



Birth
July 6, 1933

Baptism
April 1, 1956

Profession
August 26, 1966

Death
February 10, 2013

Burial
Kinugasa Cemetery
Kyoto, Japan

*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 Carmella [Hiroko] Arima, SSND

Sister Mary Carmella (Hiroko Arima) was born to Yasue [Tanaka] and Toshio Arima in Kyoto on July 6, 1933, near the famous beautiful Golden Pavilion. Throughout her childhood, she was surrounded by the beauties of Kyoto's past and present and her family often visited the shrines and temples of Kyoto. She had one brother and two younger sisters. Her father was a teacher; her mother spent time explaining to the children the history related to the various shrines and temples.

During her fifth year in elementary school, the war broke out. Every day, they heard the sound of the B29s. Hiroko was charged with seeing that each child in her block arrived home safely and stayed indoors. Once her house was destroyed and all that was left intact was a wash basin. Kindly people gave them rice balls to eat. Because of the dire circumstances, they moved to her father's home town, Kitagata, where they lived in a temple. They moved once more before returning to her loved Kyoto. By this time she was in high school. She was active in sports and enjoyed playing the piano.

A very good friend of hers, who had been educated in a Catholic school, took her to Kinugasa Church where she joined a study group. The group had catechism instructions, discussion and enjoyed singing. After high school graduation, she entered the Home Economics department at Kyoto Women's University with a major in dietetics. Graduating from Junior College, she once again joined an instruction class and with the encouragement and help of her friend, requested baptism. At the age of 23 years, Hiroko was baptized by Bishop Furuya on April 1, 1956, at Kawaramachi Sanjo Church in Kyoto. Her friend was her godmother and she received the name Theresa. On Pentecost of the same year, she was confirmed and added the name Maria. Although her parents were Buddhist, they approved of her decision.

Following her graduation, she worked in the Health Department of the city. She was in charge of a certain locality. She taught child care to the mothers, food preparation and health precautions in the home. Once in a national contest, her group won first prize in making something using skim milk. She usually tried out any new recipe at home and received the praise or criticism of the family members which helped her in her teaching.

Busy with her work, she was afraid of becoming a Sunday Catholic. A co-worker was a member of the Legion of Mary and Hiroko also joined the group and became an active member. Two members of her presidium entered SSND and she was invited to attend the reception and profession ceremonies. She began to think seriously of Christ's invitation to follow Him and to serve Him in the poor. When she felt sure that this was the life God desired for her, she asked and received her parents' permission to enter SSND.

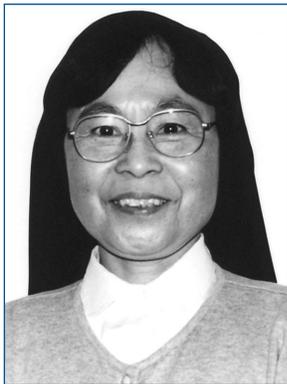
Hiroko entered the Candidature of the School Sisters of Notre Dame on April 8, 1962. She was received as a novice on August 25, 1965, and took the

continued

In Loving Memory



Sister Mary Carmella Arima



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**School Sisters
of Notre Dame**
Central Pacific Province

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD
THROUGH EDUCATION

name of Mary Carmella. She professed her first vows on August 26, 1966, and final vows on August 26, 1972.

Sister Carmella was assigned to teach at Notre Dame Jogakuin, beginning her ministry as directress of the boarding students and then as a teacher of home economics for 30 years for both the junior and senior high school students. During those years she took a sabbatical to continue studies at Notre Dame Seishin Women's University in Okayama.

Sister Carmella was an excellent teacher of home economics and is remembered as a wonderful homeroom teacher. She was strict in guiding students, but at the same time was a kind, cheerful, and enjoyable person. She was both a "mother" and also a good friend of her students who loved her very much.

When Sister Carmella retired from her ministry at Notre Dame Jogakuin, she was asked to teach at ND Elementary School and accepted the invitation. She began first to help with club activities, then gradually took over the economic subjects for all the grades (1-6) – cooking, sewing, food education, etc. She reached out as a consultant for the teachers and by teaching the children directly. She continued in this capacity every day with a joyful and energetic spirit for ten years. Her last day on earth ended suddenly, on February 10, 2013. We believe that she was always very happy with "her" children, the teachers, and the Sisters of the Kotakeyabu-cho Community.

Our mission is to show the Father's love to the world by our very being. Sister Mary Carmella wonderfully completed this mission with concern for all with whom she was connected, especially those who were alienated within the society. Her visit once a month to Aiseien, a home for those with Hansen's disease, continued for 30 years. Whenever she found time, she went to Friendly House, a workplace for the physically handicapped, to be with them. So, Sister Carmella has completed her mission here but maybe is still busy in heaven showing her concern for so many friends on earth.

A wake was held on February 12, 2013, and the funeral Mass was the following day at Kinugasa Church. Her cremains will be buried in Kinugasa Cemetery, Kyoto. A memorial Mass was celebrated in the Theresa Center chapel, St. Louis, Mo. on March 8, 2013. Gratefully and lovingly we pray – may she rest in peace!

By Sister Anne Miriam Kimura, SSND and Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND