



Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that at 4:18 p.m. today (local time) our good Father God visited St. Paul Hachioji Hospital in Tokyo, Japan, to call to himself our sister:

**YAMAMOTO FUMIKO – SR. MARIA LUISA**  
**born in Hyogo (Osaka), Japan, on 6 December 1929.**

This dear sister will be remembered especially for her love for the writing apostolate and for her great commitment to FSP book publishing in Japan. Sr. M. Luisa, who was baptized in 1954 at the age of twenty-five, once said that the grace of this sacrament had aroused in her the desire to devote herself to evangelization. She loved reading and upon learning that the mission of the Daughters of St. Paul was to proclaim the Gospel through their publications, she realized that this was the life to which God was calling her.

She entered our Congregation in Osaka on 1 April 1955. Two years later, she was sent to Tokyo to continue her formation and make her novitiate, concluding this stage of her Pauline life with her first profession on 30 June 1959. Considering her natural inclinations and academic background, she was quickly assigned to the publishing apostolate. Her involvement in itinerant diffusion in the dioceses of Tokyo and Sendai made her more aware of how urgent it was to prepare reading material for every category of people. She made her perpetual profession in Tokyo on 30 June 1964, and then continued her work of spreading the Word of God in the dioceses of Nagasaki and Nagoya.

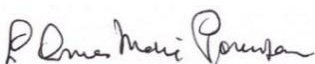
In 1971, Sr. M. Luisa was appointed head of her Province's book publishing department, and she spent almost her entire religious life producing books and searching for authors capable of inculturating the Gospel in the Japanese culture. Realizing that she would have to go beyond the borders of her own country in order to meet her circumscription's editorial needs, she committed herself wholeheartedly, from 1976 to 1981, to learning German. To pursue this goal, she was inserted in our Dusseldorf community for a year. The editorial apostolate gave Sr. M. Luisa great joy but she did not hide the fact that it involved a lot of hard work and responsibility. To prepare herself better for her mission, she participated in an updating course on religious life in 1983.

Although Sr. M. Luisa had a strong and decisive character, she made a sincere effort to follow the meek and humble Master every day, seeking his will in everything. She was convinced that the hand of the Lord was upon her, giving her the light she needed at the right time, and this conviction filled her with the strength and courage she needed to overcome the inevitable difficulties she faced.

She carried out her apostolic service in the Congregation very zealously and capably, preparing new publications creatively, and playing a personal role in their dissemination. In order to receive immediate feedback about the texts she was promoting, she would accompany the sisters in charge of outreach to parishes and schools. She greatly enjoyed visiting elementary schools, including kindergartens, to promote Christmas book orders among the children, viewing it as a wonderful opportunity to communicate the Gospel even to non-Christians. She would search German book catalogues for texts suitable for a Japanese audience and she herself would occasionally translate some of them with the help of the personnel who computerized the material.

In 2014, Sr. M. Luisa began to suffer from spinal stenosis (a narrowing of the spinal canal) that put pressure on her lower back and nerves and required surgery. Her situation worsened with the onset of dementia. She was admitted to St. Paul Hospital for ongoing care and spent the last decade of her life there. We thank Sr. M. Luisa for her great zeal in helping to keep alive the flame of our publishing vocation, in harmony with the Alberionian intuition that calls us to be "the pen and voice of God," and "to speak words that are alive because they are of God" (cf. FSP54). Affectionately,

Rome, 11 February 2024

  
Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan