

# *In Loving Memory*

## Sister Mary Joyce Uehara



**Birth**  
May 8, 1936

**Baptism**  
May 12, 1951

**Profession**  
April 10, 1977

**Death**  
March 6, 2024

**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 Joyce Uehara, 87, died peacefully March 6, 2024, at Iwakura Hospital in Kyoto, Japan.

She was born May 8, 1936, in Naha, Okinawa, Japan, to Monica (Iha Toyo) and Sotie Uehara. She was the oldest of seven children, in a family which also included her three sisters and three brothers.

She attended elementary and high school in Naha, Okinawa. After graduating from Naha Senior High School, she went to Tokyo to study knitting and sewing. She was baptized Regina Maria on May 12, 1951.

She entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) in Kyoto and was received into the novitiate on April 4, 1976 and given the religious name of Mary Joyce. She professed first vows on April 10, 1977, and final vows on February 11, 1985 at the Shishigatani Convent in Kyoto.

Sister Mary Joyce worked as a dressmaker and visited blind people in Tokyo. She also served as a sacristan and dressmaker for the sisters in the Shishigatani Convent and taught sewing to the novices. From 1979-1984, she served as a staff member at Notre Dame Jogakuin High School in Kyoto.

In 1985, she was missioned to Okinawa and served in pastoral ministry in several parishes in the Okinawa area, preparing children for their first Holy Communion and adults for Baptism. She also visited local families and taught sewing classes.

In 1992, she was transferred to Nagoya and served at the cathedral. When the Nagoya Convent was closed in 1999, she joined the SSND community in Kyoto. In 2001, she became a member of the after-school care staff at Notre Dame Gakuin Elementary School. She also taught Saturday Catechism School in the Yamashina parish.

*continued*

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*Sister Mary Joyce Uehara*

Until her health declined, she served as sacristan at the Matsugasaki Convent and worked in many volunteer ministries in several communities in Kyoto.

The funeral Mass for Sister Mary Joyce was held on March 8, 2024, in the Matsugasaki Convent chapel with visitation and sharing of memories preceding the Liturgy. She was buried in Kinugasa Cemetery in Kyoto.

Sister Mary Joyce was skilled at sewing and knitting and used these talents to make her fellow sisters happy.

May she now enjoy eternal peace.

*By Sister Maria Dominica Sento, SSND*

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