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Dearest Sisters,

As we entered the Third Sunday of Lent, at 5:00 p.m. (local time) on Saturday, in the Giacomo Alberione community of Albano, the Lord once again called to himself one of our sisters:

D'ETTORRE VIOLA CONCETTA sr EULALIA

born in Pulsano (Taranto) on 12 January 1921.

We thank the Father for the long life of this dear sister, who reached the age of one hundred years: a life entirely given to the growth of the mission in the Pauline communities of the East, first in Japan and then in Korea.

Sr Eulalia entered the Congregation in the house in Rome on 19 November 1937, at the age of sixteen. After her initial formation and apostolic experience in Campobasso, she went to Rome for her novitiate, which concluded with her first profession – made almost eighty years ago – on 19 March 1941. As a young professed, she carried out propaganda in the diocese of Ferrara, and after a year in Rome, in the offices of the apostolic center, she was called to Tokyo to help the few sisters who had founded that community only a year before. She quickly studied the language and in 1950 opened the first Japanese branch house in Fukuoka, of which she was the first superior. The beginnings were very poor. The sisters wrote: “We lacked everything and had to improvise a table using some boxes.” In Fukuoka, they carried out propaganda to families, Sunday catechism in the schools, visited parishes for vocational purposes and organised retreats for young women, which led to a good number of vocations. At the end of her term of office, Sr Eulalia was called to Tokyo to take charge of the formation of young women, and then was appointed superior of the house in Osaka.

After ten years of life in Japan, a new faith-adventure awaited her: on 13 December 1960 she arrived in Seoul to found the first community there as superior. The chronicles of the time record: “Under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on 8 December 1960, Sr Eulalia and Sr Irene Conti [*then Provincial Superior of Japan*] left the port of Yokohama (Japan) on an American cargo ship, to be followed a few days later by two other sisters.” Their first dwelling was a small house made available by the parish priest of “Our Lady of Peace” Church in Heukseokdong, who had requested the presence of the Daughters of St Paul on Korean soil.

She carried in her heart the wise guidance she had received from M Thecla: “You are three, like the Holy Family; do not be in a hurry, prepare yourselves well with the study of the language, meanwhile the cold season will pass and then you will get to work... For a while all you need to do is to learn the language, the customs, settle in well, and then you will do much more and much better and your health will improve. So that you will not fear being a burden to anyone, I have sent to Tokyo an offering for you... therefore do not worry and stay calm. Look for someone to translate some leaflets and booklets for you that are suitable for those people, and have them printed, little by little. If you really cannot move forward, at least you have tried... Have more faith, let us not count on ourselves who are poor and miserable, but count on God. He can do everything. Do not count on human means but have faith in God's promises. Recite the pact well... First seek vocations, and then you will start doing something. The hope of having local people is better than having a lot of means.”

Having experienced the workings of divine providence, Sr Eulalia wrote in March 1961: “There is much poverty here, there are no factories or industries; the main resources are all found in the north. However, there are wonderful spiritual riches and a great movement toward the Catholic religion. The number of Christians is increasing considerably. We started our apostolate with a small book center inside the house. We have filled half of it with Japanese books, a good part with English books and a few in Korean, especially books of piety... There are many possibilities for our apostolate; there is very little Catholic press here, while everyone is eager for development in this area. We also want to work so much... It is evident that this is likewise the Lord's desire, because precisely in these few days, and for a

special occasion, we have been able to open a bookshop in the center. A Catholic gentleman gave it to us.... What we have to do now is study the language, which is very difficult – more difficult than Japanese – then we shall think of having the Gospel translated, so that we can print it and spread it. Bishops and priests have high hopes for our apostolate; they all encourage us and are eager to help us....”

Vocations soon arrived. In 1968, Sr Eulalia was appointed mistress of the first novitiate in Seoul and of the three others that immediately followed. In 1972, when Korea was legally separated from the Japanese province and became a delegation, she was the first superior-delegate while also serving as local superior in Seoul.

In 1978, when her dual mandate as delegate came to an end, she stayed for a few years in Rome to deepen her cultural formation at the Regina Mundi Institute. On her return to Korea in 1980, after a brief editorial experience, she was appointed superior of the house in Daegu, and in 1985 was again formator of the juniors and of the sisters preparing for perpetual vows. The last ten years of her presence in Korea were characterized by a strong commitment to the formation of the Pauline Cooperators, the launch and consolidation of the Institute of Mary the Annunciation [IMSA], and translation service. The members of the Annunciation institute, in particular, have always been very grateful to her, considering her as their ‘mother’.

In 2001, at the age of eighty, she preferred to remain in Italy, and she was sent to the community of Naples Capodimonte where she dedicated herself to the preparation of semi-finished products, and to the care of her declining health. About three years ago, she was received into the Giacomo Alberione community in Albano. She continued to carry Korea in her heart, and her joy was great when she could see the various groups of Korean sisters who came to Italy for various reasons. She was in tune with that province, rejoicing at the gift of vocations and the progress in both the apostolic field and in formation.

Her kind and encouraging words, her amiable and embracing smile, her gratitude for the fullness of graces received in her long life, bear testimony to all. And to make the thanksgiving more concrete, she never tired of kissing the hands of her sisters, the co-workers and the nurses who gave her the necessary care. She was not suffering from any particular illness and had even become negative after having experienced the *Covid-19* infection. Just like a candle, she was gradually consumed in her daily offering.

The life of Sr Eulalia, which once again offers us the possibility of associating with that inexhaustible "document" which is the history of the first generations, instills in all of us, and particularly in the Korean sisters, a renewed faith and apostolic audacity: “We know in whom we have believed, and we have the certainty that He who began this work in us will bring it to completion.”

We convey our closeness and solidarity to the sisters of the Giacomo Alberione community of Albano, who have been sorely tried in these days.

Affectionately,



sr Anna Maria Parenzan

Roma, 6 marzo 2021.