



Dear Sisters,

It was shortly after midnight on Friday night, Saturday January 13, 2024, at 12:35 AM, at the retirement home Komatsubara-EN di Hachioji –Tokyo, that Jesus Master, as Bridegroom, made his appearance and called to himself our sister

**SR. M. LUCIS – NOBU DOMENICA FUJIWARA
born on January 10, 1935, in Hirado shi, Nagasaki (Japan).**

From her personal documents it is understood that the little Nobu was brought to the baptismal font on Sunday, September 8, 1934, receiving the Christian name Domenica. This bears witness that the priority of her parents was to give their newborn daughter the gift of Baptism, that her name might be written in the Book of Life for the Kingdom of Heaven. The registration of her birth in the civil registry was made as soon as the parents were able to travel and present themselves at the Registrar’s Office to record her birth: January 10, 1935. Nobu Domenica is the third of ten children, from a family of profound and solid Christian traditions. During her infancy, she experienced the drama of war and felt the disastrous consequences of the radiation caused by the explosion of the atomic bomb in Nagasaki. Thus, throughout her life, while offering her apostolic service with generosity, she was always required to take into consideration her fragile health.

She recounted her vocation: «From my childhood, whenever I saw the sisters visiting the church, I wanted to be a sister. Also my two paternal aunts were religious sisters, one of them had already entered the Trappistine convent in Hokkaido, but I never met her. Following in the footsteps of these aunts, my three cousins joined them, one after the other. My aunts and cousins, who knew me as a frail infant, invited my sister to join them, but they never asked me. After graduation, my classmates went to work but, since I had many siblings, my mother did not allow me to go: she needed me to help with the housework.

I continued to think about the religious vocation and, one day, when my parents were together, I drew up the courage to tell them that I wanted to enter the convent. In that moment, my father responded immediately: “There is a monastery where someone like you could serve...”. My mother listened and said nothing, but one day, at the end of the Mass, she did not leave the church. I looked inside the church and saw that she was still praying. As we returned home, my mother told me: “If you have such a great desire for religious life, pray before making a decision. People judge by appearances, but it is God who determines your vocation”. Encouraged by her words, I prayed and waited for the right moment. In the meantime, my father became ill and spent a long period of time in the hospital. Despite my mother’s efforts to care for him, he died at the age of 46, leaving ten children. At the time, my mother was 42, and my youngest sister was barely a year old.

In my sorrow, I postponed the entrance into religious life and busied myself with the housework to help my mother even more than before. There I was presented with the apostolate

of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master. When I decided that this was the Congregation for me, my mother accepted without hesitation. I was moved by her firmness and I was resolved to respond to the vocation. Christ chose me with his words: "Come and see, then you will understand". I want to live in response to the love God has shown me, conserving the prayer: "In the weak you manifest your great power and your love shines in those who walk in your ways, which greatly surpass human wisdom" (Preface)».

Sr. M. Lucis spent the greatest part of her apostolic life in the priestly service in various communities: Fukuoka, SSP Seminary, Yokohama, Tokyo Seminary SSP, Yokohama Azamino, ecc...

Given her strong sense of responsibility, she was also entrusted with the task of coordinating the community or helping the formation mistresses as an assistant.

In 1981, she was asked to be available to serve the people of God in the liturgical apostolate: she was very grateful to learn how to sew vestments and cassocks in the workshops, and she was convinced that, if this is interwoven with continual prayer, the hours spent in sewing and making vestments would also benefit the ordained ministers who wore them for divine worship. She offered her service in the workshops in the communities of Fukuoka DM, Osaka and Tokyo.

She wrote with conviction: «I believe that the talents possessed by each of our sisters are a blessing from God and a treasure of the Congregation. While carefully cultivating the spirit of learning, I am well aware that it is an apostolate that should not always remain the same. It must be perfected through research and the acquisition of competence with the passage of time. In order to do this, we must have the courage to face the challenges without being afraid of mistakes or failure. For us, there is always room for progress. Often we feel the limitations of time and the energy to fulfill so many orders, but in these moments the spirit of reciprocal help, love, and the virtue of sharing our energies with each other makes that which seems difficult so much lighter and the problems are resolved. The apostolate, which begins with prayer and is realized in prayer, is an important role entrusted to us by the Church. Even today, we are aware of this great mission and, as members who live and work in the Church, we desire to give our contribution with joy».

The sisters are unanimous in praising the calmness of Sr. M. Lucis and her humorous and witty conversation. She never spoke aggressively, but said the things with the right words. Many sisters testify that her smile, her tranquility, her sense of humor, her wit and her equilibrium were the result of her constant union with Jesus Master. Despite her illness, she worked with dedication in the sewing apostolate and creatively produced one new item after another. With the progression of dementia, in February of 2020 she was admitted to Komatsubara-En, a specialized senior residence, located near the DM community in Hachioji. Here she received complete assistance, with occasional visits from the sisters. From the manner in which the personnel treated her, it was clear that she was a precious person who made the others around her laugh. This was also a mission she carried out: the apostolate of the smile.

On January 8, when we were informed that her condition was worsening, the Provincial Superior, Sr M. Giuditta Tokuno, and the Local Superior, Sr M. Loretta Omizu, went to visit her. They found her alert and grateful.

«Toward midnight a cry was raised: 'Here is the Bridegroom, go out to meet him!'. Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps (Mt 25: 6-7)». Sr. M. Lucis, we imagine you among the wise virgins with the lamp of your consecrated life burning, in the hall of the wedding banquet for the feast of unending life.

Sr. M. Michaela Honeth'