

ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

MONTHLY ENGLISH BULLETIN

March 2021



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Jesus revealed to his disciples the deepest meaning of his mission when he told them of his passion, death and resurrection, in fulfillment of the Father's will. He then called the disciples to share in this mission for the salvation of the world.

In our Lenten journey towards Easter, let us remember the One who "humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (Phil 2:8). During this season of conversion, let us renew our faith, draw from the "living water" of hope, and receive with open hearts the love of God, who makes us brothers and sisters in Christ. At the Easter vigil, we will renew our baptismal promises and experience rebirth as new men and women by the working of the Holy Spirit. This Lenten journey, like the entire pilgrimage of the Christian life, is even

now illumined by the light of the resurrection, which inspires the thoughts, attitudes and decisions of the followers of Christ.

Fasting, prayer and almsgiving, as preached by Jesus (cf. Mt 6:1-18), enable and express our conversion. The path of poverty and self-denial (fasting), concern and loving care for the poor (almsgiving), and childlike dialogue with the Father (prayer) make it possible for us to live lives of sincere faith, living hope and effective charity.

Faith calls us to accept the truth and testify to it before God and all our brothers and sisters

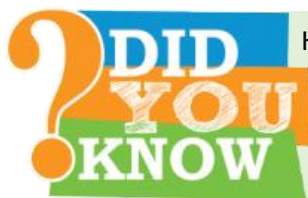
In this Lenten season, accepting and living the truth revealed in Christ means, first of all, opening our hearts to God's word, which the Church passes on from generation to generation. This truth is

not an abstract concept reserved for a chosen intelligent few. Instead, it is a message that all of us can receive and understand thanks to the wisdom of a heart open to the grandeur of God, who loves us even before we are aware of it. Christ himself is this truth. By taking on our humanity, even to its very limits, he has made himself the way – demanding, yet open to all – that leads to the fullness of life.

Fasting, experienced as a form of self-denial, helps those who undertake it in simplicity of heart to rediscover God's gift and to recognize that, created in his image and likeness, we find our fulfillment in him. In embracing the experience of poverty, those who fast make themselves poor with the poor and accumulate the treasure of a love both received and shared. In this way, fasting helps us to love God and our neighbor, inasmuch as love, as Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches, is a movement outwards that focuses our attention on others and considers them as one with ourselves (cf. Fratelli Tutti, 93).

Lent is a time for believing, for welcoming God into our lives and allowing him to "make his dwelling" among us (cf. Jn 14:23). Fasting involves being freed from all that weighs us down – like consumerism or an excess of information, whether true or false – in order to open the doors of our hearts to the One who comes to us, poor in all things, yet "full of grace and truth" (Jn 1:14): the Son of God our Savior.

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Here are two interesting videos on The Way of the Cross for children!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0qv7c4PsrA> (9 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoQR30np5us> (25 minutes)



Many Catholic priests, religious sisters and brothers too have died in these pandemic times. For example, on Jan. 2021, the Catholic News Service reported that in a single day, on three continents, the Catholic Church lost a cardinal and two bishops to Covid-19. In Italy, 60 priests died in a month in the line of duty. Some were in their 40s but the majority were elderly. But did you know that a French nun who is Europe's oldest person has survived Covid-19, just days before her 117th birthday? She tested positive for coronavirus but did not develop any symptoms. Her name? Sr. Andre Randon. She told local media, "I didn't even realize I had it!"

On February 8, 2021 Archbishop Tarcisus Kikuchi issued the “**Directives of Evangelization and Pastoral Care**,” a “must read” for all priests, sisters, and lay leaders in the Archdiocese of Tokyo. He spoke of three pillars – to be a **missionary** community, to be a **fraternal** community and to be a **life-protecting** community. We should read the full text, comment on it, and see how we can implement it in our various Ministries and Groups.

