

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
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Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that at 1:56 p.m. today, local time, God the Father visited Toranomom Byoin Hospital, Tokyo, Japan, to call to the beauty of eternal life our sister:

YANO SHIGEKO – SR. PIERANGELA
born in Nagasaki, Japan on 1 January 1933.

To recount the life of Sr. Pierangela means not only speaking about her beautiful flower arrangements and paintings, but also about her joyful and harmonious personality, her love and generosity and complete self-offering to God. In May 2017, during the Fraternal Visit of the General Government to Japan, Sr. Pierangela had received the news that her physical condition was worsening: the breast cancer she had been battling had metastasized throughout her body. But in spite of this, she continued to serenely carry out her service as local superior, smiling at everyone she met. Notwithstanding her condition, she participated in the annual excursion she herself had organized for the community and its collaborators, who all remember that she wore her characteristic sunhat for the occasion, ate an ice cream cone with relish and set a joyful note to the day with her good cheer. Her only concern was not to weigh down the spirits of everyone by letting them glimpse the pain she was undoubtedly suffering.

Sr. Pierangela entered the Congregation in the community of Tokyo on 24 December 1954. After a period of initial formation, she made her novitiate in Tokyo, concluding this stage of her Pauline journey with her first profession on 30 June 1959. The fact that she was a talented artist emerged very quickly and during her Juniorate in Tokyo and Nagoya, she contributed to the circumscription's publishing apostolate by illustrating the children's books written by Sr. Generosa Wakita. The inexpensive books, entitled *The Mother of God*, *Christmas* and *The Birth of Christ*, all proved to be best sellers and were widely distributed by the sisters on their visits to the families.

But Sr. Pierangela is best remembered for her beautiful paintings of flowers, which adorned the covers of *Akebono*, the Province's magazine for women, for over 40 years (until the periodical's closure in 2015).

In 1966 her paintings, all on religious subjects, were exhibited in an art gallery in Tokyo's Ginza district, offering the sisters a chance to present the Word of God in a secular environment. A Catholic magazine of that period reported that her painting were fascinating not only because of their colors but also because it was clear that Sr. Pierangela painted not so as to gain recognition but solely to give glory to God.

Sr. Pierangela was a well-loved superior due to her kind but also straightforward and firm character. From 1996 up until last year she served as superior of either the provincial community or the big Tokyo community for a total of 6 terms of office. She knew how to disseminate love and good cheer, as well as a spirit of welcome and benevolence. She placed her artistic skills at the service of the community by taking care of its gardens and preparing beautiful floral arrangements for the chapel, refectory and other communal areas, her "magic hands" bringing a bright and festive note to all these environments. From time to time she would also organize fund-raising bazaars, inviting friends and neighbors to participate in this event, which also served as a venue for evangelization.

In 2013, Sr. Pierangela was diagnosed as suffering from breast cancer and underwent an operation to remove the tumor. In May 2017, the malady reappeared and spread throughout her body. Endowed with a very strong will, she continued to work, paint and dedicate herself to the sisters for as long as possible. This past October, she was hospitalized and spent the last weeks of her life preparing for her upcoming meeting with the Lord. She thanked him fervently for allowing her to return home for a brief time, consoled by the certainty that nothing could separate her from the love of Christ (cf. Rm. 8:35).

On our part, we thank God for this dear sister who, through her life and paintings, truly "prepared the way for the Lord" and brought many people closer to salvation.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 15 December 2018