



Dear Sisters,

Today, May 18, 2021, at 2:00 PM in Manikpur – Vasai (India), Jesus Master called to himself his disciple and our sister

SR. M. FATIMA - FATIMA D'SA
born on June 5, 1949, in Manikpur-Vasai, Maharashtra (India).

The daughter of Pasquale and Catherine, she came from a large family composed of ten children: five brothers and four sisters. Eighth in birth order, she was barely eighteen when she entered the Congregation at the Divine Master community in Mumbai on June 21, 1967. After the years of initial formation, she made her religious profession in Mumbai on September 12, 1971 and her perpetual profession in her native city of Vasai on September 4, 1977.

The formators who accompanied her formative journey described her as sociable and very practical: gifts she used in the various responsibilities she was entrusted with during her years of consecrated life. First (1971 – 1979) in Mumbai at the Society of St. Paul and then in Allahabad (1981 – 1985). Upon hearing the news of her death, Fr. Varghese Gnaliam, Provincial Superior of the Society of St. Paul, wrote: *«We are united in prayer in this moment of loss and sadness. Sr. M. Fatima was well known to all the older and middle-aged members of the Society of St. Paul. She will always be remembered for her simple love, her generosity and her hard work in service to many of our communities. May the Lord reward her for all the good she has done among us».*

She offered her service at the Apostolic Nunciature in New Delhi from 1979 to 1981. Then in other communities: Mumbai DM, Chennai DM, Delhi DM, Pondicherry, she was loved and esteemed for her practical and generous presence. From 2013 until April 15, 2021, she was in the community of Bangalore, assisting in the workroom for ecclesiastical tailoring.

In 2017, she was diagnosed with lymphoma, for which she underwent the treatments with courage and hope. Unfortunately, her health progressively declined, rendering her more fragile and in greater need of the care of the sisters.

The Sister Disciples of the Province of India remember Sr. M. Fatima in this way: She took great care in remembering the birthday of each one. She would often call them or

greet them. A joyful person, she loved celebrations: she enjoyed herself and transmitted joy. She was an excellent cook: for every occasion she generously offered to prepare the meal. This ability was also qualified through a short cooking course at the Technical Institute of Catering.

She obtained her diploma in formation from the Archdiocese of Mumbai.

She was focused on the community: she loved to participate in the community activities, committing herself to be present for the occasions to meet with others. She was a person of prayer, always present for all of the spiritual activities, including the daily Eucharistic adoration.

During these past months, despite the frailty of her health, she expressed the desire to go on vacation with her family. This was granted, although with fear and concern, and while she was with the family she suffered a heart attack which caused her death. It was sudden but she was prepared. It seems that Sr. M. Fatima desired to be accompanied by the presence of her family in this final passage toward the eternal reward.

Today the Liturgy of the Word, in the Gospel, introduces us into the Priestly Prayer of Jesus: «Father, the hour has come...I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word» (Jn 17:1.6). It is a prayer that is dear to the Sister Disciples and, certainly, during the Eucharistic Adoration, Sr. M. Fatima made it resound many times in her heart for herself and for the priests entrusted to her vocation with the serene confidence of belonging to Jesus Master.

Now that you contemplate His glorious face, pray for us, for the sisters of the Province of India and for your family, showing us the way of Life.

Sr. M. Michael Honeth'