love. Today, we give thanks for her witness, friendship, and example.



Sr. Ida Rodrigues was a woman of deep faith, quiet strength, and a heart full of love. Gentle and unassuming, her presence carried warmth and depth that touched everyone she met. She gave herself completely to God through the Missionaries of Christ Jesus, serving wherever she was sent — in classrooms, mission villages, and leadership — always with simplicity, dedication, and a comforting smile.

She was a sister who listened, encouraged, and stood by others with patience and understanding. Even in illness, she remained calm and grateful, trusting fully in God's plan. Her spirit of prayer and gratitude never wavered, and her words still echo in our hearts:

"I keep each one of you in my prayers and THANK MY GOD FOR YOU."

Sr. Ida, we thank you for the love, the example, and the faith you leave behind. You have been a blessing to us all. Rest now in the peace of the Lord whom you served so faithfully.

Sr. Marie Coutinho — though our words cannot fully capture her brilliance, sensitivity, and devotion — was admired for her gifts and her generous heart. She excelled in all she did, leaving a lasting impression on her students, colleagues, and all those she served. Her life was a testament to the power of love, kindness, and faith in action.

Today, as we remember Sr. Christina, Sr. Ida, and Sr. Marie, we do not mourn as those without hope. We give thanks for their lives, their witness, and their friendship. May their souls rest in the eternal embrace of the One who called them by name and whom they served with all their hearts.

May their memory continue to inspire us, and may their souls rest in peace.

Remembering Marie Coutinho

Memories of a dear friend: Marie Coutinho.

She was a sensitive woman, an example of compassion.

Her emotions knew no bounds, her perceptions had depth;



Her actions sprang from the unconscious and the conscious.
Her intelligence reflected a beyond.
Patient listening was her unique gift.
Love knew no bounds, as did her pain.
Her sense of humor fit with that of others, and she would exclaim, "Don't let me die laughing."

Her cross and her crossroads were long and drawn out.
Yet she took up her cross and walked the rocky road after repeated falls.
She reluctantly distanced herself, as there was no other way out.
Acceptance was her companion on the road less traveled.
Yet Marie could smile as she perceived the madness of life.
Finally, the day dawned, and God said, "Enough is enough, your struggle is over. "Come and rest."

And Marie nodded "YES" and said goodbye to everyone.
This was the woman I knew, the one I touched, the one I tasted, the one I cherished.
Goodbye, my dear friend.
Melba.

*When I arrived in Pune as an aspirant in 1973, **Marie** was there in this community.*

She was my English teacher. A very intelligent, loving, understanding, approachable person, a very good cook, she prepared delicious meals, etc. If I'm not mistaken, she was also the superior of the house. When someone fell ill, she took very good care of them.

Then she suffered an illness that I wouldn't wish on anyone. And she struggled with it all her life.

*It's not easy to forget sisters who are part of one's missionary life.
So she will always be in my memories.*

She is now resting in peace.

Indira Raona

REMEMBERING CHRISTINA BECK

I knew Christina Beck since I was a child, having attended the same school, Nirmala Girl's High School, Damanpur, North Bengal (the school that used to be ours).

But I didn't have much of a relationship with her then; we studied in different grades. More than 300 girls, adolescents, and young women were part of the boarding school (ages ranged from 5 to 18). She stood out for her personality and leadership skills. She was elected Head of School. She always looked after everyone, especially the youngest, like a good shepherd.



Later, we completed our novitiate and juniorate together. When I was sent to Venezuela, I didn't have much contact with her except when I went on vacation to India, since back then we didn't have the ease of communication we have now. The only way was to write letters, which took months to arrive.

But when she came to Bolivia for the international novitiate, we began to communicate frequently and maintained that connection. I saw her in Pune before going to my family recently when I was on vacation. She was in the process of recovery and living a normal life, and she said she was doing well.

I was shocked by the news of her death. And I was deeply sorry I couldn't be there for her funeral. Distance didn't allow me.

Later, when I could, I visited her family to offer my condolences.

She was a very hardworking woman, very helpful, committed, approachable, friendly, a good sister. She loved the Institute very much. She had extensive missionary experience in the fields of education, youth ministry, formation, mentoring, etc.

She was an older sister to me and to many of us who come from the same state. Now with God, may her soul rest in peace.

