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INEZ CASOLANI – BIOGRAPHY

Inez Casolani nee Vassallo was born in Cospicua, Malta on the 11th October 1915 and was baptized at the Immaculate Conception Parish, Cospicua two days later. Inez married Henry Casolani on the 19th April 1944 at St. Augustine's Church, Valletta. Henry and Inez Casolani blessed without reserve their one and only daughter's call to a life consecrated to God.

Inez was brought up as a knowledgeable and studious girl. From a tender age she stood out for her love of prayer. She was diligent, obedient and also most sensitive to the needs of her family and the less fortunate. She was a qualified and prolific teacher. Yet, when she got married in 1944, she gave up her teaching profession in order to dedicate herself totally to her family. This, however, did not stop her from giving private lessons to the poor and the needy as she had oftentimes done before marriage. Inez was active in the life of the Parish community mostly through her spiritual writings. She was also an auxiliary member of the Legion of Mary and a member of the Ambassadors of Mary. She was a promoter of the Night Hour Adoration of the Holy Eucharist. Like Henry, Inez Casolani was also a Tertiary member of the Augustinian Order.

Empathy was strong in Inez. She was kind-hearted, generous and sincere; she loved and helped anyone who needed her. She used pray sincerely for her neighbour and always gave good advice. Because of this many trusted her with their difficulties and problems and found solace in her words. Her concern was to give rather than to receive. A woman of faith she trusted God totally. In spite of difficulties, she never lost heart. Her life was a continuous prayer. God was always in her heart and on her lips. She could not and would not offend God. Inez felt that she had to give an account to God for all her actions. The daily Mass and the Family Rosary, the observance of the Sacraments and the regular practice of Christian virtues simply enhanced her deep spirituality.

Inez Casolani embraced her married vocation with zeal and dedication. Her letters to her daughter were filled with descriptions of warmth at home. Inez was always very inventive in cooking, knitting, giving recipes, writing articles and seeing to her family's needs. She nurtured her daughter's trust in God and trained her to lead a God-fearing life. 'Whatever you do keep God's presence in front of you and always leave room for Him in your own loving heart.' (Inez Casolani). Inez created a relaxed and happy atmosphere at home. Devoted to each other and to their daughter, Henry and Inez could still reach out lovingly to support their extended family.

In her later years, among other ailments, Inez suffered from tinnitus, arthritis, shingles in the head and severe heart trouble. After being diagnosed with diabetes, Inez wrote: "I thank God for this new bouquet. These are the marvels of life. I am in His Hands, and I accept all He sends me joyfully." Notwithstanding pain and discomfort, her smiles still radiated joy to all those who came her way. She did not fear death and was always prepared for the moment the Lord called her to Himself. Aware of the closeness of her end and in constant discomfort, she continued to give her family the totality of her love and service as she had done throughout her life.



THE CHURCH IN MALTA

Inez Casolani died on 13th July 1992. Her spiritual testament 'I take record of God. In Thee I have had my earthly joy' testifies to her total surrender to God.