

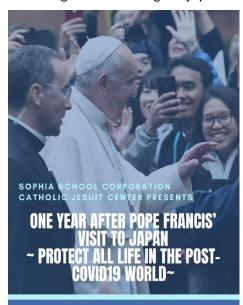
NOVEMBER 2020

THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF POPE FRANCIS' VISIT TO JAPAN

"Protect all life in the post COVID19 world"

by Brother Mukadi Christian SJ

His Holiness, Pope Francis visited Japan last year - from November 23rd to 26th . His visit occurred 28 years after Pope Saint John Paul II's visit in 1981. Pope Francis' presence among us was short and dense: Masses, speeches, public and private meetings, etc. But at the same time, his visit was a time of prayer and grace. Etched in our hearts is his smiling face and contagious joy.



18:00 - 21:30 (TOKYO TIME) | VIA ZOOM

Open to all, Language Japanese & English (Chat translation provided) First come, first served as slots are limited to 100 participants.

The visit of the successor of Saint Peter was an opportunity for us Catholic faithful in Japan to be once more confirmed and encouraged in our faith. It was an occasion likewise for all people of good will, regardless of religious traditions and affiliation, to meet the Pope and hear his message, meant not only for Japan but for all the world: Protect all life! With this theme, Pope Francis calls for abolition of nuclear weapons because it is a sin and for protection of our "common home."



Pope Francis' meetings with young people, both in Saint Mary's Cathedral and in Sophia University, were deeply moving events. In his address to the youth at Sophia University, emphasized the fact that in a society oriented towards competition and innovation like Japan, it is important that young people be rooted in the spirit of true wisdom and discernment. "What matters is not 'what do you live for?' but 'who do you live for?'"In Saint Mary's Cathedral, the Pope concluded

his message with these words: "Dear friends, never lose heart or set aside vour dreams. Give them plenty of room, dare to glimpse vast horizons and see what awaits you if you aspire to achieve them together."

One year after Pope Francis' visit to Japan, Sophia University, through the Catholic Jesuit Center and in collaboration with St Ignatius International Youth Ministry (SIIYM), plans to hold an online event to commemorate the occasion. This event will be held on Saturday, November 21, 2020 with the theme "Protect all life in the post Covid-19 world." Participants will share about what they got from his message last year and reflect on the strong connection between "Protect all life" and the challenges which our world is facing with the Covid-19 pandemic. Thus, this event is an opportunity to see how the Holy Father's message is a kind of viaticum for the post Covid-19 world.



The event will be hosted on ZOOM but will also be live streamed through Facebook. It is open to all both

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Our Archbishop, Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi, has already released "Guidelines on Church Activities during the Christmas and New Year Season" He said, "We are fully aware that many non-Christians participate in the Christmas and New Year Masses every year, which gives us an opportunity for evangelization. It is with regret that this year however, it will be difficult to have as many people participating as freely in the Masses as we do every year, inasmuch as we take seriously our commitment "to protect ourselves from infection and to protect others from infection." Precautionary measures must be observed for Christmas and the New Year:

- 1. It will be necessary to limit the number of people who may enter the Church.
- Only those who have registered in advance may participate in the Holy Mass. Please read the full text in English on our Parish website, www.stignatius.jp/en/



Before the Christmas Season there will be a NEW SYSTEM of On-line Registration for Masses for the English Speaking Community. We will be conducting an intensive information dissemination from now on to help you with the transition. Make sure you attend a short explanation after Mass or look it up in our website before the busy season starts! Those who prefer help "hands on", come early before Mass and the Roaming Team, composed of young, computer savvy SIIYM members will be in front of the church to help you.



MARK these important dates in your calendar:

Nov. 24 - Dec. 2: Nine Day Novena for the Feast of St. Francis Xavier.

November 29 : Mini Christmas Bazaar.

December 08 : Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

December 20 : Advent Retreat by Fr. Cusumano, SJ, Joseph Hall 10:00 - 12:00 p.m.

December 24 : Christmas Eve Mass in English 10:30 p.m.

: Christmas Mass in English (12:00 noon) December 25

Other Masses same as Sunday Schedule.

December 31 : End of the Year Retreat by Fr. Collins, SJ, Joseph Hall, 10:00 - 5:00 p.m.



