



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

On the memorial of the apostles St. Timothy and St. Titus, in the infirmary of our community of Mumbai (India), at 9:00 a.m. (local time), one of our sisters finished her *course* of the Pauline journey:

MONTEIRO PAULINE JANE sr MARIA THERESA
born in Hyderabad (India) on October 7, 1936

She belonged to a beautiful Indian family that lived in Hyderabad, a region of the great metropolis of Karachi that in 1947, following the partition of the British colony of India, became part of the new Islamic state of Pakistan. In this situation, she too, together with her loved ones, had to emigrate to return to Mangalore, the land of her family's origin. From her family, one filled with affection and a sense of responsibility, she inherited a deep faith, a solid Christian and human education, and a strong sensitivity to the needs of the most disadvantaged.

She entered the congregation in the house in Mumbai (India) on November 10, 1959. At the conclusion of her time of formation and her year of novitiate, she made her first profession in Mumbai on June 30, 1964. Five years later, on the occasion of her perpetual profession, she wrote to the Superior General: "The congregation has given me a solid formation and I am very grateful for it... I recognize my weakness and my nothingness but I entrust myself to the Lord, to his mercy, his infinite love and his infinite wisdom... I have a great desire to be a good Pauline...".

She soon had the opportunity to experience the joys and labors of itinerant diffusion in Mangalore, in the heavily populated city of Calcutta, in the bookstore in Karachi (Pakistan) and to offer a valuable contribution to the community of Mumbai in her assignment as cook. It was precisely this service, which she carried out for almost twenty non-consecutive years, that characterized much of her Pauline life. She was an excellent cook who put all her effort and creativity into creating new recipes to share with friends and acquaintances. She enjoyed working in the kitchen, preparing rich dishes for her sisters with imagination and love.

She paid particular attention to the poor and devoted her spare time to giving free lessons to the children of the neighborhood, instilling in them the principles of faith through catechesis. With a sense of responsibility and belonging, she dedicated herself for several years to various household services in the community of Ahmedabad and in that of Mumbai and for over ten years she offered a valuable contribution to the production of audio cassettes.

For about the last ten years, she experienced serious health problems, especially due to pulmonary ailments and respiratory deficiencies for which oxygen was regularly administered to her. But in spite of this, she found a way to continue her mission, taking advantage of every minute of the day to make rosaries, bracelets and other prayer aids. From her fingers emerged small masterpieces, fruit of her talent but also of her continuous, uninterrupted communication with God.

Her faith, her abandonment to Divine Providence, and her serene acceptance of illness were edifying. She never complained, but in every situation, she knew how to recognize the goodness of the Father who was preparing her to return to Himself. The sisters who were close to her testify to her maternal spirit, her "paolinità", her love for vocations and in particular her unceasing prayer for the young women in formation. Yesterday, she certainly rejoiced in the first profession of two young sisters to whom she leaves the testament of her life.

Sr M. Theresa was known for her tender affection for the Virgin Mary, Queen of the Apostles. It is consoling to imagine that it was precisely this Mother of ours who took her by the hand and led her into heaven to receive the reward promised to good apostles.

Affectionately,

Rome, 26 January 2021.


sr Anna Maria Parenzan