



## **BROTHER ROBERT MARUYAMA**

*Celebrating 60 years of profession*

I think I was about ten when I received my Baptism from a Maryknoll missionary in Manchuria, soon after the end of WWII. For all practical purposes, it was an infant Baptism for me, because I hardly knew what it was all about. I was just following my mother's lead. But circumstances allowed me to meet the Marianists when I entered a high school in Yokohama, Japan, conducted by an international group of the Society of Mary. That's where I was introduced to the meaning and importance of religion in life.

These things were in the forefront of my mind throughout my college years, and after graduation, I decided to give religious life a try. Naturally, I chose the Society of Mary because of the experience I enjoyed in my high school years. In a sense, joining a particular religious society is like being born in a particular family. In both cases, one becomes a member of a community of which he knows so little, and gradually, he grows into it and learns to love it and become proud of it.

One of the charisms of the Marianists is their special dedication to Mary, the Mother God. In the beginning of my life in the Society of Mary, this idea was at the surface of my mind, but I don't think I really understood its importance. But as I get older, I am beginning to appreciate its importance and its significance in the Catholic theology. I always remember what Bro. John Totten, one of our venerable thinkers, mentioned in an interview: Jesus has said that we must become like children to enter the kingdom of God. Bro. John pointed out that there is no better way to become such a child than to have Mary as one's mother.