



Dear Sisters,

Today, May 20, 2018, the Solemnity of Pentecost, at 4:30 AM (local time) at the clinic of Komatubara-en in Tokyo (Japan), the Lord brought into his eternal Kingdom our sister,

**SR. M. PAOLA – KANE MARIA KUROSAKI  
born on May 25, 1930, in Hirado nagasaki (Japan).**

Kane Maria received the gift of Baptism on May 28, 1930, a few days after her birth. She was given a Christian formation through her family as well as through her active participation in the life of the parish, especially in the choir where she offered her contribution with her beautiful voice. She entered the Congregation on July 17, 1950, in Ozasa Fukuoka, joining the small group of disciples who had reached the Land of the Rising Sun on May 2 of that same year (1950). *«When Primo Maestro asked Madre Maestra for the first Sister Disciples for Japan, he wrote: “The Pious Disciples are to go for adoration among seventy million Shintoists and Buddhists”. It was with great trust that he began our mission in Japan at the dawn of May, as the entire Church honored Mary. She will assist the first sisters in overcoming the inevitable difficulties of every beginning, and make it fruitful for their apostolate»* (Divin Maestro, June 1950). She entered the novitiate on May 4, 1953, in Kawaguchi, Saitama DM, forming part of the first Japanese novitiate: *«Primo Maestro himself began our first Novitiate. There is need to pray, there is the possibility to work, that the Divine Master may be made known, followed and loved. The way that is easier and that assures that we will reach the goal is always the same, the most beautiful: Mary most Holy, through Mary to Jesus [per Mariam ad Jesum]»* (Divin Maestro, May 1953). She made her first profession on May 5, 1954, in Kawaguchi Saitama, and her perpetual profession on May 5, 1959, in Mitaka, Tokyo DM. The journey of her life and consecration are marked by the presence of Mary, our Mother and Teacher!

With her preparation as a professional seamstress, she placed this talent at the service of the apostolate: promoting the perfection and beauty of the sacred vestments, and clerical attire, that she prepared with diligent precision. Working with intelligence and creativity, she was attentive to the needs of the priests and bishops. She learned to offer the struggles of her work for the persons who would use the vestments, therefore, always with an apostolic spirit. It can be said that charity, the gift of the Holy Spirit, present in her heart, became generosity in action, also through the ability of her hands. She nourished her interior life by an intense life of Eucharistic prayer, giving preference to the first hours of the day. The sisters bear witness that it was not uncommon to find her in chapel even at midnight. She used her time profitably and showed a tremendous love for the Congregation. She contributed a great deal to the development of our mission, at the beginning of the foundation in Japan as well as in Korea (1968-1970). The common denominator of her apostolate is the sewing, for which she was often the primary person responsible in the various workrooms: in Kawaguchi (1954), in Mitaka of Tokyo DM (from October 1954), in the RA community with Liturgical Center in Tokyo (1973), in the DM community of Mitaka Tokyo (1976), in Rome (1979), seamstress and local councilor in Tokyo DM (1981), responsible for the sewing workroom in Fukuoka DM (1985); from 1989 onward she alternated between Nagasaki and Tokyo. She was local superior twice: from 1964 in the community of Tokyo Mitaka DM and from 1970 in the community of Osaka DM. As a result of her declining health, in February 2015 she was transferred to the clinic *Komatsubara-en*, where she received the necessary treatments. The sisters visited her regularly, and each time offered her the possibility of receiving the sacraments, which was a source of great joy to her.

She died of old age, offering every cross in preparation for her final encounter with the Divine Master. During the last two weeks, fortified by Holy Communion, by the Body of the Lord, she repeated to everyone: *“Arigato (Thank you!)”* and sang until the end. She made her own the words of Saint Paul: *«All of us, gazing with unveiled face on the glory of the Lord are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, as from the Lord who is the Spirit»* (2Cor 3:18). She lived this as a personal covenant with Jesus. Accompanied by Sr. M. Fiorella Asaho, the Provincial Superior, and by the sisters, she renewed her vows as she offered her last breath and her entire being to the Father. Shortly before her death, Sr. M. Fiorella asked her: *“What are you looking at? Jesus?”* She responded in a loud and clear voice: *“Jesus is always with me, why do you ask?”* The sisters in Japan repeat with her and for her: *“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit...”* and entrust to her intercession the mission in their land and in that of the immense Asia!

*S. M. Paola Kane Maria*