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The Catholic Faith

First Holy Communion

Six children, accompanied by their families, received their First Holy Communion during the Children's Mass, Sunday, October 4. Fr. Ryuichiro Hanafusa, SJ, the Pastor of St. Ignatius Church, was the celebrant and he gave a simple but beautiful homily in English on the meaning of "Communion."



Reception of the Body of Christ

"COMMUNION," he said, is a beautiful word. **Com** means with or together, and **union**, unity, we become one. Thus, Communion is to become one... together... before..., different paths, different persons, but by Communion we become one. In Japanese we say "seitai hairyou", but it is not as beautifully expressed as in English.

Today's Gospel is a kind of strange story (The Parable of the Wedding Feast, Mt. 22: 1-14). Landowner and tenants are fighting each other. There is chaos, trouble, hostility because there is lack of communion actually. Not only in this Gospel, but in the world too, there is so much trouble, hatred, discrimination, and misunderstanding because we do not have a sense of communion. We have to think of that seriously.

Addressing the children, he said, "Today, you will receive First Communion. You will eat the Body of Christ, Christ will enter your stomach, and you digest Christ himself. He is absorbed into your body and soul and you will become one. That is what Communion is. It is kind of mysterious, a total grace of God actually. And from now on, you will receive Communion whenever you attend Mass. We are so different from Jesus Christ. We are just human beings, very sinful persons. Jesus is a very holy person, God, but in Communion, we become one - Jesus and you, Jesus and us, we become one. And we will be saved in that kind of grace in the Mass. So receive this day as a special gift."

Addressing the faithful, he said, "By the power of Communion we can make another communion - with other people. With God's grace we become communion especially within the family - between husband and wife, parents and kids. We may have some troubles or conflicts but by the power of Communion we can overcome them, love one another and grow in mutual Communion is a privilege love. especially for Catholics. It is a little sad that Protestant brothers and sisters cannot have this kind of grace. Only Orthodox and Catholics receive this special communion with Jesus Christ.

the Blood of Jesus Christ in the form of bread and I felt his presence in me immediately after I received Holy Communion. And I prayed so many prayers to God to help me and direct me in the right path."

Obinna Christian Duru

"My First Holy Communion was truly a lesson of loving Jesus and each other. I felt great!"

Aislyn Gomera

"I feel very happy now that I have done my 1st Confession and Communion. It was very nerveracking on the day, but I felt very calm, joyful and good afterwards!" Philippe Dayrit



Describing their thoughts and feelings on that day, the children have expressed the inexpressible, amazingly showing awareness of the real presence of our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. Let us learn from them.

"When Jesus came into my heart for the first time in Holy Communion, I felt very happy, more than happy but I don't have words for it. He entered into my body and became part of me or I became part of Him. What a mystery!" Katrina Causaren

"I felt so happy on the day! I felt peace and joy. I was fully aware that I was going to receive the Body and "First I did not want to go for Holy Communion because I was nervous and shy. And I thought I did not deserve it because I was not focused, and I was not immaculate. After receiving Holy Communion, I felt happy, good, and forgiven!"

Rafi Dayrit

"I am happy because it was the first time I received Jesus in the form of bread and in a very special way. I was a bit nervous reading the Second Reading in front of so many people, but I just remembered what my parents said: I was doing it for Jesus. I actually felt that Jesus guided me on that day."

Kirstine Bugas

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St. Ignatius Church News and Events

SIIYM Recollection

The St. Ignatius International Youth Ministry (SIIYM) organized a Day of Recollection on the 21st of September, 2020 in St. Mary's Chapel. The whole day affair focused on reflecting on the theme, "Finding God in All Things". Around 30 people attended.

The first part was Praise and Worship. It was immediately followed by a talk by Fr. Cyril Veliath, SJ. He helped us reflect on the theme by sharing the three levels of spirituality: that of the Average Religious Person, of the Ascetic, and of the Mystic or Saint. We shared our reflections in groups, which was also a good chance to get to know one another. It was fulfilling to learn from the life experiences of others. In the afternoon, we reflected on the Gospel passage on the" Calling of the Disciples," using Ignatian contemplation. Again, we got the chance for deep reflection and sharing. Taizé prayer followed, while simultaneously the Sacrament Reconciliation was given by Fr. Veliath. We ended the day with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

The Recollection was for me a personal encounter with God. He reminded me that he has always been present and has never left my side. Indeed, God is in everything we do, everywhere we go, in the faces of our friends, colleagues, bosses, or even in times when we are alone in silence. Fr. Veliath made a strong point that to find God in all things, we do not have to force ourselves. We just take one day at a time, sincerity and keep goodness everything we do, and we will later realize that God is alive.

