



Dearest Sisters,

We received news that on July 29, at 7:15 p.m. at the Camellia Sakuragaoka Senior Care Center in Kanagawa, Japan, the Divine Master called our sister to live forever in the intimacy of his love:

YANAGISAWA CHIE Sr. ANASTASIA
born in Tochigi, Nikko, Japan, on January 15, 1934

She was a sister who radiated peace, love, communion, and her ready smile expressed the joy of having met the Lord and of having given him, day after day, her whole life.

Sr. Anastasia entered the congregation in Tokyo on October 28, 1957, two years after receiving baptism, and a time spent searching for the meaning of her life. She wanted to live *a life without regrets*, lived to the full. Her natural openness to grace, together with being part of the choir for a wedding, led her to the Catholic Church and to participate in a course in Christian formation.

On June 30, 1961, at the end of the novitiate year, Sr. Anastasia made her first profession in Tokyo. She spent her juniorate in the Osaka community where she learned the book center apostolate. On the occasion of her perpetual profession, which she made on June 30, 1966, Sr. Anastasia wrote: "In response to the Lord's call and having been welcomed and nurtured within the heart of the congregation, I thank him wholeheartedly each day for the gift of this blessed vocation. I desire to continue along this path until the day the Lord calls me to himself."

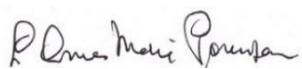
Because of her maturity and strong sense of belonging, Sr. Anastasia was soon entrusted with demanding responsibilities. In 1968, together with four other sisters, she was sent to open the community in Sapporo, where the harsh climate and the limited understanding of the Pauline charism made the mission especially challenging. Then, in 1972, at the request of Sr. M. Irene Conti, she went to Melbourne, Australia, where she dedicated herself to the apostolate of diffusion. Returning to Japan two years later, she joined the Nagasaki community, and in 1976 was appointed superior of the Hiroshima community. Because of her good command of English, from 1980 to 1983, at the request of the President of the Episcopal Commission for Social Communications of the Philippines, she served at Radio Veritas in Manila.

With wisdom and a deep sense of responsibility, Sr. Anastasia supported the sisters responsible for formation and for more than twenty years devoted herself to the production of audiovisuals and the administration of the department. She worked quietly but with remarkable effectiveness. She had a gift for supporting every initiative and then quietly stepping into the background. During the last ten years of her life, she generously used her exceptional manual skills to make the chapel veils worn by the faithful when attending church. She made countless veils, one after another, never sparing herself. In 2022, she was diagnosed with skin cancer that had already spread to her lungs and other organs. She accepted this, too, as a passage in the Lord's plan, with serenity and complete trust. She would often say, "I have neither worries nor fears... I entrust myself to him."

Last year, after suffering a fractured femur, she was transferred to a long-term care facility. As her condition gradually declined, the time came for Sr. Anastasia to enter fully into the Word and the longing that had accompanied and shaped her entire life: *to sing forever of the Lord's goodness and proclaim his faithfulness from generation to generation* (cf. Ps. 89:1).

Affectionately,

Rome, July 29, 2026


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan