



Dear Sisters,

Today, September 6, 2019, at the Komatsubaraen Clinic in Tokyo (Japan), at 12:08 PM (local time), the Lord called our sister to the final encounter with him:

SR. M. CHERUBINA FUKUE CATERINA OSAWA
born on May 24, 1929 in Kiryu-Shi Gumma-ken (Japan).

She received baptism at the age of 21, in 1950, and entered the Congregation on December 26, 1956, in Tokyo Mitaka. Here she received her initial formation and gradually completed the various stages that would lead to her first Religious Profession on March 25, 1960, and then to Perpetual Profession on March 25, 1965.

Sr. M. Cherubina began her apostolic collaboration in sacred art (1960 – 1968). After several years, she would return to painting in 1990. She was adept at Japanese art, using elements of nature such as flowers and other items to offer her people gracious messages of beauty, together with the proclamation of Jesus Christ. Besides this, at various times, she offered her collaboration in the ministry to priests: in Tokyo at the Society of Saint Paul and in the Bishop's Residence in Fukuoka, as well as in the Liturgical Apostolate Center. Sr. M. Cherubina was able to rejoice in any mission entrusted to her, as was evident in a letter to M. M. Lucia Ricci (Superior General at that time). *«I have just received the mandate to go to become a small member in the new community of Nagasaki. I will go there with the local superior, and together we will strive to bear witness to the religious life of the Sister Disciples, especially that the Divine Master may send us some beautiful vocations. The undersigned is entrusted with the task of office work in the Church that will become our house. I feel obliged to give thanks that I was chosen to begin in this small house and also the responsibility to correspond»* (Tokyo, August 18, 1975). Among her recurrent tasks there is also the service at the telephone switchboard and hospitality, especially in the community of Tokyo Hachioji DM.

Her letters, addressed to the successive general superiors, translated from Japanese, manifest the desire to transmit the gift of faith, baptism, to everyone, beginning with her family. In 1972, she wrote: *«Easter has a profound meaning for me and I want to prepare myself in recollection. Then much prayer and the Holy Mass for my father: I believe he is now in eternal life. In fact, he died after baptism, and this is a great consolation for me. Now I ask prayers for my mother...»* (March 26, 1972). Upon her mother's death, she wrote: *«(Her mother died at the age of 89) after my father's death, at 78 years of age she received the gift of baptism... Her sacrifices were for God. She learned to pray and prayed continually, always lighting lamps to the Madonna on the family altar: she prayed for the conversion of all to the Church of the true God, she prayed for the families that they might live in fidelity. She prayed for the Pope, for world peace. I am grateful to God and to the Congregation for the prayers of all that my mother received the gift of baptism, and after baptism, more than ten years that this gift might bear fruit and prepare her for eternal life. I ask the grace that all of my dear ones may receive the gift of faith (they are not Christians yet). That all, like my mother, may be able to meet God and live in his grace»* (March 1984).

To her regular apostolic activities, Sr. M. Cherubina added the service of animation, especially for the Friends of the Divine Master, but she was also able to utilize every occasion for the communication of the faith.

Since 2006, she moved to the community of Tokyo Betania, joining the community of the sisters who are elderly or infirm. A creative and serene person, she dwelt in the joy of the Gospel and felt the burning glow of the Eucharistic Presence. She rejoiced at being a Sister Disciple, a member of the Pauline Family, for Blessed Alberione and for Mother Scholastica, and her nameday on the Feast of the Transfiguration oriented her journey toward the Lord, striving to make progress each day.

Since 2017, due to complications in her health, she was entrusted to an external Clinic, near our community, that provided the assistance and equipment required for her care following a fractured femur and subsequent complications. On September 2, 2019, the sisters were notified of the worsening of her condition. Consciously, Sr. M. Cherubina was able to receive the Sacraments from Father Suzuki, Provincial Superior of the Society of Saint Paul, after which she entered into a great peace. She enjoyed the closeness in prayer from the sisters, for which she always manifested great gratitude. In their presence she concluded her earthly pilgrimage, as the Provincial Superior, Sr. M. Consilia Taniyama, wrote.

It is not by accident that her passage to eternal life took place at the vigil of the beginning of the Asia-Oceania Continental Meeting, which will take place in Taiwan from September 9 - 15. We entrust it to her! We are aware of the great urgency for the first proclamation of Jesus to over four billion in the Asian population.

Sr. M. Cherubina, rest in peace and contemplate the face of the Divine Master in joy together with your loved ones and all the members of the Pauline Family in Heaven!

S. H. Paolo Hancin