

OBITUARY OF SR M HELEN SEBETE CPS



“How can I repay the Lord for his Goodness to me? The Cup of Salvation, I will raise, I will call on the name of the Lord” (Ps 116:12-13)’

Sr M Helen Blandine, Ntebaleng Sebete, was born on the 8th of September 1934, in Matatiele, South Africa. Her late parents were Matsekiso Maria and Rabalon George Sebete.

On the 6th of January 1954, Sr Helen joined the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood at St Patrick’s Mission. She was then received into the Novitiate at Glen Avent Convent, Mthatha on the 6th of January 1957. In 1959, she pronounced her First Vows of Profession, on the 6th of January. Subsequently, made her Final Commitment to the Lord on the 1st of July, 1964.

As from 1959, Sr Helen worked in the following Mission Stations: St Patrick’s Mission, Mariazell, Qumbu, Cwele and Cofimvaba. In some of these stations, she was transferred either twice or thrice. She specialised in sewing Sisters’ habits and at another time became a Sacristan and also became in charge of the laundry.

In Cwele Mission, Sr Helen was an Assistant House leader. During her spare time, Sr Helen would make home visits, her main thrust being that of meeting the sick and was often seen carrying the Rosa Mystica Statue to homes around Cwele Mission and Hluleka, where she would pray the Rosary with people.

In her final years, Sr Helen served at Ikhwezi Lokusa Rehabilitation Centre from 1991 to 2014 and retired at the age of 80.

When Agnes Xhasa was sent to assist Sr Helen in the Sewing Department for the Liturgical Vestments, Sister was more than ready to teach her from scratch and often with great patience.

By and large, Sr Helen discovered her natural talent in designing Altar Cloths, Stoles, and even Panels for Copes, and Flags. Apart from Church vestments, sister would also design uMbhaco, a traditional outfit and utilised the traditional designs on Liturgical Vestments.

Generally, Sr Helen was described as the most neat and tidy person, who had eyes open for anything that was not in its rightful place.

Sr Helen had a sense of humour and for that reason earned herself a nickname of: **“Mntakwethu”** loosely translated to mean **“My home girl”**. This became a catch phrase which she often used to express her gratitude with a broad smile, for favours rendered to her.

Sr Helen was never a sickly person. However, in December 2019, she was admitted at St Mary’s Hospital where she spent over 4 weeks after being diagnosed as falling short of breath, due to old age. Consequently, she breathed her last on 12 January 2020 surrounded by her community members, who accompanied her with prayers to meet her Creator.

Hamba kahle Mntakwethu! -- RIP -- Robala hantle Ngwaneso!

SIZOHLALA SIKUKHUMBULA!