

2025 Jubilee

SISTER MARY MONICA KATSURAGAWA

First Profession



April 1, 1965

Celebrating 60 years



Of her early interactions with School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND), **Sister Mary Monica Katsuragawa** recalls, “After my baptism, I worked with SSND volunteers in relief work for people affected by a typhoon and was impressed by the joy and hard work of the SSND volunteers. Many people lost their families and homes when the typhoon hit, and the church was also severely damaged. At that time, the head novice mistress of the SSND in Kyoto, Sister Mary John Lachowsky, and four or five volunteer novices came to the rescue, and I joined them in their relief work. While doing the relief

work with them, I became very eager to pursue a life-long path of service.” This path of service for Sister Mary Monica has included several long-term, purposeful ministries, including many years as a kindergarten teacher in the cities of Kyoto and Okinawa. She was a church minister in Nara and Kyoto, and then served as a staff member at the Karasaki House of Prayer in Otsu Japan from 1997 until 2021. While there, she helped to welcome the sisters and other visitors and guests who attended retreat or quiet days of reflection at the prayer house. Since 2021, she has been a local leader for sisters at the Kotakeyabu-cho Convent in Kyoto. She shares, “I hope that each of us will live our lives with the awareness that we ‘live enriched not only by the pen, but also by the Word of the Lord.’”

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

We thank the Lord for what wonderful and grace-filled days He always walks with us on the path of service and prayer in response to the call of the Lord Jesus.

Please share a brief reflection on a ministry experience that was especially meaningful to you and why?

My first apostolate was in early childhood education. At that time, I experienced the wonderful growth of young children and the importance of early childhood education, and realized that early childhood education has a great impact on people's transformation into the image of God.

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School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province