

**Mataji Gauribrata Puri Devi** is President and Spiritual Leader of the spiritual headquarters of Sri Saradeshwari Ashram, known as "Mothers Trust Mission Ashram," serving women and children in Ganges, USA and India since 1973.

*Written submission*

I was Swami Bhashyananda's attendant from 1973-1983 in the Vedanta Society in Chicago. Swami Asheshanandaji Maharaj was very near to myself and others when he visited the Chicago Center and Vivekananda Monastery in Ganges, MI. Only after speaking to Swami Asheshanandaj Maharaji and Swami Sarvagatanandaji Maharaj did I follow their advice and move to the Vivekananda Monastery in Ganges, MI in 1983 to help begin the women's work which they saw unfolding in Ganges Township, inspired by Swami Bhashyanandaji Maharaj, my Guru.

Swami Asheshanandaji Maharaj would tell us stories of Sannyasini Gauri Mata Puri Devi and how I had the same character and "mischief in my eyes" as she would have when she would pull pranks on the Swamis at the Udbodhan. Swami Asheshanandaji Maharaj would be attending on Swami Saradanandaji Maharaj and Sannyasini Gauri Mata would come dressed as a monk and knock on the door. Swami Asheshanandaji Maharaj would let the monk in and when Swami Saradanandaji Maharaj would come to meet the monk, Sannyasini Gauri Mata would pull off her turban and her long hair would fall down and they would laugh whole heartedly! Only later, after Sannyasini Gauri Mata would return to the ashram Sri Sri Saradeshwari Ashram, would Swami Asheshanandaji receive a thrashing for not recognizing her. Pulling such pranks would be great fun for them.

Please accept our gratitude and love for this offering [sixteen copies of *Remembering Sri Sarada Devi's Disciple: Swami Aseshananda As We Knew Him*] and yes, they will be received as if Swami Aseshanandaji himself would be coming to our "open doors." We will welcome the books with a morning puja before distribution. On behalf of the residents and old and new devotees we personally thank you for your loving respect and honor to your Guru.

In their light and love eternally serving.

*Submitted Winter 2011*