



**Birth**  
September 4, 1944

**Baptism**  
September 6, 1964

**Profession**  
September 3, 1969

**Death**  
January 18, 2015

**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 Louise [Masako] Yasui, SSND

Sister Mary Louise was born September 4, 1944, in Tanba-cho, Funai-gun, Kyoto, Japan and named Masako. She was the fifth of six children born to Yoshida [Kaoru] and Hisaharu Yasui. Twenty years later, she was baptized at Sonobe Catholic Church on September 6, 1964, and received the name Marietta.

Masako was enrolled in Shuchi Shogakko Elementary School. She attended Komono Chugakko High School for three years. She completed her high school education at Notre Dame Jogakuin and was blessed with good directors. She imbibed the spirit of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She willingly participated in religious events and activities, including participation as a member of the Marian Association.

After graduation, she studied in the English Department at Kyoto Notre Dame University. She responded to God's call by entering the candidature at Shishigatani in Kyoto on April 10, 1967. She was received into the novitiate on August 24, 1968 and given the name, Mary Louise. She professed first vows on September 3, 1969 and perpetual vows on August 23, 1977.

Following profession, Sister Mary Louise started to develop a background suited for several ministries. While still in training to qualify as a teacher, she studied theology and did educational research. She began her educational activities teaching kindergarteners at Notre Dame Gakuin. She was a person who did her best to grapple with anything and was thoroughly prepared to go into teaching. Through Sister Mary Louise's sincere acceptance of each person, many were led to God's love.

Sister Mary Louise broadened her horizons and added "fresh air" to her activities through taking advantage of opportunities like community service at the SSND Generalate in Rome, study and training in the Philippines and in North America. She made use of these and other opportunities to experience church activities and religious life in international settings.

She was closely involved in various fields of church activities in Nago, Okinawa, and in Nagoya, Japan, and as a staff member of the Kyoto Evangelical Center. Sister Mary Louise worked with many people, deepening relationships with them through her natural good cheer, brightness, gentility and deep faith.

After that, she served as spiritual and retreat director, as novice director, and as the Regional Leader of the Region of Japan from 2009-2013. She was the last Regional Leader in Japan. After only two years in this role, she was diagnosed with cancer and struggled with her illness with unshakable faith and sincerity.

*continued*

# In Loving Memory



*Sister Mary Louise Yasui*

Sister Mary Louise responded to God's love in humility, continuing to carry out her mission as an apostolic woman religious. She completed her last commitment with love on January 18, 2015, and died peacefully at Ju-jouTakeda Hospital in Kyoto.

A wake service was held at the Iwakura Convent on January 20, 2015. The funeral Mass was celebrated on January 21 in Kinugasa Church with Rev. Kitamura as celebrant. Her cremains were buried in Kinugasa Cemetery, Kyoto. A memorial Mass will be celebrated in the Theresa Center chapel, St. Louis, Missouri.

Now we feel that she is watching over us with those bright eyes of hers, sometimes sparkling mischievously, from her place of peaceful rest with God.

*By Sisters Anne Miriam Kimura, SSND and Carol Marie Wildt, SSND*

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Central Pacific Province

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