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FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
CASA GENERALIZIA  
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Dearest Sisters,

At 6:05 this morning (local time), in the radiant light of Easter, the risen Christ visited Hiratsuka Shimin Byoin Hospital in Hiratsuka, Japan, to take home to heaven with him our sister:

**MOTOMURA TAMIKO – SR. AGNES MARIA**  
**born in Nagasaki, Japan on 31 December 1938.**

Sr. Agnes Maria entered the Congregation in the community of Fukuoka, Japan on 15 August 1958. She made her first profession in Tokyo on 30 June 1962, followed by her perpetual profession five years later. On that occasion, she wrote: “I have made up my mind to pray, work and suffer in this Congregation, aiming only at the glory of the Lord and the good of souls...”

As a young professed, Sr. Agnes Maria carried out capillary and collective diffusion in Sendai and after her perpetual profession continued this ministry of proclaiming the Word in Tokyo.

In 1979 she was transferred to Nagasaki, where she carried out various services and then returned to Tokyo to work in the technical apostolate, in particular the typography.

In 1996 she was assigned to the community of Hiratsuka, where at first she worked in the stock room and then, from 2002 on, performed various household services due to her declining health. She was always very happy to fill book center orders, especially for baptismal gowns and communion veils, which she made very quickly.

A vivacious, hardworking and zealous sister, Sr. Agnes Maria was also very attentive to the needs of the other sisters, especially those who were sick, and was a true support to her superior and the entire community.

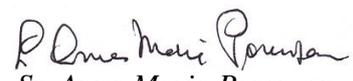
In 1994, she was diagnosed as suffering from kidney cancer but up until last year the disease was under control. For the past 10 years she was also under a doctor’s care for severe diabetes. She followed all the treatments prescribed for her condition (including insulin injections four times a day) in a very well-balanced way so as to avoid being a burden to her community.

In 2004, Sr. Agnes Maria participated with great fruit in a course of spiritual exercises based on *Donec Formetur* and guided by Sr. Bernarda Cadavid. The input she received penetrated her heart and she would often repeat the Pauline expression that in her opinion summarized this powerful experience: “Christ loved me and gave his life for me” (cf. Ga. 2:20). In 2013, she wrote to her Provincial Superior: “Each morning, I begin the day by reciting three times the ejaculation: ‘Christ loved me and gave his life for me.’ I am very fond of this ejaculation and I pray it often because I want to live it. Afterward, I recite the prayer, *Divine Heart of Jesus...* and offer him my day. I thank the Lord for all the graces I have received; I offer my prayer and activities for the sisters of the government, and I ask that the Lord bless us with new vocations. I also pray for all the people dear to me, above all our sick sisters and the members of my family.”

In these last years, Sr. Agnes Maria’s health continued to slowly decline but she was determined to continue carrying out her apostolate up to the very end. She felt in profound harmony with the words of Jesus, which had marked her entire life: “Not my will but your will be done” (Mt. 26:39).

During the first week of March 2016, Sr. Agnes Maria began to experience nausea and severe abdominal pain. She was able to move around and eat only with great effort. On 18 March, she was hospitalized and medical tests revealed that the tumor on her right kidney had unexpectedly enlarged and spread to her liver. After that, things happened very quickly: yesterday her condition worsened and this morning the Lord himself came to her bedside. And we are sure that Sr. Agnes, like the disciples of Emmaus, recognized him and accepted his invitation to enter his home for all eternity.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 30 March 2016