



Dear Sisters,

On Sunday, April 7, 2024, at the retirement home Sansui-En, in Hachioji (Tokyo, Japan), at 2:29 PM, the Divine Master called to eternity his Disciple

**SR. M. CARITAS – SETSUKO MONICA YAMANO
born on February 1, 1940, in Hirado Shi (Nagasaki - Japan).**

Born into a Catholic family, Setsuko Monica is the eldest of seven children. She came to know our Congregation through her uncle, Br. Paolo Yamano, a Pauline Disciple. Animated by vocational zeal during the summer vacations in the family, he dedicated himself to making the new Pauline vocation known and recommended to his nieces: «Be good, humble, do not desire anything other than doing God's will, and be faithful». As Mother Lucia Ricci testified: «A unique fact in our history: when the two first Sister Disciples reached Japan in 1950 to begin our life and activity, they found six aspirants already prepared! They were prepared by Brother Paolo, who chose wisely. The first among the six was his own niece, who received the name: Sr. M. Scholastica Yamano at her profession».

Following the example of her cousins, on April 11, 1958, Monica entered the community in Fukuoka at the age of eighteen. After the period of novitiate, she made her religious profession on March 25, 1962, in Tokyo and the perpetual profession on March 25, 1967, also in Tokyo. She then frequented a course of study in cooking at Fukuoka, where she obtained the diploma in culinary art. With competence and love, she then dedicated herself in the communities of the Society of St. Paul as an industrious chef.

During the first years of religious profession, she went by car to many parish churches: she visited them with pastoral passion to make known the beauty of Christian prayer and promote the religious articles and artistic productions of our workrooms and Liturgical Apostolate Centers. She had a very strong sense of responsibility and fulfilled every service with joy and perseverance, bringing to completion the tasks she undertook. She did not spare herself, especially when faced with the most difficult tasks.

As the name she received at profession suggests, she was seriously committed to living love – the Love – giving a beautiful testimony of a life offered entirely to Christ the Master. Many sisters bear witness to her generosity and strong faith. From 1981 until 2000, she was



missioned in Italy, serving primarily in the kitchen of the General House in Rome. During her stay in Italy, she developed breast cancer, which reappeared barely one month after the first surgical intervention, forcing her to undergo more surgeries. Her courage and positive attitude greatly prolonged her life.

Upon her return to Japan, she continued to drive the car, to help in the kitchen, to offer her services as local superior at the vocational community of the Society of Saint Paul, and to care for our DM community in Hachioji. Attentive to the needs of the sisters who were older and more fragile than herself, she voluntarily assumed daily chores to provide relief for the other sisters: going to open the gate of the House at 4 in the morning and voluntarily taking her turn of Eucharistic Adoration at dinnertime for the community.

In April of 2023, with the emergence of symptoms of senile dementia, she began having difficulties in community life; she was hospitalized and, in the fall, she was transferred to a retirement home suitable for her health. Here she spent a serene period and the sisters, noting her serenity and peace, felt relieved.

Unfortunately, in March of this year, the clinical examinations revealed a large cancerous growth in the intestine. When it was discovered, there was nothing that could be done clinically. However, even in this latest health fragility, she managed to remain calm from the beginning to the end: which was a great blessing.

On the Sunday in *Albis deponentis* and of Divine Mercy, Sr. M. Caritas went to encounter her beloved Master Jesus, in a manner that was peaceful and natural, in the presence of the Local Superior, Sr. M. Loretta Omizu, and the sisters who accompanied her in prayer. We can say that her life was truly spent in charity, that simple love of the ordinary, with the smile of one who has found the treasure and coherently lived according to the name she received at religious profession.

We believe that Sr. M. Caritas Yamano, who loved the Congregation, loved the Pauline Family and loved her vocation, is now with the Lord, singing the joy of her vocation and praying for us, for the perseverance of all, and especially for our novices.

Sr. M. Michaela Bonetti