

**75**  
YEARS OF HEAVENLY GLORY

**Prayer Services  
in preparation for the  
75th Death Anniversary  
(21-03-2025)  
of our Beloved Founder**



**MSGR. HERCULANO GONSALVES**

**PRAYER SERVICES  
IN PREPARATION FOR THE  
75<sup>th</sup> DEATH ANNIVERSARY  
(21-03-2025)**

**OF OUR BELOVED FOUNDER**

**MSGR. HERCULANO GONSALVES**

**Commission for Spirituality  
Congregation of the Handmaids of Christ  
St. Alex Convent  
Calangute Goa**

**Day 1**  
**12<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**LIKE MSGR. HERCULANO, BE A MESSENGER OF  
FAITH**

**Sr. Rita Frois**

**Hymn:** Gaionancho Jhelo No. R- 40 Tuka ami Pollounk Nam

**Introduction:** We have come before you Lord today with grateful hearts as we are in the Jubilee Year. Our Congregation is preparing to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary of our beloved Founder. You have called us to be your close followers and we have responded in faith. As messengers of Faith, we are expected to be open to God's Word like our Founder. Our thoughts, our words and our actions manifest the amount of faith we have in God. One who has faith, will always be open to God's will like our Founder Msgr. Herculano was.

Faith is like a bridge that connects us with God and with each other in the community. When our Founder was unexpectedly transferred from Calangute to Belgaum, he was humanly speaking, not prepared for it. But because his faith in God was very strong, he could leave behind his treasured foundations (Orphanage, School and Congregation) and like Abraham move forward with courage to answer God's call as the Vicar General of the Ghats. Just as Abraham's faith was put to the test, so too our Founder's faith was tested. They passed the test and both were rewarded. Abraham got back his only son Isaac and Msgr. Herculano got back his beloved orphanage, school and congregation.

Today as we reflect on our Founder's faith we take this virtue as the common denominator in our relationship with God, with others and ourselves. We take Mary who was a woman of faith as our role model.

**Hymn:** Let us sing the hymn from Gaionancho Jhelo No. T- 60 Tuka lagun oprub Maie

## **Scripture Reading: Rom 4: 13-25**

Let us take a moment to reflect on the Word of God. **(Silence)**

### **Prayer of the Faithful:**

Our relationship with God is similar to our relationship with others. All relationships require faith. As a loving Dad delights when the child places confidence in him, so also God delights when we trust Him. Let us place our confidence in our Father and pray with faith for all our needs. **Response: Lord increase in us, the gift of faith.**

1. Lord give us the light of faith and a child-like trust in Jesus and Mother Mary like our Founder. May we grow in prayer, patience, hope and resilience. For this we pray to you O Lord. **Response**
2. Lord give us a profound sense of trust in Divine Providence like our Founder. May your Word transform our being, fill our hearts and guide our decisions to reach out to the poor and needy. For this we pray to you O Lord. **Response**
3. Lord we pray for the lonely, the unloved and those who are discouraged in life. That they may experience the warmth of God's tender care and place their trust in you. For this we pray to you O Lord. **Response**
4. Lord we pray for all consecrated men and women, especially our Superiors and each Sister of our Community and Congregation. May we grow in our faith and by our witness may we inspire those we serve. For this we pray to you O Lord. **Response**

### **Our Father**

#### **Concluding Prayer:**

Lord God, inspired by the exemplary life of our Founder Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves, who lived out your call to be a messenger of faith, grant that following in his footsteps, we may never be over enthusiastic in our successes or discouraged by our failures. Remind

us that You are always there by our side to lead us through the challenges of life. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord  
Amen

**Closing Hymn:** With Joyful Lips No. G 22 Walk with me

**Day 2**  
**13<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**LIKE MSGR. HERCULANO, BE A MESSENGER OF  
LOVE**

**Sr. Ronita Torcato**

**OPENING HYMN:** Let us begin with the hymn from With Joyful Lips No. D 121 Let there be love

**INTRODUCTION:** Dear Sisters in Christ, we gather today in this sacred place to experience the ultimate expression of God's love for humanity through our Founder Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves. We remember and honor the life of our beloved Founder who was a true messenger of love.

Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves through his unwavering faith and boundless compassion embodied the very essence of Christ's commandment to love one another. He saw the face of Christ in the poor, the orphaned, and the marginalized and dedicated his life to serve them. His legacy marked by founding of the orphanage, schools in different places and our Congregation, stands as a testament of his profound commitment to spreading God's love in the world.

Let us be inspired by Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves' example. Let us open our hearts to receive the love of God and in turn, become messengers of that love to the world, just as he was. May his life remind us that every act of kindness, every gesture of compassion is a reflection of Christ's love made manifest. Let us like Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves, answer the call to be messengers of love in our own lives.

**WORD OF GOD: 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13**

**Responsorial Hymn:** In response to the Word of God let us take the hymn from Gaionancho Jhelo: No. O-9 Mog Sorvespora

Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves dedicated his life to spreading this very

love – the love that is patient and kind, the love that heals wounds and binds communities together. Let us remember that being a messenger of love means embodying these qualities in all that we do.

We are reminded that we are all called to be messengers of love. In our world, where there is so much pain, division and suffering, we are invited to be bearers of Christ's light and love. Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves dedicated his love showing us that true love is not just a feeling but a choice and an action. It is something that we actively live everyday through our words, actions and services to others.

### **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

1. We pray for those suffering in body, mind or spirit, that they may experience your healing love. **Response: Lord hear our prayer**
2. We pray for those who are lonely and marginalized. May they experience your presence and care in their lives. **Response**
3. We pray for those in position of leadership and authority. May they be inspired to lead the people with love and justice. **Response**
4. We pray for each of us gathered here today. May we be strengthened in our commitment to be messengers of love in our Communities and beyond. **Response**

### **OUR FATHER**

**HYMN:** Let us take the hymn from Joyful Lips No. N 29 Here I am Lord

### **CONCLUDING PRAYER:**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the example of Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves and the inspiration he provides us. Help us to follow his example in sharing the love that you have freely given to us. May we walk in your light and be instruments of peace and love, ready to share it with those around us. We make this prayer through the same Christ our Lord- Amen.

**Day 3**

**14<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**LIKE MSGR. HERCULANO, BE A MESSENGER OF  
HOPE**

**Sr. Justina Vaz H.C.**

**Opening Hymn:** Praise the Lord No. 16 Shine Jesus Shine,

**Introduction**

Dear Sisters,

As we gather today, we are reminded of our Founder Msgr. Herculano's life, filled with unwavering hope. Our theme today is, Like Msgr. Herculano be a Messenger of Hope. He trusted in God's providence and became a beacon of hope for all who encountered him. Let us pray that we too may embrace this calling to be messengers of hope in our communities and in our workplaces.

**Word of God:** Romans 15:13

**Responsorial Hymn:** With Joyful Lips No. D 132 As the Deer

**Reflection**

Our Founder Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves' life is a light in the darkness, offering hope to the hopeless. He taught us that hope is not passive - it calls us to action. Where can we bring hope today? Are we ready to reach out to the lonely, the suffering, and those in despair?

How can I be a messenger of hope in my daily life?

Who in my life is in need of God's hope today?

Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves our Founder was known for his exemplary virtues, which made him a beacon of hope and inspiration to all who knew him. Here are some of his key virtues:

### 1. Faithfulness

Msgr. Herculano had unwavering trust in God's plan, even in challenging circumstances. His deep faith was evident in his daily life, prayer, and pastoral ministry.

### 2. Compassion

With a heart full of empathy, Msgr. Herculano was deeply sensitive to the needs of the poor, sick, unwanted and the marginalized. He offered not just material assistance but also spiritual solace and encouragement.

### 3. Humility

Despite his achievements and position, he remained humble, attributing all success to God's grace. His humility allowed him to connect with people from all walks of life.

### 4. Service

He lived a life of selfless service, dedicating his time and energy to the welfare of others. His actions reflected the Gospel's call to serve, rather than to be served.

### 5. Evangelical Zeal

Msgr. Herculano was passionate about spreading the Word of God. His zeal for the Gospel inspired many to strengthen their faith and live more Christ-centered lives.

