

In Loving Memory of Sr M. Stephan Mncwabe CPS who departed this life on the 18 January 2023

“I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praises to God as long as I live.”

(Ps 104: 33)

Clementine Funani Nomathemba Mncwabe, the daughter of the late Mr. Manqinyana and Mrs Sara umaZulu Mncwabe, was born in Nazareth, kwaMsingaphansi, in the Diocese of uMzimkhulu on the 11 September 1938.

Sr M. Stephan Mncwabe joined the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood in Glen Avent on 03 January 1957. On reception in the Novitiate on the 06 January 1961, she received the name Sr Stephan. On 02 July 1962, She made her First Profession. She subsequently committed herself for ever, as a Missionary Sister of the Precious Blood, on the 06 January 1968.

After her first profession on the 02 July 1962, she worked on the farm in Glen Avent until 1963 when she was sent to Mariannahill for studies in the then St Francis Teachers' Training College. On completing her studies, she was assigned to teach in St Paul's - kwaNgangelizwe. Throughout her life, Sr Stephan has been a teacher until she retired in 2004. She taught in St Patrick's JS School in 1967, Ikwezi Lokusa Special School in 1970, Cwele JS School in 1976, St James High School, Cofimvaba in 1981, Farview JS School in 1982. In 1986 she had a break in teaching to further her studies in the University of Transkei, now called Walter Sisulu University. In 1991 she was missioned to teach in Zingisa Comprehensive High School until she retired in 2004.

Sr Stephan was a teacher who taught with passion. Her students wherever they are, can attest to this fact. She infected her students with the same passion and therefore they excelled in performance. Her focus was not only on academic excellence, but on holistic education as well.

In 2005 she went for sabbatical in Rome during which she studied Personal and Human Development and Life dynamics in Regina Mundi, Pontifical Institute. On her return, she worked in Marie Theresa Hospital, Mount Frere, accompanying the terminal ill. She upgraded this ministry in St Mary's Hospital, Mariannahill, in 2006. When she eventually returned to the Eastern Cape in 2007, she continued ministering to the terminally ill and dying in Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital. Many a patient in Mandela Hospital died holding the hand of Sr Stephan, while she prayed for their departing souls, her favourite prayer, the Rosary.

When she could no longer continue with her ministry, in Mandela Hospital, she took care of the premises in Glen Avent. She loved to keep the courtyards beautiful, one of which has become a site for photo shoot for all celebrations in Glen Avent. This ministry she carried on faithfully until Tuesday, the 17 January 2023. On the 18 January 2023, quietly in her room she gave her final response to Christ's calling, and departed this life.



If music was not mentioned, then this would not be Sr Stephan Mncwabe. She did not only sing but was a good composer. She was an excellent choir conductor that brought to Farview JS School trophies of excellence in music. Music is a talent she did not bury, she used it in St Paul's Parish-kwaNgangelizwe and whenever the CPS and CMM had celebrations. The slightest discord in music would automatically distort her face, but when the note was well sung, the fingers and a smile will tell it all.

Sr Stephan, we are grateful for what you have been to this Province, you truly made the Precious Blood fruitful in the many people whose hearts you have touched including us your fellow sisters. We thank you for the example of the special love and devotion you had for the Rosary. We will miss you, sitting on the benches in the courtyards, praying the Rosary. May our Mother Mary, lead you to her Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed you with His Precious Blood.

***We, the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood,
say to you, Sr M Stephan Mncwabe CPS
“Nkomonhle, Dzana, Khathini.***

Rest in Peace

