

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

We received the news that at 7:25 p.m. today (local time), the Lord and Light of the World visited the “Nakai Fujishiro-En” Retirement Home in Kanagawa Prefecture (Japan), to call to himself our sister:

TAJIMA HISAKO – SR. MARIA SANTINA
born in Gyeongseong, Seoul, South Korea, on 9 October 1929.

Sr. M. Santina, who was born during the period of Japanese occupation of Korea, returned to Japan with her family at the end of World War II. In December 1949, she received baptism as an adult in Oita, on the island of Kyushu. It was in this diocese that her vocation to the religious life matured. She entered the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Paul in Fukuoka, Japan, on 30 December 1953, after graduating from high school. The following year she was sent to Tokyo for a period of formation. She made her novitiate in that community, concluding it with her first profession on 1 July 1958, along with about 20 other young women.

Sr. Santina joyfully devoted herself to spreading the Gospel in Nagoya, Japan until, in 1962, she was asked to accept a transfer to Korea, where an FSP community had been opened two years earlier and was still taking its first steps. Since she already spoke Korean, Sr. Santina was a big help to the fledging community, especially through her work in the tiny book center, which was stocked with Korean, English and Japanese books. She rejoiced at the entrance of young women into the Congregation and was happy to have the chance to introduce them to the Pauline life. When our Korean Province celebrated its 50th anniversary of foundation, Sr. Santina was invited to participate in the jubilee festivities as one of the sisters who had made a substantial contribution to the growth of the circumscription.

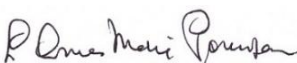
In 1970, when the FSP presence in Korea had become more robust, she returned to Japan. At the request of Archbishop Taguchi of Osaka, she managed the diocese’s Sacred Heart Bookstore for a few years. Later, in Tokyo, she worked in our Japanese circumscription’s editorial sector, followed by a resumption of the book center apostolate in Sendai. In 1978, she was once again in Tokyo, where she dedicated herself to spreading the Gospel to families, schools and communities. For a certain period, she also collaborated with the parish of Nagasaki.

In 1985, Sr. Santina was assigned to the shipping department, where she was placed in charge of mailing out the monthly magazine, *Akebono*, a periodical for young women. She strongly believed that much good was being done through the diffusion of this magazine and consequently she dedicated all her energy to improving and speeding up the sector’s shipping service. To do this, she learned how to use computers, becoming the first FSP in her circumscription to use this important technology to facilitate the spread of the Gospel. She carried out this apostolate with great zeal for as long as her health permitted.

Sr. Santina was a lively and cheerful presence in her community. She gladly accepted invitations to go on excursions or walks, and she clearly enjoyed the company of her sisters, all of whom got along very well with her. Sr. Santina’s favorite word was *love*. At community meetings, she never failed to encourage the practice mutual love and she herself was a shining example of this virtue. Her life was a concrete witness to the amiability, kindness, and goodness that filled her heart.

In 2013, Sr. Santina’s health began to decline as the first signs of Alzheimer’s disease started to emerge. Nevertheless, she continued to lovingly spread peace, serenity and great good will in her community until September 2019, when it was necessary to transfer her to the Naikai Fujishiro-En home for the elderly, where she was able to receive the long-term assistance she needed. Until the end of her life, she carried with her at all times a well-creased copy of one of her favorite prayers, entitled *Prayer of Love*. And today, our sister has at last been embraced by the faithful love of God—a love that seduced and inflamed her throughout her long life and has now welcomed her into the divine realm of mercy and peace. Affectionately,

Rome, 2 December 2022


sr Anna Maria Parenzan