### 6. Leadership

He led with integrity, wisdom, and love, always prioritizing the spiritual and emotional well-being of his community.

### **Prayer of the Faithful**

Let us present our prayers to the Lord, trusting in His promise of hope and new life and let our response be: **Lord, make us messengers of hope.**

1. Symbol: A candle representing Christ, the Light of Hope, is lit.

For the Church: That she may always be a sign of hope for a weary world. **Response**

2. Symbol: A flower bouquet, representing the beauty of diversity and unity in the community

For our Community: Gracious God, bless our Community with unity, love, and peace. Help us to grow as a family, supporting one another in faith. **Response**

3. Symbol: A cross, signifying the hope of resurrection.

For those who are Suffering: That the sick may find hope in God's love. May the concern and support of the Community bring them healing. **Response**

4. Symbol: A seedling, representing new growth and life.

For Vocations: That many young people may be inspired to join our Congregation to continue the work of our Founder and bring hope to our troubled world. **Response**

As we prepare to pray the prayer Jesus Himself taught us, let us remember that we are all children of one loving Father. With faith and trust, let us surrender our hearts to Him, asking for His guidance, forgiveness, and blessings in our lives.

Together, we pray: **Our Father...**

### **Novena Prayer to our Founder**

**Conclusion:** Lord, You are the source of all wisdom, hope, and love. Bless our Congregation and each Community and so that we may continue to grow in Your light. Help us to live as messengers of hope, following the example of our Founder, Msgr. Herculano. May your blessings shine upon us and guide us always.

**Closing Hymn:** "We Are the World" or "This Little Guiding Light of Mine."

**Day 4**  
**15<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**LIKE MSGR. HERCULANO, BE A MESSENGER OF JOY**  
**Sr. Tomacina De Sa**

**Introduction:**

The theme for today's Prayer Service is, *Like Msgr. Herculano be a messenger of Joy.*

We are called to be witnesses of God's love, the joyful witnesses to reach out to our neighbours, to foster cordial relationship with everyone and to embrace all human beings, transcending all borders and boundaries. Our Mission is to be the joyful witnesses of Christ to everyone, beginning with our communities, our children, staff, students, domestic workers, women in distress, senior citizens etc.

Let us pause for a while and imagine yourself being the witness of Joy like Msgr. Herculano. (Silence)

As we are preparing for the 75th Death Anniversary of our Founder and working for initiating the process for his canonization, let us once again dedicate ourselves like Msgr. Herculano to be messengers of Joy.

**Hymn:** With Joyful Lips N. 24.

Let us listen to what our Founder said in his letters to his Sisters as instructions and teachings.

1. Letter No. 99 (Know Mons. Herculano Gonsalves through his Letters)

"You have chosen the better part, and if you preserve it well, you will enjoy peace in this world, a happy death and everlasting happiness in heaven."

*Let us pause and silently pray for each Sister that we may preserve our vocation for everlasting happiness.*

2. Letter No. 104 (Know Mons. Herculano Gonsalves through

his Letters)

"I desire your well-being, therefore I have asked you to preserve your religious spirit."

*Silently we pray for ourselves that we become joyful messengers of God's Love, and we pray for fervent vocations.*

3. "Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves was an exceptional person who belonged to that elite class of men who appear once in a while, amidst this humanity blinded by selfishness and evil passions, to illumine the tortuous journey with the beacon of light of his pure virtue".

*Let us pause and pray for enlightenment to our Church leaders to grant the consent for initiating the Cause of our Founder's Canonization.*

**Founder's Prayer:** Let us now together recite the Prayer to our Founder.

Our Founder said, "Let the Joy of one, be the Joy of all!" As we conclude let us ask God's grace for us to be Messengers of Joy like Msgr. Herculano.