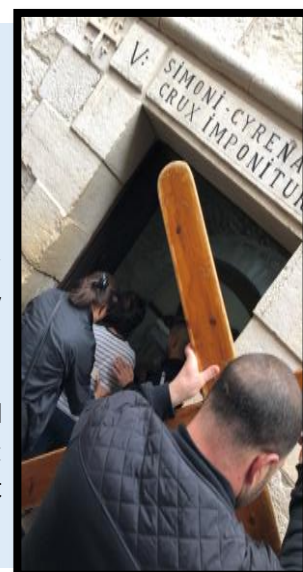
Access: <https://tokyo.catholic.jp/english/information/41323/>



Vatican Releases Guidelines for Holy Week 2021: The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has issued a Note on the celebration of Holy Week 2021. It calls for “prudent decisions in order that the liturgy can be celebrated fruitfully for the People of God...while respecting the safeguarding of health and what has been prescribed by the authorities responsible for the common good.” The Note also highlights how the use of social media has greatly assisted the local Church “in offering support and closeness to their communities during the pandemic.” It suggests that this media outreach continue and encourages the faithful who are unable to attend their own church to follow diocesan celebrations as a sign of unity.

Online Retreats and Prayers, Lenten Video Reflections: Lent is a season of repentance and renewal. We turn away from our sinfulness and recommit ourselves to following Jesus. Ignatian contemplation and reflective prayer encourage us in the season of Lent. Excellent Ignatian resources are available on: <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/lent/>

This year, the Franciscan Friars of the Custody of the Holy Land, who have served as the Catholic Church's caretakers of the Holy Places since the 13th century, have found a way to bring the **Via Dolorosa** to the homes of those who cannot travel to Jerusalem. They conceived of the project to help “the faithful pilgrims scattered throughout the world to find the deepest meaning of their lives, of their existence.” The virtual Way of the Cross, is also “a message of hope in a time like the one we are living – a time of difficulty and suffering.” The faithful can now access a virtual Way of the Cross through 13 short videos. They will be posted every Tuesday and Friday until March 30, and can be found at this social media page Link: https://www.facebook.com/custodiaTS?ref=br_rs



The Catholic Faith

Letter from Our Archbishop of Tokyo

17 February 2021

Ash Wednesday

Dear brothers and sisters in the Archdiocese of Tokyo:

At the Beginning of Lent a year ago, we started the season of Lent under uncertain circumstances. From that day on, we have continued Church activities while observing various precautionary measures to protect all life, especially taking steps not to put in danger the lives of our brothers and sisters. We were made aware of the importance of taking care of each other and supporting one another as we walk with anxiety through the darkness.

One year has passed and we observe Ash Wednesday once again. The season of Lent has begun. At the beginning of Lent, the prophet Joel calls out, "Return to the Lord, your God." Lent is indeed the time to examine the roots of our faith. Now that we are facing various difficulties in our faith, let us not forget to return to its very source.

Joel writes that it is the Lord who is "merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love" to whom we will return. In living out our faith, we imitate the Lord as we strive to be merciful people. We strive to be patient people. We strive to be compassionate people.

Our faith is being challenged. Now that it has become difficult to gather together, there are things that were once normal for the life of the Church that have changed. Among them, we have to address the issue of how each person can protect, practice, and nurture their faith.

Certainly, having restrictions on liturgy and activities does not mean that the Church community has collapsed. While facing this crisis, we are reminded to be aware and to keep at heart that we are all united together in faith. United in prayer, and in solidarity in faith with our brothers and sisters building up the body of Christ, let us shine through the darkness with the light of Christ, the source of life. As the Lord promised when he sent off his disciples, he will always be with us until the end of time (Matthew 28:20).

During Lent, the Church traditionally calls us to examine our faith while emphasizing the three pillars of "prayer, fasting, and works of charity." Unlike the ordinary Mass offerings, donations made during Lent are sacrifices offered as the fruit of temperance and as an expression of one's participation in the Church's works of charity. We would like to ask for your kind cooperation in offering donations with selfless love during these forty days. Moreover, as is written in the Bible, we believe that "the fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful" (James 5,16). We pray unceasingly and, while taking various precautionary measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no point in having a Church in this world unless we include our spiritual response in our fight against COVID-19. Let us persevere in prayer.

In a special way during Lent this year, we remember our friends in the Church of Myanmar, looking back over the many years we have supported one another, and let us continue to pray for peace and stability in Myanmar.

