



OBITUARY OF

SISTER SCHOLASTICA CARILLO, OSB

March 15, 1917 – December 19, 2007

Josephina Carillo was born in San Sebastian, Spain on March 15, 1917. She had 2 brothers. She left Spain on October 12, 1948 and entered the Benedictine Order in New Norcia, near Perth, Australia. On July 7, 1949 she became a novice and received the name Sr. Scholastica. After her first profession in 1950, she was sent to study midwifery and was then assigned to Kalumburu in 1954.

Sister Escolastica stayed in Kalumburu for 2 years and wanted to stay forever but was sent to Bindoon Boys Town near Perth—moving between Bindoon and New Norcia orphanage for some years. She taught the children sewing and cooking. In 1965 her dream of returning to Kalumburu to her beloved aboriginals became a reality. She was occupied with teaching the children, nursing, assisting as midwife—with long nights in the clinic, cooking, sewing, baking, caring for fowls, looking after the church.

Sister Escolastica in her later years became famous for her motor bike which zoomed around the aboriginal settlement amongst the people who loved her and delighted to see her. She was also the favourite of tourist-photographers. Because she had devoted her life unselfishly to the aboriginals she received The Order of Australia Medal in 1995. Sister Escolastica suffered from many illnesses and took 7 different tablets every morning and evening. She used to say “these tablets are very clever, I take them all together and they know where to go!” She was really a very jolly and lovely person.

On December 7, 2007, Sr. Escolastica had a very bad fall and was taken to the Wyndham hospital. After some days stay in the hospital, she asked the doctor if she could be allowed to go back to Kalumburu before Christmas. The doctor said if she would be able to bath herself then her wish would be granted. Upon hearing it, Sr. Escolastica immediately made all efforts to take a bath without the assistance from the nurses. The doctor allowed her to go back to Kalumburu on December 18. Obviously, Sr. Escolastica was really happy to be back and everybody was also delighted to see her. The following day, December 19, she said her pain was unbearable and no comfortable position could make her at ease. Fr. Anscar, the Parish Priest, was called to give the anointing to Sr. Escolastica. Sr. Visitacion Ciudad, Sr. Catalina Dery, Lex, the nurse and Fr. Anscar were praying the rosary when Sr. Escolastica died peacefully at 11:25 a.m. of December 19, 2007

*May the good Lord reward Sr. Escolastica for her selfless service to the aboriginals of Kalumburu, Western Australia.*

M. Mary John Mananzan, OSB, Prioress, Manila Priory