

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

We received the news that at about 7:00 a.m. today, local time, one of the members of our Nagoya, Japan community was called to contemplate for all eternity the glory of the Father:

HOGA KAZUKO – SR. M. IDA
born in Tokyo, Japan on 16 February 1932.

Everything happened very suddenly: until yesterday Sr. M. Ida led a normal life in the Nagoya community, which she loved very much and in which she had spent the last 30 years of her life in joy and self-donation. Every morning, she was one of the first to arrive in chapel to praise the Lord. This morning, when she failed to appear, the sisters were worried and went in search of her. They found her in her room, fully dressed but lifeless. Artificial respiration and heart massage, both applied with urgency, proved to be useless. Her good but tired heart had ceased to beat on this earth. In silence, without the slightest disturbance to the community, she had responded to the last call of the Lord because she was ready to enter the heavenly Kingdom promised to the little ones, to the humble, to good apostles and to all those who strive to communicate to everyone the Gospel of salvation.

Sr. M. Ida entered the Congregation in the community of Tokyo on 25 January 1955, six months after her baptism, a sacrament for which she had prepared with the help of the Daughters of St. Paul. The decisive factor in her conversion was the discovery that the Christian faith was founded on the three Persons of the Holy Trinity and she allowed herself to be guided and accompanied for the rest of her life by the incomparable beauty of the Triune God, which she likened to a beautiful floral arrangement.

After her initial formation and novitiate, she made her first profession in Tokyo on 30 June 1959. She spent her juniorate carrying out capillary and collective diffusion in Tokyo and then in Osaka. In 1972 she was appointed superior of our Sendai community, and after a short parenthesis in Hiroshima, she was once again appointed superior, this time in Nagasaki.

The Pauline life of this dear sister was marked by her great love for the mission of bringing the Word of God to as many people as possible, including in non-Catholic environments. She is remembered for her commitment to this apostolate in the dioceses of Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Osaka and finally Nagoya. Several years ago, when it was no longer possible for her to drive a car, she realized that it would be very difficult for her to visit churches, parishes, schools, etc., and so, like the Apostle Paul, she gathered together a large group of collaborators, to whom she tried to transmit her own missionary zeal. This past April, she joyfully confided to her Provincial Superior this profound conviction: "Even though my body can no longer get around easily, I continue to work wholeheartedly to carry out our mission, keeping in touch with people through our collaborators." Her truly young heart had overcome the barrier of age and up to the end she continued to dedicate all her strength to helping the Gospel reach every heart. She often repeated the words of Jesus that motivated her Pauline life: "I have made your name known and will continue to make it known so that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them" (cf. Jn. 17:11).

Today, the words of John's Gospel, the precious treasure that accompanied her until the end of her life, have become a consoling reality for her: "Holy Father, keep those you have given me true to your name, so that they may be one as we are one" (Jn. 17:11). We feel sure that this dear sister is already wrapped in the embrace of the three divine Persons who watched over her on earth and have now filled her with joy for all eternity.

Affectionately,

Rome, 27 July 2020


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan