

In Loving Memory

Sister Mary Fidelis Kono



Birth
May 11, 1933

Baptism
May 14, 1954

Profession
August 28, 1968

Death
February 12, 2021

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

Sister Mary Fidelis Kono was born in Hiroshima City, Japan, on May 11, 1933. After graduation from junior high school, she worked as a National Government Employee at the Kabe Tax Office in Hiroshima for twelve years, and then at the National Tax Agency in Hiroshima for four years. Through attendance at the Gion Church in Hiroshima, she was drawn to Catholicism, and received the grace of Baptism on May 14, 1954. Her baptismal name was Maria Theresia.

After that, she felt attracted to religious life, took instructions from the rector of Gion Church, then entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame at Shishigatani, Kyoto, Japan, on September 15, 1965. She was received into the novitiate on August 27, 1967, and given the name Mary Fidelis. She took her first vows on August 28, 1968, and final vows on August 30, 1974.

As a postulant, Sister Mary Fidelis got her license to be a teacher of Ikenobo flower arrangement and of the Omote-Senke Tea Ceremony. After her first profession, she was sent to work in the office of Notre Dame Jogakuin High School juridical organization. Her ministry was accounting and basic business. This was her ministry until retirement from active ministry.

At the same time, she passed the University Entrance Qualification Examination and took a correspondence course from the Sangyo Noritsu Junior College for three years in addition to her ministry. She earned a license to be an administrative manager and labor manager. She reached her retirement age in 1997, but continued working at Notre Dame Jogakuin school juridical organization as a part-time staff member until 2012. Her work as the accountant for the local communities she belonged to was always for community service, and she enjoyed teaching the Omote-Senke Tea Ceremony for the students of Notre Dame Jogakuin.

In 1983, she lived in Tokyo for a year and participated in an ongoing formation course provided by the Japan Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR). This was a blessed time of spiritual renewal for her. She spoke with joy when recollecting on when the Regional Leader visited her in Tokyo. She had the same joyful experience when she later made a 30-day retreat with the LCWR.

Through the 52 years of her religious life, she answered the call from Jesus with a quiet passion, fulfilled her religious life faithfully and enjoyed the Tea Ceremony with the junior high school and senior high school students. She also enriched community life by her quiet and stable presence. She liked to watch baseball games and enjoyed explaining the games to her sisters.

After retiring from her work for the Jogakuin School Juridical Organization, she suffered from dementia, but her quiet presence had not changed. In August 2016, she entered Kyoto University Hospital and other hospitals where she stayed for four and half years until she was called to God on February 12, 2021. Jesus had promised, "I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the eon," in Matthew 28:20. We believe the Lord was with her until the end.

continued

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By Sister Maria Dominica Sento, SSND



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