

# *Celebration Of Life*



**Sr. M. Philippine Stamp**

***June, 1920 – January, 2021***

***Omnia Pro Te Cor Jesu***

## **FUNERAL PROGRAM**

**8:00am:** Arrival at Lee funeral home

Prayer by Sr. Lucy before departure

**8:00am - 8:30 am :** Adoration at Valley Road Chapel

Arrival of the body at Valley Road Chapel

Recitation of the Holy Rosary at Valley Road Chapel

**9:45 am** Arrival of the body at St. Mary's grounds

Welcoming remarks by Sr. Lucy Nderi

**10:00am** Requiem Mass at St. Mary's grounds

**Eulogy** by Sr. Margret Chege

**Tribute** by Sr. Nuala Brangan

**Votes of thanks** by Sr. Patricia Ndunge

Procession to St. Austin's Cemetery

Burial service

Laying of Wreaths

Final Prayers

Lunch

Guests leave at their own pleasure



*The ship on which Philippine came*



# **Eulogy of the late Sr. Philippine Stamp IBVM**

**A life well and fruitfully lived by a true servant of God, loving, jolly, gentle, compassionate and self- giving**

Sr. Philippine (Phyllis) Stamp was born in Enniscorthy, County Wexford - Ireland on July 19, 1920. She was the daughter of the late William Stamp and the late Ellen Stamp (nee O'Neill). She was the fourth born in a family of seven: six girls and one boy. These were: Sarah (Sr. Magdalena) RIP, Brigid (Breda) RIP, Marie (Sr. Hildegard) RIP, Phyllis (Sr. Philippine) RIP, Phillip (Billy) RIP, Eileen (RIP), and Evelyn.

## **Christian Life**

Sr. Philippine was baptized on July 20, 1920 when only one day old. She received her first Holy Communion in 1927 and was confirmed in 1929 at the age of nine years.

## **Education**

Sr. Philippine Stamp was enrolled for her primary education in 1926 at Loreto Enniscorthy and she often remarked that, it took her only three minutes to get to school! Upon completing seven years of primary school, she joined the same institution for secondary school from 1933.

Philippine then joined Loreto Crumlin College and graduated with an advanced certificate in secretarial studies, after which she joined Dublin University in 1946, graduating with a Teacher's Science Certificate.

## **Religious Life**

Sr. Philippine joined the Loreto Sisters as a postulant on November 21, 1941 and was received into the novitiate in June 1942. She took her first vows in June 1944 and her final vows in August 1948. Remaining devoted to God's calling, she celebrated her Silver Jubilee in 1967 and her Golden Jubilee in November 1990. She has served in the Loreto Eastern African Province for over seventy years. She had a special love for Our Lady and loved singing the Psalms.

## Her professional life

Sr. Philippine Stamp left Ireland for life in February 1947 and arrived in Mombasa - Kenya in March, 1947 after a thirty-one day journey by boat. Since no Loreto sister had come out to Kenya on mission during the war, an appeal was made for volunteers after the war and the selfless Philippine left her teaching job in Letterkenny and was among those who volunteered to come to Africa, at the age of 27 years, where she lived until her death.

She travelled in the company of four other sisters, Sr. Teresina Sheehan, Sr. Breid Cunningham, Peter Claver O'Keeffe and Sr. Maureen O'Connor. They were warmly received by Mother Borgia O'Shaughnessy the founder of the Eastern Africa Province, and then put on an overnight train to Nairobi, arriving two days after St Patrick's Day.

This was Sr. Philippine's first night train experience! The postmaster transported them to Msongari where she stayed on with Peter Claver O'Keeffe while Breid Cunningham and Teresina Sheehan were missioned onwards to Eldoret. Sr. Maureen O'Connor remained in Mombasa.

Sr. Philippine taught music, science, history and attended to anything else she was asked to do such as being put in charge of meals, ensuring a healthy and balanced diet for the learners.

She stayed at Msongari between 1947 and 1962, part of which she served as Headmistress of the Junior School. Sr. Philippine was then missioned to Loreto Limuru from 1962 to 1969 where she worked for eight years. While there, she taught music and was in charge of the choir. Thereafter, she was missioned to Loreto Eldoret between 1969 and 1970. In an obedience that had become her standard, Sr. Philippine moved to Loreto High School - Matunda and took up her role as the Headmistress from 1970 to 1979. Later in life, Sr. Philippine often said that Matunda was where she left her heart.

After Matunda, Sr. Phillipine was missioned to Loreto House. While there, the sister in charge in Loreto Valley Road fell suddenly ill and Sr. Phillipine was asked to take up the role of Headmistress at Valley Road Secondary, a sevice she gave for nine years. The next mission was to Limuru for four years as the Community Leader before being posted back to Msongari as a Community Leader for two years.

