

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

At 1:00 a.m. last night, our good Father visited our community of Hiratsuka, Japan, to call to himself by means of a thoracic aneurysm our sister:

MIYAMOTO SADA KO – SR. M. BEATRICE
born in Kumamoto (Fukuoka), Japan on 24 March 1927.

Sr. Beatrice entered the Congregation in Osaka, Japan on 22 December 1951—a time when that newly-founded community was still taking its first steps. In fact, the first 3 FSPs had arrived in Osaka in August 1951, committed to “forming holy families” through the propaganda apostolate, carried out fervently and in intimacy with the Lord. The vocations they longed for began to arrive quickly and one of these was Sr. Beatrice. “For Christmas,” wrote the sisters in the annals of that time, “we had the joy of welcoming our first five aspirants, whom we immediately took to Tokyo because there was no room for them in our little house, which consisted of a single room that served as dormitory, refectory, kitchen and community room.”

Brimming over with zeal, Sr. Beatrice arrived in Tokyo, where she was assigned to the Catholic radio apostolate, which had been launched by Fr. Paolo Marcellino. She completed the first stage of her formation in Tokyo, along with several other young women, and made her first profession on 30 June 1955. As a young professed, Sr. Beatrice carried out itinerant diffusion in Nagoya and then, in 1957, was sent to Sendai to help open an FSP community there. Following her perpetual profession in 1960, she returned to Osaka, where she enthusiastically continued the apostolate of diffusing the Word of God to families and collectivities.

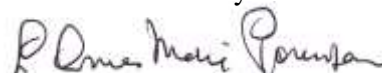
After a time in the Tokyo book center, she spent two years as a missionary in Lahore, Pakistan. In 1970, she was sent to Italy to help prepare radio programs in Japanese for Vatican Radio—a very joyful experience for her since she was living at the heart of the Church, in the shadow of St. Peter’s.

When Sr. Beatrice returned to Japan, she was appointed superior of the Osaka community and then that of Nagoya. This was followed by several years of service in the book centers of Kagoshima and Sendai. A very hospitable person, she was able to put this gift to good use for five consecutive years as receptionist in our Tokyo community. Afterward she returned to Osaka to carry out various services for the community. In 1999 she was transferred to Hiratsuka, but her physical energies had begun to seriously decline. The deterioration of her health reached a critical point in 2010, when she suffered a stroke that left her unilaterally paralyzed. Thanks to intensive physical therapy she was able to partially recover from this. It was a time of great physical and moral suffering for Sr. Beatrice, but it was also a time during which she had the joy of experiencing the tender solicitude of God and of her sisters.

When she celebrated her 60th anniversary of profession last year, she wrote to her provincial superior: “It is very moving to celebrate this anniversary during our centenary of foundation. In spite of my littleness, the Lord has poured out his immense goodness on me over these many decades. I was able to move ahead thanks to the support of my sisters and the Lord, who took on his own shoulders my poverty and weakness. I thank him from the bottom of my heart for my vocation and I want to live my apostolic consecration fully, up to the very end.”

Sr. Beatrice once confided that the words of the Divine Master to our Founder: “Do not be afraid; I am with you” had accompanied her throughout her Pauline life. And the words of today’s Liturgy are her response to him, serving as a seal on this certitude: “I know him in whom I have believed and am confident that he is able to guard what has been entrusted to me until that day.” We believe this too and in this spirit we place our sister in the merciful arms of our heavenly Father.

Affectionately,


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan
Superior General

Rome, 1 June 2016