**Concluding Hymn:** Praise the Lord No. 190. Jesus is the Joy of living.

**Day 5**  
**16<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**LIKE MONSIGNOR HERCULANO, BE A MESSENGER  
OF SERVICE**

**Sr. Paloma Martins**

Dear friends, as we gather today to celebrate the Novena in preparation of the 75th Death Anniversary of Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves, we remember his remarkable life of service and dedication to the marginalized and underprivileged. Msgr. Herculano was a man far ahead of his time. Christ's example of love and service to those in need is not a task reserved to a select few but a calling for all who dared to be different. Giving away everything he owned and emptying himself for others, he became a champion of the poor and the protector of the girl child. He was a true messenger of service.

The poor were always close to his heart. Like a pelican that feeds its young with its own blood, Msgr. Herculano sustained the poor and orphans depriving himself even of the basic necessities. Tears would well in his eyes because he could not provide them more.

He sheltered them all in the warmth of his paternal care and prepared them to face the challenges of life. By the sweat of his brow and countless sacrifices, he built a home for the homeless children who affectionately called him 'Pai.'

He was a man of faith, a man of vision and had a mission to fulfill. Living a life centred on God he emptied himself in service. He was a man who lived all for God, only for God and always for God in the service of his people, especially the poor and needy.

**Let us now listen to the Word of God: Mathew 7:13-14**

## **Reflection:**

Jesus' image of entering the kingdom of heaven through a narrow gate does not mean that only a few are destined to go through it but instead, means living one's life in love, in service, and in giving oneself as he did.

To enter the plan God proposes for our life requires that we restrict the space of selfishness, reduce the presumption of self-sufficiency, lower the heights of pride and arrogance, and that we overcome laziness, in order to traverse the risk of love, even when it involves the cross.

The image of a narrow gate, could scare us and prompt us to think that salvation is destined for only a few chosen, or perfect people.

This door is narrow, but is open to everyone.

Nevertheless, Jesus' use of the image of the narrow gate was his way of telling Christians that to enter into God's life, into salvation, we need to pass through him, not through another one, through him; to welcome him and his Word.

We are called to reflect on those daily acts of love that we struggle to carry on and to reflect on those acts like our Founder Msgr. Herculano, who dedicated his life and sacrificed himself to help those in need, including the poor, marginalised, and those in the periphery of the social strata.

Let's think of those who keep on working committedly, putting up with discomfort and, perhaps, with misunderstanding; let's think of those who suffer because of their faith, but who continue to pray and love; let's think of those who, rather than following their own instincts, respond to evil with good, finding the strength to forgive and the courage to begin again.

We are encouraged to follow the example of those who choose the narrow door of Jesus and not the wide door of their own convenience.

So let's consciously think, which side do we want to be on?

Do we prefer the easy way of thinking only about ourselves, or do we choose the narrow door of the Gospel that puts our selfishness into crisis, but which makes us able to welcome the true life that comes from God and makes us happy?

Which side are we on? Basking in the light of Christ or taking on the easy road with our self-centredness. Are we taking on service or self-service?

### **Prayer of the Faithful:**

**Response: Lord help us to be messengers of service like our Founder**

1. We pray for the poor, the hungry, and the homeless. May we be inspired to serve them with compassion and kindness, just as our Founder did.
2. We pray for our Congregation. May we continue Msgr. Herculano's mission of service and compassion in the different areas of our mission field.
3. We pray for ourselves, that as we commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of our beloved founder, we may be inspired by his example and strive to be messengers of service in our own lives. May we be filled with compassion, kindness, and generosity.
4. We pray that those entrusted to initiate the process of Canonization, may be guided by the Holy Spirit, so that the Church may proclaim our Founder, Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves, a Saint for all to follow, for this let us pray to the Lord.

**Concluding Prayer:** Dear God, we thank you for the inspiring life and legacy of Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves. May his example inspire us to be messengers of service, to care for the marginalized and underprivileged, and to live out the Gospel values of compassion and kindness. Help us to choose the narrow door of Jesus and not the wide door of our own convenience in true service. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Day 6**

**17<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Like Monsignor Herculano Gonsalves be a Messenger of  
Compassion**

**Sr. Godwina Pereira HC**

**Opening Hymn:** With Joyful Lips D-27 Whatsoever you do

**Introduction:** Dear Sisters in Christ, today we gather for the Novena in gratitude and prayer to commemorate the 75th death anniversary of Monsignor Herculano Gonsalves, a true messenger of compassion. As the founder of the first Congregation for Women Religious in Goa, he dedicated his life to serving women and children in distress, reflecting Christ's boundless love and mercy. Msgr. Herculano in his words, actions and letters, encouraged us to reject selfishness and indifference and instead embrace a life of love, service, and empathy. Inspired by his example, let us pray that we too may become messengers of compassion, bringing hope and healing to those in need.

**Opening Prayer:** Loving Lord, our Founder Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves was a true messenger of compassion, who cared for the least of his brethren, responding to the needs of others, and serving as a father to the orphans. May his example stir our hearts to be more loving, selfless, and dedicated to those who need us most. Fill us with Your Spirit so that we, too, may be channels of Your mercy.

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 25: 35-40 (“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”)

*(Pause for silent reflection.)*

**Reflection:** Now, let us reflect on Msgr. Herculano's Life and Mission:

Msgr. Herculano saw the suffering of the vulnerable and took action. He did not just feel pity; he acted with love and care, providing shelter, education, and dignity to those in need. Today, we are called to follow his legacy - to open our hearts to the suffering around us, to be Christ's hands and feet in the world, and to serve selflessly.

Fr. Herculano lived out the Gospel by dedicating his life to serving others. Let us reflect on how we, too, can be messengers of compassion in our daily lives:

- His care for the least of his brethren – Do we reach out to the poor, the sick, and the abandoned with love and dignity?
- His sensitivity to the needs of others – Are we aware of those who need our help, comfort, and support?
- His concern for family life – Do we nurture love and unity in our Communities?
- A man far ahead of his times – Are we courageous enough to break barriers and stand up for what is right?
- A God-sent 'Substitute Father' to the orphans – Are we willing to make sacrifices for the well-being of others, just as Msgr. Herculano sold his property to rebuild the orphanage?

**(Silent Reflection)**

### **Prayer of the Faithful**

Response: *Lord make us messengers of compassion*

1. For the Church: **Symbol: Dove (Peace & the Holy Spirit)**  
Lord, may Your Church be a beacon of compassion, spreading Your love to all who suffer and are in need, especially the poor and abandoned. For this, let us pray to the Lord.
2. For World Leaders: **Symbol: Scales (Justice & Fairness)**  
Loving God, guide our leaders to act with wisdom and compassion. May they govern with justice, care for the poor, and protect the dignity of every person. For this, let us pray to the Lord.
3. For the Sick and Suffering: **Symbol: Hands (Healing & Comfort)**  
God of Mercy, embrace those who are sick, lonely, or burdened. Through our words and actions, may we be instruments of

Your healing and love. For this, let us pray to the Lord.

4. For Those Who Care for Others: **Symbol: Heart (Love & Service)**

Lord, bless doctors, nurses, caregivers, and all who serve others in times of need. May their hands bring comfort, and their hearts reflect Your kindness. For this, let us pray to the Lord.

5. For our Congregation and our Community: **Symbol: Candle (Light & Hope)**

Lord make us messengers of compassion in our families, workplaces, and communities. May we as Handmaids of Christ, follow the example of Mother Mary and our Founder and reach out to those in need. For this, let us pray to the Lord.

Loving Father, hear these prayers we place before You. Fill us with the same selfless love that guided Msgr. Herculano to be instruments of Your compassion as we call out to you in the words Jesus taught us. **Our Father**

### **Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father, You filled the heart of Msgr. Herculano with deep compassion for those in distress. Inspired by his life, we ask for the grace to be more compassionate and self-giving. Help us to see Your face in those who suffer and give us the courage to serve them with joy and humility. Help us to be instruments of Your love, to serve with humility, and to bring hope to the suffering. May we, like our Founder, become messengers of Your mercy and compassion in the world. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

**Closing Hymn:** With Joyful Lips No. N 29 Here I am Lord.

**Day 7**  
**18<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

## **LIKE MSGR. HERCULANO BE A MESSENGER OF TRUTH**

**Sr. Joanita Fernandes**

**Introduction:** To be Messengers of Truth is a call to action that encourages individuals to embody and spread honesty and transparency in their actions and words. Our Founder, who was called by God to be a messenger of truth, was an individual driven by a deep commitment to honesty, transparency, and integrity. Our Founder was a man of vision and dedicated his work to upholding the values of truth in every aspect of his earthly journey. He faced many challenges but remained firm in his moral principles and inspired others to seek and speak the truth.

Now let us listen to the **Word of God Jn 14: 6**

**Reflection:** When Jesus declares "I am the way, the truth, and the life," He reveals the reality that He Himself is the truth & the life. Jesus is the Ultimate source of truth, guiding us, not only to understand God's will, but also to experience the fullness of life through Him. By following Jesus, we find the real path of truth, freedom, purpose, and a relationship with God.

### **Prayer of the Faithful**

Let our response be: *Lord lead us to the truth*

- 1) We pray for the church leaders that they may always be faithful messengers of truth, proclaiming the gospel with clarity. With a strong faith, may they lead others to the truth, guiding Christ's flock on the path of righteousness, for this we pray to the Lord. **Response**
- 2) We pray for the world leaders and those in authority that they may seek and uphold the truth in their decisions and actions. May they lead the people they govern with justice and integrity, working for the common good of all people. For this we pray to the Lord. **Response**

- 3) We pray for our Superior General, Councillors and Superiors of each Community. Like our Founder may they continue to live their vocation with deep faith, love and dedication. May their lives be a shining example of service, compassion and humility, bringing the light of Christ to each Sister in the Community and all those they encounter. For this we pray to the Lord. **Response**
  
- 4) We specially pray for our Sisters who give their dedicated service in mission areas. Like our Founder may they too have a deep love and zeal for mission work and be blessed with perseverance and endurance. May they be guided by the Holy Spirit in the work of proclaiming the Good News as messengers of truth. For this we pray to the Lord. **Response**
  
- 5) We pray for ourselves that we may have the courage to live in the truth of Christ, standing firm in our faith and speaking the truth in love, even when it is difficult. For this we pray to the Lord. **Response**

### **Our Father**

#### **Concluding Prayer**

Lord to be *Messengers of Truth* is a challenging call to each one of us. Standing for the truth requires courage and determination in the face of opposition. Like our Founder Msgr. Herculano, who led by example, we are called to lead others as messengers of truth. May our adherence to the truth, prompt others to do likewise thereby creating a society that upholds values of sincerity, freedom and truth. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord Amen.

**Concluding Hymn:** Gaionancho Jhelo No. B – 2 Amen Amen

**Day 8**  
**19<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**LIKE MSGR. HERCULANO, BE A MESSENGER OF  
HUMILITY**

**Sr. Dorothy D'Souza**

**Opening Hymn:** Let us begin our prayer service by singing a hymn from With Joyful Lips No. P-3

**Introduction:** We are '*Pilgrims of HOPE*' is the key phrase of our Jubilee Year. We have also begun the season of Lent which is a season of grace bringing us new hope. Thank you Lord, for your countless blessings and for entrusting us with the mission to share your Good News wherever we are placed, with all those we encounter in our ministry.

Keeping Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves as a beacon of Hope before our eyes, today we have gathered here to appreciate the life of our holy Founder, to reflect on it, make it our own and to pray for his sainthood which he rightly deserves. Let us silently pray to the Holy Spirit to guide us during this Prayer Service (Pause) ....

Our Founder's missionary work and his entire life was based on the virtue of HUMILITY. Following Jesus who emptied himself and took the nature of a slave, our Founder emptied all his earthly riches, the earnings of his daily toil, labour and sacrifices for uplifting the orphans, poor children and women in distress.

Our Founder loved the virtue of humility and by practicing this virtue, he always preferred to remain hidden behind his great works.

**Let us now listen to the Word of God. 1 Peter 5:5-6**

Let us pause for silent reflection on the Word of God.

**Let us take a glimpse into our Founder's life as we listen to some incidents.**

1. Our Founder was a distinct priest with various qualities, especially his great dedication and humility for the sake of others.

2. On Maundy Thursday of the year 1893, our Founder preached his first sermon on Humility at Calangute Church, which was highly appreciated by his parishioners. What he preached on that day he practiced in his whole life, leaving a magnificent example for all of us.

