

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,

We received the news that at 10:55 p.m. yesterday (local time), the Lord visited the Hiratsuka Fujishiroen nursing home in Hiratsuka, Japan to call to eternal life our sister:

OCHIAI KUNIKO – SR. MARIA FIDELIS
born in Chungcheongnam-do, South Korea, on 2 December 1926.

After being baptized as an adult, Sr. Maria Fidelis entered the Congregation in the community of Fukuoka, Japan on 25 October 1953. As an aspirant, she was asked to help prepare radio programs for the first Catholic radio station in Japan, which had been started by Fr. Paul Marcellino.

Together with about 20 other FSP candidates, she made her novitiate in Tokyo, concluding it with her first profession on 1 July 1958. Afterward, she continued the radio apostolate until she was sent to Seoul, Korea in 1961, where she dedicated herself to capillary and collective diffusion of the Word of God and lent her support to the sisters who were launching our Pauline presence in that country. Sr. M. Fidelis had very fond memories of Korea and was delighted when she was invited to participate in the province's golden jubilee celebrations, which gave her the chance to see for herself how much progress had been made.


In 1968, she returned to Tokyo and the following year she was appointed superior of the Takamatsu community. Afterward she was transferred to Nagasaki, where for several years she once again prepared radio programs. Following this she worked at the reception desk of our Tokyo community and then was assigned to the Sapporo book center. Later, she was asked to work in the Tokyo stock room.

In 2001, Sr. M. Fidelis returned to Sapporo, after which she was assigned to Hiratsuka, which turned out to be her last transfer. There, she was placed in charge of the stockroom, which she capably managed until her health began to seriously decline. In fact, beginning in 2013 she needed ongoing care for serious fractures to the vertebrae of her spinal column and this past year she was diagnosed as suffering from kidney and urethra cancer, and had to undergo surgery to remove the tumors. Even during times of intense suffering, Sr. M. Fidelis continued to offer herself trustingly to the Lord. She told her provincial superior: "I am praying with all my heart for the Congregation, asking the Lord to pour out his divine grace upon us. By now I cannot do anything because I don't have the strength, but I want to offer my whole life for the Congregation. Please pray that I will faithfully carry out the will of God up to the very end."

Sr. M. Fidelis was a faithful, serviceable, prayerful and humble sister. She loved peace and harmony. She was attentive to the needs of the community and made every effort to grow in her vocation, frequently renewing her self-offering to God in reparation for humanity's many offenses to his sacred heart. She was always happy to do what she could to help the Congregation make progress in its mission. In 2008, she told the Superior General that she was delighted to have found a swifter and more efficient way to prepare mini-media. On that occasion, she quoted an observation of Prima Maestra Thecla that had struck her deeply: "No matter what age a person is," Prima Maestra said, "there are always many things to learn."

Sr. M. Fidelis' ardent desire was to always carry out the will of God as perfectly as possible. At one particular point in her life, she had chosen as a light for her path the words of the Apostle Paul: "The life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who has loved me and given himself for me" (Ga. 2:20). Today her waiting is over: the faith in the Divine Master that this dear sister always manifested has been transformed into the blessed hope of the kingdom of God.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 8 November 2016