I thank the Lord for giving me the opportunity to participate in this Recollection. Being away from my parish community in the Philippines for more than half a year now and considering the effects of the pandemic, I have been longing for this intimate encounter with God. Adjusting with life here in Japan was really difficult for me, but with the warm welcome of members in the ministry, and with the help of this recollection, I believe that God has

everything under control. I just have to trust Him and find Him in all things.

Rei Villarosa



SIIYM Recollection along with Fr. Veliath

Holy Orders

"The One who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it. Brothers, pray for us, too." - 1 Thess. 5:24-25



Ordination of Rev. Fr. Hyoe Murayama

These words were prominently flashed on the YouTube screen just before the live-streamed Ordination of Rev. Fr. Hyoe Murayama, S.J. on September 26 at 2:00 p.m. in St. Ignatius Church. Because it was pandemic, It was a simple but very solemn ceremony with Tokyo Archbishop Tarcisius Isao Kikuchi, SVD as main celebrant and with some 60 invited guests and another 60 fellow Jesuits in attendance. It was a great day of rejoicing, as the last Japanese Jesuit was ordained three years ago. The whole proceedings can be accessed at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-ly1QXLM8 for the short version and www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBBLuVq52iQ for the complete one.

In the first video, shown before the ordination Mass, Fr. Murayama talked about himself, his family, his vocation history, the Society of Jesus, what kind of priest he wants to be, and his going to East Timor, his new assignment after ordination. The second video contains the ceremony itself and the beautiful homily of the Archbishop, where one could feel the depth of his vision as Shepherd to his flock, his concern for his "sheep" in the present time, and his heart as he describes what it means to serve through the priestly vocation. Do find time to watch these videos, be spiritually enriched, and pray for the perseverance of Fr. Murayama as he begins another chapter of his journey. Above all, pray for more religious and priestly vocations!

St. Ignatius Church News and Events

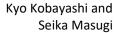
The 21st Anniversary of Church Dedication

The celebration of the 21st Anniversary of the Church Dedication this year was quite unusual because of the pandemic. It was held October 11, from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in the main church with only 100 registered participants. The theme was TALK, MUSIC, and PRAYER. The featured talks were by the SIIYM, a Catholic health worker, and our Pastor. Inbetween music was provided by Ms. Hiroko Asai at the organ and Ms. Mikiko Omori, soprano.

The SIIYM was invited to speak about how this pandemic has affected the youth and how they were able to overcome it. Seika Masugi, their representative, introduced the Ministry, its vision and mission and shared how the pandemic affected their many planned activities and events, resulting in the cancellation of most of them while at the same time they are transitioning to new elected leaders. The lockdown made them realize the important things we have in the church - the friendships, the people, the peace, and most of all the Holy Mass. Most of the members were lonely during the "Stay at Home" period so they were motivated to do something creative and dynamic. Since then, from April to September, the group has had a total of 51 online events with up to 61 participants per event! Seika concluded her presentation with St. Ignatius' famous quote, "Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam." All these efforts were "For the greater Glory of God"!

Ms. Sato, a Public Health nurse shared her experience of how she worked at the Health Center during this pandemic. first, Αt she struggled with many hardships and sometimes felt that she was contributing nothing. However, she came to realize that it is important to encounter each patient with a merciful heart. She began to pray every time before going to work that God would give her the strength to dedicate all she has to others. It was great listening to how she lived her faith at her workplace.

Fr. Hanafusa's talk about "bonding division." He stressed that in this time of pandemic, the church needs to be more focused on bonding as one community. As individuals we might be weak, but if we as a people cooperate and help one another, we can overcome hardships with the strong bond of community.





