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**Death Notice No. 14 (To all Unit Administrations):**



The Region of Japan, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **EIJI JEAN-MARIE VIANNEY FUKAHORI**, priest of the Kosei Marianist Community (Sapporo), who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on October 16, 2009 in Sapporo, Japan, in the 73<sup>rd</sup> year of his age and the 54<sup>th</sup> year of his religious profession.

Fr. Fukahori was born in the city of Nagasaki on August 7, 1937. He entered the Marianist Postulate in Nagasaki completing his middle school education at Nagasaki Kaisei School and high school education at Gyosei School in Tokyo. He made his novitiate at Kiyose, in the suburbs of Tokyo, and professed first vows on March 26, 1956. He professed Perpetual Vows on August 2, 1961. He began his formal seminary studies in Fribourg in 1965 and was ordained at the Gyosei School Chapel on July 6, 1969. He then spent the next several months studying Canon Law at St. Paul's University in Ottawa, Canada.

Fr. Fukahori was personally convinced of the major importance of schools when considering the work of evangelization in Japanese society. From his days as a young religious and for some forty-three years thereafter he dedicated himself completely to the evangelization of youth in the four schools of the Society of Mary in Japan. For thirty-two years until the time of his death, he served, in particular, in leadership positions in three of those schools – Osaka Meisei, Gyosei in Tokyo, and Sapporo Kosei. At each school he worked to develop an educational environment anticipating the future. Whenever the occasion presented itself, he spoke about Gospel values to the students, their guardians and all those associated with the schools. In 1999 he was awarded a “Medal of Honor - Blue Ribbon” by the Japanese government for his contributions to the promotion of education in Japanese society.

While on the one hand as a chief director, a principal, an administrator he showed a sternness, on the other hand, he was also sensitive to others and manifested a personal warmth to all those with whom he dealt on a one-to-one basis. In his position as teacher or as principal, he would severely reprimand his students. However, he always strove after that to follow-up with a sincere concern for those same students and their continued growth. For that reason, many of the graduates looked up to him as a “life mentor.”

He was blessed with ability in sports and was skilled to the degree that as a Marianist Scholastic, he was scouted to serve as a special member on the university soccer team. Physically robust from his youth, it appeared that he had a difficult time initially accepting the reality of his illness (prostate cancer). However, during the two and one-half years he dealt with it and its consequences, and as his condition progressively worsened, he came to understand his situation in the light of faith and to accept it. At the end he returned to the Lord peacefully.

The favourite expression of Fr. Fukahori was one from the Gospel - "you are the salt of the earth, the light of the world." This served, so to say, as his "motto" and time and again he used it in speaking to students and their guardians. From the time he entered the Marianist postulate in the first year of middle school in 1950 until his death at the age of seventy-two, he lived out this "motto" and strove as a disciple of the Lord to become like Christ in keeping with that aim of the Society of Mary. Let us ask Fr. Fukahori, now with the Lord, to pray with the Blessed Virgin for us that we also might live out our mission as the "salt of the earth, the light of the world."