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Kyo.Prot.N.30/2020

To the Faithful of the Diocese of Kyoto

New Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection's
Precautionary measures for suspension of Masses etc. (Part 2)
Correspondence after March 21

This announcement will take effect from March 21 (Saturday) in response to coronavirus infection or COVID 19. By this time, the spread of infection in various parts of the world are reported, and the current situation is unlikely to be expected here in Japan. Considering the situation, we have decided to take the following precautionary measures.

1. From March 21 (Sat) to April 3 (Fri), we extend the suspension of Masses (Para Liturgy or commonly known as Liturgy of the Word with Communion), catechisms, and other gatherings of an unspecified number of people. Dispensation from Sunday Mass obligation is given. Please read the Sunday readings, cherish the Word of God and pray.
2. Weddings and funerals can be conducted on a small number only, and after consultation with the priest and officials concerned for the adequate infection control measures.
3. The 11:00 am Chrism Mass on April 8 (Wednesday), will only be open for priests who can participate. The participation of the general congregation is not encouraged. Holy Oils are to be distributed to each priest for their own respective churches.
4. Activities after April 4 (Saturday) including the Liturgical Celebration of the Holy Week will be decided after assessing the situation and consulting with the experts. Another memorandum will be issued as soon as whatever decision has been made.

Though the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with the faithful has been suspended, I, the bishop, together with the priests devote ourselves to celebrate Mass everyday. Rest assured that we do remember each one of you in our hearts and prayers as we offer the Mass. May the Word of God nourish you as you join us in hearts and prayers as we celebrate the daily Sacrifice of the Mass.

March 16, 2020
Most Rev. Paul Otsuka Yoshinao D.D.
Bishop of Kyoto