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Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that at 5:55 p.m. today God our good Father visited Tokai-daigaku Oiso Byoin Hospital in Hiratsuka, Japan to call to his eternal love our sister:

**MASHIKO MICHIE – SR. M. FEDELE**  
**born in Tokyo, Japan on 18 January 1935**

Sr. M. Fedele said that it was the death of her father Rokuro that launched her on her itinerary of faith because on that occasion she was powerfully struck by the fact that all earthly things are “vanity.” And thus she began a serious search to get to know the love of God. It was a vocation brochure of the Daughters of St. Paul that triggered her interest in the Christian life and then in the Pauline religious vocation. In fact, in 1957, at the age of 22, she was baptized in the FSP chapel in Tokyo and on 16 December 1958, the beginning of the Christmas novena, she entered the Congregation in that same city. She underwent her initial formation and novitiate there, concluding this stage of her Pauline journey with her first profession on 30 June 1963.

Afterward, she was assigned to the Nagasaki community, where she enthusiastically carried out capillary and collective diffusion, worked in the book center and helped with the formation of the circumscription’s younger members.

After her perpetual profession in Tokyo in 1968, Sr. M. Fedele was sent to Hiroshima and then to Osaka, where she continued to proclaim the love of the Lord who had permeated her entire life. In Osaka she had the chance to open new paths for evangelization through her visits to many schools and institutes to show a film on Mother Teresa of Calcutta after this great Missionary of Charity was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1984, Sr. M. Fedele was reassigned to Tokyo, where she dedicated herself to collective diffusion and also worked in the stock room and editorial department. Following this, she was transferred to Nagasaki, the city of numerous Japanese martyrs, but she spent only a short time there because in 1996 she was asked to serve as superior of the Osaka community.

At the end of her term of office, Sr. M. Fedele had the opportunity to put the bookkeeping degree she had earned before entering the Institute to good use in the province’s administration department, while contemporaneously carrying out many other services in the large Tokyo community.

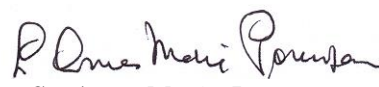
But as 2004 approached, her health began to decline. She was diagnosed as suffering from Alzheimer’s disease, which made community life increasingly difficult for her. When she reached the point of needing round-the-clock care, she was transferred to Hiratsuka and from there to a nearby assisted-living center, where she spent the last years of her life.

Yesterday, Sr. M. Fedele was hospitalized due to a stroke that left her partially paralyzed and that provoked an aortic dissection (a surge of blood through a tear in the aorta) which led to her unexpected death.

Sr. M. Fedele was a sister who lived up to her name in every way. While she was still in initial formation, her mistress called her “extremely faithful” and further described her as a firm-willed and well-balanced person. Her life as a Pauline was characterized by great kindness and cordiality toward everyone, combined with an inclination toward silence and a desire to remain in the background. In fact, she carried out her responsibilities quietly, without drawing attention to herself, witnessing to the virtues of humility and gentleness. Her life was illuminated by the words of Jesus Master: “It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you” (Jn. 15:16). Profoundly convinced of this, Sr. M. Fedele thanked God fervently and repeatedly for the vocation brochure that had touched her heart so many years ago.

Let us place our dear sister in the loving arms of God the Father, in the certitude that after all her sufferings she is now rejoicing in the kingdom of heaven.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 16 November 2017