

## January

1987

7 My Special intentions after the Holy web
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1. All the departed souls especially those
who have nobody to pray or rememb
2 All the sinner to have a lotal conversion
and in a special way because
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as All to present and those rule are and
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1 Theolly for modues
3. All the prieste and those who are under Priestly formation  Bro Zacharias and Br. Long
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8 Both pecli kutt
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all the superior each mombers, those who
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have died those who have left the
Congregation, and the members there who
are to come vis future
5. My father and matter Sisters and brother
to keep there wo the real Christian /ait
to keep them in the real Christian Caith and to from a good dealth
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6 My Aposto lose social work to do for the
great of seed and round of some
/ Racial to blessed Allebasso to be silved
is suffering a and alficulties
8 To have two priests and three sisters
from my own Sisters and box thes's family
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Rev. Dr. Joseph J. Palackal, CMI, is a member of the Sacred Heart Province of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate. He received his priestly ordination in 1979 from Gratian Mundadan, CMI, the bishop of Bijnor. He is currently serving as an associate pastor in the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York. Fr. Palackal is a performing artist of Christian devotional songs in four languages, including Sanskrit and Aramaic. He is the founder of the Christian Musicological Society of India and is currently heading the Aramaic Project, a program preserve the Indian version of Jesus's mother tongue to (www.aramaicproject.com).

Blessed Rani Maria: A Perky Preacher Without Words

I met Blessed Rani Maria for the first time in May 1977 in Bijnor. We, six musically-talented seminarians from Dharmaram College in Bengaluru, formed a band and decided to make a music tour in the newly formed Exarchate of Bijnor. Blessed Rani Maria was a member of the St. Mary's Convent at that time. Blessed Rani Maria and Sr. Mariusha were in charge of taking care of us and making local arrangements for our programs. Blessed Rani Maria was delighted to introduce us to the following villages, where she was doing pastoral ministry: Timarpur, Adampur, Ittawa, Pedda, and Kachpura. We traveled to these places on horse carts. Sr. Mariusha, a Hindi teacher, served as our translator. As per the sisters' suggestion, we designed a program of Patriotic songs, popular films songs, and Christian bhajans. We named our band "Singing Brothers."

As our guide and mentor, Blessed Rani Maria spent much time with us during our stay in Bijnor. She was in charge of the logistics. A program of this nature was something new to the villagers. Blessed Rani Maria was proud to present us to the villagers.

Even after forty-three years, I have a vivid recollection of the youthful, bubbly, joyful, and exuberant face of Blessed Rani Maria. Her mile-long smile translated the joy of the Good News to even the illiterate villagers. Words were irrelevant for the Good News. Blessed Rani Maria treated the villagers like her relatives, and they loved her in return like one of their own.

I am humbled to know that Blessed Rani Maria remembered me to include in her prayer list even a decade after our meeting. Blessed Rani Maria, please continue to pray for me and my mission.