

Kyoto Diocese Message for the Peace Days, 2011

Questioning the Use of Nuclear Power, in Pursuit of Peace

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Let us offer this year's Prayer for Peace in solidarity with the victims of the terrible earthquake in Eastern Japan. So many precious lives were lost because of that unprecedentedly huge disaster. We must continue to pray that the God of mercy will heal the sorrows of all those who lost home, family and livelihood and that He will give them the courage and willpower to bring their lives together again.

We learned last year from Pope Benedict XVI'S message for peace of the close relationship between building peace and protecting the environment but, because of the incident at the Fukushima Number One Atomic Power Plant, we have been forced to think even more seriously about this matter. Earthquakes and tsunami are natural disasters but accidents at nuclear power stations are man-made. Even as science and technology are products of mankind's God-given creativity, the means to solve all the problems which have been brought about by the development of atomic energy lie within the human heart. We need, then, to discern about whether atomic energy, which threatens mankind and the environment, comes within the acceptable limits of our legitimate use of science and technology

Japan, which is the only country in the world to have been attacked with atomic weapons now stands in danger of becoming a country damaged because of atomic electricity generation. I would like to draw attention to fact that the Peace Movement, which seeks a world without nuclear weapons and warfare is returning to its starting point and sees as its objective "A world in which anyone at all can live a fully human life in safety and enjoy peace of mind". Present-day Society's consumption-production model, even when looked at from an economic or environmental perspective, is in many ways unsustainable. Abolition of Arms is progressing in International Society and efforts are being made to realize a world without nuclear weapons But alongside this people must keep in mind the need for a limit to nuclear energy and promote research into clean energy which does not harm the environment.

During the summer we will be trying to conserve electricity and can choose again a simple lifestyle for the sake of safety and peace of mind. This may entail sacrifices but we can see these as an effort for peace. Let us pray that throughout Japan, throughout the whole world, all people will be able to work in solidarity for Peace.





The Prayer of St. Francis

*Make me a channel of your peace,
where there is hatred let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
and where there's doubt, true faith in You.
Make me a channel of your peace,
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness only light,
and where there's sadness ever joy.
Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.
Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all men that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.*

