

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

We received the news that at 7:34 p.m. today (local time), one of our sisters in the Hiratsuka Jyuzen Nursing Home in Kanagawa, Japan was called to heaven to rejoice with the Lord forever:

**HONDO MASAKO – SR. MARIA EVANGELINA**  
**born in Tokyo, Japan, on 29 December 1930.**

Baptized as an adult in 1949, she entered the Congregation in the community of Tokyo on 8 December 1951. She had received her high school diploma while still at home with her family and after her entrance she was assigned to work in the radio apostolate just launched by Fr. Paolo Marcellino, ssp.

According to the custom of the time, Sr. Evangelina made her vestition in 1953. Actually, the event was scheduled to take place later but news of the imminent arrival of Fr. Alberione and M. Thecla in Japan required a change of plans. Given the situation, Sr. Lorenzina Nota sewed the postulant's vestition habit while traveling by train from Fukuoka to Tokyo.

What remained in Sr. Evangelina's mind regarding her meeting with Prima Maestra Thecla was the Superior General's profound gaze and encouraging words about her name, *Evangelina*, which Maestra Thecla suggested she would do well to meditate on for the rest of her life.

In 1954, Evangelina was admitted to the novitiate with eighteen other young women, concluding this stage of her Pauline formation with her first vows on 30 June 1955. On that very day, the Founder, in Rome at the time, had spoken words full of prophecy that today take on a special meaning for Sr. Evangelina. "Go forward!" he had exclaimed, "one step after another, always ascending, always moving ahead until you reach the heights, until you reach Jesus in heaven. Strain ahead every day, never stopping on your journey toward holiness and in your apostolic activities. Forward!"


With this Pauline incentive in her heart, Sr. Evangelina spent the time of her temporary profession in the communities of Fukuoka, Nagasaki and Tokyo, where she carried out the radio and book center apostolates, and also diffused our publications to families and businesses. After her perpetual profession in 1961, she primarily spread the Gospel through her book centers activities in Tokyo, Fukuoka, Kagoshima, Sendai, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. For several years, she also worked in the kitchen in Hiroshima.

The sisters who lived and worked with Sr. Evangelina over the years remember her as a modest, quiet and serene person, who was very faithful to her vows and to all her responsibilities. She preferred hidden jobs, which did not put her on display. She was loved by everyone, including our Pauline Cooperators, whom she provided with assiduous accompaniment and with whom she collaborated with great benevolence.

In 1994, she was transferred to our Hiratsuka community, where she dedicated herself in particular to phone and door services. About three years ago, it was discovered that Sr. Evangelina had a serious heart valve disease. Admitted to the Hiratsuka Jyuzen Nursing Home, she kept in touch with the members of her community through the writings, bulletins, and various information they sent her, and which she read with great interest. A few days ago, she serenely accepted the news that she was nearing the end of her life.

She left us in silence, placing herself completely in the hands of the Father. Sr. Evangelina truly belongs to the ranks of the little ones and the poor, whom the Lord proclaims blessed. With the Virgin Mary, she is now invited to rejoice in the magnificent reward she found awaiting her in heaven.

Affectionately,

  
sr Anna Maria Parenzan

Roma, 8 settembre 2022