



**Birth**  
Nov. 27, 1924

**Baptism**  
Dec. 14, 1941

**Profession**  
April 8, 1959

**Death**  
March 23, 2016

**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 Angela Ito, SSND

Sister Mary Angela Ito (Itsu) was born in Mikage, Kobe, Japan on Nov. 27, 1924. Her father, Chozo Ito, was a Buddhist from Takasago city, Hyogo prefecture, and her mother, Moto Kumakura, was a Catholic from Yokosuka city. She was the fifth of eight children, having a younger sister and six brothers.

With the understanding of her broad-minded father who also had a passion for good education, she attended Obayashi Sacred Heart Girls' Elementary School and Secondary School.

Itsu embraced her belief in Christ and was baptized Dec. 14, 1941 at the age of 17 at Rokko Catholic Church in Kobe. She received the name, Maria Magdalena Sophia. She continued to study at Tokyo Sacred Heart Women's Technical College and graduated from the Department of Japanese literature.

After graduation, Itsu worked at her alma mater, Obayashi Sacred Heart, as a teacher, and supported the superior as assistant directress of the boarders' residence where she took very good care of the children.

On April 7, 1957, Itsu entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame at Shishigatani in Kyoto with a recommendation of a priest of Rokko Church. On April 8, 1958, she became a novice and took the religious name Mary Angela. After completing a year of novitiate, she professed first vows on April 8, 1959 and final vows on April 8, 1965. In 1984, she celebrated her 25th anniversary of profession and in 2009, her Golden Jubilee.

As a sister, Mary Angela ministered at Notre Dame Jogakuin and Notre Dame Elementary School in Kyoto and Kusatsu Resurrection Church. She was also very good at faithfully assisting her superiors with warm-hearted service as assistant directress of the student boarders and assistant directress of novices.

Using her God-given talents of beautiful penmanship and calligraphy, she served in the document room at school. She also gave clerical service in the SSND Regional office for a long time. Her last ministry was as receptionist at Shishigatani Convent.

Before Shishigatani Convent was closed, Sister was transferred to Iwakura Convent where she fulfilled her ministry of prayer. Unfortunately, she was repeatedly hospitalized because of aging and physical weakness. However, she was always praying, wishing to love God who was always at her side in her suffering which she offered with love.

Sister Mary Angela always encouraged people and kept in contact with them by diligently corresponding with her beautiful handwriting. This seemed to be her way of proclaiming the Good News throughout her life.

*continued*

# In Loving Memory



*Sister Mary Angela Ito*



She was especially diligent exchanging letters with those who continued the contact, always looking forward to her response. It seems that this was in preparation for her departure from this life.

Sister was always obedient to the will of God, living out Mary's fiat – "Let it be to me according to your word" – all through her life. At her death in Hakuai Hospital, Kyoto, she answered God's call and completed her natural life span on March 23, 2016, at the age of 92.

The wake service was held at Iwakura Convent on March 24, 2016 and the funeral service the following morning. Her cremains are buried at Kinygasa Cemetery in Kyoto.

We are grateful for the days spent with her as a community. We believe in new life in the kingdom of God. We leave Sister Mary Angela to God in hope.

*By Sister Dominica Sento, SSND  
Edited by Sister Jean Schmid, SSND  
and Sister Carol Marie Wildt, SSND*

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