

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

At 7:15 a.m. today, the First Saturday of the month, the Queen of Apostles, our “gate of heaven,” visited Ashigara Hospital in Kanagawa, Japan to lead to heaven our sister:

**AKAGHI EIKO – SR. MARIA LILIANA  
born in Tokyo, Japan on 25 January 1933.**

Sr. M. Liliana was baptized at the age of 22 on 8 September 1955, and on 28 June of the following year she entered the Congregation in the community of Fukuoka, our first branch house in Japan. She was sent to Tokyo for her initial formation and novitiate, which concluded with her first profession on 30 June 1960. As a young professed, Sr. Liliana dedicated herself to pastoral work for vocations and also worked in the stockroom. After her perpetual profession, she was asked to carry out the apostolate of capillary and collective diffusion. Chronicles of the times recount how this activity was carried out in a country in which, at that time, only 2 out of every 1000 people were Catholic:

“From Tokyo, our young professed sisters visit various parts of the country and its more remote islands, where there are only tiny groups of Catholics. The parish priests and their flocks deeply appreciate the visits of the Daughters of St. Paul and the arrival of the sisters is a special occasion and a cause for celebration. But the rest of the people, most of whom have never seen or spoken to sisters, consider them strange. The children view them as other-worldly creatures, similar to those they read about in fairy-tale books. But in spite of this, our sisters almost always receive a warm welcome and the letters they write to us are very moving. Their greatest joy is to learn that the groups of catechumens in various parishes have increased as a result of their visit. This is also their most effective stimulus to dedicate themselves always more generously to the apostolate, in the hope that everyone will enter the one sheepfold of Jesus Master.”

In 1970, Sr. Liliana was appointed superior of our Nagasaki community. At the end of her term of office, she was assigned to community services in Nagoya, Sendai and Tokyo successively. From 1985-1989, she was stationed in Osaka, where she worked in the book center and stock room and also served as local bursar.

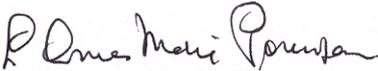
Following this, she lived and worked in the communities of Tokyo, Kagoshima, Hiratsuka, Nagoya, Sendai and Hiroshima. Her last assignment was once again to Hiratsuka, where she carried out activities compatible with her declining health. In spite of her physical fragility, Sr. M. Liliana continued to dedicate herself to the Pauline mission with great fervor and precision, performing her duties quietly, humbly, modestly and with a deep spirit of recollection.

In 2009, when she had already been diagnosed as suffering from Alzheimer’s disease, she underwent a leg operation that severely limited her self-sufficiency. As a result, she was moved to a health-care residence near our Hiratsuka community, where she could receive the assistance she needed. A few days ago, she came down with a bad case of pneumonia and had to be hospitalized. It was from her bed in Ashigara Hospital that the Lord, by means of his mysterious pedagogy, chose to call her to her definitive meeting with himself. Sr. Liliana spent the last days of her life in a coma, from which she emerged for short periods. In fact, it was during one of these brief returns to consciousness that she asked her doctor to not hook her up to any equipment that would prolong her life by artificial means.

Sr. Liliana belongs to the band of “little ones” that the Lord calls blessed because they are pure in heart and poor in spirit. And today her life, “hidden with Christ in God,” has been clothed in beauty and joy. The Divine Master, whom she steadfastly sought and invoked, clothed her in her wedding finery and led her into the mystery of his eternal Trinitarian communion.

Let us entrust to Sr. Liliana the communities of our Japanese Province to which she dedicated herself with great generosity and love, asking through her intercession the gift of new vocations for this circumscription, so rich in its potentials for good.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Vicar General

Rome, 3 August 2013