2025 Jubilee

SISTER MARY LORETTA MURAKAMI

First Profession —



April 1, 1965

Celebrating 60 years



While her first introduction to School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) at the convent in Tokyo was brief, the cheerful disposition of the sisters left a positive impression on Sister Mary Loretta Murakami, drawing her to be a SSND. For the first 12 years of her ministry, Sister Mary Loretta served as a teacher to the young students of Notre Dame Elementary School in Kyoto, Japan. She remembers this as a meaningful time in her ministry, saying, "When I was working at Notre Dame Elementary School in Kyoto, I was most comfortable and enjoyed myself when I had the lower grade classes.

The reason for this was that everything was new to the students in terms of learning, so they all worked hard and learned seriously." In April 2002, she moved on to her next role, as she joined the staff of the Students Residence for Notre Dame Women's College in Kyoto. At the same time, she combined her experience as an educator and talent as a calligrapher by leading private calligraphy lessons from the Imakaido-cho Convent. From 2011 through 2023 she was the religious education advisor for Kosen Kindergarten in Shiga Prefecture, Japan. Since then, Sister Mary Loretta has divided her time between community service and contributing as a part-time staff member at the Iwakura Convent.

In a word or phrase, describe your experience as a SSND.

Living the spirit of our foundress, Mother Theresa, and building a community that lives her charism.

Is there a special memory you would like to share as you celebrate your Jubilee?

I remember the bus trip I took to Germany during the Jubilee year with the Provincial Leader and German Sisters: pilgrimage to holy places, schools, and the hometown of the foundress of Mother Teresa.

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