



Birth

June 9, 1927

Baptism

August 17, 1927

Profession

January 12, 1954

Death

January 26, 2017

Burial

Notre Dame of Elm Grove
Cemetery
Elm Grove, Wisconsin

*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 Fidelis Sudo, SSND

Sister Mary Fidelis Sudo was born on June 9, 1927 in the village of Yona, Guam to Gregorio Sanshiro Sudo and Ana Cruz Baza. Baptized Felicita Baza Sudo, she was the sixth of twelve children all two years apart. Her father was originally from Japan, and arrived in Guam via fishing boat. Her father converted to Catholicism as an adult and her mother encouraged attendance at mass for everyone in their large family.

Sister Fidelis attended public school in Yona for primary school. On December 8th, 1941, when she was in sixth grade America entered World War II and she was awakened by running and shouting in streets of Guam. Guam was subsequently occupied by the Japanese and she worked in forced labor, outdoors in farm fields for nearly a year as a young girl. In 1945, Americans retook Guam and Sister Fidelis's family hid from the fighting in a cave on their family property. They were eventually found and placed in an internment camp due to her father's Japanese heritage. Her father was killed during the struggle for Guam by American soldiers who mistook him for a sniper.

Eventually Sister Fidelis and her family were release and she was able to continue school at George Washington High School. She first met School Sisters of Notre Dame when they came to Guam in 1949 at her home parish in Yona. She had great interactions with the sisters and finished her high school education at the convent.

In December 1951, Sister Fidelis and two other young women from Guam left for Milwaukee to study at Mount Mary University. They were the first group to enter SSND from Guam. Sister Fidelis professed first vows on January 12, 1954. She earned her bachelor's degree in education from the University of Guam.

Sister Fidelis ministered in education for 29 years in primary, intermediate and junior high. She taught in Guam at St. Francis, Yona; Mount Carmel, Agat; and San Vicente, Barrigada; and in Japan at Notre Dame Elementary, Kyoto. She was called to congregational service, as a seamstress at Visitation Convent in Elm Grove and the Notre Dame Regional House in Talofoto, Guam. Additionally, she served for four years on the staff of the SSND Generalate in Rome.

An excellent seamstress, known for her professionalism and attention to detail, Sister Fidelis served for several years by sewing school uniforms for students, making altar linens and vestments. Sewing was a ministry she continued for seven years in her retirement at Elm Grove where she continued to make alter linens, purificators, finger towels and vestments. She fully retired in 2008 and served through prayer and presence.

continued

In Loving Memory



Sister Mary Fidelis Sudo



In 2014, on her 60th Jubilee, reflected that, “I have learned the importance of loving both the children and their parents as well as being patient. As I still meet them even now, I receive their kindness in return.”

During her time at Our Lady of the Angels she spent time educating other sisters and staff about Guamanian food and culture. She was also known for her spirited ways and her love and friendship for others in her time at the community there.

Sister Fidelis died January 26, 2017. She was 89. She is survived by her sisters Carmen and Elizabeth, nieces, nephews, dear friends and the SSND Community. Preceded in death her parents, her brothers Jose, Manuel, Sabron, and Siro, her sisters Dolores, Maria, Rosa, Margarita and Irene.

This remembrance is compiled from SSND archival information and the eulogy given by Sister Waltermarie Ray, SSND

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of Notre Dame**
Central Pacific Province

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