

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

At 10:28 this morning (local time), our merciful Father visited the Maison Ninomiya Care Home, just a short distance from our community in Hiratsuka, Japan, to call to himself our sister:

**HANASHIRO KYOKO – SR. DOMENICA
born in Okinawa, Japan on 12 October 1950.**

Sr. Domenica entered the Congregation on 31 July 1976 in the community of Tokyo, overcoming in faith the resistance of her parents. She had gotten to know the Daughters of St. Paul the year before at the *International Oceans Exhibit*, held in her birthplace of Okinawa, a beautiful cluster of islands at the southernmost tip of Japan. Sr. Domenica had been asked to collaborate with the Daughters of St. Paul in the Exhibit's Vatican pavilion. It was an unforgettable experience for her and the Lord took advantage of the circumstances to knock on the door of her heart. She wrote: "It sounded like a request that would be easy enough to perform since all I had to do was welcome visitors to the pavilion and show them around, but in reality it was hard work. I watched the FSPs working with great zeal and big smiles on their faces and I asked myself: 'How is it possible to live like that?' The Lord gave me the gift of a vocation through my encounter with the sisters and their style of life."

Sr. Domenica made her novitiate in Tokyo, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1980. As a young professed she was assigned to the Sapporo book center for a short time and then was given the chance to finish her studies. After obtaining a diploma in bookkeeping, she was sent to Pasay City, Philippines to take various courses in audiovisuals.

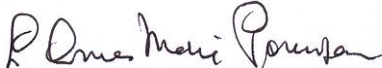
Following this, she worked in the Catechetical Office in Tokyo, carried out capillary and collective diffusion, and then served as assistant novice mistress. In 1986, she was assigned to the Tokyo stock room, after which she worked for several years in the technical apostolate, where she helped produce slide programs and video cassettes. Transferred to Osaka, she worked in the book center and once again carried out the role of assistant novice mistress. She also served as a vocation promoter on the provincial level for a number of years. From 2004-2008, she was a member of the provincialate community and worked in the stock room.

Sr. Domenica deeply loved the Pauline mission. She wrote: "When I went out for the first time on propaganda to the families (a mission that lasted about a month), I came to understand what the Founder meant when he called us 'postmistresses of God.' We proclaim the Gospel by offering people books suited to their needs. We want these individuals to find Christ through the books or leaflets we leave with them. We believe that a person can be transformed by meeting him."

In 2009, it was discovered that Sr. Domenica was suffering from Alzheimer's disease—a malady that left her tense and troubled. She was admitted to a care home, where she remained for the last five years of her life. Little by little her physical condition and mental abilities deteriorated, leaving her more and more fragile. This past October, her decline accelerated, leading to her death, which she embraced serenely.

Sr. Domenica was a faithful and diligent religious, who deeply appreciated the abilities of her sisters and encouraged them to make the most of their talents. She loved simplicity of life and wanted nothing "extra" for herself. She overcame problems through prayer, entrusting herself to the providence of God. She wanted her life to be a continual prayer, in keeping with a biblical phrase she tried to translate into personal experience: "Be joyful always, pray at all times, give thanks in all circumstances. This is what God wants from you in your life in union with Christ Jesus" (1 Th. 5:16-18). On this first Thursday of December and of the Advent season, we want to entrust to Sr. Domenica our prayer for vocations, especially Japanese vocations, for which she worked with great commitment and for which we are sure she offered her life.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 1 December 2016