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Dearest Sisters,

We received word that just after midday today (local time), the Divine Master visited the Rest Home of the Sisters of Nazareth of London, Great Britain, to gently take by the hand and lead to the joy of eternal life our sister:

BURKE MARY – SR. MARY PATRICIA
born in Dublin, Ireland on 15 February 1932.

Through the simplicity of her life, Sr. M. Patricia diffused among us an abundance of goodness, generosity, transparency and love. She entered the Congregation in Rome on 18 October 1953, when the Pauline presence was not yet established in Great Britain. Because of the fragility of her health, it was necessary for her to interrupt her novitiate and be admitted to our Albano clinic. She often said that she had been welcomed to Italy with great love and that she was proud to have always felt herself under the protection of Prima Maestra Thecla. She recalled with joy that it was Maestra Thecla herself who took her under her wing and looked after her.

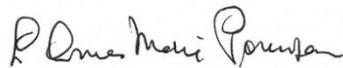
Sr. M. Patricia made her first profession in Rome on 30 June 1959. After spending a few years assisting our sick sisters at Albano, in 1962 she was assigned to the Langley community, Great Britain, where she worked with true professionalism for 22 consecutive years in the typography of the Communications Center of the Diocese of London. Afterward, she made a valuable contribution to the shipping department of our Delegation house and also lent a hand with various community services in which she was a true specialist.

In 1992, she was transferred to Glasgow (Scotland), where she devoted herself to book center work, in particular to shipping packages nationwide. She made sure that each package contain a simple message that could touch the hearts of the recipients. Sr. M. Patricia had a rare ability to prepare packages that were both strong and elegant...almost perfect! In fact, the customers themselves sent her their compliments! It seemed that she poured her soul into those packages, filling them with all the yearnings for good that she carried in her heart. In the book center, she established cordial relations with the laity, laying the foundations for a respectful and very effective apostolic collaboration. She was happy that the British Delegation was open to welcoming sisters from the different continents and she willingly encouraged their integration into the life of the community and its mission. Her good heart was truly universal...

In 2013, it was regretfully necessary for Sr. M. Patricia to leave the cozy little house in Glasgow and the Scottish people she loved so much: the discovery that she was suffering from intestinal cancer made it advisable for her to be transferred to the Delegation house in Langley. But even in this community and in her poor state of health, she continued to joyfully give her all. She was happy that it was still possible for her to help out in the stock room by means of small but precious apostolic activities like the preparation of packages of pictures, cards with their respective envelopes, etc.

And Sr. M. Patricia loved to tell stories! She never tired of recounting her experiences, especially those of her youth. She willingly talked about what was happening in her family, to whom she was very devoted. She was a person who loved others very much and whom others deeply loved in return... Even the medical and nursing staff of the caregiving facility in which she lived the last year of her life could not believe that the Lord would call her to himself so quickly. In fact, until yesterday she participated in daily Mass and ate a regular lunch. She left us in silence, without disturbing anyone: *she simply closed her eyes here on earth and opened them to heaven* (M. Thecla). It is wonderful to think that Maestra Thecla herself once more took Sr. M. Patricia under her wing. And we know that our dear sister was certainly ready to accept the invitation to arise and set out to enter the heart of God.

Affectionately,


sr Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 4 February 2020