

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

At 5:50 a.m. today, local time, God the Father visited our community in Tokyo, Japan and gently called to himself our sister:

**MIYATA KIYOKO – SR. FRANCESCA**  
**born in Osaka, Japan on 15 March 1938.**

Sr. Francesca entered the Congregation in Osaka on 8 September 1959, four years after her Baptism. She spent the period of her initial formation and novitiate in the Tokyo community. On 30 June 1963, the Feast of St. Paul, she made her first profession and immediately afterward was sent to Takamatsu, where she carried out capillary and collective diffusion of the Word of God for the next five years. She made her preparations for final vows in Tokyo, concluding this stage of her formation with her perpetual profession on 30 June 1968.

In 1972, Sr. Francesca was sent as a missionary to Peru. She was assigned to our Lima community as a driver but in describing that period of her life in her “curriculum vitae,” she says she did a little of everything. In 1979 she was reassigned to Tokyo, where she worked in the sewing room. In 1983, she was once more asked to leave her homeland as a missionary, this time for Taiwan.

Sr. Francesca lived for more than 30 years in this Delegation, dedicating the best of herself to the Pauline mission there. At first she was stationed in Taipei, where she studied Chinese and carried out the diffusion apostolate. Afterward, she was sent to Kaohsiung, where she worked in the book center and organized book displays. She spent the last 11 years of her time in Taiwan in the small community of Taichung, where she worked in the apostolic center and forged cordial and serene bonds with the local people, whom she esteemed and loved.

Our sisters of Taiwan remember Sr. Francesca as a hard-working, quiet, simple and serviceable person, who was always attentive to others and who carried out the role of “big sister” in the community, just as she had while at home with her family. She had few personal needs, focusing by preference on essentials. Her spiritual life was simple, centered on the Word of God, above all as presented in the daily Liturgy. She enjoyed sharing her brief reflections on the Word, which she translated into profound motivations for overcoming any problems she might encounter. She had the habit of jotting down these motivational thoughts in a small notebook she always carried in her pocket.

Sr. Francesca took delight in keep her surroundings and especially the household garden in good order. She loved flowers and would get up early to water them, saying that contact with nature relaxed her and spoke to her of God’s presence. With this interior serenity, she would then go to the book center, where she radiated peace and joy to everyone around her.

She used any financial gifts the sisters received for the holidays (Christmas, Chinese New Year, etc.) to buy plants or mulch for the garden, or else to purchase the raw material required to produce small crafts such as key chains, rosaries, etc. Her “golden hands” were never idle and turned out many lovely items that were then sold in the book center.

In April 2015, Sr. Francesca, still in Taichung, learned that she was suffering from stomach cancer, already in metastasis. She wanted to remain in Taiwan and offer her life for local vocations, but she docilely accepted the advice that she return to Japan so as to be closer to her family and receive the care she needed for her condition, which was in its terminal stage. She returned to Tokyo on 29 June, consoled by the certitude that from Japan she could continue to be a missionary. From Tokyo, she offered her life and sufferings for the people of Taiwan, whom she dearly loved.

Her last months of life were serene: she was showered with affection by her caregivers but her thoughts continued to accompany the small delegation she had left. She prayed in particular for its candidates in formation and for the local young women who wanted to get to know the Pauline life better. Up to the end, Sr. Francesca lived in an attitude of gratitude toward everyone, her good heart overflowing with praise of God for the wealth of graces he had poured out on her throughout her Pauline life.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan*  
*Superior General*

Rome 10 October 2015