

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25
00163 Roma
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

At 10:00 a.m. local time today, Divine Mercy Sunday, our good Father visited Seibo Byoin, a Catholic hospital in Tokyo, Japan, to call to himself our sister:

**Ebisumoto Chieko – Sr. M. Aurelia
born in Miyazaki, Japan, on 22 June 1934.**

Sr. M. Aurelia felt wrapped in the mercy of God. On her 50th anniversary of profession, she told her Superior General that she thanked God for having accompanied every moment of her Pauline life with his mercy and fidelity, summing up her attitude in the words: *praise, gratitude* and *prayer*. Aware that she was beginning a new stage of her life, she wrote: “This year, in which I will be celebrating my 77th anniversary of birth, I am moving step by step toward a new future.... Thank you, thank you: this is my daily prayer, moment by moment, to our merciful Father, to all the people on earth, and to all creation. I thank everyone and ask the forgiveness of everyone. To this prayer, I also add a smile, asking that my days might be similar to those of Mary on her return to our merciful Father. Thank you, Lord, for what is to come. Thank you always.”

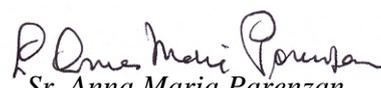
Sr. M. Aurelia entered the Congregation in the community of Osaka on 29 June 1957, three years after her baptism, for which she had prepared with the help of the Daughters of St. Paul, who had accompanied her in her catechumenate. She was immediately assigned to the apostolate of capillary and collective diffusion of the Word of God, which she carried out in Osaka, Tokyo, Nagoya and Takamatsu. She made her novitiate in Tokyo, concluding it with her first profession on 7 Oct. 1961. As a young professed, she continued to carry out the diffusion apostolate, this time in Sendai, and afterward was assigned to the Tokyo book center.

With deep emotion, she was able to meet and experience the maternal presence of Maestra Thecla, who visited Japan in 1962—the signs of her final illness already evident on her face. Maestra Thecla wrote a note to Sr. Aurelia on the back of a holy card which she treasured and carefully preserved. The note reads: “If you want to please your superiors—which means pleasing the Lord—then do everything you are told with great docility. Unite your intentions to those of Jesus as he immolates himself on the Altar, to the intentions of the Holy Father and to those of Primo Maestro, which are all directed to the glory of God and the good of souls. To advance in piety, pray fervently and remain united to God throughout the day. To advance in charity, love the sisters, don’t think negatively about them, don’t judge them and don’t grumble about them. Instead, desire their good and pray for them....”

Sr. M. Aurelia sought to put this advice into practice with the sensitivity characteristic of her person-ality. In the years following her perpetual profession, she worked in the book centers of Osaka, Tokyo, Nagasaki and Sendai, carried out the radio and catechetical apostolates and also worked in stock room. From 1995-2008, she carried out a correspondence mission in the communities of Tokyo and Osaka, under the direct responsibility of the provincial government. Through this apostolic activity, her good and compassionate heart was in constant contact with the poorest and neediest people, especially prisoners.

In 2008, Sr. Aurelia was assigned to the Tokyo community, where she carried out various services with smiling serenity, in spite of the fact that, unknown to her, an aggressive form of cancer was silently and insidiously undermining her health. On 2 February 2013, she admitted that she did not feel well and was hospitalized. There she was diagnosed as suffering from bile duct cancer, already in its terminal stage. She spent the last two months of her life and especially the last 10 days of it in a semi-comatose state, nourished intravenously. A few days ago, she found the strength to open her eyes and to thank her provincial superior for everything with a big smile.

We pray that the peace the Lord poured out on his Church today accompanied our dear sister to her eternal rest, where she can at last see and touch her Lord and Master and, in his name, begin her new life—eternal life. Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 7 April 2013
Divine Mercy Sunday