Tinadi, I will always remember you. Indira Raona

I would like to share an experience of Christina Beck as a defender of human integrity & qualities of leadership.

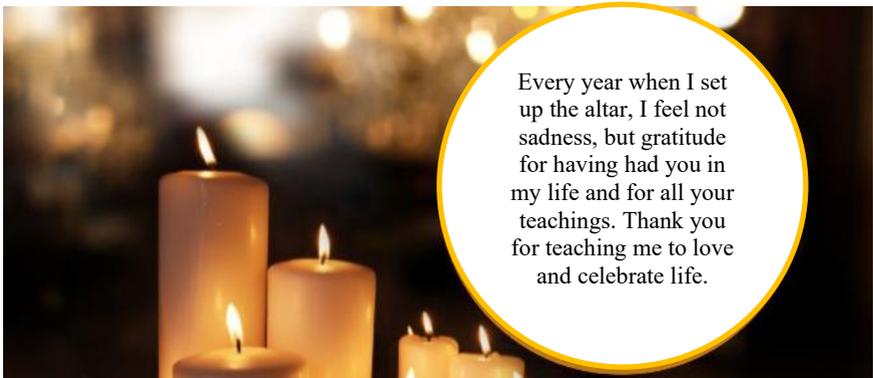
She was teaching her favourite subject - maths & other subjects too in a jesuit school in Nana Kantharia, Gujarat.

On one occasion she protected the 2 Jesuits: Frs. Guardomini & Leslie from the onslaught of a right wing group who wanted to assault them. She swiftly locked the 2 of them in a classroom & then challenged them to do to her what they wanted to do in them.

Christina had the daring of a strong woman & the heart of gold to protect the 2 Jesuits. She confronted them face to face without any fear in her heart. They retreated & left the school premises without a word. A truly brave Missionary of Christ Jesus: unafraid of any eventuality & ready for the worst.

Such was the character she possessed. All her life she never compromised on the values she nurtured as a student in a remote school run by the MCJs in Damanpur. West Bengal & as a Missionary of Christ Jesus wherever she was in mission.

WILLU



Every year when I set up the altar, I feel not sadness, but gratitude for having had you in my life and for all your teachings. Thank you for teaching me to love and celebrate life.

IN APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE TO IDA RODRIGUES

Ida Rodrigues from Mumbai joined the Institute in 1970 in Pune after completing her Teachers' Training and teaching for a time in Goa. It was a mature well discerned vocation. After two years' apostolate in Raliang with the boarders, Ida was in Nirmali completing her graduation while giving her time and love and self to the sisters who passed through the newly formed India East Regional house in 1975, assisting the novices in the time the Novice Mistress performed her duties as matron in Nazareth Hospital, taking care of all the details of Nirmali in her characteristic quiet, simple and concerned way. In Christian discipleship, the loyalty that counts is that towards the Master and loyalty towards one's sisters and brothers, and Ida is endowed with a profound gift of loyalty. She is a good, loving and serviceable sister to a fault. Others would vouch for her simplicity and approachability that makes her feel at home with all kinds of people. With these qualities and many more including her fidelity she was entrusted with the care of the Region as Directress for two and a half terms. She also served as General Councillor and General Directress. It was during this time that China and then Vietnam missions were established.

Sr Ida was someone special—warm, insightful, down to earth, unassuming, and graced with a wonderful sense of humour. She was a gifted storyteller who gave you her undivided attention when she spoke. She was spiritual, focused and reverent at the Eucharist and other spiritual duties.

She was deeply hospitable and genuinely caring, showing personal attention to each sister and everyone in a way that was truly maternal.

While we express our gratitude to God for the gift of Sr Ida to the Missionaries of Christ Jesus, we cannot but forget to express our gratitude and love to the beloved Rodrigues family (to her departed parents and only brother Santan, her sisters Catherine and Jane, their spouses Patricia, Reginald, Saby, all the nieces and nephews) for being part of our family. We express our heartfelt condolences to each one of them.