Sr. Phillipine returned to Loreto Convent Valley Road for one year and was then missioned to Loreto Mary Ward Centre - Karen for about nine years. As part of her semi-retirement, she doubled up as the Provincial Secretary, while Sr. Cairiona Kelly was the province leader, for another eleven years before finally retiring to Msongari.

## **Leadership in the Province**

Sr. Philippine served in a number of Loreto communities in the Eastern Africa Province as a community leader and in a number of schools as a headmistress, leaving a legacy of one of the most loving, gentle and understanding leaders. A real mother, teacher, leader and sister to many.

## **Life in Ministry**

Sr. Philippine carried out her work with a lot of joy and kept saying she had no regrets that she was a nun. Given the choice of another life, she remarked, she would choose her life as a Religious Sister again. She loved her students and allowed them to draw deep from the well of the holistic Loreto education.

Her sense of humour was incomparable. During choir practice whenever the students didn't take off their sweaters in the afternoon heat, she would tease them and say they looked like dying ducks!

One of her students - in her letter to Sr. Philippine when celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday - summarizes what any of the student who passed through Sr. Philippines hands would say:

**“Sister Philippine I don’t know what to give you ....you gave us so much...Catholic education for life in an optimal environment for learning, self-reflection and personal intellectual, spiritual and emotional growth. Loreto prepared me for everything that I had to face in life. You gave us a priceless gift of forming our character, and shaping us into strong, independent, professional, spiritual, resilient and compassionate women who contribute and serve wherever they reside. ...I want you to live forever, but I know that is up to God... you always live and will continue to live in our memory...you will live forever in our hearts. You have earned your place in heaven for your tireless and dedicated service in educating generations of girls in Kenya.”**

**(Beata Nowakoska)**

Sr. Philippine's students are all over the world serving God in His people in different capacities and singing her praises. Some of them are Loreto sisters like the late Sr. Angeline Khayeka IBVM (RIP) and Sr. Dr. Teresia Wamuyu IBVM.

Sr. Philippine was always very active in teaching music and training the choir even though she wasn't able to sing since her vocals had been affected by two throat operations. The determined and selfless sister that she was, Sr. Philippine continued training her students in music.

In the opening of the Holy Family Basilica Cathedral, she played a major role in training the choir made up of students from Loreto Limuru, St Mary's Boys, Huruma Girls and Mercy Sisters. She also taught the Carmelite Sisters their first mass in English, at their request, but permission had to be sought first from the then Archbishop J.J. McCarthy as they were an enclosed order. On arrival, she found that she had to be escorted in by the Prioress. She was amazed when asked to teach them with their backs turned. She had to negotiate until they formed two lines and turned to face her.

Sr. Philippine loved making people happy and it is no wonder that she knew at least one or more family members in most families of the African sisters.

### **Her time in Retirement**

After retirement, Sr. Philippine joined the House of Prayer at Msongari (Shukrani). She lived there and carried out her prayer ministry with great dedication.

### **Sickness / death**

Sr. Philippine generally enjoyed good health except during the time when her shoulder and vocal cords gave trouble. This however didn't keep her from attending to her duties and watering her flowers which she dearly loved. She had green fingers, a true environmentalist.

In the week when our Loreto Community was preparing the launch of the Centenary year, Sr. Philippine began to feel unwell. On the evening of January 28, 2021, her condition began to deteriorate and she was rushed to Nairobi Hospital. At around 5.00 a.m. in the morning of January 29, 2021, Sr. Lucy, the Province Leader, was called to the hospital since Sr. Philippine's condition had worsened. She died a few minutes later, at around 5.30 am.

Sr. Philippine's name will go down in history as one of the greatest contributors to the growth and success of Loreto in Eastern Africa.

She will be fondly missed by her Loreto sisters, her sister Evelyn, nephews and nieces, her students and the many people whose lives she touched over the years.

Umevipiga vita vilivyo vizuri, mwendo umeumaliza, Imani umeilinda, Pumzika kwa Amani na malaika huko mbinguni.

Rest in Peace Sr. Phyllis Philippine Stamp I.B.V.M.

You should be praised for the love,  
care and wisdom  
you've given so generously  
every day for 100 years



“The master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

*(Matthew 25:23)*

**Dearest**  
**Sr. Philippine**

# *Mass program*

**Blessing of the body :** *Pokea Moyo Wangu*

*Pokea moyo wangu ee Mungu wangu*

*Niweze kukupenda kwa pendo lako*

*Unipe moyo wako, ewe Yesu Mkombozi wangu*

*Shinda kwangu, nami daima kwako*

1. Onjeni muone kwamba Bwana yu mwema

Na heri yule mtu anayetumaini Yesu Kristu

2. Katika nguvu za giza katutoa Na kutukaribisha  
katika ufalme wa pendo lake

3. Habari njema alituhubiria na kutufungulia

Akatangaza mwaka wa neema

4. Mchungaji wangu mkuu ndiye Bwana Yesu,

Sikosi kitu kamwe huniongoza kwenye njia nyofu.

