

In Loving Memory of our beloved Sr M Bernadette Mtimkulu CPS



*"Whatever, you do, do it all for the
Glory of God".
(1 Corinthians 10:31)*

Sr M Bernadette Mtimkulu daughter to Mr Julius and Mrs Tharsilla Mtimkulu was born on 26 November 1918 at Maria Telgte, Mkhoba's Location in the District of Kokstad East Griqualand, South Africa.

Maria Telgte was Sr Bernadette's first School.

In 1938, Bernadette joined a group of students which opened the Secondary School at Lourdes. In 1940, when Bernadette had completed her Junior Certificate, she was ready to do Teacher's Training at Mariazell College where she completed her course in 1942. In 1944 because of the prospects of entering the Convent, she was transferred to the Industrial School to teach there. Unknowingly, she was put under the care of Sr Imeldis Mülder, who later was to be her future Superior General of the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood. She reports, this was for her the great grace of God to be looked after, as a future Candidate for Religious life.

In 1947, Sr Bernadette, she and other girls was received as a Novice of the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood, at St Patrick's, about 10km from Mthatha, Eastern Cape, South Africa. She was handed the Constitutions of the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood at the altar when she became a Novice, and these paved and moulded her life as a full-fledged Missionary till she will sing her last "Nunc dimitis." As a second year Novice, she was requested to teach 2 classes as the school enrolment had risen.

On 6 January 1949, she made her first Profession of Vows. Soon after, she was transferred to Mariazell Teachers' Training College. In fact, she was the first African Sister among white sisters and the first African CPS to attain 102 years of age. She embraced their life style knowing very well that she had entered an International Congregation. She understood this to be the will of God as was revealed to her to Abbot Francis Pfanner, Founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood. Thus, she picked up courage and ventured into the unknown with a firm hope the transfer to that place, was by God's order. She reports that apart from being a classroom teacher, she directed the Girl Guides and Scouts.

In 1962, she made her Final Commitment to the Lord at Glen Avent Convent, Mthatha. In the same year, she became Principal at St Michael's Mission, Indonyane. In 1964, she was transferred to St Francis Training College, Mariannahill. There, she taught N.P.L3, teaching

aids, drill and environmental studies. In the same year, she passed her Examination in Afrikaans. **This is what she wrote “Voorbereidende, Laer Taalbond and Hoertaalbond”.**

In 1970, under obedience, she was transferred back to Mariazell.

In 1981, in Cwele Mission, she was to be Principal of the School as well as Sister in charge of the Sisters' community. In 1986, she retired from teaching and handed over the reins to a younger sister. This period afforded her the opportunity to give instructions to the Catechumens until she was pensioned in 1989. In 1990, she was requested to move to St Patrick's Mission in order to become animator and co-ordinator for Religious Instructions at the School.

Unbelievable that at the age of 102, Sr Bernadette was still able to do embroidery on Table Clothes for the purpose of sustaining the Province. A week before her imminent death, Sr Bernadette Mtimkulu was hospitalised at St Mary's Life Hospital, Mthatha for Oxygen Therapy. Needless to say that we were all shocked to hear that Sr Bernadette was no more on Sunday 5 June 2020. She died to COVID-19 related illnesses and was laid to rest on 11 July 2020. We entrust the soul of Sr Bernadette Mtimkulu into God's loving cuddle.

Lala ngoxolo dade wethu, sohlala sikukhumbula RIP