

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

We received the news that at 12:40 p.m. today, eve of the Lord's presentation in the Temple and the World Day Dedicated to Consecrated Life, Christ the Light visited our community of Mumbai, India, to called to the radiance of his eternal glory, our sister:

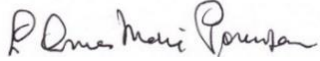
VADAKAPURACAL MARY – SR. MARINA
born in Nakapuzha (Thodupuzha, Kerala), India, on 8 December 1944.

In her letter requesting admission to perpetual profession, Sr. Marina wrote to the Superior General: "During these years I prayed, reflected and meditated about God's call. Now I have a clear vision of my vocation and have come to better understand its demands and responsibilities. At the same time, I have experienced my weakness and limitations in living up to it. I put my trust in God who called me, asking him for the grace to be faithful to my vows and to the spirit of my Congregation."

From her youth, Sr. Marina responded with maturity to the gift she had received by spreading kindness, goodness and compassion around her. She belonged to a deeply Christian family that gave the Church five women religious, one of whom became a Daughter of St. Paul. Inspired by profound convictions, she entered the Congregation in the house in Mumbai, India, on 18 Dec. 1965, at the age of twenty-one. After her initial formation, she had the opportunity to carry out the diffusion apostolate in the Diocese of Calcutta. She made her novitiate in Mumbai, concluding it with her first profession on 8 Sept. 1972. During her Juniorate, Sr. Marina resumed the apostolate of itinerant outreach in the huge cities of Bangalore, Calcutta and Shillong, and also had the chance to take courses in bookkeeping and typing. Following her perpetual profession in 1978, she traveled the streets of Bangalore, Secunderabad and Panjim (Goa), sowing seeds of the Gospel and numerous formative books wherever she went. She and the other members of her community were often away from the community for weeks at a time, facing many inconveniences and sacrifices in order to reach the most distant parts of the country so as to hold book displays in parishes and schools. An excellent driver, she was happy to exercise this skill in order to "give wings" to the Gospel.

Beginning in 1989, Sr. Marina helped to coordinate the FSP book centers in Goa, Calcutta, Mumbai and Bangalore. The book center apostolate gave her many opportunities to reveal her warm and sociable personality, as well as the friendliness, efficiency, and sensitivity with which the Lord had blessed her. While she was stationed in Bangalore, Sr. Marina was able to participate in a theological refresher course at a renowned Carmelite Institute. Her ability to approach clients was amazing: she learned their names and always welcomed them with a simple, open and joyful smile that made them feel comfortable and at home in the book center. Her service in carrying out this apostolate was truly tireless; in fact, the other sisters likened her to a candle that is consumed by giving itself. But Sr. Marina was very aware of her own poverty and confided: "God uses me precisely because I am weak. The more I understand his love, the more I yearn to give myself to him."

In 2015, she returned to Mumbai to lend a helping hand in the recently expanded and renovated book center, which radiated a multi-cultural atmosphere. Sr. Marina was very happy there and continued to lovingly spend all her energies for God. But a few months ago, various medical tests revealed that she was suffering from lung cancer, which had already spread to her brain. Sr. Marina realized that the Lord was asking her to carry out the Pauline mission in another way: the path of self-offering and serene acceptance of his will. She surrendered herself to Jesus Master, dedicating her life to him unconditionally and praying that many people might be reached by his Word of light and salvation. And today, her ardent hope was fulfilled when the Lord led her into heaven, where she now dwells in the splendor of his glory for all eternity. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 1 February 2024