3. He carried out his work and responsibilities with much patience.

4. He always took Mother Mary as a refuge, guide and model.

5. He was a friend to the poor, to the girl child, to women in distress and to the orphans.

6. He lived without comforts.

7. Our Founder was blessed with a magnanimous heart, like that of a pelican who sacrifices itself to give life to others.

8. For the maintenance and development of our Congregation, our Founder chose to lead a life of poverty and to die like a pauper. He is rightly called a MENDICANT in red buttons!

9. Our Founder passed away on 21st March at 1:00 p.m. in *penury* but with the greatest tranquility and with a smile of the just.

- Let us pause to appreciate, acknowledge and imbibe the SANCTITY of our Founder as we silently pray that the Church leaders may acknowledge his holiness and grant the required permission to initiate the Cause of his Sainthood.....(pause)
- Let us now pray silently for our Congregation, for our Superior General Sr.Faria Baretto and the General Team, our Superiors and each Sister of our Congregation, for our Departed Sisters, our Benefactors, our Children in the orphanage and boardings, our Staff and Students in schools and other Centres, our Hostelites, our Senior Citizens, our Helpers, our Parishioners and all those we encounter in our ministry .....(pause)

Let us place all these intentions in the hands of our Heavenly Father as we recite the Lord's Prayer. **Our Father**

**Concluding Prayer:** Lord be the inspirer of all our thoughts, words and actions. Help us to practice the virtue of humility so dear to our Founder, in our communities and in our places of work. Mother Mary you were the true model of humility. Teach us to follow your way as humble Handmaids of Christ.

Dear Jesus, our greatest desire is that our Founder Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves *fame of sanctity*, his *virtuous life* and *power of intercession* may be acknowledged by each and every Sister of our Congregation and all the people of our land. May each one of us make every effort to make him better known and loved by speaking to people about his holiness and showing by our very lives, that we are his daughters who live his charism. May this in turn help the Church leadership to move forward to take up the Cause of his Canonization.

**Conclusion:** Conclude by playing the Song *Lhanvik Padri Herculan* from youtube or sing any appropriate hymn.

**Day 9**

**20<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**LIKE MSGR. HERCULANO, BE A MESSENGER OF  
PEACE**

**Sr. Bernadette Furtado**

**Introduction:**

Dear Sisters,

In this world where nations are fighting for power and humanity is struck by war and violence, God our Father calls us to be instruments of peace. We are in the Jubilee Year and also preparing to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> death Anniversary of our Founder. Inspired by the life of our Founder, we as his daughters have a mission, to be the messengers of peace in our communities, our work place, and the society that we serve. 'True peace is granted by God to hearts that are disarmed of selfishness, hostility and anxiety for the future, replacing them with generosity, forgiveness and hope for a better world' says Pope Francis in his message on the World Day of Peace. Let us pray that our hearts may be filled with the peace that Christ gives and may we radiate this same peace to those around us.

**Hymn:** Let there be love,.. peace (With Joyful Lips D -121

**Word of God: Jn 14:27**

Let us take a moment to reflect on the Word of God.

Do I have peace within myself? (silence) ..... How do I talk to others? (silence)

How do I handle my work, my apostolate? (silence) ..... How are my relationships? (silence)

Where do you run when you need peace? Is your first response to go looking for a person or pick your phone to make a call? ..... Before you do, run into the shelter of His name. When you find Him, you will find *peace* because *HE* is peace.

Jesus offers us His peace. Our Fr. Founder experienced peace from Jesus as he spent hours before His presence in the Blessed

Sacrament. His relationship with Jesus demonstrated the same peace to others. He wanted his Sisters to grow in relationship with Jesus and to live in harmony with one another in the community.

No community is a perfect community, as no family is a perfect family. There will be troubles but my response to situations, crises that I encounter, will be a witness to others of my relationship with God who grants me His peace.

St. James in his letter reminds us that the quarrels which arise among us come from our inner longings which make war within ourselves.... What are my inner longings? (silence)

Is my longing aligned with the will of God?

