

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 9:17 a.m., local time in Japan, the Divine Master visited the “Arisu no mori” care facility in Tokyo to call to himself our sister:

UCHINO SETSU – SR. PAOLA MARIA
born in Miyazaki (Takanabe), Japan on 11 February 1932.

Sr. Paola Maria was a true Pauline missionary—a happy sister who lived her vocation with profound gratitude and joy. She entered the Congregation in the community of Fukuoka on 16 June 1952. She was 20 years old at the time and filled with the great desire to “take Jesus to everyone” and “to carry out this beautiful mission up until my death.” After her formation period, which she spent taking the Gospel to the families, she was sent to Tokyo to make her novitiate, concluding it with her first profession on 8 December 1956. She then returned to the itinerant apostolate in the diocese of Fukuoka. On 24 Feb. 1960, she was sent to Taiwan, where she helped the newly-opened community of Kaoshiung take its first steps. Afterward, she collaborated in the same way with the newly-founded community of Taipei. Sr. Paola Maria did not find it easy to learn Chinese but her cheerful character helped her overcome this problem and she established warm relations with the people. It can be said in all truth that Sr. Paola Marie helped to blaze the trail of evangelization in Taiwan through her visits to families, businesses and schools, as well as through her readiness to embrace every act of obedience with great love and generosity. She returned to Tokyo to prepare for her perpetual profession, after which she was reassigned to the Fukuoka community and book center.

In 1972, Sr. Paola Maria was once more sent to Taiwan to carry out the diffusion apostolate. Writing to the Superior General, she said she thanked the Lord for her Pauline vocation and above all for the wonders he accomplished through the propaganda apostolate. With joy and satisfaction, she wrote: “We take Jesus from one factory to another. A hundred, a thousand, two thousand young people pass by our book displays.” In 1982, she returned to Japan because of health problems, but her missionary fervor did not diminish. When the Congregation launched its Missionary Project, she wrote: “I still feel a burning desire to be a good missionary. I am constantly trying to find new ways to proclaim the Gospel. I love diffusing books through the propaganda apostolate and I am always looking for fresh ways to do this.”

On Sundays, she continued to “take Jesus to others” through parish book displays, where she was warmly welcomed by the people. She collected offerings for the Institute’s mission communities through letters and personal visits to associations and friends, as well as through greeting cards that she herself made and that were then carried in our book centers. Everyone loved Sr. Paola Maria for her simplicity and kindness. On feast days, she would entertain the sisters by singing “Santa Lucia” and “The Bells of Nagasaki” in a very loud voice.

Sr. Paola Maria was a person of profound prayer. She had established an intimate relationship with the Divine Master and in the last period of her life, during which she was bedridden due to the spread of cancer, she would eagerly await the arrival of the Eucharistic minister who brought her communion. Her visitors often recited the rosary at her bedside and she would willingly join in, even though toward the end she could only move her lips. She enriched her prayers with many intentions, remembering above all the needs of the Congregation and the many people she had met in her years as a propagandist. At one point in her life she had written: “Every day we set out on our mission with the holy rosary in hand.” Because of this, we are sure that today the Queen of Apostles joyfully welcomed to heaven this apostle and “postmistress” of Jesus, who zealously took the Gospel of love to every family.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 20 July 2010