

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
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Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that at 6:00 p.m. today (local time), a member of our community in Bandra (Mumbai), India was called to heaven to live forever with the Lord:

CHATHANADETH LILY THERESA – SR. MARY IGNAZIA
born in Allepey (K.S.), India on 1 August 1937.

Sr. M. Ignazia was a simple and good person, who loved her vocation very much and joyfully dedicated all her energies to the Pauline mission in spite of her fragile health. For her, “the day of the Lord” that the Apostle Paul calls us to reflect on in the daily liturgies of this period turned out to be today, and the blinding glory of Christ now shines on her in all her littleness and humility.

Sr. M. Ignazia entered the Congregation in Mumbai, India on 14 June 1956, after obtaining her high school diploma. She underwent her initial formation and made her novitiate in this community, concluding this stage of her Pauline journey with her first profession on 30 June 1960. As a Junior, she helped Sr. Albina Baruzzi and other sisters to open the Bangalore community—what she called “a marvelous experience.” In that community, she carried out the apostolate of capillary and collective diffusion and helped to organize Gospel Days and Bible Weeks. After her perpetual profession (30 June 1965), she continued to dedicate herself to the propaganda and book center apostolates in Mumbai, Bangalore and Calcutta.

In 1973, she was sent to New Delhi to work in the diocesan communications office. Following this, she was assigned to the Bangalore book center and from there to the Mumbai typography, where she worked with great generosity at the linotype machine. In 1978 she returned to the book center apostolate, this time in the community of Goa. In 1985, she was once again called to work in a diocesan communications center—this time in Secunderabad, where she also helped out in our local book center.

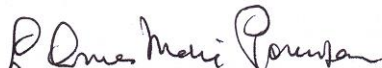
Returning to Mumbai, Sr. M. Ignazia was asked to duplicate videos and to manage the diocesan library, after which she was transferred to Nagpur. Although her health was always very fragile, she docilely and conscientiously followed the treatments prescribed for her by her doctors.

She was a member of the Mumbai community from 2000 onward except for a brief stay in Bangalore while the Mumbai house was being rebuilt. Sr. M. Ignazia was a quiet but sociable presence in the community—a person with a humorous bent who spread peace and serenity around her and who was deeply loved by the other sisters. She was always ready to lend a hand at the reception desk, in the shipping department, and in numerous household services. In her spare time, she also liked to make rosaries and other devotional objects.

Sr. M. Ignazia learned through personal experience how to peacefully accept the humiliations resulting from her poor health, which in these last years steadily declined due to a severe form of Alzheimer’s disease, in addition to Parkinson’s disease and diabetes. She was lovingly assisted in the infirmary wing of the community, where she quietly witnessed to the mystery of God at work in her life.

For the past 9 months, Sr. M. Ignazia was confined to her bed, apparently unaware of what was going on around her. In 1976, during a particularly trying time, she had confided to M. Ignazia Balla with profound faith in Divine Providence: “The Lord has permitted and foreseen everything so as to help and guide me.” We are sure that when Sr. M. Ignazia was still aware of what was happening to her, she willingly accepted this final test from the hands of God, our good Father, allowing him to purify her and make her beautiful in his sight. Now that she has been welcomed into the *land of the living* (cited in today’s responsorial psalm), we are sure that she is already contemplating his immense goodness.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 5 September 2017