## **Entrance**

### **Nearer my God to Thee**

1. Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer to thee!

E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me.

Still all my song shall be Nearer, my God, to thee,

Nearer my God, to thee, Nearer to thee!

2. Though like the wanderer, The sun gone down,

Darkness be over me, My rest a stone,

Yet in my dreams I'd be, Nearer, my God, to thee,

Nearer my God, to thee, Nearer to thee!



3. Or if, on joyful wing Cleaving the sky,  
Sun, moon, and stars forgot, Upward I fly,  
Still all my song shall be Nearer, my God, to thee,  
Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer to thee.

4. Though things go well with me, comfort in life,  
Friends, food and property, money and all,  
Still all I want shall be, Nearer, my God, to thee,  
Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer to thee.

5. Deep in thy Sacred Heart, let me abide,  
Thou that has bled for me, sorrowed and died.  
Sweet shall my weeping be, Grief surely leading me  
Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer to thee.

**Kyrie:** Gaba Mass

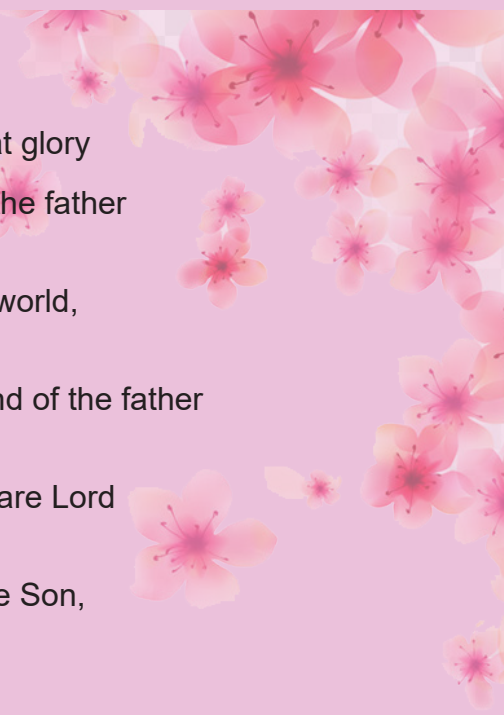
O Lord have mercy\*4

Jesus Christ have mercy \*4

O Lord have mercy \*4

***Glory to God in the highest***

1. And on earth, peace to all  
Peace to all who are Gods friends
2. God almighty Father heavenly king  
We praise you and we bless you

- 
3. We adore you, we glorify you  
We give you thanks for your great glory
  4. Lord Jesus Christ only son of the father  
Lord, Lamb of God, Jesus Christ
  5. You take away the sins of the world,  
Have mercy, receive our prayers
  6. You are seated at the right hand of the father  
Have mercy, Lord Jesus Christ
  7. You alone are holy, you alone are Lord  
You alone are the most high
  8. Glory to the Father, glory to the Son,  
Glory to the Spirit, holy one


**First reading (by Sr. Wamũyũ Wachira, IBVM)**

***The lord will swallow up death forever***

A reading from the book of Isaiah (Isaiah 25:6a – 9)

On that day: on this mountain the lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of fat things. And he will destroy on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day; “behold, this is our God; we have waited for him that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The word of the lord.



## Responsorial psalm (Psalm 23)

Refrain:

***Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
beyond my fears, from death into life.***

1. God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want,  
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,  
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. [Refrain]
2. Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,  
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,  
my spirit shall sing the music of your name. [Refrain]
3. Though I should wander the valley of death,  
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,  
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. [Refrain]
4. You have set me a banquet of love  
in the face of hatred,  
crowning me with love beyond my power to hold. [Refrain]
5. Surely your kindness and mercy  
follow me all the days of my life;  
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. [Refrain]

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Philippians 4: 4-8

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: Rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sister, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

The word of the Lord

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluiah, alleluiah  
Alleluiah, alleluiah  
Alleluiah, alleluiah

## **Gospel Reading John 20: 11-18**

### *Jesus Appears to Mary of Magdala*

But Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been. And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and said to him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them. "I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God. "Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and what he told her. The Gospel of the Lord

## **OFFERTORY SYMBOLS**

These gifts that we bring today  
of .....

- 1. Bread and wine**
- 2. Constitution, Crucifix and**

## **Rosary**

- 3. Biology textbooks**
- 4. Musical instrument**
- 5. Flowers**

All these gifts are a representation not only of who Sister Philippine was to us, the Loreto Sisters, and to all those she served and touched, and the service that she offered throughout her life; but above all who God was to her and in her life. God was her Creator, Creator of all things and giver of all that is good. As we lift these gifts to you Lord, in remembrance of our dear Sr Philippine's life of love and fidelity to you and service to your people, we thank you and praise you. Take Lord and Receive. Amen.

