

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

We received the news that yesterday, at 11:16 a.m. (local time) our merciful Father visited Kitazato University Hospital in Tokyo, Japan, to lead to his abode of light and peace one of our sisters, who was hospitalized there with pneumonia:

**WAKITA AKIKO – Sr. MARIA GENEROSA  
born in Hiroshima, Japan, on 14 October 1931.**

Sr. Generosa's mother had died while she was still a child, and this loss had deeply marked her life. Although surrounded by great affection, she nevertheless felt lonely and to fill the feeling of emptiness she immersed herself in reading many books that fostered her inner development. Enlightened by a lot of positive reading, she asked to receive Baptism at the age of thirteen, in the midst of World War II. This profound grace inspired in her the desire for a life of total consecration to the Lord. Although she sensed her poverty, she felt called to communicate the joy of the Faith to as many people as possible. At that very time in her life, she providentially happened upon a vocation pamphlet written by the Daughters of St. Paul, which opened up boundless horizons for her because she read there that through the press the Word of God could be multiplied and communicated to everyone. Captivated by this idea, she insistently begged God to give her a vocation to the religious life—a prayer he soon answered.

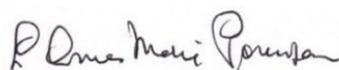
She entered the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Paul on 3 May 1953. While still undergoing her initial formation, she made a valuable contribution to the Pauline apostolate by helping to prepare radio programs under the guidance of Fr. Paul Marcellino. At the end of her novitiate, she made her first profession (8 December 1956) in Tokyo and then continued the radio apostolate there. But soon she was asked to collaborate with Sr. Agnes Leto by translating into Japanese many texts of the Founder's preaching concerning the Pauline spirituality. It was a very demanding job and at times Sr. Generosa lamented the difficulty of rendering into her own language the material that Sr. Agnes dictated to her from the Italian texts. But at the same time she was aware of the great gift she was giving to the sisters. Precisely because of her tenacious contribution to this apostolic service, many important texts were translated into Japanese, fostering the consolidation of the Pauline vocation on local soil.

After her perpetual profession in 1961, Sr. Generosa was assigned to the circumscription's editorial sector, which gave her apostolic life a decisive orientation. In 1969, she had the chance to spend an extended period of time in Italy in order to learn the language better and enhance her formation. When she returned home five years later, she first carried out the diffusion apostolate in Takamatsu and Fukuoka, and then was transferred back to the editorial department in Tokyo, where it was discovered that she had a great gift for writing books for children. Sr. Generosa possessed a wonderful ability to recount Bible stories in a simple and appealing way. Many Japanese children grew in their life of faith through the numerous books she wrote, including best sellers such as: "The Mother of Jesus" "Christmas," "He Came from Heaven" and "The Old and New Testaments for Children." These and many other titles distributed at a very low cost enjoyed a huge circulation, especially as a result of the sisters' visits to the families.

Sr. Generosa also translated several meditation texts by Cardinal Carlo M. Martini and other renowned authors. Before being called to heaven, she completed her translation of the book, "The Story of the Bible for Children" for pre-schoolers and kindergarteners—her last message of love to an age group she had always carried in her heart.

We can say that the name our sister received on the day of her profession was truly a program of life for her: she responded *generously* to the Lord's call and was extremely *generous* in her countless acts of daily self-offering in the apostolate, where she contributed with great expertise to helping her sister FSPs meet the challenges of the Pauline mission. May the Lord now give her the reward he promised to his faithful apostles—those who are small and humble of heart.

Affectionately,

  
sr Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, 7 October 2022