

April 23, 2020

To all the faithful of the Archdiocese of Osaka:

On precautionary measures against the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) infection (VI)

+ Peace of Christ!

In my previous statement when I instructed the suspension of public Masses until the end of April, I indicated that new directives for May will be announced around this time. In light of the present situation, I have decided the following:

1. The Japanese government had set Wednesday May 6 as the end date for the state of emergency. In any case, if the state of emergency will be extended in the prefectures that comprise our Archdiocese of Osaka (Osaka, Hyogo, and Wakayama), the public celebration of Masses will be suspended while declaration lasts. As for other church-related activities such as gatherings and seminars, please cancel or postpone them as much as possible.
2. The decision to administer the sacraments (Baptism, Holy Communion, Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Anointing of the Sick) is left to the discretion of parish priests.
3. The celebration of funerals and marriages are permitted provided that all necessary precautionary measures are taken to avoid infection.
4. The Sunday Mass Obligation is dispensed for all the faithful in the Archdiocese of Osaka while the suspension of the public celebration of Masses lasts. I ask each faithful to do the Mass Readings for the day and privately offer prayers at home such as by praying the Rosary.
5. To those responsible for pastoral care: while direct contact must be avoided as much as possible, try to attend to the spiritual needs of the faithful by utilizing other means of communication.
6. As indicated in the document attached, CARITAS JAPAN has launched a special fundraising campaign to help those affected by this pandemic and I ask for your kind collaboration.
7. If the end of the state of emergency is declared, I will announce a new statement accordingly.

N.B. This directive in other languages will be published on the Archdiocesan website.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Thomas Aquinas Manyo Cardinal Maeda
Archbishop of Osaka



ON THE OCCASION OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Caritas Japan has launched a fundraising campaign to support those affected in any way by the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) that has spread throughout the world since the end of 2019. The campaign aims to meet the needs of the affected in and outside of Japan, specifically in the following areas:

1. **Housing:** for those who do not have a place to protect themselves from contagion or those without a hygienic environment, such as street people, refugees, and those who cannot travel home due to the order of confinement (for example, “net-café refugees”).
2. **Food and clothing:** for the destitute due to the termination of employment contract, dismissal, or bankruptcy of their companies or businesses.
3. **Shelter:** for domestic violence victims (especially children) who cannot stay safe at home during the lockdown.
4. **Care for foreign residents in Japan:** particularly for the foreign workers, technical interns (*Ginō Jisshūsei*), asylum seekers, and detainees in immigration centers, etc.
5. **Care for those in most need of support:** especially for the elderly, those with disabilities, and those who require support for everyday activities, etc.
6. **Language support:** for those who, due to various reasons, have no easy access to the information on the pandemic, such as language barriers, disabilities, elderly people living alone, and foreigners, etc.
7. **Support for medical care:** for medical institutions with insufficient medical supplies and combating harmful rumors against medical care providers, etc.

Donations could be made through the following account:

Postal Transfer (郵便振替) : 00170-5-95979

Account name (加入者名) : 宗教法人カトリック中央協議会 カリタスジャパン
SHUKYOHOJIN KATORIKKU CHUO KYOGIKAI CARITAS JAPAN

N.B. Please specify in the space provided: Coronavirus Emergency Donation (新型コロナ緊急募金)

The fundraising campaign will remain open for a certain period.

Please prioritize your health and safety when going out to make donations. Donations could also be made with a credit card on the Caritas website (caritas.jp).