### **Offertory**

1. What returns to Yahweh x2 for blessings of every kind from Him that I have received

*What returns to Yawheh – what returns can I make x2*

*What returns to Yawheh – for blessings of every kind from Him that I have received.*

2. He created me the Lord and he adopted me as his child - for blessings of every kind from Him that I have received
3. He purifies and strengthens me by the spirit – the spirit of power; for blessings of every kind from Him that I have received

### **Sanctus: (Gaba Mass)**

Holy Holy - Holy Lord God of hosts

Heaven and earth x2 are filled with your glory

Hosanna - Hosanna, hosanna, in the highest \*2

Hosanna, hosanna, in the highest \*2

Blessed is He - Blessed is He who comes in the Lords name x2

Hosanna - Hosanna, hosanna, in the highest \*2

## **Proclamation of faith**

Lord – Lord by your cross

And – and resurrection

You have – you have set us free

You are the savior of the world

## **Lamb: Gaba mass**

Oh Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world

Have mercy – have mercy on us. X2

Oh Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world

Oh grant us – Oh grant us your peace.

## **Communion**

### **Christ Be Beside Me**

1.Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,  
Christ be behind me King of my heart;  
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,  
Christ be above me never to part.

2.Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,  
Christ all around me shield in the strife;  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,  
Christ in my rising light of my life

3.Christ be in all hearts thinking about me  
Christ be in all tongues telling of me  
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me  
In ears that hear me Christ ever be

## **Meditation**

1. Take my heart, O Lord, take my hopes and dreams.  
Take my mind with all its plans and schemes.  
Give me nothing more than your love and grace.  
These alone, O God, are enough for me.

2. Take my thoughts, O Lord, and my memory.  
Take my tears, my joys, my liberty.  
Give me nothing more than your love and grace.  
These alone, O God, are enough for me.

3. I surrender, Lord, all I have and hold.  
I return to you your gifts untold.  
Give me nothing more than your love and grace.  
These alone, O God, are enough for me.

4. When the darkness falls on my final days,  
take the very breath that sang your praise.  
Give me nothing more than your love and grace.  
These alone, O God, are enough for me.

## **Blessing of the coffin.**

**(Sung by Sr. Philippine at a concert when she was 9 years old!)**

Bless this house, O Lord we pray  
Make it safe by night and day . .  
Bless these walls so firm and stout  
Keeping want and trouble out . .

Bless the roof and chimneys tall  
Let thy peace lie overall . .  
Bless this door that it may prove  
Ever open - to joy and love . .

Bless these windows shining bright  
Letting in God's Heavenly light  
Bless the hearth, ablazing there  
With smoke ascending like a prayer!

Bless the people here within  
Keep them pure and free from sin . .  
Bless us all that we may be  
Fit O Lord to dwell with thee . .

Bless us all that one day we may dwell  
O Lord! With Thee!

### Recession

Bring flowers of the fairest,  
Bring flowers of the rarest,  
From garden and woodland  
And hillside and vale;  
Our full hearts are swelling,  
Our Glad voices telling  
The praise of the loveliest  
Rose of the vale.

***CHORUS: O Mary! We crown  
thee with blossoms today,  
Queen of the Angels, Queen  
of the May,  
O Mary! We crown thee with  
blossoms today,  
Queen of the Angels, Queen  
of the May.***

Our voices ascending,  
In harmony blending,  
Oh! Thus may our hearts turn  
Dear Mother, to thee;

Oh! Thus shall we prove thee  
How truly we love thee,  
How dark without Mary  
Life's journey would be.

O Virgin most tender,  
Our homage we render,  
Thy love and protection,  
Sweet Mother, to win;  
In danger defend us,  
In sorrow befriend us,  
And shield our hearts  
From contagion and sin.

Of Mothers the dearest,  
Oh, wilt thou be nearest,  
When life with temptation  
Is darkly replete?  
Forsake us, O never!  
Our hearts be they ever  
As Pure as the lilies  
We lay at thy feet.



## **Procession to the graveyard**

### **Bwana U Sehemu Yangu**

1. Bwana u sehemu yangu, rafiki yangu wewe

Katika safari yangu, tatembea na wewe

*Pamoja na wewe, pamoja na Wewe Katika safari yangu,  
tatembea na wewe.*

2. Mali hapa sikutaka, ili niheshimiwe,

Na yanikute mashaka, sawasawa na wewe

*Pamoja na wewe, pamoja na wewe heri nikute mashaka  
sawasawa na wewe.*

3. Niongoze safarini Mbele unichukue

Mlangoni mwa Mbinguni, niingie na wewe

*Pamoja na wewe, pamoja na wewe mlango mwa mbinguni,  
niingie na Wewe*

### **Chakutumaini sina**

1. Cha kutumaini sina, ila damu yake Bwana

Sina wema wa kutosha, dhambi zangu kuziosha

*(Kwake Yesu nasimama) kwake Yesu nasimama; ndiye  
Mwamba ni salama - diye Mwamba ni salama*

