

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ  
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
CASA GENERALIZIA  
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25  
00163 Roma  
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that at about 9:45 p.m. today (local time), the Lord visited our community of Mumbai, India to call to himself our sister:

**MANTHRA THERESA – SR. M. JAMES**  
**born in Kannavatta (Changanacherry/Kerala), India on 20 July 1936.**

A few days ago, our sisters of Mumbai gathered in the room of Sr. M. James to celebrate her birthday with a special Mass and offer her their best wishes. Sr. M. James had been in bed for several months, suffering from heart problems and, in fact, her death today was caused by complications connected to this condition.

The life of this dear sister was rich in apostolic and formation experiences. She entered the Congregation in the community of Mumbai on 24 Feb. 1954. After carrying out the diffusion apostolate for several years in Calcutta, she returned to Mumbai to make her novitiate, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1959. As a young professed, Sr. M. James worked with great zeal in the technical apostolate, where she ran a small printing press. At the same time, she also served as assistant to the mistress of aspirants. Sr. M. James made her “course of perfection” in Rome, followed by her perpetual profession in the presence of Bl. James Alberione in the Queen of Apostles Sanctuary on 30 June 1964.

Upon her return to India, she was placed in charge of the pre-novices and juniors, and at the same time served as errand-runner and propagandist in the Mumbai community. Sr. M. James was the first Indian Daughter of St. Paul to obtain driver’s license and to carry out the service of driver. Our sisters remember the heavy packages of books she transported from one stockroom to another and from one city to another, never complaining about all the physical strain and fatigue involved. In 1972, she was appointed superior of the Calcutta community. Following this, she studied theology in Goa and in 1976 she was sent as a missionary to Malaysia. On that occasion, she wrote joyfully: “I am very happy and I thank the Lord for this grace! I am delighted that I will be working alongside an ‘older sister’ (Sr. M. Cleofe Zanoni), who has dedicated herself so tirelessly to the Lord.” In the community of Selangor, Malaysia, Sr. M. James carried out the vocation and diffusion apostolates and also collaborated with the diocesan social communications office—a work she would also carry out in Secunderabad, India. In 1981, she was asked to take charge of the audiovisual sector in Mumbai. In view of this, she took a specialized course in this field in Lyon, France and then in Ottawa, Canada. She also spent several months in our FSP tape-recording studio in Boston, U.S.A., learning this aspect of the sector. In 1984, Sr. M. James returned to India and took charge of the audiovisual sector. Later in her life, she worked in our book centers of Goa, Bangalore, Shillong and Secunderabad.

Wherever Sr. M. James went, she stood out for her enthusiasm, apostolic zeal and love for the young women she helped initiate to the Pauline life. Her entire being radiated her joy at belonging to the Lord and proclaiming him through the instruments of social communication. Sr. M. James was a very active and friendly person who wanted to carry out every duty entrusted to her to the best of her ability. She felt very strongly that the FSPs should receive the training they need to carry out the apostolate well. She wrote in 1975: “The community is important. Our instruments are important, but the most important thing of all is to prepare ourselves well for our mission.”

Last November, Sr. M. James was transferred to the infirmary of the Thecla Merlo community, Mumbai because of the steady decline of her health. Several years ago, she summed up her religious life with the following words, which have the flavor of a last will and testament: “The Lord is great. He has worked miracles in our life. I thank and praise him for all he has accomplished in me and through me. May Mary keep us always united to her Son, Jesus.” Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Vicar General

Rome, 30 July 2010