



Dear Sisters,

In the early hours of this day dedicated to the Virgin of the Visitation, in the community of Mumbai (India), one of our sisters was called by the Lord to rise and hasten to him:

**PICARDO HELEN MARIA – SR. MARIE**  
**born in Barkur (Mangalore, India) on 28 February 1947**

She was a cheerful, jovial, and welcoming sister, who enriched our communities with love, great apostolic drive and a strong ecclesial sense. She recalled with joy the vocational invitation that Sr. M. Amabilis Esposito had extended to her. She wrote: “From the first moment I met her in my village in Barkur, she was an inspiration to me. She had come to the village to invite girls to join the Daughters of St Paul. Today I am a Daughter of St Paul precisely because of her invitation”.

She entered the congregation in the house in Mumbai (India), on 19 June 1966. After a period of formation and apostolic experience in Panjim (Goa), she spent her novitiate in Mumbai, which concluded with the taking of her first vows on 8 September 1972. The communities and dioceses of Mangalore, Bangalore, Calcutta and Secunderabad appreciated her dynamism in proclaiming the Gospel in schools, parishes and institutions from the very beginning.

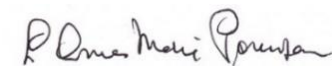
After her perpetual profession, pronounced in Mumbai on 8 September 1979, she continued her work in itinerant outreach, the book center and the shipping department. In 1985, she had the grace of collaborating with Sr M. Amabilis Esposito in the foundation of the Nagpur community. Soon after, she enthusiastically served in the book centers in Bangalore, Panjim (Goa) and Ahmedabad. In 1992, she began her long tenure as superior, highly esteemed for her pleasing sociability. First in Ahmedabad, then for two terms in Shillong and Nagpur, she left her mark of great missionary fervour, intelligent cooperation with the local Churches, and loving service to people of all ages, abundantly infusing her communities with good humour.

One of her interests was the culinary arts. She loved to prepare various appetizing dishes to make the sisters happy, fostering a joyful atmosphere.

In 2017, while she was superior of the Shillong community, she had to resign due to health problems and move to the provincialate in Mumbai. It was then that she was diagnosed with metastatic uterine cancer. For some time treatment was successful. She was able to resume responsibility for the kitchen in Mumbai, and in 2023, she left to work at the newly opened apostolic center in Lucknow. Last January, however, during the annual spiritual exercises, she underwent clinical examinations and was painfully surprised to learn that the cancer had spread to her vital organs. Since then, despite further surgeries, her physical condition progressively worsened. Nevertheless, although bedridden, she did not lose her joviality; she radiated peace and gratitude towards the medical staff and those who cared for her. The final call came in the middle of the night, and she readily welcomed the Bridegroom’s visit.

We give heartfelt thanks to this dear sister, because she taught us to weave relationships that generate life (Pope Francis). Following the example of Mary of Nazareth, she did not keep God’s consolation for herself: in the communities where she passed, she was a voice of peace, blessing and tenderness.

With affection.



*sr Anna Maria Parenzan*

Rome, 31 May 2024