May Sr. Ida continue to bless us all from above, resting in the company of the angels, with our foundress Mother Maria Comino, and all the sisters who have gone before her. Marline Pinto

SPAIN:

The sisters Montserrat and Quica Montagut

Written by her brother

Quica (M^a Francisca) and Montse were the eldest daughters of Francesc Montagut and Maria Freixas. Initially, the family environment was conditioned by their father's work, an engineer working on numerous electrification projects, with long summer stays in the Aran Valley building power plants and lines. At the outbreak of the Civil War, their mother and three younger sisters were in Les (Aran Valley). The fratricidal war and the collectivization of the electricity companies forced the family to leave for France. Their parents, Quica, Montse, and Roser, left on February 24, 1937, and later for the Basque Country and Pamplona.

Back in Barcelona, in 1939, the three sisters attended high school at the Damas Negras School (what is now the Colegio l'Infant, on Travessera de Gracia in Barcelona), where they received a solid human, religious, and linguistic education.

Their family environment had an extensive library of literature, novels, and original works in French and German. They read Dickens, Goethe, Rilke, Saint-Exupéry, Don Quixote, Narcís Ollè, pre-war Catalan magazines like El Patufet, encyclopedias... the Austral collection, thousands of cataloged books that were part of everyday life. Tutors at home for reinforcement, exceptional piano lessons with their mother's first cousin, pianist Mercè Roldós. Preparation for admission to the University of Barcelona offered them an exceptional cultural background, unusual for two girls in the 1950s.



The two sisters lived their religious faith alongside a need for social justice. Among other activities they combined with university, they taught reading and writing classes in the shanty towns that existed in the 1950s on Mt. Montjuïc in Barcelona. Quica entered the Faculty of Arts, where she earned a degree in History and later completed her doctorate, working alongside the disciples of Vicens Vives and Lluís Pericot.

Quica's prudent and affable nature allowed her to connect with many of her school and university classmates and friends she brought into her family and beyond.

However, Quica did not pursue university life, which she could have continued with her thesis completed but chose to follow the path of her sisters, Roser and Montse. In September 1957, she joined the Congregation of the Missionaries of Christ Jesus. Within the order, she was responsible for securing maritime shipments to the order's various missions from Barcelona. She was in the Congo from 1966 to 1970 and from 1974 until her retirement in 2019 in Bolivia, where she combined teaching duties in Colquiri, Cochabamba, Santiago de Machaca, and Riberalta with responsibilities within the order as novice mistress and Regional Directress. Quica, with a friendly nature, inspired confidence, conveyed tranquility, and was welcoming and affectionate. She enjoyed listening to the radio and reading newspapers, both print and digital. She followed advanced religious magazines such as Foc Nou, was always up-to-date on world events, and had a great memory.



Montse, with a strong intellectual dedication, was a tireless reader, with precise, accessible, and serious conversation. She entered the Faculty of Arts at the University of Barcelona, where she earned a degree in Philosophy and Literature. She shared her interests with classmates with whom she found a great intellectual affinity, such as her friend, the Jesuit Alvarez Bolado,

with whom she maintained a lifelong correspondence. The idea that faith and social justice should go hand in hand was central to her thinking. After graduating, she taught at the Santa Anna School and at the CICF (now the CIC) in Barcelona.

Like her sister Quica, in September 1956, and following the path pioneered by her sister Roser, she also joined the Missionaries of Christ Jesus in Javier (Navarra). After completing her novitiate, she was assigned to the Javier Kotogatto School in Onoda, in the Yamaguchi district of Japan. She prepared before traveling to Japan and, within two years obtained an official English teaching certificate. To promote the Onoda school, among other efforts, she sought funding from the German Catholic Church, visiting the archbishops of Cologne and Munich, who gave her their support. The latter was then Joseph Ratzinger, who would become the future Pope Benedict XVI.

Montse wrote letters constantly to the sisters of her congregation, never abandoning her passion for reading, and writing handwritten letters to friends and family in an era without email. From 1980 to 1990, she returned to Madrid as General Directress of the order. Her serious yet approachable nature helped foster an international vision of the order, which continues today in the most recently trained Directresses from other continents. During her tenure as General Directress, she promoted the creation of the NGO Pueblos Hermanos in 1986, a development NGO founded in Spain with a clear and committed Christian orientation linked to the work of the Missionaries of Christ Jesus. The NGO supports development projects in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. With a minimal structure, it relies on a group of volunteers to carry out activities. It maintains a permanent commitment to fair trade. It supports international volunteering in the projects it develops.

