



Dearest sisters,

News reached us that yesterday, in the community of Mumbai (India), at 8:40 p.m. (local time), one of our sisters was called to contemplate the beauty of God's face forever:

ITTIKUNNATH EUPHRASIA SR. MARIA ELIZABETH
born in Perumpilly (Verapoli, India) on January 7, 1932

Sr. M. Elizabeth was among the first young Indian women to be attracted to Pauline charism by the courageous witness of the missionaries who arrived in India in 1951. She joined the congregation in the house in Mumbai, India, on August 5, 1953. She soon devoted herself to spreading the Gospel to families and through book exhibits among a diverse population. The sisters recounted that on their way, with bags full of God's Word, they encountered few Catholics but many Hindus, Protestants, Parsis, and Muslims. All were impressed by what the young Paulines offered, especially how they offered God's Word. Some testified about their dynamic apostolic activity, "They go from door to door, from house to house, from street to street, for hours and hours, yesterday, today, tomorrow."

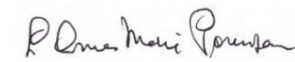
Sr. M. Elizabeth made her novitiate in Lipa, Philippines, where she pronounced her first vows on March 19, 1957. At that time, she wrote to the superior general, "I am ready to renounce myself totally ... I want, I heartily desire and promise to overcome all obstacles with the help of God's grace. Please pray for me that I may become a good Pauline."

Returning to India, she spent ten years in the Kolkata (Calcutta) community, devoting herself full-time to itinerant outreach. On March 19, 1964, she made her perpetual vows in Mumbai. On that occasion, she expressed her desire to place her whole life in the hands of the Lord and become *a true and holy Pauline*. In 1967, Sr. M. Elizabeth was appointed superior of the Panjim (Goa) community and later in New Delhi and Bangalore communities. For two terms, she served as provincial councilor: in 1969 (when she had the privilege of attending the Special Chapter in Rome) and in 1975, when she was also called to serve as provincial vicar. She was then in charge, on several occasions, of the bookstore and library in Bangalore and the apostolic centers in Shillong, Trivandrum, Nagpur, and New Delhi. For some time, she was also responsible for producing and storing audiovisuals in Mumbai.

Sr. M. Elizabeth is remembered as a loving, kind, thoughtful, balanced person, rich in compassion, active, and involved in community life and her spiritual journey. For some years, she suffered from a mild form of Alzheimer's disease that did not limit her ability to live peacefully by giving herself humbly and quietly in services compatible with her age. Until the end, she did not want to disturb anyone, and she surrendered serenely to God's will. Three months ago, she fell, and she began to decline gradually. Yesterday, surrounded by the affection and prayers of her sisters, Sr. M. Elizabeth took her final breath.

Thinking back to this sister's simple and faithful life, Pope Francis's words defining religious life naturally come to mind: consecrated life as *a story of beauty because the grace of God's face shines through it*. We thank Sr. M. Elizabeth because her life was a story of beauty, love, simplicity, and self-giving.

With affection,



sr Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, July 18, 2024