



Dear Sisters,

Friday, January 3, 2025, at 2:18 AM, at the hospital Sobu di Hachioji – Tokyo (Japan), the Divine Master called to eternity

**SR. M. GABRIELLA – CHINO MARIA HASHIGUCHI**  
**born on April 7, 1933, in Kigatsu, Nagasaki (Japan).**

The last of eight children born into a Christian family, the little girl was brought to the baptismal font a few days after her birth to receive the great gift of faith and enter into the Family of God. She received the name Maria, a testament to the Christian life in which she was formed by her parents and relatives. Raised in a land directly evangelized by St. Francis Xavier, she discovered the grace of her religious vocation through the spiritual guidance of her brother, Father Gabriele Hashiguchi Sagoemon, a priest with the Conventual Franciscans. She herself wrote: *«It was my brother, who was preparing to be ordained a priest, who introduced me to the Congregation. At the beginning, I was not really interested in this Congregation, but I entered because I sincerely wanted to live as a religious sister. Then I was reminded that God truly calls us in different ways. God has always held me in his strong and loving hands and has never left me. I can only be grateful to him. I spent most of my life in the direct service of bishops, priests and religious, praying for their physical and mental health, especially in the Eucharistic adoration, that they may fulfill their priestly ministry in joy and peace. I asked the Lord that many would feel and follow the priestly calling and contribute toward peace and love for all those who suffer, the sick and the suffering throughout the world».*

In the Marian Year, on August 8, 1954, at 21 years of age, she entered, followed by her sister, Anna who entered the Congregation at Kawaguchi (Saitama), on August 15, 1954: Sr. M. Arcangela († 22.12.2009). Together they followed the formative stages for consecrated life among the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master and, at the conclusion of the novitiate, made their religious profession together on May 31, 1958.

With the religious profession, Chino Maria received the new name of Sr. M. Gabriella, in remembrance of her brother priest, with whom she remained closely bound by family ties reinforced by the charismatic dimension: being beside the priest as Mary of Nazareth lived beside Jesus, guarding them and fostering their growth until the total self offering upon the Cross.




Silent and graceful, she loved the specific Pauline vocation of the Sister Disciples and she strove, in prayer and service, to fulfill this mission wherever she was sent in obedience. Gifted with artistic talent, she invested these natural gifts and placed them at the service of evangelization, especially in sacred art and ceramics. At various times, she also undertook the responsibility as Local Superior in Tokyo, and in Wakaba at the Society of Saint Paul. From 1990 to 1994, she was in Rome offering various services in the General House. She then returned to Japan, where she resumed her artistic activity at the service of the liturgy and, from 1996 to 2002, she was assisting the Catholic Episcopal Conference of Japan.

Even in advanced age, she silently continued to voluntarily perform various services in the community. Her smile, silence and the joy she experienced in her ordinary service remain alive in the hearts of the sisters!

In 2022, she suffered a stroke and other serious complications, without effective treatment. With the worsening of her conditions, she was hospitalized in January of 2024, where she suffered another stroke. Despite this, her mind remained lucid until the end of her life. She consciously faced the suffering caused by the illness, praying and offering everything for priests, for the Congregation, for the sisters of the Province of Japan and for new vocations.

Thank you, Sr. M. Gabriella, for the witness you have given us by your life and, as the Gates of Heaven open for you, intercede for us as we journey as pilgrims of hope along the way of peace.

Rome, January 4, 2025

  
Sr. M. Micaela Monetti