

SOCIETY OF ST PAUL
General House



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

(Fr. Alberione)

At 6:25 PM local time on 28 July 2016 has returned to the House of the Father our brother priest

FATHER OSAMU DOMENICO GIUSTINO TOMURA
61 years, 49 of Pauline life, 37 of profession and 31 of priesthood.

Father Tomura's death occurred in the "Saint John" wing of the Sakuramachi Hospital in the vicinity of Tokyo, caused by a highly acute pulmonary tumour discovered this last April. Despite many interventions given him, the disease took its natural course. In the final moments of his earthly sojourn, Fr. Osamu was blessed with the presence of the Provincial Superior of Japan, Fr. Agostino Suzuki, many confreres and some of his relatives.

Fr. Osamu was born in Nagasaki on 28 September 1954. His vocational journey was above all connected with the initial encounter with the Pauline vocation and his decision to enter in the community of Fukuoka at the age of 13. As time passed he decided to proceed to the Novitiate in the community of Hachioji. That was on 24 March 1978. After his first profession on 25 March 1979, he started his philosophical-theological studies at the Saint Anthony Franciscan Seminary in Tokyo. He made his perpetual profession on 19 March 1984, followed immediately by diaconal ordination on 25 April 1984. On 23 November of that same year, he was ordained a priest which took place at the St. Ignatius Church in Tokyo. That year could also be well remembered as the 50th foundation anniversary of the Pauline mission in Japan.

Most of Fr. Tomura's apostolic assignment was spent in editorial work: responsible for the magazines from 2007 to 2011 and as book editor from 2012 to 2016. For a year he was Secretary of the Commission for Social Communication of the Episcopal Conference of Japan, in 1986-1987. He also taught at the high school department of Saint Paul in Hachioji from 1988 to 1993 and, for 12 months, after some years, he also worked in the diffusion sector (1998-1999). His other services to the Congregation included being the Local Superior of the Fukuoka community (1994-1996) and as Vicar and Provincial Secretary from 2011-2015. Lastly, among his assignments, he was into Pauline vocation animation, in 1997-1998.

We can say that Fr. Tomura lived a full life, rich in apostolic engagements, well lived and shared, which continued, more intense and generous, even in sickness when, on 4 April of this year he was hospitalized in order to receive the necessary cure for his particular ailment. Generous indeed not only as per disposition but also for the love of the apostolate, he was still capable of working and be preoccupied with editorial works even in sickness, especially with regard to the exegetical notes of the local Bible translated by the Franciscan Biblical Centre and published by us.

Sensible to his priestly ministry, because also of the scarcity of priests in the Church of Japan, he did not spare himself in reaching different parishes that asked some pastoral helps. He also showed closeness to the poor, the weak ones, to those who are marginalized and those with special needs and differently able.

We also remember him who has this passion of making rosaries which, during feasts, he would readily give as gift to those present. His beard, well cared for since his younger days, earned him the nickname the “bearded priest”.

We now entrust our dear Fr. Osamu to the divine Mercy. The confreres of the Province are so most grateful to the Lord for the gift of this priest of ours, certain that the words of Fr. Alberione in the *Agenda Paolina* on the day he left speak well of the meaning of our life and of Fr. Osamu when he was still with us: «When God finds a soul humble and docile to his will like Mary most holy, he makes use of the same to accomplish his plans of love and wisdom. But that the soul be docile like the brush in the hands of a painter... ».

Through Fr. Osamu’s intercession we entrust our new Japanese and Vietnamese vocations, during these days in which many young people from all over the world are gathered together with Pope Francis in Krakow, Poland for the World Youth Day in the footsteps of God, the Merciful.

Rome, 29 July 2016

Fr. Domenico Soliman

The funeral will take place on Sunday, 31 July at 11:30 AM local time, in the chapel of the Tokyo-Wakaba Community. It will be preceded by a “vigil Mass”, celebrated according to Japanese tradition, on 30 July at 6:00 PM. After 50 days, as per local tradition, the remains will be buried in our tomb situated in the Catholic cemetery of Tokyo-Fuchu.

The Superiors of Circumscriptions should inform their communities for the prescribed suffrages (Const. 65 and 65.1).