Montse's personality was different from that of her sisters: her conversation conveyed authority and hierarchy. She was forward-thinking and had a great capacity for work,



but at the same time accessible and approachable.

The three missionary sisters were never together on any assignment within the order. Periodically, every three or four years, they stayed at the family home, with whom they maintained a close relationship. Montse and Quica wrote weekly letters to their parents, and after their father's death (1987), to their mother—heartfelt letters. During their stays back from Japan or Bolivia to Javier, they spent weeks at the convent in Javier with their mother. During their stays in Barcelona, they shared their experiences with friends. They were welcoming. The missions in Japan and Bolivia were always welcoming and familiar places for family, friends, cousins, nephews, and nieces.

Montse died in Javier (Navarra) on July 30, 2025, and her sister Quica, with whom she shared a residence at the Javier convent, died a few days later, on August 9, 2025.

Quica Montagut Freixas

Writing about a sister who has shaped your life isn't so simple. Rather, I'd like to write her a letter, in which I could share many personal details, as I did in that friendship and sisterly relationship we shared. A woman I trusted, where I never felt judgment, but rather companionship. That's how I saw and experienced Quica, SS, Sister Sister, a term we used at times in our lives to say we were in the same boat, in sync, on the same mission.

Personally, this is the summary I could give of Quica, a great woman from head to toe, and SS, empathetic and supportive, whom I sought out, and in my case, as a confidant and accomplice. Thank you, my dear. Without you, my life would have been more difficult.

Remembering her in Bolivia brings back multiple images. Starting in communities—Tiraque and Riberalta, the Altiplano, the Plateau, and the



Valleys—on her missionary journey. Fe y Alegría, small schools in the different places where she worked, accompanying young people and teachers, women, in parishes with formation spaces, and in her final stage in Cochabamba as a volunteer at the San Jose Asylum, accompanying the elderly and feeding those who couldn't manage on their own. Her service was always based on simplicity and humility in her pastoral projection. She always stood out for that, a woman without protagonism.

At the level of services in the Missionaries of Christ Jesus, there is no doubt that she lived up to expectations. In formation, she accompanied novices and juniors at different stages with her style, offering the best of herself, with a coherent and simple life.

At the level of government, she was at the General and Regional levels. A woman prepared, without any show, to do what needed to be done, overcoming criticism and sometimes jealousy typical of our human and small life. Not without suffering, you found the way and provided security in difficult times, and there is no doubt that in the meetings you brought a sense of maturity to a group that needed it. You waited for the opportune moment, with naturalness and great dignity.

With great honesty, you always shared everything that came to you in solidarity, through family and friends; Truly an example. Everything was so normal that at the end of your life, you had a Bolivian “chaspita” and your rosary, to share the prayer that many sisters could share. Your faith, simple and robust, also led you to adapt to every situation until the very end, and from it, we were able to pray your last mysteries with that symbolic rosary you used at the meeting with the Sisters of Javier.

Thank you, Quica, for your life, your simplicity, your faith, your commitment, your life without boasting. All of this has made you a woman of weight, a sister whom we miss, who leaves a void difficult to fill in your family and in the Missionaries of Christ Jesus.

God has welcomed you into his friendship forever. Rest in peace, Sister Sister!

Asun Moreo - España

Dear Quica:

I'm sorry I didn't write to you before because since you left, I've received many letters from you.

The truth is, I was very hurt by the way you left. We had walked that day in the garden, and you didn't say anything to me. That wasn't for lack of trust; we had a lot of it, for more than 40 years!

I remember one day in Tiraque when you asked me to give you spiritual guidance. I had never done it before, and I did it very poorly. Afterward, we accompanied each other.

On the last day, here in the garden, we were talking about Montse, and you seemed serene, with a spirit of faith. I calmed down. Then we talked about Roser. You were more worried about her; she seemed to realize it.

I don't know if a caregiver told you that Roser once told her: We are three sisters. Quica is the saint, Montse is the sage and I am the most tremendous! Good morning, Quica, I'll finish for today.

Until God willing. A big hug. Carmela Taravillo (Javier)



LATINOAMERICA: RECORDANDO A ENCARNA HUALDE

Meeting someone in life who is willing to be a companion on the journey is a gift that is always appreciated and valued as a sign of the gratuitousness of life itself and a sign of God's presence.

