



Dear Sisters,

On June 9, 2021, at 6:50 PM, in the Ryohoku Hospital of Hachioji – Tokyo (Japan), the Divine Master visited and called definitively to himself his disciple and our sister

**SR. M. TERESINA – MADDALENA TADAKO TERADA
born on March 5, 1934, in Osaka (Japan).**

She was baptized on August 15, 1954 in Isahaya, Diocese of Nagasaki, together with her sister Marta, who was two years older. In the family, only her mother was Catholic. She came to know the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master, and entered the Congregation in Fukuoka on April 18, 1956. The following year, Marta also entered and they journeyed together through the formation in the religious life. They began the Novitiate on March 24, 1959, and made the religious profession on March 25, 1960, in Tokyo Mitaka DM. During the Juniorate they followed separate paths and in April of 1964 Sr. M. Teresina, was sent to the Divine Master community of Staten Island in the United States. On March 25, 1965, she made her perpetual profession in Fresno - California (USA).

She carried out the apostolate of the Sister Disciples in various communities and cities at the service of the priests in the communities of the Society of St. Paul or in the workrooms for embroidery or sewing for the liturgical apostolate. In Japan: in Tokyo DM and SP; in Osaka; in the seminary of Yokohama; in Fukuoka DM; in Nagasaki DM. In the United States: in Staten Island CR; Fresno SP; S. José DM; Dearborn.

She returned to Tokyo in March of 1971, continuing in the communities of the Province of Japan to live in prayer and service the vocation that actualizes the Marian presence in the Pauline Family: with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and like Mary and the women of the Gospel, in following and in serving Jesus and the Twelve Apostles.

With precarious health since her youth, she was faced with the daily mental-physical fragility which limited her activity but also trained her to live the apostolate of suffering over time, in the Pauline spirit with which Blessed Father James Alberione taught us.

At periodic intervals she underwent hospitalization in various clinics and, since 2014, resided in a home for seniors, “Sansui-en”, in Hachioji.

Despite her absence from the community, she always remained interested and participated in the life of the Congregation: she longed to hear the news about the sisters and the communities. With every visit, the Superior brought her the circulars and general and provincial communications. She also had a great desire to receive the Blessed Sacrament, cultivating her communion with the Eucharistic Jesus. For as long as her health permitted, she participated in the Holy Mass celebrated for her in the clinic by Father Tomura Domenico ssp. Fraternally, this priest made himself available and responded to her desire for communion with God. For the occasion, they prepared a temporary altar decorated with flowers and candles and they animated the celebration with hymns. The sisters recall her transfiguring joy in these moments!

The sisters of the Province of Japan testify that her sickness contributed to their growth in understanding the dignity of every person. At the beginning, the DM community of Hachioji struggled with the acceptance of her suffering, and she herself suffered even more because no one knew how to accept her mental illness in a religious community that was well organized and structured: *A long journey together with Sr. M. Teresina and other infirm sisters taught us and enabled us to grow: in this way we learned to see our reality through the eyes of Jesus Master and to accompany each person as he desires. We learned that every situation is different but Jesus wants to accompany all of his disciples until the end; until they enter the heavenly Jerusalem to praise the Most Blessed Trinity eternally.*

Now we believe that she goes joyfully to meet her Spouse, face to face, without fear.

Sr. H. Michael Honeth'