



Dearest Sisters,

On February 6, at 6:40 a.m. (local time) at St. John of God Hospital in Pasay City (Philippines), our sister was called to her loving encounter with her Lord:

**SINGH MARIA MAGDALENA Sr. MARIA FIDELIS**  
**born in Real Calamba Laguna (Lipa, Philippines) on May 29, 1934**

Sr. M. Fidelis was jokingly called "Mother Teresa of Calcutta" because she looked Indian. In fact, she was of Indian descent, as her parents were born in India, but she had become entirely Filipino among Filipinos. She had similarities with Mother Teresa, especially in her yearning for holiness and her love for the poorest and most needy. The sisters playfully called her "the saint," but she downplayed the nickname and said under her breath, "If they only knew..."

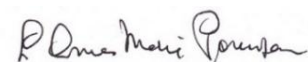
She entered the congregation in Pasay City (Philippines) on October 9, 1955, after graduating from high school. Sr. M. Fidelis made her novitiate in Lipa, followed by her first profession on June 30, 1958. On that occasion, she expressed to Maestra Thecla her deep desire to become a bride of Jesus and to offer herself entirely as an instrument in the hands of God and the congregation. These words sum up the whole of Sr. M. Fidelis' life. She lived it day after day with generosity, humility, a spirit of self-denial, and silence, as well as with creativity and a constant search for the best ways to proclaim the Gospel.

After her profession, Sr. M. Fidelis spent fifteen years in India, living in the communities of Mumbai, Calcutta, and Panjim, Goa, where she was deeply involved in the book center and in the wide dissemination of the Gospel. Upon her return to the Philippines in 1972, she generously and readily served the various communities of the province, especially in Pasay, Iloilo, Bacolod, Davao, Olongapo, and Marikina. With simplicity and love, and through steady, tireless work, she made herself present in many community services and apostolic activities, particularly in the book centers and on itinerant missions.

For about ten years, Sr. M. Fidelis worked in the warehouse and shipping office in Pasay City. She distinguished herself by her kindness, welcoming smile, spirit of service, and sense of humor. She was a reliable worker, even though she never wished to accept positions of responsibility, feeling unworthy of them. A skilled seamstress, she also had a gift for languages and spoke fluent English, Italian, and Tagalog. In long hours of prayer and quiet intimacy, she found the strength and grace to respond generously to the constant calls of her Lord and Master. The sisters testify that they never heard Sr. Fidelis use strong language or speak harshly to anyone.

For about twenty years, Sr. M. Fidelis suffered from bronchial asthma, and in recent years she required frequent hospitalizations. She also experienced cardiac thickening, ischemia (reduced blood flow), and other cardiovascular conditions. In recent weeks, she developed severe breathing difficulties, and on January 29, she was hospitalized with high-risk pneumonia. The Lord called Sr. M. Fidelis in silence and serenity, granting her at last the fullness of life for which she had always longed.

We thank this dear sister for the beautiful witness she has given us, which urges us to look ahead—toward the goal of our journey, toward the safe harbor God has promised us, and toward the celebration without end that awaits us, where we will share in the joy of the eternal banquet (cf. Pope Leo XIV). Affectionately,



*Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan*

Rome, February 6, 2026