Meeting Encarna in my life was just that, a gratuitous gift.

She walked alongside me and along the way she recounted her experiences:

Her arrival in Bolivia with the energy that characterized her, the first efforts to integrate her own background with the new reality that welcomed her, her conversations with God asking Him to give her wisdom.

Her time as a student and in pastoral work with young people with all the challenges they faced in the effort to become a youth community that feels the call to be a sign of the building of the Kingdom of God.

Her time in Santiago de Machaca when, together with other institutions and the entire population, they experienced the feeling that miracles happen when the entire community organizes itself and it was possible to face a great drought.

Her time accompanying the journey of the region and discerning, together with the sisters, God's calls for the group at that time.

Her time in Tiraque accompanying and continuing what was already going on in the community.

In all those times, living the tension between what she wanted to be and what she was, between knowing how to listen to God's call and letting herself be carried away by her impulses, in short, living her human tension like all of us...

Her companionship and testimony will continue to be a fire from which I can draw strength and an invitation to continue in the effort to keep the flame burning.
Julia Zamora



JAPAN:



Dear Montse!!!

... I have remembered you so many times...

We cannot always fulfill our plans and desires, but thinking of you, you were such a willing and available woman, ready to respond to the work and the position requested of you... You traveled to all the countries where we attempted to carry out our missionary work.

Your presence was like a message that helped us reflect on our daily lives, and thereby

better understand what it means for us, for all of us, to surrender ourselves to the Lord as Missionaries of Christ Jesus.

The state of global society TODAY is so difficult, there are so many contradictions...

We are walking, trying to respond to Christ's desire... "that all may be ONE" "that we may all be witnesses of the PEACE He gave us."

Montse, your last steps toward the Father's House will also have been for all those close to you, a new energy to better understand what MISSIONARIES OF CHRIST JESUS means.

This Mission in Japan, where Christianity doesn't even reach 1%, is in need of new "hands" to work in this vineyard. The Father already knows this, but if you ask Him again...

Thank you, Montse!!! A big hug,

Beatriz.

Dear Sisters,

Today I want to share a brief memory.

This year has been especially sad, as Sisters **Pilar Perez Bobillo, Ana Maria Diaz, and Montserrat Montagut**, all of whom previously belonged to the Japan Region, passed away one after another. Of course, I know they were called by God, and for this reason I should rejoice with them. They all assumed great responsibilities as provincial superior, vicar general, and superior general, and when I look back on my relationship with them, I notice that there were interesting changes.

After graduating from university, I began working at Xavier School in Onoda. At that time, there were no Christians or foreigners around me, and I had never met a single one. Later, I understood that this was a call from God for me.

When I went for my first interview to work at the school, I felt a divine and sacred impression in the general atmosphere. Principal Ana Maria, the first foreigner I'd ever seen, had a striking face, with a gaze that, although serene, conveyed sharpness—something I'd never seen in a Japanese person.

After that, I interacted with her as principal, and I interacted with her as a teacher. But when I was baptized and entered the convent, I was deeply surprised. Within the convent, it's customary to address the sisters by their first names without titles, or with the suffix "-san."

Having grown up in Japan, it was impossible for me to simply call her "Ana María-san"; I could only say "Principal Ana María." It took me a long time to adapt to that change.

Today, when I speak to former students, I sometimes start by saying "Ana María-san," but since it's unfamiliar to them, I switch to "Principal Ana María." It's a form of respect deeply rooted in Japanese culture, based on titles and hierarchies.



However, I never forget to explain that, beyond this culture, as a Christian community, we live as brothers and sisters, in equality and fraternity based on human dignity. Our Congregation is founded on this wonderful Christian culture of equality.

Eiko Watanabe

From our families

- ✚ Jesús Bregón, brother of Chus Bregón from the Delegation of Spain, passed away in Spain on 04 august 2025
- ✚ Judith Siquiera, sister of Valerie from the Region of India, passed away in Pune on 19 October 2025
- ✚ Nguyen Huy Chai Gioan Baotixita, father of Chau, Delegation of Japan, died in Ho Chi Minh City on 23 October 2025.

**You smile at me from heaven,
I know it...**

New email address for Encarnación Edo. She does not have WhatsApp.

edoencarnacion8@gmail.com

www.misionerasdecristojesus.com

