

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
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Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that at about 8:00 p.m. today (local time), one of our sisters was called to eternal life from the Hinohara Kinen Peace House Byoin, an assisted care residence in Hiratsuka, Japan:

KOHAMA CHISAE – SR. M. ROSALBA
born in Nagasaki, Japan on 8 August 1932.

Sr. M. Rosalba was admitted to this care home just a couple of weeks ago and another FSP who visited her a few days ago reported that our sister had told her that she was about to begin a wonderful trip—a trip as beautiful as her whole life had been!

She entered the Congregation on 19 February 1952 in Fukuoka, our first branch house in Japan, and for two years she carried out capillary and collective diffusion in this city, which is home to a considerable number of Catholics. Afterward, she was sent to Tokyo to make her novitiate, concluding it with her first profession on 30 June 1955. Returning to Fukuoka, she resumed the “propaganda” apostolate to the families—a mission she continued after she was transferred back to Tokyo. She made her perpetual profession on 30 June 1960, and afterward was sent to Sendai to continue the diffusion apostolate to families, parishes and institutes.

Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Hiratsuka and Sendai are the communities in which Sr. M. Rosalba spent her life, dedicating herself with great love day after day to many different household services, especially that of cook and wardrobe keeper, which helped to lighten the workload of the sisters involved in other forms of the Pauline mission. She was particularly solicitous toward the candidates in formation, whom she loved deeply. She liked to remember that while she was in Fukuoka, she met Sr. M. Ave Uragoe, who was a high-school student at that time, and her classmate Sr. M. Rita Matsuzaki, who is now an FSP missionary in Peru. She invited both of them to enter the Congregation and when they did, she rejoiced to think that God had used her as an instrument in calling these girls to the Pauline life.

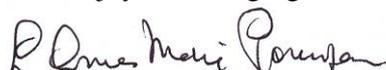
Sr. M. Rosalba was in Sendai when a severe earthquake rocked the city on 11 March 2011. The sufferings of the people during that period prompted her to focus more than ever on essentials and above all to open herself more profoundly to the Word of God and the Liturgy.

A simple, modest and temperate person, Sr. M. Rosalba was raised in a Catholic family, where she learned from infancy to pray fervently and spontaneously to the Lord. And prayer remained the source of her strength and joy throughout her life. Even during the last weeks of her life, she preferred to pray rather than to be taken outside in her wheelchair to spend some time in the garden. She said: “When you can’t do a lot of things, you can always pray!” In a special way, she entrusted to the Lord the sisters involved in the direct mission of the Institute. Every day, morning and night, she would renew her vows, using the formula that by now she knew by heart. She would also often say with great conviction, “I am a useless servant” (cf. Lk. 17:10)—words that she had made her own during a course of spiritual exercises and that from then on had given direction to her life. She considered herself a “useless servant” because she had learned that the Divine Master is the protagonist of the Pauline mission.

In January 2014, Sr. M. Rosalba suffered a spinal fracture that caused her great pain and that made it necessary for her to be transferred to our Hiratsuka community, where she could receive the care she required. But even in that condition, she managed to help the sisters with various household services. In August 2016, she was diagnosed with lung cancer, already in metastasis. Upon hearing this, she said that she was in “heaven’s waiting room” and as a consequence she lived the last segment of her life waiting for her Spouse and expressing her thanks to each sister and to the whole Congregation.

And today we want to entrust Sr. M. Rosalba to the loving embrace of Mary, asking her to lead our dear sister to the heart of God and enable her to relish the joy of belonging to him forever.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 26 July 2017