

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

We just received the news that at 10:00 p.m. today (local time), the Lord called to heaven one of our sisters, who had been a patient since 2008 in the long-term care wing of Jyuzen Byoin Hospital in Hiratsuka, Japan:

KUMAKI TOSHI – SR. MARIA CARMINE
born in Tokyo, Japan on 16 July 1933

Sr. M. Carmine entered the Congregation in the community of Tokyo on 8 September 1954, after having obtained her high school diploma. During her initial formation, she learned various bookbinding skills and a deep love for the Pauline mission. She made her novitiate in Tokyo, concluding it with her first vows on 1 July 1958. As a young professed, she brought the Word of God to the families of Sendai and Osaka, and also worked in the technical apostolate in Tokyo.

After her perpetual profession in 1964, she was assigned to the circumscription's apostolic center in Tokyo and then to the Nagasaki book center. Sr. M. Carmine carried out the service of local superior in the communities of Tokyo, Sapporo, Hiroshima and Sendai for multiple mandates and also worked in various spheres of the apostolate: the book center, stockroom, bindery and capillary and collective diffusion.

In June 1995, while serving as superior in Sendai, she suffered stroke that paralyzed the left side of her body. She patiently underwent rehabilitation in Tokyo and was eventually able to resume her work to a certain degree and also learned to use a computer. She was happy to be able to carry out the small services possible to her and willingly associated herself to the more active apostolates carried out by the other members of her circumscription.

In 2000, during preparations for the Institute's 8th General Chapter, she assured her provincial superior that she was offering her prayers and her very life for this important event. "With great joy," she wrote, "I am praying to the Lord for our upcoming Chapter and I want to generously offer him my entire being, including my physical incapacities, for this important event, even though I continue to ask Christ, the divine Physician, to heal me. In fact, it seems that the condition of my left arm has improved slightly, even though it's hard to tell. I need to have a lot of faith and hope. I want to promise you my poor prayers and self-offering to God for a good outcome to our Chapter."

But in April 2008 Sr. M. Carmine suffered a second stroke that paralyzed her whole body and robbed her of the ability to speak. Her mind remained clear and alert and she understood everything said to her but she was able to speak only a few simple words with great effort. Because of the gravity of her situation, she was admitted as a patient to Hiratsuka Jyuzen Byoin Hospital in August 2008. From that time on, Sr. M. Carmine's bed became her "home," her "chapel," the place of her daily self-offering to the Lord. Although she was unable to move, she welcomed the visits of the members of her community with deep joy and emotion, fervently uniting herself to them when they prayed the rosary at her bedside. Up until a few months ago, she was able to recite the *Our Father* and *Hail Mary*, although very slowly and with great labor. She yearned to be able to return to her community, but her physical condition made this impossible.

The life of our dear sister was a hymn of praise and blessing to God. In spite of her sufferings, she had chosen as a program of life a verse from Psalm 89: "The promises of the Lord I will sing forever"—a hymn she will now truly sing for all eternity.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 25 September 2014