



Dearest Sisters,

We received news this morning that at 6:58 a.m. (local time) at the "Camellia-kai Sakuragaoka" senior citizens' facility in Hiratsuka, Japan, the merciful Father called to Himself our sister

HARA MASAKO Sr. M. PATRIZIA
born in Nagano Ken Ueda (Nagano, Japan) on March 20, 1928

Sr M. Patrizia was baptized at the age of 21 in 1950, by an Italian Franciscan priest who, over the years, had encouraged vocations to the Daughters of St. Paul and supported Pauline apostolic activities. At his invitation, Sr. Agnes Leto and another sister visited his parish in 1951 to speak about the Pauline vocation to young people. It was on that occasion that they met the future Sr. M. Patrizia and Sr. M. Eletta Tokutake (1922 - 2020).

Sr. M. Patrizia recalled that day: "About a year after my baptism, a sister who could barely speak Japanese, gave us a pamphlet in English, introduced us to the congregation, and invited us to a vocation retreat. It was the first time I had met a sister, and that retreat turned my thinking upside down. I discovered that the conditions for joining the congregation were not an excellent education or a dowry, but a generous response to God's call. By the end of the retreat, I made my decision."

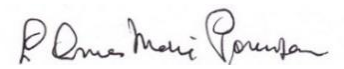
Sr M. Patrizia entered the congregation in Tokyo on March 15, 1952. She was a good, strong-willed young woman, diligent, determined, responsible. She was also full of compassion and genuine affection. In 1953, during Fr. Alberione's and Maestra Thecla's second visit to Japan, she and sixteen other postulants received the habit. Sr. M. Patrizia made her novitiate in Tokyo, followed by her first profession on June 30, 1955. During the years of her juniorate, she carried out itinerant outreach in the Diocese of Osaka. Following her perpetual profession in Tokyo in 1960, she worked in the book centers and in administration in the communities of Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka. In Sendai, she served as superior for three years before spending nearly four decades as the local bursar in the central house in Tokyo, where she also oversaw apostolic administration.

Sr. M. Patrizia loved traditional Japanese culture and through the art of ikebana (flower arranging), the traditional tea ceremony and calligraphy, she entertained and enriched the community. She also composed poems expressing her faith and desire to *taste the new wine of the covenant* and to *be carried away by the spring breeze to fly high to the heart of God*.

On her Golden Jubilee of consecration, Sr. M. Patrizia sincerely thanked the sisters who had passed on to her the gift of vocation: "If it were not for the sisters of the first hour, who laid this foundation with faith, love, hope, and hard work, we would not be able to celebrate the joy of this day. We wish to, and must, express our deepest gratitude to them in a special way as we continue to move forward, striving to fulfill our vocation."

We imagine that the words she wrote on the day of her perpetual profession may become for her a radiant and consoling reality: "The totality of my being - mind, will, heart - unites today to say YES to the invitation of the Divine Master." A yes that is truly for all eternity.

Affectionately,



Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan

Rome, February 18, 2025