2. Damu yake na sadaka, nategemea daima. Yote chini  
yakiisha, Mwokozi atanitosha.

3. Njia yangu iwe ndefu, Yeye hunipa wokovu. Mawimbi  
yakinipiga, nguvu zake ndizo nanga

4. Nikiitwa hukumuni, rohoni nina amani

Nikivikwa haki yake, sina hofu mbele yake

## Oh virgin fair

***O virgin fair, star of the sea, My dearest mother, pray for me.***

1. O Lady, full of God's own grace,  
Whose caring hands the child embraced,  
Who listened to the Spirit's word,  
Believed and trusted in the Lord.

2. O Lady, who felt daily joy, In caring for the holy boy,  
Whose home was plain and shorn of wealth,  
Yet was enriched by God's own breath.

3. O Lady, who bore living's pain,  
But still believed that love would reign,  
Who on a hill watched Jesus die,  
As on the cross they raised Him high.

## NIMEVIPIGA VITA

***{ Nimevipiga vita, nimevipiga vita vilivyo vizuri } \*2***

***{Mwendo - mwendo nimeumaliza (Mwendo) - imani nimeilinda  
Mwendo nimeumaliza, imani nimeilinda } \*2***

1. Baada ya hayo nimewekewa taji, Nimewekewa taji, taji ya ahadi
2. Sasa namiminwa, nao wakati wangu wa kufariki kwangu, nao umefika
3. Ataniokoa na kila neno baya hadi niufikie ufalme wa mbingu
4. Nami nitaishi kwake Baba milele tena nikimwambia Mungu aleluya

## The lord is my shepherd

1. The Lord's my Shepherd,  
I'll not want;  
He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green; He  
leadeth me  
The quiet waters by.
2. My soul He doth restore  
again,  
And me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of  
righteousness,  
E'en for His own name's  
sake.
3. Yea, though I walk in  
death's dark vale,  
Yet will I fear no ill;  
For Thou art with me, and  
Thy rod  
And staff my comfort still.
4. My table Thou hast  
furnished me  
In presence of my foes;  
My head Thou dost with oil  
anoint,  
And my cup overflows.
5. Goodness and mercy all my  
life  
Shall surely follow me;  
And in God's house  
forevermore,  
My dwelling place shall be.

## Salve, Regina

Salve, Regina, mater  
misericordiae;  
vita, dulcedo et spes nostra,  
salve.  
Ad te clamamus exsules filii  
Hevae.  
Ad te suspiramus gementes et  
flentes  
in hac lacrimarum valle.  
Eia ergo, advocata nostra,  
illos tuos misericordes oculos ad  
nos converte.  
Et Iesum, benedictum fructum  
ven-tris tui,  
nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.  
O clemens, o pia, o dulcis Virgo  
Maria.

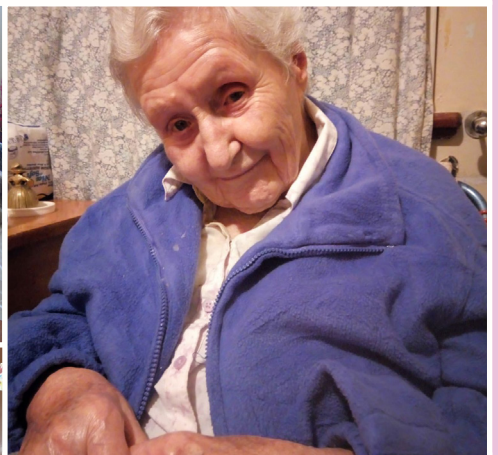
*MEMORABLE MOMENTS WITH SISTERS  
AND FAMILY*





# JOYFUL MOMENTS WITH SISTERS AND FRIENDS





# Tributes

## SR PHILIPPINE (REQUIESCAT IN PACE)

It was a shock to me when I heard of the death of Sr Philippine from Philomena Njeri Ikonya, who was one of my students in Loreto Matunda. So I take this opportunity to condole with the Loreto Sisters and the whole Catholic Faithful for losing this great servant of God.

I first met Sr Philippine in 1973 during my final year in college. I had visited my cousin Gabriel Ochola who was then a staff in Matunda Mission. While being escorted Sr Philippine saw us and enquired who I was. On being told I was in college training as a teacher, she did not waste time, she asked me to consider Loreto Matunda as my choice of school if and when I completed my studies. I don't know what she saw in me to make that request, but when I looked at her, I felt calmed – I immediately accepted. There and then she took my name. The following year, I received a letter from TSC posting me to Loreto Matunda with effect from 15 April 1974. All my college-mates were posted on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1974. I don't know how she pulled that off but that was Sr Philippine for you. Always ensuring that those put under her charge were comfortable. In fact I got my full April Salary! None of my colleagues had that privilege. Sr Philippine was not through with me, she surprised me when she gave me a note to go to Eldoret to see a certain bicycle dealer to collect a bicycle. I did and with that I got my first bicycle. That was a gift from her to me.

