



In Loving Memory

Sr. Mary Lydiah Mathenge

***25 .03.1953 + 03 .11.2021**

Sr. Mary Lydiah (Lydiah Gathigia) was born in Nyeri county, Kihuyo Village to the late Patrick Mathenge Wachira and Dorothy Wambui on March 25th, 1953, and baptized in 1960. She was the 6th born of seven siblings.

On 15 May 1977, Sr. Mary Lydiah joined the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood in Riruta, Kenya. On 15 August 1980 she made her First Profession. She pronounced her final vows on 16 August 1986 at Riruta. Sister has generously given her services to the Congregation for the last 41 years.

Sr Mary Lydiah entered our Congregation with a diploma in nursing; she later did midwifery at Mater Misericordiae Nursing Training School. Since her first profession, she ministered as a nurse in various mission stations in Kenya and Tanzania. In Kenya, she worked in Nyina wa Mumbi Maternity Riruta, Kikoko Mission Hospital Kilungu, Kagwe, and Mbitini. In Tanzania she served in Upendo Children's Home, and Kilakala. She was a dedicated nurse who willingly shared her talents and served the sick with love.

Apart from nursing, Sr Mary Lydia held leadership roles in the East Africa Province. She once served in the council for one term and was a house superior in Karen, our students' house and in the recent past in Kilungu and Mbitini respectfully.

Since 1995 Sister Mary Lydiah has been appointed and re-appointed as a Directress of the Postulants and Temporary Professed Sisters, a ministry she carried out with love and dedication till her death. Her formees remember her as a person who wanted the development and the growth of each person in all dimensions. She lived by example and therefore it was easy to emulate her. Commitment in prayers and community life was an essential element she emphasized on any formee who passed through her hands. She loved our Congregation and looked forward to its continuity, according to the wish of our Father Founder and Co- Foundress Mother Paula.

She was very hardworking and remained passionate about doing her duties. In the year 1983 Sr. Mary Lydia was in a motor vehicle accident that left her maimed. Despite her struggle in walking

she never gave any excuse for not doing what was asked of her by the Congregation. She devoted herself to giving her best at all times. She was a valiant woman, a true daughter of Abbot Francis Pfanner.

On the 29 Sep 2021, Sr Mary Lydiah fell ill and was admitted to the Mater Misericordia Hospital. Her health deteriorated and she was taken to the ICU (Intensive Care Unit) where she was receiving treatment till her demise on 3 November 2021. It was unfortunate that she did not have an opportunity to meet any of her loved ones, but I believe Sr. Mary Lydia went to the Lord joyful as she lived.

Sr. Mary Lydia, fare thee well. You will be remembered by many as a prayerful, and a dedicated member in the community life and as a role model to the young and the old. Your resilience to pain was admirable. You were caring, supportive and wanted the best for all. You taught us what was important in life- to live authentically as Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood. We thank you for the gift you have been in our lives. We thank you for your loving presence, your gentle and compassionate heart. We thank you for your kindness and generosity, your concern and motherly care. And most of all, we thank you for the many, many lives you touched with your caring love.

**Eternal Rest grant unto her O Lord
And let perpetual light shine upon her
May she Rest in Peace
Amen.**