Lent is also the time to journey with those who are preparing to receive baptism. Together let us examine the roots of our faith, encourage one another even during these difficult times, and fervently continue to walk the path of faith.



Tarcisius Isao Kikuchi
Archbishop of Tokyo

St. Ignatius Church News and Events



THE SUNDAY SCHOOL GETS ONLINE: A DIARY OF A VIDEO MAKING ILLITERATE



By Isabelle Bonnasse, NDV

- December 19: Oh my gosh! We cannot have any more gatherings due to this crazy Covid 19! We will have to make a video for our next Sunday School session! Heeeeelp!
- January 9: (Sunday) We came up with beautiful ideas for our video. It will be to help the children enter the season of Lent. We'll try to make it deep and lively.
- January 17: Fun shooting of the teaser in St Ignatius compound. Now comes the hard part: from these little pieces, making a coherent video...
- January 22: Nosebleed! I touched a button and everything disappeared! Lord, you could really help me a little more! I'm working for you after all!
- January 23: I spent the afternoon trying to film my 9-minute talk. I feel stupid talking to a camera. How I pity the movie stars!
- January 30: Carol sent me her part. She seems tense on the video! What happened to her joyful, fun ways? She told me why: She was in a narrow, noisy corridor and couldn't move!
- February 10: (1.00 a.m) I've finished the video! Alleluia! We'll be able to put it online on Sunday 14th as planned. And now... to my bed for the remaining hours of the night!
- February 11: We had to redo the teaser all over again based on the Covid restrictions and directives given by the parish. I hate Covid 19, I hate making videos, I hate the whole world!
- February 14: St Valentine Day! The kids of the Sunday school gave us chocolates at the end of the Family Mass. Looking at them playing around us, I feel it was worth all the efforts we have made. What a beautiful mission to help them get closer to God! And we learned so much in the process!

And now, only one thing remains to do: to prepare the next video ... Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam!

INVITATION FOR ALL!

The Online Catechism of Fr. Bony James with the SIIYM, which has been going on since last year, has now been opened to all. It can be accessed in ZOOM every 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month from 9:00-10:00 p.m. Come and join us! For details, please inquire from the English Center on Sundays.

HELD EVERY 2ND & 4TH
FRIDAYS OF THE MONTH

*Catechism
with Fr Bony*

2ND & 4TH FRIDAYS
20:00 - 21:00
ST. JOSEPH HALL



HOLY SATURDAY RETREAT

Prelude to Easter

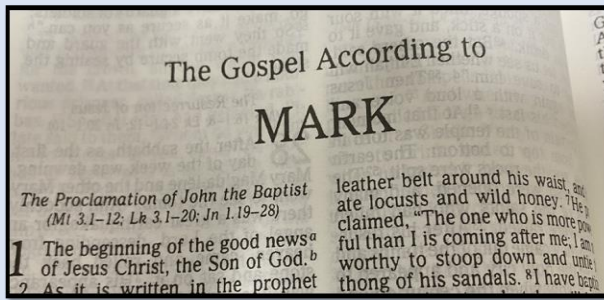


**With Fr. Robert Chiesa, SJ
on April 3, 2021, 3PM
at St. Mary's Chapel**

Homily Corner

God's Healing Hand

By Fr. Robert Chiesa SJ



The first chapter of Mark's Gospel ends with Jesus healing a victim of leprosy. The lepers of biblical times had to shout "unclean" to warn people away from them. They were forced to live in isolated places. This immediately calls to mind today's victims of the COVID-19 corona virus. They, too, are isolated from society and we are warned to stay away from them. So even if Jesus were standing

there among us, they could not approach him. And so it was with the leper in the Gospel, but somehow he managed to break through the taboos, and there he is at Jesus' feet begging "If you want to, you can cure me." Jesus also breaks through a major taboo and touches the leper saying: "Of course I want to! Be cured!" He was cured of the leprosy at once.

