

Obituary of
Sister Alphonsa Oh (Yoon Ae)

Born on January 28, 1921

died on March 17, 2011



Sr. Alphonsa Oh was born on January 28, 1921. She was the second child, the first daughter of the family. She was baptized in April 7, 1934 when she was 13 years old, and her baptismal name was Cecilia. Both of her parents, Mr. Joseph Oh and Mrs. Lucia Chang, were Catholic.

She entered to Wonsan Priory, North Korea in May, 1939, made her first profession on January 15, 1942, and final profession on March 9, 1945.

When the Second World War was terminated, Korea was liberated from Japan on August 15, 1945 and concluded a truce and made the 38th parallel line called the DMZ(Demilitarized Zone) or MDL(Military Demarcation Line). Therefore, Korea was divided into two, South Korea and North Korea. North Korea was under the control of Russia and the communists became the ruling party of North Korea. When 'Chosun People Republic Government' was set up in North Korea the persecution to religion was fortified.

As the dawn was breaking on May 11, 1949, our 12 German Sisters were sent under guard into 'Pyeong-Yang Edification Center for the People' and at the same day, Sr. Alphonsa with other 17 Korean Sisters were taken to 'Won-san Tentative Edification Center for the People' to "edify" them according to the communist ideology.

While the Korean Sisters were at the Center they underwent many trials and the communist polices strongly 'edified' them to go back to their own family. On May 16, 1949 when they were sent out from the Center the guards took off the religious habit and veil of the sisters. On the day of the Wonsan priory house was closed by the communists, each sister had to find the place where she could stay. Sr. Alphonsa went to her family on May 19, 1949.

During her stay at home she suffered hard time because the communist polices 'asked' her to help the communist party. She was hoping that the UN army moved to North and there would be a new beginning of the Priory but she only heard the army retreated to South. And at the same time through a lay faithful she got a message from Sr. Teresa Kim who was in charge of the dispersed Korean Sisters in North Korea that "the Sisters near to Pyeong-yang city go to Seoul and we will meet you in Seoul as soon as possible".

Sr. Alphonsa decided to move to South but there was nobody to accompany or guide her and she was totally alone. On December 6, 1950, she left her home town trusting the guardian of

Blessed Mother Mary and walked down toward south. Fortunately it was cold winter and the Im-jin River was frozen so she could cross the river by walking. She did not know the way at all moreover all the scenery was covered by snow. She slept many nights on the snow covered field or in some bushes and repeated losing and finding the way to go down to south. When she remembered the time she told us "the time of my refuge was one of the most blessed days and vividly experiencing my Lord because the days were true participation of the Way of Cross of Jesus".

On January 3, 1951, after 28 days since she left North Korea, Sr. Alphonsa could meet the other Korean Sisters in Busan. During about 30 years from October 1951 to September 1980, Sr. Alphonsa has serviced in pastoral apostolate at 8 parishes. In 1980 she came to the Priory house and helped house work. From November 1991 till she was called by the Lord to the eternal home on March 17, 2011 she has had praying apostolate.

We trust Sr. Alphonsa to the merciful and just Lord. May the Lord count her courage and firm decision to follow Him to the final day of her life! R. I. P.

Daegu, March 22, 2011
Prioress and Sisters of Daegu Priory