

Tokyo, 8 May 2012



From Japan, where we are concluding the Fraternal Visit, I want to join all our sisters and brothers in joyously and gratefully remembering Maestra Assunta. I preserve in my heart, as a great privilege, my many meetings with her—and not only those that took place during the years when she was at the peak of her health and mental acuteness.

I remember a particularly moving but also very happy occasion on which I visited the James Alberione community, Albano. Talking with the sisters that afternoon, I told them about the visit I had just made to one of our more distant circumscriptions, recounting the fervor of the sisters and their many creative apostolic initiatives. Sitting in the front row, Maestra Assunta listened to me with shining eyes. From time to time she would ask, “But are the Daughters of St. Paul doing all they can to spread the Gospel?”

Dearest Maestra Assunta, I will always remember you in that special moment and I often repeat your question to myself because it truly touches the heart of our apostolic vocation.

You gave us so much. You taught us so much.

I know you will continue this mission from the gardens of heaven, where you are now in the company of all our Pauline saints.

I entrust every Daughter of St. Paul, all our young women in formation and our countless works and initiatives to your intercession because you were a faithful and tireless apostle.

And I ask the Lord to grant us the grace to live the heritage you left us: the ability to let ourselves be questioned by the needs of humanity and the courage to respond to those needs promptly, boldly and enthusiastically.

Thank you, Maestra Assunta, on my own behalf and on behalf of all the Daughters of St. Paul and every member of the Pauline Family.

Until we meet again! We love you!

sr. M. Antonietta Bruscato
superior general