***Hymn: Make me a channel of your peace With Joyful Lips D-51***

**Prayer of the Faithful:**

*Response: Lord make us your instruments of peace*

1. We pray for our Superior General and the Councillors that they may be beacons of peace and unity to build communities of peace and that their decisions may be guided by the light of the Holy Spirit.
2. We pray that God may enlighten the leaders of the nations to work to bring His peace to our troubled world.
3. We pray for each Sister of our Congregation that we may follow the example of our Founder and live in peace as Sisters in the true spirit and help each other to grow in relationship with God and others.
4. We pray for all our sick Sisters that through the intercession of our Founder, God may heal them of their sicknesses and may they experience true peace of body mind and spirit.
5. We remember and pray for all our departed Sisters that they may enjoy the eternal peace of heavenly bliss.
6. We pray for those who are no longer members of our Congregation that they may be blessed and live a happy life.
7. We pray for our families that God may help them in all their needs.

**Our Father...**

**Concluding Prayer:**

Lord we thank you for the exemplary life of our Founder who lived out your call to be a messenger of peace. Grant us through the intercession of our Fr. Founder, your grace to bring peace into our communities, neighbourhood and all those we interact with. May your peace be reflected in our words and actions. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Day 10**  
**21<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

**75<sup>th</sup> DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR FOUNDER  
MSGR. HERCULANO GONSALVES**

**Sr. Paloma Martins**

**Introduction:** Sonvsthechem Git could be sung or played

The following skit could be enacted, modified or read slowly in a reflective manner.

Dear Sisters,

As we gather today to celebrate the 75th Death Anniversary of our Founder, Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves, we remember his remarkable life of service and dedication to the marginalized and underprivileged.

(The scene opens with the oldest and youngest Sister of our Congregation, namely, Sr. Serafica and Sr. Ronita sitting in the Community Room.)

**Narrator:** Today, the Sisters of the Convent gather to reflect on the life and legacy of Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves.

Sr. Ronita: Sr. Serafica, you are privileged to have seen our Founder Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves. I've heard that Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves made great sacrifices to care for the orphans and children. Can you tell me more about that?

Sr. Serafica: Yes, child. Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves, Our Pai, was a man of great generosity and selflessness. He built an orphanage to provide a home for the orphans, with help from some generous souls from Calangute. When the orphanage building collapsed, the children burst in tears. He could not bear to see their tears so he sold his share of his ancestral

property and built the orphanage anew.

(A flashback scene appears, showing Msgr. Gonsalves signing over the property deed.)

Sr.Serafica: But that was only the beginning. When the orphanage faced financial difficulties, Msgr. Herculano Gonsalves took it upon himself to make personal sacrifices.

(A flashback scene appears, showing our Founder living a simple life and depriving himself of basic needs, showing him tired but smiling as he walks on to save money)

Sr. Serafica: He emptied himself, depriving himself of even the most basic needs, so that he could spare funds to care for his orphans and Sisters. Yes he would write letters and reply to letters at the back of used paper, he walked instead of taking a bus to save a coin or two, all so he could have some more funds to spare for his children and Sisters.

Sr. Ronita: That's amazing. His attitude of selflessness and generosity is truly inspiring.

Sr. Serafica: Yes, child. Our Founder's life is a testament to the power of selfless service. May we all be inspired by his example.

**Narrator:** As the Sisters reflect on the life of Monsignor Herculano Gonsalves, they are reminded of the importance of selfless service and generosity.

Sr. Ronita: May we all follow in his footsteps, and may our lives be a testament to the power of love and compassion. For the holy life that our Founder lived, we are certain that he is in heavenly glory now for the past 75 years. But his hidden life of sanctity needs to be acknowledged by the Church authorities. It is our ardent desire to see him officially raised to the altar and proclaimed a Saint for all of us to follow.

Sr. Serafica: Yes child, when each Sister of our Congregation tries her best to live like our Founder, he will surely be proclaimed a Saint. Come now, let us pray for this dream to become a reality.

(The scene ends with Sr. Serafica and Sr. Ronita praying together.)

**Conclusion:** Play the Founder's Song sung by Fr. Seville Antao OFM Cap