

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 3:48 AM (local time) on Friday, 24 February 2023, our confrere died at Meiseikai Central Hospital in Tokyo (Japan) due to respiratory arrest

BROTHER KAZUYOSHI PIETRO GIUSEPPE HIKAZUTANI **87 years, 63 of Pauline life, 56 of profession**

Pietro was born in Kuroshima (Nagasaki) on 15 June 1935, the fourth of thirteen children (ten brothers and two sisters), to parents Katasumi Tommaso and Taki Monica. He entered the community of Fukuoka on 3 November 1959. He began his Novitiate on 18 March 1964, made his First Religious Profession on 19 March 1966, assuming the name of Joseph. He was definitively consecrated with his Perpetual Profession on 19 March 1972.

Brother Joseph spent himself in various apostolates: first as a printing machinist and then in photoengraving (1972-1994) in the community of Hachioji, also working as a paper warehouseman and helping to transport the material from our typography to the binding, giving himself generously and hard work. In 1995, he began working in the editorial sector, doing this service for many years and with dedication. In January 2012, he returned to take care of the press until October 2021. Due to health problems, he had to spend a period of treatment in the Tokyo-Yotsuya Home, until he got worse and was called permanently to the Father's house.

Brother Joseph was of a serious, kind character, a person of prayer. He was very humble; he gladly did simple jobs, such as cleaning the corridor, the refectory, etc. If someone was in trouble, he was always ready to help. He regularly participated in the Eucharist and in Eucharistic Adoration every day. He was truly a beautiful model of prayer and apostolate.

His teacher from the first years of formation wrote of him: «He fervently desires to consecrate his strength to the service of God in our Congregation as a Disciple of the Divine Master. He is of excellent piety, of good character, sociable, docile and humble. In the Apostolate, he is diligent and exercises it with a true spirit of responsibility. Furthermore, he lends himself with charity to the various requests and various services requested by both the Superiors and his companions ».

The then Superior General, Fr Valdir José De Castro, wrote to him in a letter of greetings for his 50th anniversary of religious profession: «I thank you for all the good you have done to our Congregation up to now, for your apostolic generosity and for how you lived the Pauline yearning to “do everything for the Gospel” (1 Cor 9:23). Thank you!».

May the Lord welcome this dear brother of ours into his kingdom of light and peace and let us pray that he may intercede so that many young people fall in love with God and spend their energies in our Pauline mission.

Rome, 25 February 2023

Father Vito Spagnolo, ssp

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