



**Birth**  
April 22, 1927

**Baptism**  
May 27, 1950

**Profession**  
August 27, 1955

**Death**  
July 20, 2020

**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 Benedette Yo Fujimori

Sister Mary Benedette Yo Fujimori was born at Higashi-ku, Osaka City, Japan, on April 22, 1927. On May 27, 1950, she was baptized by Father McKillop, MM at Notre Dame Shishigatani Convent, Kyoto. Two years later, in April 1952, she entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame at Shishigatani, and professed her first vows on August 27, 1955.

After her first profession, she taught religion, flower arrangement and calligraphy, and took charge of a class at Notre Dame High School in Kyoto. This was the start of Sister Benedette's 65 years of religious life. Among the students at that time was Sister Mary Paula Iwaki. Sister Benedette prepared about 20 students, including Sister Paula Iwaki, for their baptism, and wrote out the lines of scripture about the conversion of St. Paul from Acts, for them. Sister Paula read the lines many, many times until she had memorized them, and treasured the piece of paper on which Sister Benedette had written.

Sister Benedette spent most of her years of assigned ministries at Notre Dame Jogakuin and served at other places; Nigawa Gakuin, Notre Dame Elementary School, Seishin Gakuin in Nagoya, Kitashirakawa parish and Chonju in Korea. She ministered to those of all ages - elementary school students, junior and senior high school students, and to the aged. Her ministries were private lessons and formal classes, as well as serving as Directress of the high school dormitory boarders and in charge of the office staff. Moreover, she took a correspondence course for ten years from 1958 until 1967 to get a degree which kept her busy going to Tokyo to attend classes. Regardless of how busy she was, she was also involved in ministry to the people wherever she was. This was evident from the many New Year's Cards she received during her last three-years-plus from the numerous people to whom she had ministered to for 50 years.

She retired from her role of Directress of the dormitory at the Jogakuin at the age of 69. After that she took a language workshop course at Notre Dame University in Baltimore, Maryland. She worked hard during the English workshop, studying with young students from various countries and reaching out to them. She met students from Korea, and felt an interest in the people and culture of the Korean people. She shared this with her superiors and discerned about volunteering to minister at the SSND mission in Korea that had opened only a year before. At the age of 70, she learned the Korean language. For six years, she taught calligraphy and cooking there, and introduced the Japanese culture to her students.

After returning from Korea, Sister Benedette became local leader of the community at Iwakura Convent. At the same time she arranged flowers and learned to compose haiku. Needless to say, the flower arrangements at her convent were very beautifully, inspirationally and amazingly arranged for the altar and for the stage at big events of the Jogakuin. Through these activities, she shared her friendship and her talents with the principal, teachers, staff and students.

Sister Mary Benedette was called home to God at 5:08 p.m. on July 20, 2020 at Muromachi Hospital, Kyoto, Japan. She was 93 years old.

*continued*

# *In Loving Memory*



*Sister Mary Benedette Yo  
Fujimori*



Reflecting on her 65 years of religious life as a School Sisters of Notre Dame, it was evident that her life was united with God and with the people to whom she ministered in various places. We believe that God - who gave her the mission to proclaim His Kingdom through meeting people and sharing her rich gifts and talents -welcomed her to Heaven.

We give thanks and praise to God! We give hearty thanks to her family and all the people she met throughout her whole life!

*By Sister Maria Dominica Sento, SSND*

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