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Sakura, a Catholic in Nagasaki

Sakura Kawaguchi lives in Nagasaki City. 28 years old, married and with one daughter, she assists Opus Dei and is grateful for the Christian formation that helps keep her faith enkindled.

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I met the Work at a day of recollection for young people in Tsukumi when I was 15 years old. The weather was so bad that day I was the only one who came. Even so,

the priest gave the meditations, and I had a chance to go to confession.

When I said I was interested in studying to be a cook, he told me about the *Mikawa Cooking School* in Nagasaki. Besides learning food service there, I began to understand that I could seek holiness in the middle of the world. After graduating I worked in several restaurants and cafeterias. Now that I am married and have a daughter, my job is looking after my small home. I am very happy putting my heart into this work.

Through my calling to marriage I also see the need to have a solid life of faith and to continue my Christian formation. That's why I liked the idea of being a Cooperator of Opus Dei.

In all the dioceses of Japan

I pray the first thing in the morning and so begin the day with a more

positive attitude. I ask God especially for three students at *Mikawa* whom I'm the godmother of. I also pray for the Work and make a small donation.

I go to the Opus Dei center every week to attend classes in Christian doctrine and receive spiritual direction from the priest there.

This helps me to live my faith during the week in a tangible and practical way. I know that if I abandon this help, I could easily fall prey to the prevailing values around me.

It would make me very happy if Opus Dei were known in all the dioceses of Japan and a center of Opus Dei could be found in all of them.

Because of my husband's job, we may have to move to another city soon. My concern is that the Work might not be there. I would have to be the one, then, to make Opus Dei known there.

“Mikawa Mothers”

Along with some of the *Mikawa Cooking School* graduates and friends, we have started a website dealing with issues related to the education of children. It reaches many mothers with small children who have little spare time, or who live in different cities.

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