As for the teaching, Sr Philippine challenged me. My teaching subjects were English and Kiswahili, but Sister went ahead and assigned me to teach, of all the subjects, biology in Forms II and III. She trusted me and that built the confidence in me. She was not an overbearing headmistress. She allowed for discussions and ensured her office was always open for consultation.

She loved her God and I saw this in her attending morning mass and even when she invited me to visit the convent, she involved those present in prayer. The girls loved her and were free with her. They would not feel intimidated in her presence. For this reason, it was not surprising that Loreto Matunda under her headship became a premier institution with excellent results year in and year out. I feel as if I have lost a mother. I was her son – I saw the godliness in her. She inspired me to serve. That is why after only 11 years of teaching I left the government to work with the church and pursue a priestly calling with the Anglican church. I became a missionary and served in Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Sr Philippine you have rested from your labor which many of us have benefitted from. May you dance with the angels. Yours in the vineyard of the Lord;  
Rev'd Enoch Harun Opuka, PhD, nsm - Attached Clergy All Saints Cathedral,  
Nairobi



I fondly remember Sister Phillipine from my first visit when I stayed at Mary ward Centre. Every day I admired the lovely flowers that she so carefully attended. May she rest in peace. I continue to pray always for all of you. Evanne

Dear, Phillipine. Thank you for all the smiles and stories you shared with us. For good memories you shared with young sisters and assuring them your prayers was enough gesture of love and care you had for them. You will be missed. Continue praying for us. Oliva

Sr Phillipine, it is hard to say goodbye to you. I just can't do it. You were a gentle, loving sister, always smart and smiling and a lover of flowers. You were a great community Leader who handled us, seven young and vibrant junior sisters in one house with a lot of love and understanding. I will miss you dearly. RIP Mother Phillipine

Maggie Chege

My angel! Words cannot express how I miss you!. May you rest with your fellow angels and pray for us. Santrina

"Sr Phillipine, thank you for relentlessly inspiring me to do my best and helping me to strive for goals. I found guidance, friendship, discipline and love in you. LCM will remember you for your guiding light. Rest In Peace My Teacher and Mentor." Redempta Susan - 1974 class, Matunda

Sr Phillipine was an excellent teacher. She was our biology teacher and she taught in such a way that one not only heard but also visualized everything she said, as she articulated each syllable and described each object and subject, with so much clarity. Not to mention her huge store of teaching aids. I never then or after saw so many teaching aids. Perhaps this is why retirement makes no sense. She was always so elegant too, standing in the front of the class, with her back straight, in her high shoes. She never once sat down when teaching or complained about her struggle with the back. She bore it with so much dignity only for us to learn later that her high shoes were a therapy not fashion! Sr Phillipine had no favourites. I never heard anyone complain about her. She was the teacher for all with a great, hidden sense of humour. In the same you loved us, may you now receive your reward, Sister, among the elect with your heavenly father for ever, amen. Wambui Kennedy, a past student of Loreto Matunda

"A loving, caring, leader who readily adjusted to the challenge of the 'new way of formation', thus bridged the generation gap in community. Rest in peace Phillipine." Tancy

I will miss you beside me in the Chapel. It was lovely to sit beside 'mother'. Goretti

My dear Sr 'Phil' you were a great friend of mine I can't believe you are gone! I remember you composed a song for me it keeps ringing in my mind, "ooh my little Alice blue girl, you are the fairest of them all" rest with the angels till we meet again! Alice

Sr. Philippine thank you for your gift of selflessness, generosity, perseverance and availability. Your musical voice enriched us for you taught us many songs whenever you were requested to step in for the novice mistress. Fare thee well. Clemenciah

Sr M.Philippine, the star that led me to Loreto Convent Msongari. It was in the last quarter of 1980 when I brought my niece Makawaza to sit for her F1 interview in Loreto Valley Road having arrived in the Country from Lusaka Dominican Convent. Armed with her credentials from her former Headmistress to present to you. You graciously offered to give her an interview there and then. Shortly afterwards, the results were announced to us. Makawaza,"You have performed well, but unfortunately Valley Road Secondary School does not have enough space, and suggested we try Loreto Convent Msongari". We followed her suggestion and instructions and thanked her for having welcomed us so warmly. That was the beginning of my journey with the Loreto Sisters. It has been an amazing journey! I cannot thank you enough for leading me to serve with Loreto Sisters as a teacher and administrator in Loreto Msongari Primary section which became my home away from home for over Three decades! You were a dear friend and a mentor to me in so many ways. Fare Thee Well and rest well with the Angels, my dear friend. Amen. Mary M Osore. Former deputy Headmistress L.C.M 1981--Jan 2013.