Presentation by Ms. Masugi and Talk by Ms. Sato

Confirmation

Five adolescents and three adults received the Sacrament of Confirmation on October 18 during the 12:00 p.m. English Mass. In lieu of Archbishop Kikuchi, Fr. Hanafusa was the one who administered, with Fr. Bony James concelebrating. The recipients were a very international group – from Ireland, India, Philippines, Nigeria, and Japan. They were perseveringly prepared by Ms Adelfa Armentia, TA, inspite of the pandemic restrictions, and with the support of the parents, especially in the case of the young ones.

Below are excerpts from Fr. Bony's homily: "I know that you have been waiting for this day for a long time.

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Congratulations! Alan Bharati, Chum Canales, Toshihisa Fujiwara, Aoife Lausen, Caroline Lausen, Chika Ogwo, Eliana Darlene Riego de Dios and Kazuyo Lacuna Yoshimura

Feature Article

National Catholic Awareness Conference Japan (NCACJ)

November 21-22, 2020

by Neil Day

"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation."

(Mark 16:15)

In the homily of Pope Saint John Paul II to the International Forum, we were reminded that all of us in the Christian family today can be joyful, for we have been given the opportunity, as were the first disciples, to be part of Christ's team in spreading the Gospel. All that is necessary is that we allow God to work through us.

National The Catholic Awareness Conference Japan (NCACJ) is one such response to Christ's invitation. Unlike last year's Conference which drew a big attendance, in Nicola Barré, this time it will be a ZOOM Online Conference on November 21-22, 2020. It is to celebrate the 471st Anniversary of Christianity in Japan and also to continue the fervor of the faith felt during the visit of Pope Francis to Japan last year.

As with our Faith Formation classes held on the first Sunday of every month at St. Ignatius Church, the Conference can be a great help with the group's chosen theme this year, "Evangelization." It can be a



friendly way of deepening our faith and seeing how it can be lived in the broad areas of our lives, as speakers will share on a great variety of topics. We welcome all to come and join us, Catholics, non-Catholics, and those who are struggling with their faith. Please see the flyer above and register on the Conference website.

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Continue Reading

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English and Japanese speakers, as translations will be provided. However, pre-registration is required, as only 100 slots are available on ZOOM on a first-come-first-served basis. Those interested in attending this event can register through the QR code shared below.



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I commend you all for your efforts to learn about your own faith and to profess your faith in the presence of Almighty God and your fellow Christians here today.

"The Sacrament of Confirmation is like a Coming of Age Ceremony. It is a Christian coming of age in terms of spiritual life. It is a gentle reminder from God and from the Church that you are now not only entitled to the many spiritual gifts that come along with it but also to the full responsibilities of Christian life.

"At times you may not find it easy, to 'drive safely' through the byways and highways of your spiritual journey, as the powers of sin and temptation are so powerful in the world we live in. However, that should not discourage, you because today you will receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit wisdom, understanding, knowledge, fortitude, counsel, piety, and fear of the Lord, and its nine fruits love, joy, peace, kindness, forbearance, self-control, goodness, faithfulness, and gentleness. Hold on to them. They serve as road signs in your spiritual journey. God will provide the rest."

HOMILY CORNER

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

November 1



The famous writer, JRR Tolkien, said that "We all long for Eden, and we are constantly glimpsing it: our whole nature at its best and least corrupted, its gentlest and most human, is still soaked with the sense of exile (italics added)." Tolkien is referring to the fact that even though we already catch a glimpse of Eden by living on this beautiful earth, the false sense of exile still makes us think that this present earth is not our true home. The consequence of this attitude is that we continue to exploit the earth as if it were only a temporary quarter to support us as we move on to a better place. This illusion of exile prevents us from making a personal connection with our own earth. Living with the pandemic, which is characterized by social distancing, can give us a similar illusion. Social distancing can give us also the false impression of "exile," that we "should not" make deep and personal connections with one another. This is why social distancing can incapacitate us from recognizing the depth of one another's presence. If we think that we are now living in exile, then we are prone to exploiting one another's presence.