But Jesus did not cure all lepers of all time, so we ask: Why all this suffering, especially of innocent children or helpless people? Of course, much suffering can be blamed on our inconsiderate treatment of one another. All suffering caused by war can be put at humanity's doorstep. Many natural disasters as well come from how we have violated the ecosystem. But putting these aside, the big question remains: Why so much suffering if God is so good?

Suffering is part of the reality of being limited. But God comes to us in Jesus, and Jesus himself suffers along with us. The verb used in the Gospel of the leper to show Jesus' emotion is a strong word meaning that was deeply moved interiorly with a gut feeling of disgust for the disease and compassion for the victim. He is overcome with com-*passion*, meaning that he suffers with the victim. He is our companion and our strength in our sufferings.

Jesus raises the sick, touches lepers, welcomes children, gives support and encouragement, blessing and companionship to all. But his healing does not directly extend to the whole world, to all people of all times. It works through us in various ways. For example, medical science and various technologies have brought us great health and happiness, and thanks to them we now have vaccines to help us out of this corona virus situation. But there are still many physical and spiritual miseries that we must take care of. We are the hands and feet, the eyes and smiles of Jesus in our world today. I felt this when I spent six weeks in a hospital some years ago and felt the hand of God working for me through the professional knowhow and the compassionate hands of the doctors and nurses, of the cleaning and maintenance staff.



Christian charity is a response to immediate needs: feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, help the homeless. They do not

need explanations. They need our presence, our nearness, and whatever help we can give. We can give them our time and our respect so as to take them seriously and encourage them in their struggle with sadness and grief. We may have to bear with their irritability and frustration, their anxiety for the future, their frustrated hopes. It may not be easy to listen, but if we put ourselves in their place and listen to what they say (or do not say), we may help them come to terms with themselves and strive for interior peace. They may eventually come to believe in the bigger healing Jesus brought about through his own suffering and death—the assurance and healing hope of resurrection to eternal life!

Those limited miracles that Jesus performed point beyond death to the compassionate Father of mercy, who shares our suffering when Jesus suffers with us and for us to give us eternal life. Eternal life does not mean some future afterlife floating around on fluffy clouds. Eternal life means that God is with us here and now, giving us his Son in the Eucharist and filling us with his Spirit to guide us. God loves us so much that he made himself able to live and rejoice with us, to share our suffering and death so as to show us the way to eternal life. And now he asks us to be associated with him in healing the many wounds of the world.

At the beginning of Lent the priest sprinkles ashes on our head and says: "Repent and believe the gospel." Surrounded by so much corona sickness and death, we realize our need for the helping hand of the Lord to raise us up and truly believe the Good News of the Gospel.

Special Feature: St. Ignatius Church's "SOCIAL ARM"

Preparing Onigiri



Distributing Onigiri



Shelter Accommodations



Curry Distribution



The foreign community has probably heard that in St. Ignatius there is a group that cooks curry for the homeless or distributes onigiri. But do we know more than that? The Bulletin interviewed two key persons who could tell us more. Beyond the Eucharistic Celebrations and the administration of the Sacraments, beyond organizing catechisms classes and group activities during special feasts and occasions etc., there are groups doing a different service building up Christ's Body, "for the body itself is not made up only of one part, but of many parts" (1Cor. 12).

Interview with Bro. Hiroaki Yoshida, SJ

- Q. What is the name of your Group?
- Yotsuya Rice-Ball Companions
- Q. When and how did your Group start? Who was the Founder? How many volunteers are there?
- In April 2000, we asked the people living on the streets near Sophia University and the church, "Is there anything we could do to help you?" and this was how we started. The founders were 4-5 Sophia University students and members of St. Ignatius Parish. At the beginning there were 6 volunteers. Now there are 20.
- Q. What is your mission/objectives?
- By visiting people living on the streets, checking on their health and safety, and listening to their stories, we hope to help people "live together" and not be indifferent to homeless people.
- Q. Now that we are in pandemic times, can you tell me more about the situation?
- About 120 people per week come and get onigiri. For making rice balls a maximum of 6 volunteers are allowed and 13 for visiting the homeless in various places to avoid the 3 C's.
- Q. Where do you get funding for your activity? Who are the volunteers? What do they do?
- Funding comes from the Church's budget. Volunteers are parishioners, students and non-Catholics. They make onigiri, visit homeless people, write and edit Onigiri Newsletters, manage the Website, update the blog and accompany homeless people to the Welfare Office if they so desire.
- Q. What challenges have you met? What joys?
- The above activities are designed to bring good benefits to homeless people. For example, we look for where they are, plan a course to visit them, and change or add new courses to the previous ones. When we visit them with rice balls and newsletters, they are happy to see us. The smiles on their faces bring us joy. It is also a joy to be able to serve every week, even if we are in pandemic times.

