



Dear Sisters,

On Monday, February 3, 2025, at the hospital of Sobu, in Hachioji - Tokyo (Japan), at 6:15 AM, Jesus Master, the Lord of life, definitively called to himself our sister

SR. M. AGNES - KASUE TERESIA SHINGAI
born on February 3, 1938, in Yawata, Kitakyūshū, (Fukuoka-Japan)

The first-born of six children, she received baptism at 10 years of age, on June 27, 1948, and with the gift of faith she received a new name: Teresia. She was raised by parents who were strong in faith and ecclesial service, open to offering hospitality to priests and laity, even those unknown to them. The family, like many others, was struck by the tragedy of the Second World War since the city in which they lived was the seat of the Imperial Steel Mills, a large industrial complex for iron and steel. Even today it is one of the most important steel production sites in the world. But the example of her parents and the beauty of the Christian principles in which Teresia was raised and matured, are fertile soil for a vocation to the religious life.

In her vocation story, she recounts: «When I was young, every Saturday I would get on the motorcycle of the Pastor to help him on his visit to houses and hospitals. From that moment, I understood that I wanted to help the Church and the Parishes in the future. Every once in a while, the Pastor would bring me to visit the nearby Congregations of the Province to enable me to get to know the sisters. One day I was approached by a priest of the Society of Saint Paul in Fukuoka and introduced to the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master. I spent two days with them, assisting them in the daily work. Something began to change within me and I began to think only about how to prepare myself to become a Sister Disciple, without fearing the opposition of my parents. Rethinking about those days, I can only say that the sisters, through their silent work and smiles, showed me the Lord of Life. I wanted to share and transmit this joy and gratitude to an ever greater number of people, continuing to turn to Jesus, who tells me in prayer and in ministry: “*I have chosen you*”, surrendering myself each day to the “*happiness*” of calling God “Father” and to the infinite tide of the love of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (August 1998)».

On the vigil of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 14, 1955, she left her family and entered the community of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master in Fukuoka. Upon completion of the novitiate, on March 25, 1959, she made her religious profession in Tokyo DM, and following the periodic renewals of the temporary vows, on March 25, 1964, she made the perpetual profession in the same Divine Master Community in



Tokyo.

From the first years of religious life, Sr. M. Agnes demonstrated a great love for the Congregation and its mission in the Church. Strong and generous, she invested her intelligence, heart and physical strength wherever she was sent in obedience to God who manifested himself to her through dialogue with the legitimate superiors: now in the communities at the service of the Society of Saint Paul in Fukuoka and in Tokyo; now in diocesan collaboration in the offices of the Catholic Archdiocese of Tokyo.

When she was sent as a collaborator in the Liturgical Apostolate – which in Japan is called *Pietà* – she was aware that “it was not always possible to speak about Jesus Christ, but we can always speak in a Christian manner”, as our Founder, Blessed Father James Alberione, would often affirm. Animated in the mission, she also dedicated herself to the vocational ministry, recalling that “the works of God are done with the persons of God”. Specialized in ecclesiastical tailoring, she was a secure and appreciated point of reference for the workrooms of the Liturgical Apostolate and for the clergy of the Church in Japan.

She assumed community responsibilities, first as Local Superior - at Nagoya from 1970-1971 and then as Local Councilor in the community of Nagasaki (1981-1982). In 1982, she was called to the General House in Rome where she came to know the places of foundation and the Pauline Family as a whole. She remained there until 1985, also offering her assistance as a missionary at the Souvenirs at Saint Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican.

Upon her return to Japan, with fidelity and passion, she continued to integrate the apostolic life and interior and community prayer, in the liturgy and the daily Eucharistic adoration. In the various communities of the Province of Japan - Osaka, Nagasaki, Tokyo, Hachioji - Sr. M. Agnes contributed to the fraternal life and the mission in the spirit of the first missionaries of the Gospel. Her zeal for the apostolate sometimes created conflicts with the sisters, some of whom suffered because of her strong character. However, it is probable that God used her to give new impetus to the apostolate of the Congregation in Japan and to enable us to grow in patience and in charity. Through a long period of purification caused by her illness, she herself and the sisters recognized that, aware of her internal transformation, it was the completion of a project for good.

Because of her precarious health situation, it became necessary to admit her to the clinic of Sobu, where she concluded her earthly pilgrimage on her birthday and on the feastday of the Japanese martyr, Justo Takayama Ukon. At the moment in which the community was singing the “*Nunc Dimittis*” of Zechariah, she returned to the House of the Father, rendering a hymn of thanksgiving for the gift of life.

Dear Sr. M. Agnes, intercede for us and for the sisters of the Province of Japan who, exactly one month after the death of Sr. M. Gabriella Hashiguchi, are called to bear witness that we are destined for a better homeland, Paradise!

Rome, February 4, 2025


Sr. M. Micaela Monetti