

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

We just received the news from Japan that today, at about 5:30 p.m. local time, God the Father visited Tokyo Joshi Iдай Byoin Hospital to call to heaven our sister:

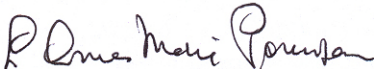
ICHIKAWA FUMIKO – SR. MYRIAM
born in Tochigi, Japan on 26 September 1933.

Sr. Myriam entered the Congregation in Tokyo on 25 March 1955, the Feast of the Annunciation, during a period characterized by great apostolic and vocational fervor. A short time later, in April, the young Fumiko had the chance to personally meet the Founder and Maestra Thecla, who were making their third visit to Japan. That same year, Fumiko shared the community's joy at the launching of the technical apostolate, the opening of the Kobe community and the blessing of the sisters' residence in Nagoya. For Christmas that year, the sisters initiated the monthly magazine "Akebono," which circulated the thoughts, hopes, prayers and apostolic dreams of all the members of the circumscription.

Sr. Myriam and 19 other postulants began their novitiate in Tokyo on 29 June 1958. She concluded this stage of her formation journey with her first profession on 30 June of the following year in the hands of Sr. M. Irene Conti. Immediately afterward, Sr. Myriam left for Fukuoka, the first branch house opened by the Tokyo community. There she carried out the book center apostolate, taught catechism in the parish on Sundays and organized Gospel Days in nearby dioceses. In 1962, she returned to Tokyo where she worked in the book center and prepared for perpetual profession. For the next 30 years, Sr. Myriam carried out with great ardor the book center and propaganda apostolates in Tokyo, Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Osaka, Hiroshima and Kagoshima. She was delighted to have the chance to witness to and proclaim the Gospel from the small "book nooks" run by the Daughters of St. Paul in large department stores located in busy shopping malls. Her work in these "St. Paul Corners" brought her in contact with people of many different religions. Chronicles of the times underscore the joy and satisfaction of the bishops and clergy at the passion and zeal with which the Daughters of St. Paul brought the Christian message everywhere, including to places that up to then had been closed to religious dialogue. Sr. Myriam was especially happy to bring the Word of God to people who had never heard of Jesus. One bishop said: "You sisters are like a window and anyone who looks through that window can see the Church." In 1991, Sr. Myriam was placed in charge of our Tokyo stockroom and afterward served as manager of our "Foreign Publications" department in Hiratsuka. In 1999, she returned to Tokyo, this time as manager of the FSP book center near the cathedral. Following this, she was stationed in the communities of Osaka, Hiratsuka and Sapporo successively, where she continued to lend her valuable assistance in the book center and stock room, as well as take the Gospel to schools, parishes and other public gathering places.

In 2008, Sr. Myriam's health began to decline. She was diagnosed as suffering from cirrhosis of the liver, a condition that recently worsened when she contracted a severe case of pneumonia. The malady was complicated by continual hemorrhaging, which made it necessary for her to receive frequent blood transfusions. However, Sr. Myriam accepted her failing health without complaint, surrendering herself into the hands of God and offering her sufferings for the many apostolic intentions she carried in her heart. Her life was truly the "good soil" in which the seed of the Word sprouted, producing abundant fruit for the salvation of many people.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 9 July 2011