

**Our Lady of Akita Catholic Church  
is located in Akita City, Japan.**



**The chapel of Seitai Hoshikai, called Our Lady of Akita, was done in a Japanese "irimoya-juso-style" architecture which was built by Japanese temple building carpenters.**

**The reason this church was constructed in this traditional style was to convey to the Japanese people that the Catholic Church is universal and that Jesus Christ is the savior of all people—including the Japanese.**

**After 7 years of construction, the chapel was dedicated on May 1, 2002 to Mary, Redemptoris Mater, "Mother of the Redeemer." The statue of Our Lady of Akita is enshrined on the left corridor and the statue of Saint Joseph is on the right side.**



#### **The Garden of Mary**

**Work on the Japanese garden, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, started in the spring of 1974 and was completed on October 11, 1976. The circular promenade garden was completed not by professional landscapers but by novice laypeople. Trees were donated by friends from different places throughout Japan.**



**The Garden of the Lamb is for meditation and prayer. The Way of the Cross was constructed through the center of the Garden and blessed by Bishop Francis Keiichi Sato of Niigata on August 18, 1994.**



**The statue of Our Lady of Akita was carved in 1963 by Mr. Saburo Wakasa, a wood sculptor living in Akita City.**

**On the morning of January 4th 1975, tears started to flow from the statue. The "lacrimations" (shedding of tears) started this day and continued, sometimes on consecutive days and sometimes at intervals for a total of 101 times.**

**This persisted until September 15th, 1981—the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. Every time the statue wept, the sisters would pause to gather in front of the statue to recite the Rosary. Afterwards, a priest would wipe away the tears.**

**The cotton swabs used were later sent to the forensic labs of Akita University and Gifu University for testing and were certified to be comprised of "bodily fluid."**