Celebrating the Solemnity of All Saints, we are not centering on the distance between us and the saints. We are not focusing on how we are still in exile and that the saints are already in the better place. On the contrary, we are celebrating the mystery of unity between us and the saints. Regardless of the difference in time and space between us and the saints, we are united with the saints in our own personal response to God's call to be holy. Yes, we are united in this call from God to be holy. Together with the saints, we are trying to live this call from God. God calls each of us to be holy according to Jesus' way, the way of the Beatitudes. Just as the saints proved themselves worthy to live the life of the Beatitudes, we are also trying to show God that we too want to be worthy to live such a way of life. With the help of the living testimony of the saints we can have a sense of direction as to how to live God's call concretely. Thus, we are not called to be holy like the saints in the sense that we should passively imitate the saints' personal life. Rather, just like the saints, we too want to implement the Beatitudes in our daily concrete life.

That is why we are here celebrating All Saints not to exploit their help to us, as if our concrete initiatives to be holy do not count. We are not passive in our devotion to the Saints. Through begging for their support, we are becoming more and more devoted to adopting the Beatitudes in our very own lives. During the beatification of Carlo Acutis, Pope Francis praised the life of the Blessed Carlo Acutis. He said, "Blessed Carlo Acutis grasped the needs of his time, because he saw the face of Christ in the weakest." I believe this echoes the Beatitude which says, "Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God". The example of Blessed Carlo's life stresses the importance of our own awareness in wanting to become holy men and women who see God in daily life.

My dear brothers and sisters, situated within the tendency of this world to avoid becoming holy, or to choose passive devotion to the saints, let us be aware of the true essence of our celebration today. We are celebrating the saints because their faith in God inspires us to do the same, to *try* to become holy the way God wants us to become holy, to initiate adopting the Beatitudes as our own way of life.

Fr. Antonius Firmansyah, SJ

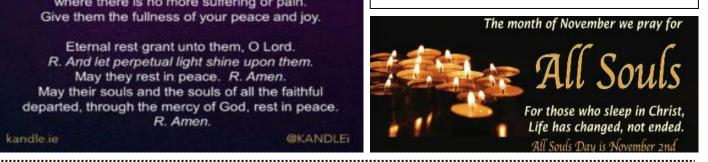
mportant Reminders

Praying for those who have died during this time of the Coronavirus COVID-19 Lord of all people, believing in the resurrection, we turn to you with hope. Into your hands we entrust those who have died this day. In this life you embraced them with your tender love, welcome them now into heaven where there is no more suffering or pain. Give them the fullness of your peace and joy. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. R. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. R. Amen. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. R. Amen.

Mass Celebrants for the month

Here are the Mass Celebrants for November.

Date	12:00 NN Mass
Nov. 01	Fr. Firmansyah, SJ
Nov. 08	Fr. Wessels, SJ
Nov. 15	Fr. Cusumano, SJ
Nov. 22	Fr. Luhata, SJ
Nov. 29	Fr. Wessels, SJ



Pope's Prayer Intentions for November 2020

Artificial Intelligence

kandle.ie

We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

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Mission 2030 Prayer Intention:

For the English Sunday School children, that their parents and youth leaders persevere in creating fun and creative activities online to sustain their faith during the time they cannot yet gather as a group in church.

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John de Britto English Center

@KANDLE

Office Address: 6-5-1 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 102-0083 Office Hours:

Weekdays (10:00 AM - 12:00 NN, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Weekends (11:00 AM – 1:00 PM)

Telephone No: 03-3263-4576

Due to these pandemic times the regular schedule and meeting place of our different Groups, Ministries, Catechism classes on the Sacraments, English Sunday School for Children, etc. have been affected. Please visit or call directly at the Center for inquiries.

Staff of St. Ignatius Church

Pastor: Fr. Ryuichiro Hanafusa, SJ

Associate and Support Priests:

Fr. Sang-won Lee, SJ Fr. Bony James, SJ Fr. Manuel Silgo, SJ Fr. Generoso Florez, SJ

Fr. Javier Garralda, SJ

Brother: Bro. Hiroaki Yoshiba, SJ Sister: Sr. Ivette Sanchez, MC

John de Britto English Center:

Fr. Bony James, SJ Director

Adelfa Armentia Sr. Flor Florece, FI Sr. Leny Fery, FdCC

English Mass Registration Links

12.00 p.m.



4.30 p.m.





For all those who made this monthly Bulletin possible, we extend our deepest gratitude. Thank you very much!

