

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25
00163 Roma
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

At about 2:00 p.m. local time yesterday—a day on which the Liturgy proposed for our contemplation the blessed condition of those who are small and poor—God the Father visited the Nakai Fujishiroen Care Home in Hiratsuka, Japan, to call to eternal rest our sister:

NAGAHASHI OSAKO – SR. MARIA PACIS
born in Kishiwada (Osaka), Japan on 16 October 1926.

Sr. M. Pacis was called to bless the name of the Lord through the simplicity of her Pauline life: during her youth by dedicating all her energies to the various forms of apostolate entrusted to her, and during her senior years by accepting the need to live in a care home.

She entered the Congregation on 28 September 1951 in the community of Osaka, just a month after its opening, and spent the first two years of her formation there, offering a very important help to our first FSP missionaries, who did not yet speak Japanese. Sr. M. Pacis had received a good education and was a talented writer. While still a postulant, she had the chance to take a few courses in radio broadcasting organized for the Pauline Family's first Japanese formandeas, and afterward helped to prepare programs for Japan's first Catholic radio station, founded by Fr. Paul Marcellino, ssp.

Sr. M. Pacis made her first profession on 30 June 1955 in Tokyo. Afterward, she carried out the diffusion apostolate in Osaka and also wrote articles for a magazine published by the Society of St. Paul.

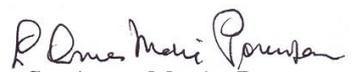
After her perpetual profession, she was appointed superior of the Nigata community. At the end of her mandate, she returned to Tokyo, where she worked as assistant formator and also served as head of the editorial department. Following this, she worked in the book centers with great apostolic zeal and also carried out other forms of diffusion and animation activities centered on the use of the instruments of communication. Later, she was placed in charge of the FSP stockroom in Tokyo. In 1993, she was transferred to Hiratsuka, where she dedicated herself to sewing and other household services. As the years went by, she began to slowly lose her mental acuteness and was also obliged to undergo an operation in the hope of alleviating the constant and severe pain in her hip.

Her health declined to the point that, in 2007, she was placed in a state-run care home so as to be able to receive the assistance she needed. She accepted this transfer tranquilly and continued to offer her life for all the needs of the Congregation.

The Word of God was always “a light to the feet” of Sr. M. Pacis. These words of Psalm 119 served as her program of life, guiding her up to her very last moment on earth. In fact, on the day she died, the Gospel of the Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time urged: “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.” The Master's invitation is re-echoed in today's First Reading, in which the invitation to come to him is rendered even more specific by the words: “I will espouse you to me forever: I will espouse you in right and in justice, in love and in mercy; I will espouse you in fidelity, and you shall know the Lord.”

In placing this dear sister in the loving and merciful hands of the Father, we also want to entrust to her intercession the General Government's Fraternal Visit to the Province of Mexico, which begins today.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 7 July 2014