

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

We received the news yesterday that due to interstitial pneumonia, at the Shonan Tobu Sogo Hospital in the city of Chigasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture (Japan), one of our sisters, was called to eternal life:

HORII TSURUKO sr BIANCA MARIA
born in Nagoya City (Japan) on 10th January 1928.

She received the sacrament of Baptism at a mature age, in 1950, in the parish of Tajimi, run by the Society of the Divine Word, and entered the Congregation in Nagoya, on 8 April 1955. She lived in Tokyo during her formation and concluded her novitiate there with her first profession on 30 June 1959. She worked with dedication in the kitchen and in the technical apostolate, but above all in the small book center in the Tokyo Shopping Center where she loved meeting people and talking about Jesus. Later, in Osaka, she was in charge of the Kintetsu center and then, in Nagoya, of the Meitestu shop.

Gifted with a great capacity for communication, Sr Bianca Maria lovingly managed the Takashimaya center in Yokohama and the Gobankan shop in the city of Sapporo. For about eight years she helped in collective propaganda and in the community in Sendai.

She was endowed with apostolic zeal and kindness. She had a cheerful disposition and was always occupied in serving others. She was “original” in her manner which led at times to being misunderstood but she knew how to overcome every difficulty with a smile.

Sr. Bianca Maria spent the last ten years in the community of Hiratsuka, looking after the small book center in the parish and helping groups of catechumens to prepare for the sacraments of Christian Initiation. She loved studying and keeping herself updated, and had taken advantage of a course that was offered to learn how to use the computer. She made use of her acquired skills for community needs, including preparing beautiful greeting cards for moments of celebration. She was also available to give a hand in the community by serving at the switchboard and welcoming visitors.

In 2016, in response to a request from the Superior General, Sr Bianca Maria expressed her own “dream” for the Pauline life: “The mission of our Congregation is to evangelise with the Word of God using the means of social communication. First of all, it is important to be communicators among ourselves, not by grumbling but by creating a calm and joyful environment. In this way we shall spread a good atmosphere among the people and we shall truly be missionaries as our father St Paul wished us to be.”

She was seriously committed to her spiritual journey. For ten consecutive years she had made the spiritual exercises accompanied by her spiritual director. She had taken seriously the priest's instruction to pay attention to the movements of the heart rather than those of the mind and was committed to expressing what was happening in her person through drawings and colors. Her commitment to spiritual growth was tangible.

In recent times, Sr Bianca Maria's health had become increasingly fragile. Last 29 December she had to be admitted to Hiratsuka-Saisei Hospital due to a stroke. She was then taken to the Silver Garden Shonan nursing home and later, due to pneumonia, was admitted to the Shonan Tobu Sogo Hospital.

She was already recovering when suddenly her situation worsened and she passed away. We entrust this dear sister into the hands of the Good Shepherd in the certainty that nothing and no one will ever be able to separate her from those strong and safe, tender and loving hands of God who is Father and Mother.

With affection.


Sr Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 27 April 2021