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FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO  
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Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that at 5:07 p.m. yesterday (local time), our merciful Father called one of the sisters of our Hiratsuka community, Japan, to “pass to the other shore”:

**NAKANO KYOKO – SR. MARIA DOLORES**  
**born in Nagasaki, Japan, on 6 April 1933.**

This is another sister who received *abundant graces* from the Lord and lovingly ensured that they bore great fruit. Humility, littleness, generosity, a spirit of sacrifice and great industriousness are some of the many qualities that characterized her existence. On the occasion of her 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of profession, she said she wanted to express her gratitude to the Divine Master for all he had done in her life, for her marvelous vocation in the Pauline Family, for the overwhelming blessings that had been poured out on her, and for the joy of being able to count on the support of our Pauline brothers and sisters in all circumstances. She said emphatically that she wanted to continue to joyfully carry out, day after day, the small services she could still perform and asked everyone to pray that she might faithfully correspond to her vocation up to the very end.

Sr. M. Dolores, who belonged to a family with solid Christian roots, was baptized only three days after her birth. The seed of her vocation blossomed when she met two Pauline sisters, Sr Lorenzina and Sr Irene, when they visited her home, spreading the Gospel. Struck by their witness of life, she entered the Congregation in the house in Fukuoka on 16 June 1953. After a period of initial formation, followed by her novitiate, she made her profession on 8 December 1956, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. She spent her Juniorate in Fukuoka, diffusing the Word of God to families and businesses. After her perpetual profession in Tokyo in 1961, she was assigned to the kitchen—a service which, except for a few periods dedicated to propaganda to the families, would characterize her entire Pauline life. For more than 40 years, Sr. M. Dolores carried out this service in the largest communities of the Province: Tokyo, the provincial house, and Hiratsuka. But memories of the itinerant apostolate she had lived in Nagasaki remained in her heart, causing her to frequently exclaim: “We have a stupendous mission!” She took every opportunity to lend a hand with parish displays, willingly giving up her day of rest in order to do so. She would also ask the other sisters to let her know about any special intentions to pray for, in order give an apostolic imprint to her entire day.

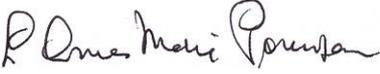
Sr. M. Dolores transformed her demanding and often hidden work in the kitchen into a true masterpiece of self-donation that revealed the richness of her heart and her desire to commit herself completely to her responsibilities so that even the food she prepared could foster an environment of harmony and communion among the sisters. On their part, the other sisters fondly recall her care and attention not only toward the sick members of the community but also toward the international groups of FSPs who spent time in Tokyo for various reasons, or toward the members of our Institute’s different General Governments on their visits.

To arrive in Tokyo and be welcomed by Sr. Dolores was a great joy. She created a family spirit that made everyone feel at home; she dealt with emergencies with generosity and flexibility, and she fostered an environment of collaboration, kindness and hospitality. She lived the anonymity of her mission with an unswerving willingness to work hard, even physically, and to serenely face the unexpected, which was never lacking. Hers was truly a “full-time job” since it also included doing the shopping for the community.

Sr. M. Dolores was transferred to Hiratsuka in 2009, where she initially worked in the kitchen and later peacefully accepted an affliction that subsequently revealed itself to be Alzheimer’s disease. For the last few weeks of her life, she was unable to feed herself and when the Lord extended his final call to her, it happened very naturally, with her whole community surrounding her with prayer.

After having spent her whole life with a smile on her lips, Sr. M. Dolores ended her earthly journey in the same way, expressing her gratitude to God and her affectionate thanks to the sisters around her. We are sure that Our Lady of Sorrows, to whom she was particularly devoted, welcomed her with a motherly embrace when she reached the “other shore” and proceeded to lead her into the kingdom of the saints.

Affectionately,

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 13 November 2021