



Dearest sisters,

On September 7, 2024, we received the news that in the community of Mumbai (India), at 3 p.m. (local time) the Divine Master called one of our sisters to live forever in the fullness of his light:

**KIZHAKAYIL ALEY Sr. MARIA PAOLA
born in Bharananganam (Changanacherry, India) on Oct. 19, 1930**

Sr. M. Paola, lived a beautiful, simple and humble life, filled with fervor and extraordinary love that she radiated everywhere by her very witness to the joy of the Gospel, her enthusiasm for the Pauline vocation, and the wonders of salvation.

She entered the congregation at the age of 23, at that time considered a mature age, on August 5, 1953, enriching the community with the deep faith learned in her family. She experienced both the good and difficult times of our beginnings in India, sharing in her sisters' poverty with a tenacious trust in providence and a passion for the Gospel. Sr. M. Paola was part of the first novitiate group in India and made her first profession on December 8, 1957, in Mumbai. From her heart flowed a vibrant conviction that illuminated every day of her existence: "Now I belong entirely to God, and I want to be so until the end of my life."

With the sisters who laid the foundation of the Pauline presence in India, she played a crucial role in expanding our mission. She was one of the first drivers who had the joy of *giving wings to the Word* by taking it everywhere through itinerant outreach. Thoughtfulness, customary cheerfulness and an innate ease in establishing relationships with everyone she met fostered opportunities for dialogue, for true evangelization. Sr. M. Paola kept everyone in her heart and daily prayer. Her gentle kind-heartedness and deep gratitude that marked each day were a balm for the communities and those she encountered. The twinkle in her eyes expressed the richness of her heart and all her happiness which, as she herself emphasized, was founded on her close relationship with Jesus, *her dearest friend and companion in life*.

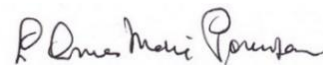
In 1975, in her tentative Italian, she expressed her desire to go as a missionary to Mozambique. Although it was a proposal that the superior general, M. Ignazia Balla, did not accept, Sr. M. Paola's willingness was a further sign of her generosity, unconditional love, and total commitment.

Over the years Sr. M. Paola carried out the apostolate in various communities in India: Mumbai and Bangalore, Panjim (Goa) and Shillong, Calcutta and Dimapur, New Delhi and Mumbai-Dahisar. She devoted herself with passion and great faith to the vocation ministry, spreading the Word, the technical apostolate, caring for the sick, tending the switchboard and assisting with community services. She loved her vocation and was tireless in recalling the times she met the Founder and M. Thecla, their directives, their holy words, and the depth of the Pauline spirituality they shared.

Sr. M. Paola spent the last four years or so in the Mumbai community to receive necessary treatment for her worsening physical condition. Steadfast in her faith, clutching the rosary between her fingers she prayed incessantly, "Mary, my mother, I trust in you." And the Virgin Mary, the Queen of Apostles, the Gate of Heaven brought our sister into the realm of light and peace on the very eve of her Nativity.

The sisters of India wrote, "We mourn the loss of a simple but extraordinary sister, but we celebrate her unwavering faith, selfless service and boundless love for God and humanity."

Affectionately,



Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, September 7, 2024