



Birth
June 22, 1916

Baptism
December 24, 1943

Profession
August 29, 1952

Death
October 10, 2024

Burial
Kinugasa Cemetery

*Precious and blessed is
the death of the faithful
before God... for
they die in union with
their dear Jesus, in the
grace of God, in peace.*

Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger
Foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame
Letter 11, September 10, 1831

In Loving Memory

Sister Mary Joseph Tsuzuki

Sister Mary Joseph Tsuzuki, 108, passed away peacefully on October 10, 2024, in Kyoto, Japan.

She was born on June 22, 1916, in Kyoto. Her father was Hitoshi Tsuzuki and her mother was Hana. She was the fourth oldest of eight children. She had two sisters and five brothers. Her family belonged to the Anglican Church and as a child, she received a Christian education. When she was 13 years old, she received baptism at the Doshisha Protestant Church in Kyoto. She was converted to Catholicism at Kawaramachi Church in Sanjo, Kyoto. She was baptized at St. Francis Xavier Church on December 24, 1943, and given the name Cecilia.

She graduated from the music department of Jiyu Gakuen Women's College, in 1939. The school housed a special music technical department at that time, and she majored in piano.

On September 5, 1949, she entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) at Shishigatani Convent in Kyoto.

She was received into the novitiate on August 28, 1951, and given the name Mary Joseph. On August 29, 1952, she professed her first vows. Six years later, on August 29, 1958, she professed her final vows. In 2022, Sister Mary Joseph celebrated her 70th Jubilee of religious profession.

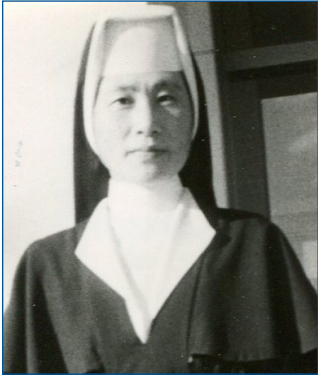
Sister Mary Joseph was a homeroom teacher and a music teacher for eight years, from 1953 until 1961 at Notre Dame Jogakuin Jr. and Sr. High School in Kyoto. When Notre Dame Women's College (now Kyoto Notre Dame University) was established in 1961, she taught music at the college until her mandatory retirement in 1988.

During her 35 years of retirement, Sister Mary Joseph kept herself very busy sharing her musical talents with others. During 30 of those years, she ministered as an organ accompanist for mass, weddings and funerals held at the parish church, and also gave private lessons and tutoring sessions. She sang in the choir (Coro Celeste) and lead the choir at churches and events for the alumnae association of Notre Dame Women's College.

Sister Mary Joseph valued her relationship with nature and God's creation, as well as with people. She had a talent for beautifully arranging flowers, and

continued

In Loving Memory



Sister Mary Joseph Tsuzuki

even in her 90s, she took diligent care of the garden on the convent grounds. For her own health and wellness, she practiced yoga and ate brown rice every day.

For the last five years of her life, Sister Mary Joseph served in a ministry of prayer and presence at Matsugasaki Convent in Kyoto.

On October 10, 2024, Sister Mary Joseph completed her life as a School Sister of Notre Dame. A wake service was held on October 11, 2024 and the Mass of Resurrection was celebrated on October 12, 2024. Her remains were buried at Kinugasa Cemetery in Kyoto.

A graduate who knew her recalled that Sister Mary Joseph was a gentle and dignified religious woman. She had a wonderful sense of humor and was an excellent musician. At the time of her death, she was the oldest sister in the SSND Central Pacific Province. May she rejoice in her new life with her God and family members who have preceded her into eternal life.

By Sister Maria Dominica Sento, SSND

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