

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
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CASA GENERALIZIA
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Dearest Sisters,

Today, at 7:00 p.m. local time in Tokyo, Japan, the Lord unexpectedly called to himself our sister:

YOKOYAMA EIYU – SR. MARIA SOFIA
born in Hokkaido (Sapporo), Japan on 25 May 1930.

“Guide me, Lord, along the everlasting way.” We place the plea of today’s Liturgy on the lips of this dear sister who always sought eternal values—values that give special radiance to the definitive moment in life. Sr. M. Sofia, like a wise virgin, let her light shine brightly through her many good deeds so we are sure she was ready for the Lord’s call, unexpected though it was.

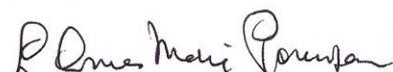
She entered the Congregation in the community of Tokyo on 26 Oct. 1952, together with her older sister, Sr. M. Andreina who, in accompanying her younger sister upon her entrance into the Institute of the Daughters of St. Paul certainly never imagined that the journey would end with her decision to take the same step, without even returning home to say goodbye to their parents. It was a pleasure to see the strong bond of affection between the two sisters, who lived together for many years. The two made their novitiate together, concluding it with their first profession on 8 December 1956. Afterward, Sr. M. Sofia was sent to Fukuoka, our first branch house in Japan. There she carried out individual and collective propaganda with great enthusiasm but also with many sacrifices, visiting the families, schools, businesses and parishes of the diocese. This apostolate soon began to draw many beautiful vocations. In 1960, Sr. M. Sofia returned to Tokyo to prepare for her perpetual profession. During this period she also worked in the shipping department. Afterward, she carried out the diffusion apostolate in Sendai and Sapporo. In 1970, she was assigned to the Tokyo community, where she once again worked in the shipping department and also performed household services.

In 1980, she was transferred to Hiroshima and from there to Fukuoka, where she carried out the service of cook. Her simplicity and kindness enriched the life of the community and earned her the love and esteem of everyone.

Following this, Sr. M. Sofia continued to carry out various household duties with great generosity in the communities of Kagoshima, Sendai and once again Tokyo. She returned to the latter community in 1992 and remained there almost without interruption until her death. In these last years, Sr. M. Sofia strength steadily ebbed to the point that she needed a cane to walk but she continued to help with household chores, especially the division of trash into various categories (glass, paper, plastic, etc.) for recycling.

Last year, she suffered deeply at the death of her sister, Sr. M. Andreina, who had always supported and encouraged her. She recalled in particular how her sister had assisted her for four years after she suffered a serious knee injury. But Sr. M. Sofia also provided her sister with caregiving services, assisting her with great love and patience when she developed Parkinson’s disease. Sr. M. Sofia and Sr. M. Andreina—two lives rich in mutual love that was then poured out on the entire province and produced abundant fruits: a love overflowing with the wisdom of those who are small and humble, who give first place to the Lord and seek him with all their hearts, placing all their trust in him.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Vicar General

Rome, 7 November 2011