

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 around 11:00 AM (local time) on Sunday 16 February 2020, our brother died at the Hakuikai clinic in Fukuoka (Japan), due to a cardiac arrest.

FATHER PIETRO GIOVANNI BOSCO NOBORU FUTSUKI *76 years, 64 of Pauline life, 55 of profession, 48 of priesthood*

His life began on 22 February 1943, in Nagasaki, the second son of four children from a Catholic family. Precisely this city, two years later, will become the scene of one of the most serious events of the Second World War, when it was hit by the United States with the atomic bomb. A highly industrialized city but also rich in faith as early as the 16th century, when Christianity was officially accepted by the family that governed the region. However, it was also a land of martyrdom when, towards the end of the same century, the emperor had 26 Christians killed and among them Paolo Miki, canonized in 1862 by Pope Pius IX.

At twelve years old, on 26 April 1955, Father Pietro entered the Community of Fukuoka and on 9 April 1964, he made his first religious profession in Tokyo, also taking the name of Giovanni Bosco.

Later he left for Rome to study theology. It is in this period that he felt in love with photography, a passion that is at the same time his apostolic field. He proved to be a friendly and open person, attentive to people's needs. He made his perpetual profession in Rome on 8 September 1970, was ordained deacon on 2 May 1971 and presbyter on 29 June of the same year by Msgr. Dino Trabalzini.

After the Roman period, he left for London, where he studied English for a year (1974-1975).

Returning to Japan in 1975, he would take care of the formation of the Juniors in the Community of Hachioji for some time. A long commitment would begin in the service of authority as a community superior (1976-1981 in Fukuoka; 2006-2007 in Tokyo) and circumscription superior (1993-1997 and 1999-2007). He was also provincial coordinator of formation (1988-1991) and general director of the apostolate from 1991 to 1993. Together with these commitments, his collaboration with the local church should be noted, first in Tokyo (1981-1986) and from 2010 to 2013 in Fukuoka inserted in the parish of Rouji. Since March 2013, he has been the head of the St Pauls Biblical Centre of the Province of Japan in Fukuoka.

Precisely in this community, Father Pietro had to face a serious illness, when on 8 December he was struck by an aneurysm of the aorta. To intensify his rehabilitation, he moved to the Hakuikai clinic, where he suddenly died yesterday.

To this our brother we entrust the last Chapter of the Japan Province, which ended only a few days ago. With him, we present to the Divine Master the new apostolic projects, especially in the biblical field, and the mission towards non-Christians. We ask the Holy Spirit to make the Pauline presence in Vietnam grow and consolidate.

With Father Pietro we renew our faith in Jesus Master, in the one who gives us his love in an abundant way, according to the words remembered by the Apostle and heard in yesterday's Liturgy: «What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him» (1 Cor 2:9).

Rome, 17 February 2020

Father Domenico Soliman, ssp

The funeral will take place on Wednesday, 19 February, at 13:00, in the Fukuoka Cathedral.

Circumscription Superiors inform their communities of the prescribed suffrages (Const. 65 and 65.1).