Interview with Bro. Hiroaki Yoshida, SJ

- Q. What is the name of your group?
- The St. Ignatius Catholic Church Shelter Project
- Q. When did your group start? Why? Who were its founding members? How many volunteers do you have right now?
- We began at the end of May 2020, to provide needy people with temporary shelters. Among us are a priest and people who have been helping needy people at St. Ignatius Church and people who have been engaging in community health and welfare, to a total of 9 volunteers.
- Q. What is your mission or your objectives?
- We want to create a society where each and every one of us can be alive without being neglected. We value and protect people's safety, their dignity, their expression of intention, their hopes for the future
- Q. Where do you get funding? Where do your volunteers come from? What exactly do they do?
- We are funded by an Individual Foundation, donations from outside, Christians and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan. The volunteers do shelter maintenance, management and cleaning.
- Q. What challenges have you faced? What joys?
- 1. Due to differences in language and culture, there have been "unexpected ways" of using facilities. As a result, we have been forced to replace the equipment in the facility. 2. It may be a temporary aid and may not be a fundamental solution in view of the law and administration. We face a dilemma that we cannot always realize the objectives we cherish. 3. To draw out the needs and issues of users. 4. Being able to provide places and opportunities that will lead to a better future of its users 5. Being aware of the narrowness of our field of vision and expanding it.

Interview with Mr. 岩田鐵夫 (Iwata)

- Q. What is the name of your Group?
- The name of our group is "St. Ignatius' Curry Group."
- Q. When and how did it start? Who was the founder? How many volunteers are there?
- In 2009, we took over from another soup kitchen group and restarted it as "St. Ignatius Curry Group." In the previous year, Lehman Brothers went bankrupt in the U.S. and there was a great depression, and in Japan many temporary workers were laid off. The Catholic Church issued an urgent appeal to tackle the issue of poverty more than ever before. There are no special founders. We usually have about 15 volunteers, but due to the Corona disaster, we have about 10 volunteers to avoid crowding.
- Q. What is your group's mission/objectives? How many people join the activity?
- Every Monday from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. the Joseph Hall and Teresia Hall are air-conditioned in summer and heated in winter. There, people can exchange information with one another while enjoying a hot meal of curry and rice, evoking the nostalgic taste of home and childhood. We have also provided showers, health consultations with a physician, and "free consultations" by a lawyer. We also held a Christmas Party on a Monday in December, where everyone could enjoy a meal and entertainment. However, since February 17, 2020, when the halls were closed due to the Corona virus, we have been providing curry bento boxes, bananas, drinks, masks, etc. at the church entrance in a non-contact, walk-through manner. The number of people who come to the church has increased from 130-150 to 140-230 !
- Q. Where do you get funding ? Who are the volunteers? What do they do?
- On the first Sunday of the month, we hold a "Rice Offering Project" during Mass, where parishioners are asked to bring rice, rice gift tickets, pickled plums, dried seaweed, plastic wrap, curry spoons, etc. to be used as materials for our activity. (This project has currently been discontinued due to the Corona disaster.) We also get donations from parishioners.
- Q. What challenges have you experienced? What joys?
- With the Corona 19 disaster, we are challenged to look for new ways to support the people who come. Even if it is only once a week, we are happy if we can provide a hearty meal and time to interact with people living in a poor environment. It is also a joy to be able to serve every week, in these pandemic times.

