

In the Father's 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 2:45 AM of Tuesday, 23 January 2018, at the Tokyo hospital our confrere

BRO. TADAHARU IGNAZIO AGOSTINO MAKIYAMA *83 years, 67 of Pauline life and 63 of profession*

died due to pneumonia. Tadaharu was born, according to the civil registry office, on 29 November 1934 in a village on the island of Madara (prefecture of Saga), but the date of his baptism (31 July 1934, the day when he was given the Christian name of Ignatius) reveals that his coming into the world is a few months before. The great island that sees his birth, located in the southernmost part of Japan, is the area where the evangelization begun in the sixteenth century has deeply taken root and where, afterwards, for over two and a half centuries (from 1614 to 1865) was beaten by the wind of anti-Christian persecution, inaugurated by the *shogun* Toyotomi Hideyoshi. The Makiyama family has been part of the “*kakure kirishitan*”, the hidden Christians. Fifth of six children, Tadaharu was born of a couple, Giuseppe Chujiro and Maria Itsu, who lived their faith in an authentic and profound way.

Baptized, as mentioned, on 31 July 1934 in the church of Madarajima, it was still here that he received the sacrament of Confirmation on 12 August 1948. At the age of 16, on 3 April 1950, he joined the Society of St. Paul where he was welcomed by the Fukuoka community that opened its doors just six months earlier. He lived the novitiate at the Tokyo-Akasaka house, where he made his first religious profession on 9 April 1954, taking the name of Agostino (Augustine). Still here, exactly six years later, he professed the religious vows in perpetuity.

Brother Agostino immediately lived his vocation with joy and passion, committed since the aspirancy to various tasks in the press, happy to make his contribution to the multiplication and the spread of the Gospel in his native land. The first years of perpetual profession were all dedicated to this difficult but fruitful apostolate: from 1960 to 1971 we saw him, in fact, in Tokyo-Akasaka as a Lino typist and, from 1971 to 1976, he was the overseer of the Tokyo-Hachioji press. From that year, Brother Agostino has to reinvent himself for some time to do editorial tasks: from 1976 to 1982, he was engaged in the editorial apostolate at the Tokyo-Wakaba community. From 1982 to 1988, always in that house, he held the role of Director General of the Apostolate and responsible for the editorial *Chuo-shuppansha*. For two years later he was assistant overseer in Tokyo-Hachioji (1988-1990), two years in the Tokyo-Wakaba bookstore (1990-1992) and two years as head of sales (1992-1994). Brother Agostino over time also covered more institutional tasks: from 1991 to 1993 he was Provincial Councillor, from 1997 to 1999 Provincial Bursar and from 2003

to 2007 Delegate for the Fukuoka community (and responsible for the editions of that community). From 2009 until his death, he lived in the Tokyo-Wakaba community.

As we can see, the life of Brother Makiyama has unfolded over the years in the apostolic activities and in the most varied roles, a sign of eclecticism and adaptability that has made him one of the points of reference of the Japan Province. He can be defined, in the words of the brothers who were close to him, one of the Pauline pioneers of that land. Very robust physically, essential in character, of few words but at the same time sociable, he was capable of assuming great responsibilities despite the poor formation he had during the foundational period. He had always accepted all the tasks entrusted to him with faith in the Divine Master.

From a young age he suffered from lung problems, a circumstance that forced him into the sanatorium for a few months during his junior years. A bad pancreatic cancer had been prognosticated last March. After the surgery, he had returned to the community, but at the beginning of January, the medical picture began to worsen. On 19 January, he was admitted to the hospital in Tokyo, where he died on the night of 23 January.

Brother Agostino offered his whole self with generosity for the Pauline mission. Faithful to the end in the participation of the community Mass and to the Eucharistic Visit and, thanks to his living example, that in Japan many vocations of the Pauline Disciples were born. We entrust the successful outcome of the next Interchapter of Aparecida (Brazil) through his intercession.

Rome, 25 January 2018



Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp
Secretary General

The funeral will be celebrated at 13:30 on 26 January 2018 at the chapel of the Pauline Community of Tokyo-Wakaba. On the same day, the remains of Brother Agostino will be cremated. The burial in our chapel of the Catholic cemetery of Fuchu (Tokyo) will take place, according to local traditions, in about 2 months.

The circumscription superiors should inform their communities about the prescribed suffrages (Const. 65 and 65.1)