



Dearest Sisters,

On September 29, the feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, our sister fell peacefully asleep in the Lord at 8:00 a.m. in the Taipei community in Taiwan:

MURAYAMA SUMIE Sr. MARIA LAURETANA
born in Shizuoka, Japan on January 1, 1934

Japanese by birth, Sr. Lauretana was a wonderful Pauline missionary, a point of reference and a precious presence for the Taiwan delegation, where she lived for sixty years.

Sr. Lauretana entered the congregation in Tokyo, Japan, on January 9, 1956. There she completed her early formation and year of novitiate, making her first profession on June 30, 1960. Immediately afterward, she devoted herself to the diffusion of our publications and served in the book center in Osaka. On June 1, 1966, a year after her perpetual profession, she wrote to the Superior General, Sr. Ignazia Balla: "Tomorrow we will leave for Taiwan. I will always do my utmost to be a true Daughter of St. Paul." These few simple words express the depth of her character and her truest identity: a daughter of the Apostle Paul! She lived this vocation through quiet, diligent work and intense missionary activity, sincerely committed to proclaiming Christ to the Chinese people, who thirsted for truth and love.

Sr. Lauretana was a truly special person, a Pauline saint in the fullest sense of the word. Marked by a certain maturity, she often held positions of responsibility. By 1971 she was a councilor of what was then called the Chinese delegation. Later she served as superior of the Kaohsiung and Taipei communities, community treasurer, and vice superior. Above all, Sr. Lauretana was an excellent member of the book center staff, eager to spend time reading and getting to know the books. Even when having lunch in the back of the book center, she would read while eating, holding chopsticks in one hand and a book in the other. She was precise, prompt, and careful in making payments to the various publishers. People sought her out for her kindness and discretion. Always smiling and ready, even lifting heavy boxes of books, she remained positive and never complained. The sisters would jokingly ask her to translate the word "evil" into Chinese. She replied that it was not part of her vocabulary and that she had never used it in her life.

Sr. Lauretana's small stature, simplicity, and gentle smile attracted people who admired her fidelity and spirit of self-denial. Prayer was her strength; she carefully prepared for her times of encounter with the Divine Master and brought him the intentions people entrusted to her. She loved priests very much and offered the sacrifices of daily life for them. She had a strong sense of belonging to the congregation and, to make the Constitutions her own, she copied them out in full by hand.

Then came the time of illness. Alzheimer's disease led Sr. Lauretana to withdraw gradually from her work, while dear Sr. Aurora Hirai cared for her with great love as her inseparable companion and caregiver. In her final years, Sr. Lauretana fully lived what Pope Leo emphasized just days ago: "Fragility is not an obstacle but the place par excellence of God's love." In her frailty, that love became present through the sisters' constant care and deep affection for her. Today the congregation has lost an angel, but surely it has gained a powerful intercessor before God, who will continue to pray for the gift of new and holy vocations.

Affectionately,

Rome, September 29, 2026


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan