

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ  
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
CASA GENERALIZIA  
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Dearest Sisters,

Today we received the news that at about 2:00 a.m. last night the Divine Master visited Hayashi Geka Hospital in Tokyo, Japan to call to eternal life our sister:

**YOKOYAMA EIKO MADDALENA – SR. MARIA ANDREINA**  
**born in Sapporo (Hokkaido), Japan on 4 December 1927**

Sr. M. Andreina entered the Congregation in the community of Tokyo on 24 October 1952, together with her sister, Sr. M. Sofia, with whom she would spend a good number of years as a Daughter of St. Paul. In fact, when her younger sister decided to enter our Congregation, Eiko (the future Sr. M. Andreina) accompanied her to Tokyo, where she was invited to participate in a vocation retreat for young women. The Lord was waiting for her in that unexpected situation and Eiko responded wholeheartedly to his call to embrace the Pauline religious life. In fact, she did not even return home but immediately followed her sister into the Congregation.

Sr. M. Andreina and Sr. Sofia made their novitiate together in Tokyo, concluding it with their first profession on 8 December 1956. In these last years, they were reunited in the same community, where each sister had the chance to offer the other caregiving services. Sr. M. Sofia, hospitalized for a serious knee injury, was assisted daily by Sr. M. Andreina; and Sr. M. Andreina was cared for with great love and patience by Sr. M. Sofia when she developed Parkinson's disease and needed ongoing assistance.

After her first profession, Sr. M. Andreina was sent to Osaka to carry out capillary diffusion. In 1960, she was assigned to the province's administration sector in Tokyo, where she initiated the bookkeeping services that would characterize her Pauline life. In fact for the next 30 years, except for periods spent in diffusion, Sr. M. Andreina carried out the work of administration with great responsibility, fidelity and wisdom. A person who valued clarity in all things, she at times gave the impression of being somewhat demanding, but this attitude sprang from her conviction that "any good we do must be done well." Sr. M. Andreina was always ready to help our sisters in the branch houses, offering them her assistance quietly and lovingly. For several years she was also in charge of computerizing our book centers. An intelligent person, she sought to learn from everyone and everything. She was also an expert driver who was "on call" day and night, carrying out this service serenely and generously. She enjoyed preparing beautiful and meaningful cards for the sisters celebrating their birthdays or feast days.

To celebrate her 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of religious profession, Sr. M. Andreina made a pilgrimage to Italy to visit the places associated with the beginnings of our Congregation and other cultural sites. In Florence, she was deeply moved by a painting of Mary Magdalene's meeting with the risen Christ because "Magdalene" was the name she had received at Baptism. She bought a small reproduction of the painting and kept it with her at all times up to the end of her life. Even during her last period of hospitalization, due to a severe case of pneumonia, she wanted the picture placed in a position where she could see it easily and imagine the Lord calling her by name, perhaps echoing the call he had extended to her during the retreat that changed her life so many years ago. And we are sure that she responded once again with all the ardor of her heart, "Rabbuni! Master! My Master!"

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Vicar General

Rome, 6 October 2010