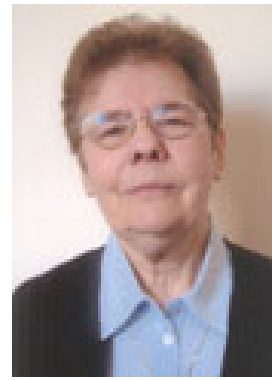


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Dearest Sisters,

We just received the news that early this morning one of the sisters of our London, England community passed to eternity:

AGIUS SR. ELIZABETH
born in Tarxien (La Valletta), Malta on 14 September 1937.

Sr. Elizabeth returned to her community at about 4:00 p.m. yesterday after a short stay in the hospital deemed necessary to monitor the serious heart problems she had been experiencing for some time. Feeling tired, she went to bed earlier than usual. Earlier today, when the sisters returned home from morning Mass and noticed that Sr. Elizabeth was still not up and around, they went to check on her only to find that she had already handed her life over to our heavenly Father.

Sr. Elizabeth's life was very simple but overflowing with apostolic fruit. She entered the Congregation in the community of Rome, Italy on 23 June 1955. Like our other Maltese vocations, she spent her aspirancy in Rome, carrying out the technical apostolate. Afterward, she was sent to Siena to help the sisters of that community diffuse the Word of God to families and collectivities. She returned to Rome to make her novitiate, concluding this stage of her formation with her first profession on 30 June 1959. Two years ago, she joyfully celebrated her Golden Jubilee of religious profession along with her numerous co-novices.


As a young professed, Sr. Elizabeth was assigned to the community of Langley, England and afterward to Widnes and Birmingham, where she continued the diffusion apostolate with great generosity and love. The chronicles of the times tell us that the spiritual fruits of the "propaganda" apostolate were very satisfying, especially the many conversions that took place thanks to the apostolic fervor of these young "urban missionaries."

In 1969, Sr. Elizabeth was assigned to the book center apostolate—a mission which she carried out for the rest of her life, primarily in Glasgow and Liverpool. A hard worker, she was very attentive to the needs of the people and strove to cultivate good relations with the many clients who sought her out for a word of advice, suggestions as to what to read, or problems for which they asked her prayers. We can say that up to yesterday—that is, for the past 42 years—with the exception of a year of updating in Alba, Italy—Sr. Elizabeth fulfilled her Pauline vocation in the book center with serenity and a profound sense of responsibility toward every person who stepped through the door. We are sure that she carried in her heart the message Maestra Thecla addressed to her on the back of a holy card dated "Christmas 1961": "Yes, I am praying for you. I am asking the Lord to make you a saint—a great saint! May you dedicate the coming year entirely to God! Be always cheerful and serene. Let us pray for one another. With deep affection and heartfelt best wishes...."

A few months ago, Sr. Elizabeth serenely accepted a transfer from the Glasgow, Scotland book center, which she loved very much, to our Kensington center, located in downtown London. She was fully aware that her heart problem was life-threatening but the physical disturbances she experienced did not slow her down or cause her to focus on herself. Instead, she continued to donate herself to others, serenely carrying out the book center apostolate and lending a hand with various community duties as she waited for the Lord's "hour" to strike.

And today, the Feast of St. Bridget of Sweden, Co-patroness of Europe, the Divine Gardener clipped the "vine" of Sr. Elizabeth's life so as to transplant her into the garden of the saints and multiply the fruits of her life ten, a hundred and a thousandfold. In her smallness and simplicity, Sr. Elizabeth was called home today to gaze upon the face of the Lord and allow him to enfold her in his light.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 23 July 2011