

Midori Marina Moriyama

(1908-1945)



Midori was born on 8 October 1908. She is an only child, becomes a teacher and works far from home. When his parents decide to host the hitherto unknown medical student who is Takashi Nagai, he immediately participates with his family in prayer so that he can meet Christ. Midori meets him on Christmas Eve 1932 when Takashi is invited to dinner by his parents and then to attend Mass, which will be for him the first shocking encounter with the Presence of the Lord. The day after Midori is saved from certain death due to peritonitis thanks to the timely intervention of the young Takashi. Thus begins his discreet presence alongside the young Takashi who is wondering about the meaning of living and dying. Midori's virginal position in affection is deeply striking: he prays to Our Lady every day so that he will return safe from the war and may know Christ, he sends him the catechism to the training camp, and above all he is available to sacrifice his feelings. In fact, when Takashi returns safe from the war and begins a journey of conversion, Midori, who does not consider herself worthy of him, considers her task finished and offers God in gratitude the sacrifice of her feeling for him, asking for help from Mary who has always knew how to say his yes. In 1934, however, after the baptism of Takashi who becomes Paul, a priest favors

the marriage between the two and also on this occasion Midori demonstrates his total abandonment to the will of God and does so by responding with the biblical words of Ruth and offering his own life for their vocation together when Takashi proposes to her the risks he will face for the profession of radiologist. She was immediately a caring and affectionate wife and mother, guardian and support of the family even in economic

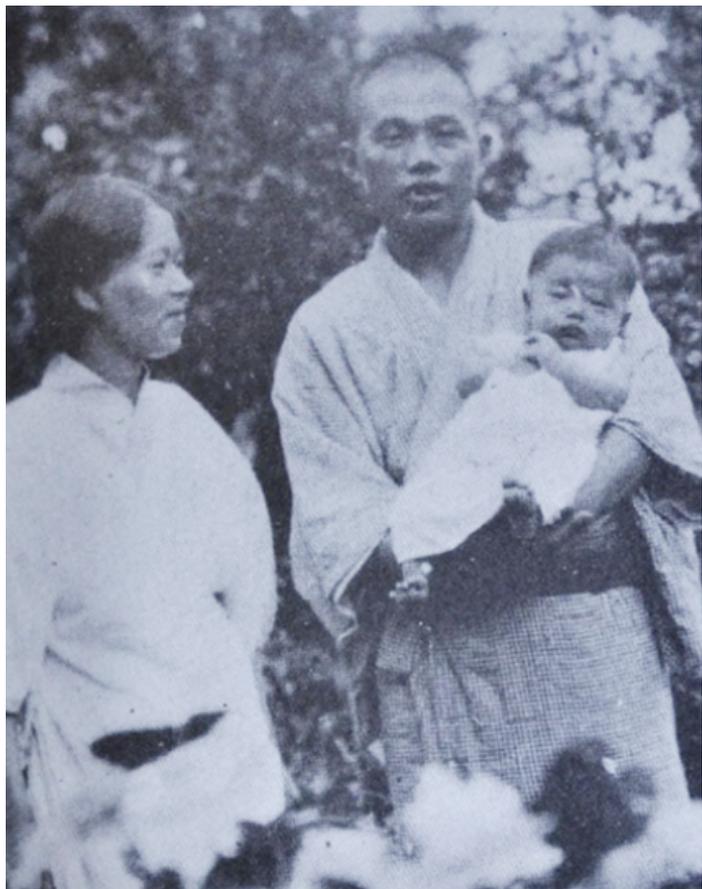
August 1934.
Takashi and Midori's wedding



management in that time of serious crisis in Japan. She who is a teacher, as soon as she finishes the lessons, changes her clothes and carries out the humblest jobs without ever complaining when, as soon as the family is established, the salary of the young husband is still low. They do not allow themselves leisure and do not buy clothes because it is Midori who dresses everyone working assiduously with her hands: she sews socks, shirts, gloves, dresses and even overcoats for the whole family, so much so that her husband's colleagues comment that the doctor feels embraced from his wife even during the day! She works in the fields when it's sunny, then she sews and knits. A detail: she never uses face powder, because she loves natural beauty and beauty that comes from within (only once, on the morning of the wedding she used it!). He also finds ways to save some money for the children for when they go to school. It allows her husband to go his own way: he lovingly takes care of him even if he sees him totally immersed in his research and distracted even when he returns home and in fact takes over the management of the whole family and the care of the children. She says that she seems to be the assistant of a sleepwalker in those moments and yet when her husband finishes writing a scientific article she



reads it and, even without being able to understand its contents, she is moved by the mere fact that it is the fruit of the work and her husband's labors. Without Midori, Takashi could not have become that scientist, that doctor and that father he has become. The couple then love their neighborhood of Urakami and take on public responsibilities for it. When Midori becomes president of the women's society of the Urakami community, she teaches how to cook herbs from the fields, how to sew trousers and brings together the young women to give them lessons on the floral arts. She is seen as a great support by both the students and the women of the neighborhood she tries to help and educate. During the war he also taught how to dig air-raid shelters, rescue the wounded, plow the fields after the bombing. Tireless worker and significant presence of hope. When Nagai received the diagnosis of leukemia in 1945, contracted due to radiation exposure for his profession, it was Midori who comforted him: totally abandoned to the will of God, she considered the acceptance of good and bad luck already included in the marital bond. On August 8, 1945, the day before the explosion of the atomic bomb and therefore of her death, her husband leaves the house to go to work but immediately comes back because he has forgotten his lunch. He finds her in front of the crucifix crying and praying for her health. This is the last time he sees her. On 9 August 1945 at 11:02 the atomic bomb explodes.



Both the husband (who was at work, shielded by the concrete walls of the radiology institute) and the children (who were away from home, evacuated by their parents for safety) say they saw her face in the terrible moment of atomic

explosion, , as if he wanted to greet them and assure them that he would continue to take care of them.

Certainly the incredible paternity lived and documented in his writings by Takashi after the death of his wife continued the common educational task towards the children, who were destined to soon become orphans even of a leukemic father who knew his prognosis. The mother had sown well and certainly continued to guard and guide them all.

Midori lived a great faith day by day, a visible expression of her personal relationship with the Mystery, which enabled her to accompany Takashi on his path of conversion. She lived a virginity of heart capable of living full affection with everyone but with a detachment inside and a total gift of herself by offering everything she could: her time, what she knew, her goodness, her continuous prayer, her his whole life. And his death. Even the hope that Takashi widower brings to the whole city and to the whole world is a mature fruit and inheritance of the communion lived among them in obedience to the Father's plan.



Midori's rosary found by Takashi along with the remains of his bones in the rubble of their home



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