

## *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)



On 31 May 2020, our brother Disciple died suddenly in the Tokyo-Wakaba community (Japan) due to a sudden cerebral haemorrhage

### **BROTHER KOUJI CARLO BORROMEO AGOSTINO MAKIYAMA** *46 years, 22 of Pauline life and 21 of religious profession*

The lifeless body of Brother Kouji was found in his room in the Wakaba community on the early morning of 3 June. The subsequent autopsy ordered by the judicial authorities established that the death, caused by a sudden stroke, dating back to a few days before (May 31).

Born on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1974 in Karatsu – in the prefecture of Saga, in southern Japan (the land of the “Japanese martyrs”) – to a Christian family, Brother Kouji was the fifth of six brothers. Baptized in the church of Madara-shima in Saga on 28 March 1974, he was given the Christian name of Charles Borromeo.

On 4 April 1986, at the age of twelve, he entered the community of Fukuoka. After obtaining a middle school diploma, he was transferred to the Tokyo-Hachioji community, where he attended “Saint Paul” high school for three years. Subsequently, in 1992, he enrolled in the Faculty of Social Sciences of the Meisei University of Tokyo, where he graduated four years later. After completing his studies and after two more years of postulancy, Kouji entered the novitiate in the community of Hachioji, where on 19 March 1999 he made his first religious profession as a disciple of the Divine Master, taking the name of Augustine, just as his twin brother was called who died shortly after birth.

After a year spent in the editorial office of our publishing house, in May 2000 he was transferred to the community of Fukuoka, where for about a year he was engaged in the broadcasting sector, also collaborating with the monthly magazine of the local diocese. Returning to Tokyo in 2001, he attended a two-year general culture course on Christianity at St. Anthony Theological School.

In August 2002, he was sent to our community in Staten Island, in the United States, to further study the English language. Returning to Tokyo (September 2004), he began preparing for perpetual profession, helping both in the Bursar’s Office and in the translations from English. Finally, on 19 March 2005, he made his perpetual vows at the Church of Saint Ignatius in Tokyo.

He resided in the Tokyo-Yotsuya community since April 2005, where he was engaged in the study of elements of economics and accounting. On 26 November 2006, he moved to the newly opened community of Tokyo-Wakaba, serving in vocation animation. In January 2010, he moved to Osaka, where he did apostolate as Bursar and in the diffusion

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sector. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012, for two years, he was also Delegate of that community. At the beginning of 2014, he returned to the Tokyo-Wakaba community, where he worked as Director of the Tokyo bookstore until 30 April 2015, when he asked and obtained permission to be able to live a year of ongoing formation in the Osaka community.

On 20 July 2016, Brother Kouji left for Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) with Father Kenji Timoteo Yamauchi, where he collaborated in that promising reality in the formation of aspirants. He remained in the Vietnamese city until May 2019, when he entered the Tokyo-Wakaba community again as a Master of aspirants and postulants. Here he also collaborated with the vice provincial Bursar. Finally, on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, he was appointed Delegate of that community, continuing with previous assignments.

Brother Kouji was a simple and sincere, balanced religious, always able to build relationships of trust in the communities where he was, characteristics that helped him a lot when he had to enter a community outside Japan, called to live first hand the prophecy of interculturality, a dimension to which religious life is increasingly and will be called to bear witness.

A sudden stroke interrupted his young life, leaving the whole Congregation grieving. We now entrust to the intercession of Brother Kouji the brothers of the Japan Province, and among them in particular the young people in formation, so that they can draw spiritual food for their future from his example of life.

Rome, 4 June 2020



Father Stefano Stimamiglio, ssp  
Secretary General

*Brother Kouji's funeral will be celebrated at 9 AM on 6 June in the chapel of the Tokyo-Wakaba community with the confreres and closest relatives. The body will later be cremated and the ashes will be buried in the tomb of the Society of Saint Paul at the Catholic cemetery of Fuchu (Tokyo) on a date to be established.*

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