

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,

Today, at about 2:00 p.m. local time, one of our sisters, a patient in Tokyo Saiseikai Central Hospital, Japan, was called to live in intimacy with God the Father forever:

SUZUKI HIROKO – SR. M. AMABILIS
born in Tokyo, Japan on 15 August 1929.

In her littleness, humility, goodness and simplicity, Sr. M. Amabilis was a great Pauline missionary. In the 1990's, she wrote to the Superior General: "I feel within me a burning desire to commit myself to sanctification and to the apostolate...."

Wanting to carry out only and always the will of the Lord, Sr. M. Amabilis joyfully donated her entire life to him, allowing herself to be guided by obedience and by events. Even her last words were an act of complete self-donation: "I want to offer myself completely to you, my God. Please help me do this!"

Sr. M. Amabilis entered the Congregation in the community of Tokyo on 30 June 1954, two years after her baptism, and immediately began to carry out the diffusion apostolate in Tokyo and Nagoya. She made her novitiate in Tokyo, concluding it with her first profession on 1 July 1958. As a young professed, she continued her self-offering in Nagoya and Tokyo through her work in the kitchen, in the propaganda apostolate and service of the Society of St. Paul.

In 1966, Sr. M. Amabilis was sent as a missionary to Pakistan. In the communities of Karachi and Lahore, she learned the language of the country and proclaimed the Gospel through the book center and c-pillary diffusion apostolates. But when her visa was not renewed, she was obliged to return to Japan, where she zealously carried out various apostolic and domestic duties in the communities of Sendai, Tokyo and Kagoshima. In Nagoya, she served as local superior for one term of office.

But the yearning for life as a Pauline missionary continued to burn in her heart. In 1978, she volunteered to go to Tanzania but her offer was not accepted. She wrote: "I do not have any talents or abilities, but I have the good will to help out in the small ways possible to me. I would be happy to be useful even if only until we have local vocations from that country."

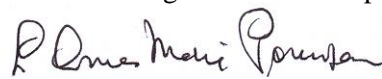
In 1985, Sr. M. Amabilis readily accepted the invitation of the Superior General to go as a missionary to Kampala, Uganda, where she inserted herself with simplicity, great industriousness and discretion into the African culture, sharing the poverty and sufferings of a nation still recovering from war. She remained in Kampala for 14 years, willingly embracing the fatigues involved in the apostolate and disseminating around her a spirit of communion and love for the Pauline charism. When she returned to Japan, she continued to donate herself to God and the Congregation in the communities of Nagasaki, Osaka, Sapporo and Tokyo.

In 2010, while participating in the International Seminar for Formators, she wrote: "Looking back on my past, I am convinced that everything I was able to accomplish was the result of divine grace. I was often faced with situations, events and apostolic needs which I did not have the preparation or the technical training to suitably meet. I learned out of necessity, throwing myself wholeheartedly in various activities. The grace of God sustained me and helped me overcome every problem in one way or another.... I want to revitalize my desire to direct all my energy to Christ and live well every day of my life. I long to be transformed to the point that Christ lives in me and makes me an instrument of his Gospel."

In 2014, Sr. Amabilis underwent surgery for cancer of the rectum. The disease had already begun to spread and her health declined. In November 2018, she confided to her provincial superior: "My sole feeling is that of gratitude to the Lord and the Congregation. I have been given the grace of abundant time to prepare myself well for death. In these years, I was able to reflect more deeply on the writings of Primo Maestro. I am so grateful for the vocation I received. I am praying for the Congregation, the sisters, the salvation of everyone and for our General Chapter."

We too thank this dear sister for the witness of her life, love and all-consuming missionary spirit. May the Word, which marked her entire life, accompany her in the liturgy of heaven, where she has now joined the heavenly choir in proclaiming: "The promises of the Lord I will sing forever! I will proclaim his loyalty through all the ages" (Ps. 89:2).

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 22 May 2019