



Dear Sisters,

Thursday, July 2, 2026, from the nursing home “Azalea” in Akishima, Tokyo, (Japan), at 1:30 AM, the Divine Master definitively called to himself our sister

SR. M. GESUINA – YUKO OGAWA
born on August 24, 1939, in Ueda, Nagano (Japan).

Born into a Japanese family of devout Buddhists, Yuko is the second of seven children. Guided by the Christian faith, on February 2, 1957, on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, she received the gift of Baptism in the parish church of Ueda and received the Christian name of M. Caterina.

Two years later, on September 6, 1959, she entered among the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master in the Divine Master Community of Mitakadai in Tokyo, despite the strong objections of her relatives to her choice of religious life.

At the completion of the regular novitiate, she made her religious profession in Tokyo on March 25, 1963, and, five years later, also on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, she made her perpetual profession (25-03-1968).

She loved the religious vocation and, despite the persistent disapproval of her relatives, which would last for many years to come, Sr. M. Gesuina showed herself determined in her good resolutions to love and serve Jesus Master, way, truth and life, ever more generously as his disciple.

Dedicated in the specific vocation at the service of the priesthood, she carried out her ministry at the community of the Society of Saint Paul in Akasaka, the minor seminary in Osaka, Fukuoka and in other places.

Beginning in 1974, although afflicted with serious pathologies, including renal insufficiency, she continued to dedicate herself generously to her commitments of the religious life, in the midst of many hospitalizations.

During the long period of treatment, there were certainly moments in which her spirit was weakened, but thanks to the interior strength that characterized her, she lived in communion with the sisters, giving witness to a lifestyle faithful to prayer and dedicated to the mission.



From 2006 until 2019, she offered her service in the sacristy of the house of Hachioji in Tokyo: they were impressed by her untiring dedication, in the preparation of the liturgical celebrations, for the greater glory of God and to foster the active and devout participation of everyone.

At times, due to illness, she felt discouraged and confided totally in the superior, but even if the pain and suffering risked destroying her, she continued faithfully to live her prayer and community life.

Due to the decrease in her physical strength and a decline in cognitive function, she was hospitalized in the Takatasuki hospital in August of 2024, and later, in October, transferred to the senior living home “Azalea”. While leading a tranquil life, she began to manifest difficulty in motor skills and underwent numerous hospitalizations.

Following an ulterior decline in physical function, last June 26, the doctors notified us that Sr. M. Gesuina was at a terminal stage. Promptly, Sr. M. Irene Murakami, Local Superior of Tokyo DM, and Sr. M. Giuditta Tokuno, Provincial Superior, went to visit her. On that occasion, she kept her eyes open and seemed to want to communicate something. She did not speak, but she gave some weak signs of response, as if she perceived the precious nature of this final encounter. Together they prayed, entrusting her to the mercy of the Heavenly Father.

In the early hours of the morning of July 2, she was called to eternal life by the One she had faithfully loved and followed.

We entrust her to the Christian prayer of suffrage that she may rejoice in the communion of the saints and intercede for the joyful perseverance of those called to priesthood and the religious life.

Rome, July 3, 2026



Sr. M. Micaela Monetti