Queen, you are gone physically but your smiles and positive spirit lives on. Your everyday numerous stories and memories of many years were always interesting. Thanks for being cheerful and for accepting all situations with the repeated phrase "I no longer have eyes to see, I am becoming deaf, I have no legs to move I have a quarter tooth left, but I am always fine! " Your attitude was so encouraging. Rest in joy with the Lord! Vickie IBVM

Sr. Philippine made me to be who I am today. The countless values she instilled in me have been my guide to my old age. May you sleep with the angels Sister. Beth Kitheka, matunda 1979.

We thank God for the gift of Sister Philippine in our Province, totally committed to God's Call to come on mission to Kenya in 1947, a teacher who loved helping her students achieve their potential, and a lovely community companion. Mary Owens IBVM

Dear Philippine, I want to thank you most sincerely for the gift that you have been to our Institute and in a very special way to our Eastern Africa Province. In you I found a deeply rooted Mary Ward Woman. Your interest in each one of us, was always very welcome. As part of your greeting, I loved to hear you say 'I have not seen you in a hundred years'. I remember you as very organized, neat, purposeful, and impeccably smart. Philippine, your graciousness as you lived through diminishment, you have taught us a lot by the example of your own life. May you now rest with your Creator whom you loved deeply and served diligently.

Pauline Macharia IBVM

I WILL ALWAYS LOVE AND MISS YOU SR PHILIPPINE

Sister Philippine, I will always love you. You made me feel so loved and special as if I was the only one in the world. You enquired about me and how I was doing even when you were very sick in hospital. You had a kind word to say about the doctors and nurses. Rest in peace and know that I will always love and miss you.

Catherine Wachira (your special friend)

May the soul of Sr Philippine rest in eternal peace and perpetual light shine upon her. Amen. Esther Gachanja teacher at Loreto convent Valley Road when Sister was the Principal.

Philippine, these were your farewell words to the late Sr. Colombiere Kelly: "You were a faithful follower of Jesus Christ; you never faltered in your call to be a daughter of Mary Ward; thank God you are now sitting in the arms of the God you ever served faithfully and unreservedly". I want to echo the same words to you dear Philippine. May you now sit in the arms of the God you served faithfully and unreservedly. Sr. Philippine: a great teacher, musician, mentor and leader. So disciplined and loving. Like Saint Philippine Duchesne your Patron Saint, you lived for Christ, labored for Christ and desired only Christ. I will miss your wisdom Philippine. Fare thee well. May you now enjoy the fullness of life with God, who loved you first and has called you back home.

Sr. Madeleine Sophie IBVM

Philippine a great friend of mine and my mum. We worked together in the sacristy and you taught me simplicity, love and joy, singing and smiling all the time. You gave me red candles each December to take to mum and this gave us a lot of joy. I will miss you a lot. Fare thee well. I will pray for you and always keep you in my heart. Bassilisa IBVM

TRIBUTE TO MY SPECIAL AND LOVING PRINCIPAL, TEACHER, IBVM  
COMPANION IN THE LORD

'Mother Philippine', I will always remember you as a loving, caring, compassionate 'mother', principal and teacher. You always trusted and believed in us, developed our sense of responsibility, our leadership qualities and our individual talents. There was never a day that you raised your voice but gently corrected us and rewarded every little good deed from class homework to co-curricular activities. You always impressed on us to be ladylike and you showed us how to do this by walking with your head held high and with dignity and also in your choice of words while you communicated to us. Your love for flowers and butterflies taught us to care and respect God's creation. You were also an excellent Biology and Music teacher. Through your life you modelled what it is to be free, truthful, sincere and respectful of each person irrespective of their family background. It was through your lived example that I chose to join the Loreto sisters; a decision I have never regretted.

Rest in peace 'Mother Philippine', my special teacher, principal and loving IBVM companion in the Lord. I end this tribute with some lines from your favourite song which you taught us by Wilfred Sanderson (1878 - 1935) "All joy be thine this day your heart's delight; The darken'd hours are past, now breaks the light; May fairest flow'rs around you be unfurl'd; O love, O best beloved in the world! ... But may you bravely face the journey long; Without a sigh, upon your lips a song!

