



*"As we have been united in the profession of the faith, so let us keep ourselves united in suffrage and intercession."*

(Fr. Alberione)

At 00:16 a.m.(local time) today in Tokyo Medical Center, our brother Priest has returned to the Father.

**FR. KEIKICHI LUCA KUWAJIMA**

***91 years, 77 of Pauline life, 67 of religious profession, 61 of priesthood***

Fr. Keikichi Luca was born in Tokyo on 10 November 1922 and was baptized on 14 August 1936. He entered the Congregation in 1937 in the community of Tokyo, where the Society of Saint Paul had arrived not very long ago (1934) and was just making the very first steps. After he completed his novitiate in Tokyo (1946-1947), he made his first profession on 9 April 1947 and his perpetual profession on 8 April 1950. He was ordained a priest on 22 December 1952 in Tokyo. Besides his studies in philosophy and theology, he attended classes in the University, receiving the licence to teach the Japanese language and sociology.

Fr. Luca Keikichi spent the first years of his priesthood in the area of formation, at the service of the school and teaching: first as formator of the aspirants in Fukuoka (1953-1954), then as teacher (1954-1957) and Principal of the middle high school in Akasaka (1957-1971) and in Hachioji (1971-1979). During this period he was also superior of the community of Tokyo (1963-1969). Then followed years when he did the service of authority, as Provincial Superior (1979-1988), residing always in Hachioji and continuing the work of Principal of the school. Then he filled the office of Provincial Councilor (1988-1992), residing in the community of Tokyo Wakaba. Then he was once more Principal of the school (1991-1999) in Hachioji and again Provincial Councilor for two mandates (1999-2007), residing in the Pauline communities of Tokyo. His age and declining health finally forced him to gradual retirement from activities and to take care of his health, but he always gave his contribution within the limits of the possible, lending humble services like that of porter and dedicating himself to prayer for the confreres committed in the various apostolates.

Fr. Luca Keikichi was the first Pauline priest of Japanese origin and the first Provincial Superior coming from that country. Shy and reserved as to character, modest in his ways, noble in spirit as well as temperate, endowed with intelligence and prudence, he was a figure to be referred to for the Pauline Family in Japan: above all for the Paulines, for one who came to him for counsel, a father always ready to help, through his experience and sound judgment.

We now entrust this our confrere to the mercy of the Divine Master, so that after having made him similar to himself in death and in burial, he may associate him with himself in the glory of the resurrection and make him live in eternal beatitude, together with the numerous array of the Pauline Family in heaven. We ask him in this year of our Centenary to intercede for the needs of the Congregation and for those of the Province of Japan, as we accompany him with our fraternal suffrage so that he may enjoy eternal rest in God.

*Rome, 22 April 2014*

*Fr. Vincenzo Vitale*

**The Superiors of Circumscription are to inform their communities for the prescribed suffrages  
(Const. 65 and 65.1)**