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Continuation

Message of the Holy Father Francis for Lent 2021

Hope as “living water” enabling us to continue our journey

The Samaritan woman at the well, whom Jesus asks for a drink, does not understand what he means when he says that he can offer her “living water” (Jn 4:10). Naturally, she thinks that he is referring to material water, but Jesus is speaking of the Holy Spirit whom he will give in abundance through the Paschal Mystery, bestowing a hope that does not disappoint. Jesus had already spoken of this hope when, in telling of his passion and death, he said that he would “be raised on the third day” (Mt 20:19). Jesus was speaking of the future opened up by the Father’s mercy. Hoping with him and because of him means believing that history does not end with our mistakes, our violence and injustice, or the sin that crucifies Love. It means receiving from his open heart the Father’s forgiveness.

In these times of trouble, when everything seems fragile and uncertain, it may appear challenging to speak of hope. Yet Lent is precisely the season of hope, when we turn back to God who patiently continues to care for his creation which we have often mistreated (cf. *Laudato Si’*, 32-33; 43-44). Saint Paul urges us to place our hope in reconciliation: “Be reconciled to God” (2 Cor 5:20). By receiving forgiveness in the sacrament that lies at the heart of our process of conversion, we in turn can spread forgiveness to others. Having received forgiveness ourselves, we can offer it through our willingness to enter into attentive dialogue with others and to give comfort to those experiencing sorrow and pain. God’s forgiveness, offered also through our words and actions, enables us to experience an Easter of fraternity.

In Lent, may we be increasingly concerned with “speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement, and not words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn” (Fratelli Tutti, 223). In order to give hope to others, it is sometimes enough simply to be kind, to be “willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference” (ibid., 224).

Through recollection and silent prayer, hope is given to us as inspiration and interior light, illuminating the challenges and choices we face in our mission. Hence the need to pray (cf. Mt 6:6) and, in secret, to encounter the Father of tender love.

To experience Lent in hope entails growing in the realization that, in Jesus Christ, we are witnesses of new times, in which God is “making all things new” (cf. Rev 21:1-6). It means receiving the hope of Christ, who gave his life on the cross and was raised by God on the third day, and always being “prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls [us] to account for the hope that is in [us]” (1 Pet 3:15).

Love, following in the footsteps of Christ, in concern and compassion for all, is the highest expression of our faith and hope

Love rejoices in seeing others grow. Hence it suffers when others are anguished, lonely, sick, homeless, despised or in need. Love is a leap of the heart; it brings us out of ourselves and creates bonds of sharing and communion.

“Social love” makes it possible to advance towards a civilization of love, to which all of us can feel called. With its impulse to universality, love is capable of building a new world. No mere sentiment, it is the best means of discovering effective paths of development for everyone” (Fratelli Tutti, 183).

Love is a gift that gives meaning to our lives. It enables us to view those in need as members of our own family, as friends, brothers or sisters. A small amount, if given with love, never ends, but becomes a source of life and happiness. Such was the case with the jar of meal and jug of oil of the widow of Zarephath, who offered a cake of bread to the prophet Elijah (cf. 1 Kings 17:7-16); it was also the case with the loaves blessed, broken and given by Jesus to the disciples to distribute to the crowd (cf. Mk 6:30-44). Such is the case too with our almsgiving, whether small or large, when offered with joy and simplicity.

To experience Lent with love means caring for those who suffer or feel abandoned and fearful because of the Covid-19 pandemic. In these days of deep uncertainty about the future, let us keep in mind the Lord’s word to his Servant, “Fear not, for I have redeemed you” (Is 43:1). In our charity, may we speak words of reassurance and help others to realize that God loves them as sons and daughters. “Only a gaze transformed by charity can enable the dignity of others to be recognized and, as a consequence, the poor to be acknowledged and valued in their dignity, respected in their identity and culture, and thus truly integrated into society” (Fratelli Tutti, 187).

Dear brothers and sisters, every moment of our lives is a time for believing, hoping and loving. The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer and sharing of our goods, helps us – as communities and as individuals – to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father.

May Mary, Mother of the Saviour, ever faithful at the foot of the cross and in the heart of the Church, sustain us with her loving presence. May the blessing of the risen Lord accompany all of us on our journey towards the light of Easter.