Wamũyũ Wachira, (IBVM), past student, Loreto Matunda

As our headmistress, Sister Philippine provided a safe and secure environment where we could develop and grow physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually at our own pace. She provided a welcoming school environment for us children from different backgrounds, ethnicities and religions. Under her leadership, Loreto Convent Valley Road was a school where we could be children without any pressure to grow up too soon, and where we could learn responsibility, service, caring, compassion, independence, respect, resilience, love of learning, love of God, love of humanity, the power of prayers, and the confidence that accompanies such learning. Sister Philippine was strong, principled, tireless, and had a great sense of humour. She provided just the right amount of guidance, just the right amount of discipline, and just the right amount of love for us all. She was called to a life of holiness and in the course of her life, she touched the lives of so many Loreto girls by leading the Catholic formation of minds and souls. Thank you, Sister Philippine. May Christ be for ever with you and may you rest in eternal peace. Beata Nowakowska

I lack proper words to describe the kind of person Sr. Phillipine was to me and many who knew her. She was the most kind-hearted, understanding, caring, and loving community leader that has ever been for me. I am deeply grateful for the motherly love and great concern I experienced from her those many years when I was a junior sister at Loreto Valley Road. She took an interest in each one of us thus, making us feel so special! I guess this was her way of showing support and meeting the personal needs of each sister. Being a community leader of many junior sisters, she was very keen and firm on our personal growth. Her gentle approach to these issues did not only make us better persons but better Loreto sisters.

Today as we bid you farewell, I cannot thank you enough for the great gift that you have been to me. The silent prayers that you offered kept me going in many ways. But above all, I sincerely value one great lesson that you silently taught me/us, that is, the meaning of "patiently waiting for the Lord." May you now rise with Christ in glory. Amen. Gertie Mallya.

It takes a moment to make an impact in someone's life. With you Sr Phillipine our brief encounter created a special life long bond of prayers. Prayers that flowed freely from your heart. I feel blessed to have had such a gentle soul remember me in her daily prayers. Thank you so much for this gift. May you rest peacefully with the angels. From Yustina Mallya, Arusha - Tanzania.

Dearest Sr. Phillipine, love, decency, reliability, honor, dignity, respect, self-less giving, and commitment in your vowed life of prayer: are the qualities not only held by you, but you practiced during your lifetime. I suppose God granted you many years so that some of us may benefit from your well-lived life. In the end, I cherish the life in your years. May our Heavenly God reward you abundantly as you rest with Him in eternal peace. I miss you as I say the word of farewell. Maria Macha

Dearest Phillipine, I fondly remember you tendering on flowers and beautifying the Chapel while you were at Mary Ward, this you did with lots of dedication, gentleness and love! I'm sure the flower garden in Heaven is smiling to have you there. Rest in God's Eternal Arms. Naisenya

My dearest friend and companion, I am convinced you're with the Holy Trinity whom you loved so dearly with all your life. You were a blessing to IBVM and a gift to the entire Stamp family. To the two nieces and two grand nieces of Sr. Philippine that I was privileged to meet in Rathfahnam, please be consoled, know that all your aunties were special and they now rest peacefully with God. We thank you as family for your love for Philippine especially in her last years. Sr. Philippine was ready and looked forward to meeting her friend Jesus Christ.

I/we cherish many beautiful memories of our time together Sr. Philippine; you were the best community leader who made it a home and each member very special. Your role modeled for us the beauty and results of hard work, punctuality, neatness of office, personal room and what we wore, a swift and loyal secretary with perfect communication skills, a flower gardener and super decorator, a deeply rooted and joyful servant of God. Will miss your card/letter/caring notes. Sr. Philippine was always grateful, always positive, always fine- never complained because she knew God's goodness to her. Philippine you were an epitome of all good. Rest in peace dearest Sr.  
Sincerely, Jane Frances Ibvm

God looked around His garden and He found an empty place. Then He looked down upon the earth and He saw your precious face. He put His arms around you and He lifted you to rest God's garden must be beautiful; He always takes the best. Yes, He always take the best!

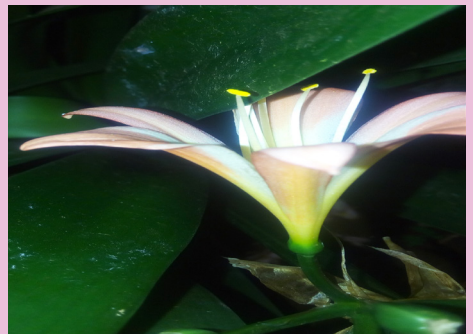
If tears could build a stairway; And memories a lane; We'd walk right up to Heaven; And bring you back again

Margret Sewe

Even in your latter centenary years when physically so incapacitated, I felt you ministered brilliantly, with energizing relevant shared memories for all past students & friends, including community members like myself, who climbed the stairs for a quiet chat. Betty


Sr. Philippine was actually my spiritual leader/consoler always connecting me to the almighty God on daily basis. May the almighty God rest her soul in eternal life. RIP my spiritual friend. Josephine Nyang'or

Philippine, a great icon of joy and hope, you brightened my days and made me feel deeply loved. Fare thee well till we meet again. Lenah



# Memorable moments





*I am with you  
I'll be with you  
To the end of the world  
I'll be near you  
I'll watch over you*

*And when sorrow  
Overwhelms you  
Only call me  
I'll be there  
And I'll bring  
Peace peace peace*

*I'll bring you  
Peace peace peace  
Peace unto you  
Peace unto you.*