



Dearest Sisters,

Yesterday we received news from Pakistan that while with her family for a short vacation, the good and merciful Father suddenly called to Himself, our sister

YOUSAF AKHTER Sr. SHAMIM AGNES
born in Sialkot Pakistan (Lahore, Pakistan) on June 3, 1963

Sr. Shamim was among the first Pakistani sisters to join the congregation. She entered the community in Lahore on August 20, 1981, before the delegation was established, when the communities in Lahore and Karachi depended directly on the General Government. In Lahore, she lived her years of initial formation and novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on January 24, 1986. As a junior professed sister, she continued her cultural and religious formation with our sisters in Pasay City, Philippines. Upon returning to Lahore, she joyfully made her perpetual vows on January 25, 1991. On that very occasion, she expressed her deepest sentiments in a prayer addressed to our *loving Father*:

“Let me feel within myself, O my God, the same tender concern that You have for me. How profound is Your love, and how small is mine....” She later confided: “Living through this time of formation has not been easy, yet the Lord has always remained very close to me. More than once, I felt the temptation to return home, knowing my family was waiting for me. But with God’s grace, I accepted the call for one reason alone: to be sent in service to others. When I work in the book center, organize film screenings and book displays, visit families, or spend time with the poor, I know—this is truly my life.”

For about ten years, Sr. Shamim dedicated herself to the Pauline apostolate in the houses of Karachi and Lahore. She devoted herself to vocation ministry, spreading the Gospel in parishes, schools, and families, to biblical and catechetical animation, and to the management of the book centers. She was known for her sociability, energy, and warm hospitality toward families and priests, who affectionately called her “Auntie.” Meeting her was always a celebration and the beginning of a friendship.

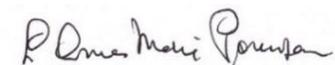
It was a source of deep joy for Sr. Shamim to take part in a formation course in Rome for sisters engaged in vocation ministry, and in 2001 in the Pauline Family Charism Course. When she returned to Pakistan in 2002, with a heart ready to embrace the world, she serenely accepted her appointment as delegation councilor and superior of the Karachi community.

In 2005 she began a long period of missionary service, first in Cosenza (Italy), then in Melbourne (Australia), and later again in Italy, in the community of Albano. Her outgoing and open nature made her especially attentive to the elderly and sick sisters, whom she inspired with her joyful creativity and the cheerful rhythms of Pakistani music. For a few years she also assisted in the bindery at Alba and in the community of Arezzo. At the provincial house in Rome, she gladly dedicated herself to designing artistic greeting cards.

In 2019 Sr. Shamim returned to Pakistan, happy to continue the Pauline mission among her own people. In the new community of Multan, she served as superior and in Lahore she remained actively engaged in preparing small devotional materials for various feast days – a task in which she also involved the young women in formation.

In recent years, physical suffering had made itself felt due to a severe form of diabetes that soon made it very difficult for Sr. Shamim to walk and caused severe ulcers in her limbs, retinopathy (damage to the eyes), and sometimes rendered her comatose. Lately, a slight improvement in her condition allowed her to travel for a vacation with her family. There, in the very warmth of her home, the Lord gently called her to himself to welcome her to the wedding feast, to the celebration that will never end, where Sr. Shamim will again sing a new song in the joy of salvation.

Affectionately,



Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, August 25, 2025