

# **A TRIBUTE TO ETHELVINA**

## **LAY PARTNER OF**

### **VIRAR COMMUNITY**

*"Death is not the greatest loss in life. The greatest loss is what dies inside us while we live."*

**When I first encountered Ethelvina in 2009, I was in Virar Community. She comes to my mind as a warm, loving, yet a disciplinarian person. She looked after her bed-ridden mother till her last breath without ever complaining about it. Her words were "It is the will of God, if I have to struggle, no blaming God or anyone".**

**By profession, Ethelvina was a teacher at Holy Name School, Colaba. When her mother fell ill, there was nobody to look after her, since she was the only daughter. She took voluntary retirement and stayed at home to look after her till her death. She had a deep trust in God and she did not blame anyone for anything. She did not have much savings and did not spend anything for herself.**

**She loved the poor and she took free tuitions for backward children even though she herself was not financially sound. When the church was being built, she went everyday to supervise every minute detail of the work being done. She was a very active member in the church. She took catechism for first communicants. Her love for the poor was so great that she went all the way to Nepal during the earthquake and helped the sisters to be with the children. Despite all the hardships she went through, she was a very giving person not only throughout her life, but even after her death, she donated her body to help others.**