

Celebrating the Life of Mother Mathilde

Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Infant Jesus Sisters in Japan

The Tokyo Prelate thanks Sisters of the Infant Jesus for their 150 years of service in Japan

<https://www.rvasia.org/asian-news/tokyo-prelate-thanks-sisters-infant-jesus-their-150-years-service-japan>

This year, our sisters and their lay partners celebrate the 150th Anniversary of our presence and mission in Japan.

With the opening of Japan in 1872, the Bishop of Japan requested Mother General of the Infant Jesus Sisters to send IJ sisters to Japan to care for the orphans and disadvantaged and give education to girls as they did in France, Malaya and Singapore.

The first team of sisters under the leadership of Mother Mathilde left for the mission from Singapore.

The closing Thanksgiving Mass for the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Infant Jesus Sisters in Japan was concelebrated by Archbishop Leo Boccardi, Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi of Tokyo Archdiocese, and some religious and diocesan priests and lay partners, in the main chapel of St. Ignatius Church on 24 June, at 14:00 Japan time.

The Superior General, Sr Brigitte Flourez, and Sr Jane, General Councillor, were there to grace the occasion.

Melodious voices from the choirs of four of our IJ Schools filled the chapel with their rendition of the hymns

 [Sr Brigitte's address given at the celebration](#)

 [A Toast to the Japanese Sisters!](#)



[A Pioneer in Education](#)

Rev. Mother Mathilde Raclot, the foundress of CHIJ in Victoria Street, was selected for the inaugural list of ladies for the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame, launched on Fri 14 March 2014. Its purpose is to honour women who have made or are making an impact on the nation - boundary breakers and record holders, risk-takers and change makers, role models and standard setters.

They are women who, at a time when social norms set limits on what a woman could do, pushed back the barriers and led the way for others. They were the pioneers, the pathfinders. They dared to dream and they turned their dreams into a new reality for the women of their time and the generations to come.

All of us rejoice at the recognition of her extraordinary contribution in the field of education in Singapore. It is a wonderful coincidence that this recognition comes on the bi-centenary of her birth and on the 160th anniversary of CHIJ in the year 2014!

[Remembering her](#)



[Prayer to Mother Mathilde](#)



[Prayers to emulate her](#)

[Her Life](#) by Tina DeCruz

[A Tribute to Mother Mathilde](#) by Jessie Goh

[Her vision and Mission](#) by Jessie Goh

[Sonnet to Mother Mathilde](#) by Claire Ang



[Celebrating the bi-centenary of her birth](#)



Mural on wall of IJ School in Yokohama showing Mother Mathilde's arrival



At Mother Mathilde's grave in Yokohama



At the grave of deceased Foreign IJ Sisters in Yokohama

(Her grave and those of the early Sisters are cleaned every month by the staff and students of the IJ School in Yokohama.)

A Prayer to God for the gift of Mother Mathilde (at her grave in Japan)