St. Ignatius Church’s “SOCIAL ARM”

In his encyclical *FRATELLI TUTTI*, Pope Francis hopes “to create a community of belonging and solidarity” (FT 36). He seeks “to create processes of encounter where we, as a people, become desirous of meeting others, seeking points of contact, building bridges, planning a project that includes everyone” (FT 126). He pointed to the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) as an icon of our times in order to rebuild our wounded world. It shows us how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbors, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good (FT 67). In this season of Lent we can decide whether to be Good Samaritans or indifferent bystanders (FT 70).

– Sr. Flor Florece, F.I.

The Conclusion

Remember that in the February issue of the Bulletin we wrote of twenty-four youth participating in a 33 Day Retreat via ZOOM, in preparation for Marian Consecration? Daily and at a designated time, they gathered for prayer and sharing. Well, it has come to an end last February 11, 2021, the Feast of our Lady of Lourdes. Fourteen participants completed the journey! To conclude, we had Holy Mass in the Canossian Convent presided by Fr. Bony James, SJ. As it also happened to be the World Day of the Sick, he reminded us that miracles of healing depend on the encounter you have with Christ. Afterwards, Prayers of Consecration were personally recited and Miraculous Medals were distributed as a sign of Consecration.

We continue to pray for the participants, that this encounter with the living God bear much fruit in their lives.

To Jesus through Mary!

– Renzo Carlo Gonzales



Important Notices

Schedule of Masses and Celebrants

SUNDAY	12:00 NN	4:30 PM
March 7	Fr. Firmansyah, SJ	Fr. Veliath, SJ
March 14	Fr. Chiesa, SJ	Fr. Luhata, SJ
March 21	Fr. Doyle, SJ	Fr. Wessels, SJ
March 28	Fr. Veliath, SJ	Fr. Cusumano, SJ

NOTE

1. Confessions are held before or during Mass in the room just before the English Center Office.
2. Due to the extended STATE OF EMERGENCY in Tokyo because of COVID 19, the 6:00 p.m. Japanese Masses on Saturdays and Sundays are temporarily suspended until further notice. In lieu, there is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
3. For HOLY WEEK schedule, please access the English Website for updates. www.stignatius.jp/en/

Pope's Prayer for March 2021

Lord Jesus Christ, it was because of our sins that you suffered the cross. May we return to God and live a new life.

Mission 2030 Prayer Intention

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Let us pray that we may experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

Staff of St. Ignatius Church

Pastor: Fr. Ryuichiro Hanafusa, S.J.

Associate and Support Priests:

Fr. Sang-won Lee S.J. Fr. Bony James S.J.
Fr. Manuel Silgo S.J. Fr. Generoso Florez S.J.
Fr. Javier Garralda S.J.

Brother: Bro. Hiroaki Yoshiba S.J.
Sister: Sr. Ivette Sanchez, M.C.

John de Britto English Center:

Fr. Bony James, S.J. Director

Sr. Leny Fery FdCC Sr. Flor Florece FI



<https://www.facebook.com/stignatius.jp/>



<http://www.stignatius.jp/>

English Mass Registration

12:00 NN

4:30 PM



Oratio Imperata for Protection against COVID-19



Merciful and compassionate Father, we come to you in our need to seek your protection against the COVID 19 virus that has disturbed and claimed lives. We ask you now to look upon us with love and by your healing hand dispel the fear of sickness and death, restore our hope and strengthen our faith.

We pray that you guide the people tasked to find cures for this disease and to stem its transmission. We pray specially for all the medical experts and researchers who work to develop vaccines. Bless their efforts with the wisdom from the Holy Spirit for the proper development and use of the vaccines to end the pandemic in our country and across the world.

We pray for our health workers that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion. Grant them health in mind and body, strength in their commitment, protection from the disease. We pray for those afflicted. May they be restored to health. Protect those who care for them. Grant eternal rest to those who have died. Give us the grace in this trying time to work for the good of all and to help those in need. May our concern and compassion for each other, see us through this crisis and lead us to conversion and holiness.

Grant all these through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

We fly to Your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our petition in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.