



Dearest Sisters,

On August 18, at 6:57 a.m. (local time) at the Tsurumaki Onsen Hospital in Kanagawa, Japan, the Risen Christ called our sister to live forever in his presence:

HIRAKAWA TAE Sr. VICTORIA
born in Akita-Ken (Kyoto, Japan) on July 11, 1931

Sr. Victoria entered the congregation in the community of Osaka on June 20, 1956, four years after receiving Baptism and following a period of deep involvement in the JOC (Young Christian Workers). She made her postulancy and novitiate in Tokyo, and her first profession on June 30, 1960. After obtaining her driver's licence as a junior professed, she visited parishes, institutions, and families throughout the dioceses of Tokyo and Osaka. She was a responsible and enthusiastic evangelizer, guided by strong convictions. The Apostle Paul was her point of reference, and she was certain that this great saint had intervened in her life, moving her heart toward the Pauline vocation. After making her perpetual profession on June 30, 1965, she continued her itinerant mission in Nagoya, Hiroshima, and Kagoshima. She also served as local superior in Sapporo and Sendai.

A diocesan priest expressed his appreciation for the evangelizing work carried out by Sr. Victoria and the sisters when he wrote "The sisters spent a month visiting the entire city with their Catholic publications. The sight of them became so familiar, in their black religious habits and carrying heavy bags with ease, that it has remained vividly impressed in people's minds. It was a source of great joy to see that following the sisters' visits, many interested young people began, one after another, to knock at the church door."

Sr. Victoria was deeply grateful for the graces the Lord continued to sow as she humbly proclaimed the Word and carried out her catechetical ministry among the people. She was also deeply committed to personal study and prayer. She confided: "Every day I struggle with myself, striving to grow in gentleness, humility, and loving service, which are in sharp contrast to my natural inclinations." She considered it one of her greatest graces simply to open her eyes each morning and raise her heart to the Lord in prayer.

In her later years, Sr. Victoria continued to nourish her mind by listening to the radio to lessons intended for high school students and she continued to devote herself to reading. In 2023, she underwent surgery to remove a tumor from her colon. At the time, she wrote: "Thinking that perhaps this week of waiting may be the most painful time, I meditate on the Passion of the Lord and think of how much our almighty God, who knew everything, must have suffered. During my visit to the Blessed Sacrament, I lovingly place all my sufferings on the altar so that we may all become holy, so that I too may bring my vocation to fulfillment, and so that this grace may be granted to as many people as possible."

After suffering a stroke in May of last year, Sr. Victoria moved to the Hiratsuka Fujishiro-en nursing home. A week ago, respiratory problems required emergency hospitalization. She was now peacefully bringing her long and beautiful life to a close, carrying to the Father the intentions closest to her heart and, above all, her deep longing to *be conformed to the image of the Son* (cf. Rom 8:29), in accordance with the Word that had always guided her.

Affectionately,

Rome, August 18, 2026


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan