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Dearest Sisters,

At 6:15 this evening, one of the sisters in the infirmary wing of our Divine Providence community, (Via Antonino Pio) Rome, gently fell asleep in the Lord:

**LETO CLOTILDE – SR. AGNES**  
**born in Dorzano Biellese (Biella), Italy on 24 September 1919.**

“Time passes and the big day is drawing closer”: with this humorous comment, Sr. Agnes, as far back as 2006, had already begun to select the readings for her funeral liturgy, saying that she wanted them to express her immense gratitude to the Congregation, its formators, superiors and all the sisters. The life of Sr. Agnes was long, rich and full of surprises. She entered the Congregation on 5 Jan. 1940 in the community of Alba and made her novitiate in Rome, concluding it with her first profession on 19 March 1943. Afterward, she continued her studies in philosophy and theology in Rome and Grottaferrata. She was asked to carry out the duty of assistant formator for a short time before being sent as a missionary to Japan. She left Italy for Tokyo on 26 Sept. 1949 and for the next 20 years remained in that community, which was experiencing the trials and tribulations linked to its foundation period.

In Japan, Sr. Agnes served as novice mistress, local superior of the Tokyo community for several terms of office, provincial councilor and provincial superior. Throughout her life, this circumscription always remained her “first love.” She loved the Japanese culture and language, which she learned so well that she was able to serve as an interpreter and simultaneous translator at congregational meetings and General Chapters.

During the second session of the Institute’s Special Chapter (1971), she was elected general councilor and then appointed vicar general. After the death of Maestra Ignazia, she wrote in an imaginary letter to her: “As a member of the general council, I collaborated with you for six years. I can never thank you enough for the trust, sisterly spirit and understanding you manifested toward me and with which you accompanied my inexpert journey at a time in which the Congregation was going through a very confusing period.”

When her term of office ended in 1978, Sr. Agnes was appointed delegation superior of Great Britain and simultaneously carried out the service of local superior in the Langley community. She assured the superior general: “The members of our small delegation are striving to remain united to one another. Since we are so few, we feel that if we aren’t firmly bonded to one another, even the good God might not be able to see us!”

When she returned to Rome in 1981, Sr. Agnes was appointed superior of the Via Lucchesi community (4<sup>th</sup> floor), Rome and then of the Divine Master community (V. Antonino Pio), Rome.

In 1986, our sisters of Japan asked that Sr. Agnes be reassigned to their province. She returned there very willingly and was inserted in the Tokyo community, where she worked in the editorial office and mini-media department. But there were yet more surprises in store for her... In 1989, she was recalled to the Generalate to accompany two Australian Juniors who were preparing for their perpetual professions. After this, she returned with them to Australia and remained in Sydney for about a year for what she called “a very unique sabbatical year.” In 1990, she wrote from Australia: “I made my annual retreat on my own. I have with me a small lamp, which I light when things get dark (as happens from time to time). There are times during which we can carry out our mission only by remaining in the presence of God, depending on him completely and nourishing ourselves on him like the prophet Elijah.”

In 1991, Sr. Agnes returned to Italy for good and was assigned to the Italian provincialate, where she carried out the office of secretary. In 2009, she was transferred to the Divine Providence community (A. Pio), where we are sure she prepared herself to meet the Lord with the sentiments expressed in the liturgical reading she had chosen for her funeral: “This is the will of the One who sent me: that I lose nothing of what he gave me but keep it safe up to the last day.”

We entrust this dear sister to the mercy of the Father, including in our prayers those of our sisters of Japan, who deeply loved Sr. Agnes and whom she loved deeply in return.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan  
Superior General

Rome, 3 August 2015