

# *In Loving Memory*

## Sister Mary Natalie Saito



**Birth**  
March 10, 1940

**Baptism**  
December 22, 1957

**Profession**  
April 1, 1963

**Death**  
April 16, 2020

**Burial**  
Kinugasa Cemetery, Kyoto,  
Japan

Sister Mary Natalie (Mariko Saito) was born on March 10, 1940, at Yokkaichi City, Mie Prefecture, Japan. She was baptized on December 22, 1957, at Yokkaichi Catholic Church. Two years and four months later, on March 31, she entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Kyoto, Japan. Guided by the grace of God, Sister Natalie started on her way to live as a religious serving the mission of God.

She professed first vows on April 1, 1963, and was called home to God on April 16, 2020. She was 80 years old and lived for 57 years as a religious of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She worked as a cook for 28 years at Shishigatani, Japan, and for 22 years at Karasaki, Japan. She served rich nutritious food for the body and the spirit of the sisters living in these houses, and for the retreatants who gathered at Karasaki. To her, welcoming guests at the convents were opportunities to share the love of God. Sister Natalie always ministered to the needs of others in her simple and natural ways.

For the last six years of her life, she unfortunately suffered from Parkinson's disease and dementia and could no longer carry out her ministry of cooking. She moved to Iwakura Convent where she spent her last days. She accepted these changes and continued to live her life of prayer and commitment.

We are grateful to God who gave us such a wonderful person as Sister Natalie!

*By Sister Marie Dominica Sento, SSND*

*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.*



*Sister M. Natalie Saito*

Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger  
Foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Letter 11, September 10, 1831

*continued*