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✙ Most Rev, Paul Otsuka Yoshinao, D.D.
Bishop of the Diocese of Kyoto

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To the faithful of the Diocese of Kyoto

New Coronavirus (COVID-19) Precautionary measures for Resumption of Masses (Part 5)

The Japanese government has decided to lift the status of "State of Emergency" on its announcement last May 14. As a response, the Diocese of Kyoto with regards to the church's resumption of Masses and meetings will do as follows.

1. Dispensation from the obligation to participate in Mass on Sundays

For the time being, the faithful of the Diocese of Kyoto are dispensed from the obligation to participate at Mass on Sundays until the COVID-19 infection issue has been resolved.

2. Decision to resume Masses and other church's activities in areas where the "State of Emergency" has been lifted.

(1) For each block, the priest in charge of the block will decide the resumption of Masses etc. step by step according to the situation and structure of each church based on the following two infection guidelines.

1. That for the past two weeks no infected person has been recorded in the block or the area (prefecture or municipality) where the Parish is.
2. That though the local government has relaxed restrictions on going out, even in the same block, the resumption time may differ depending on the infection status of the area where the parish is.

(2) The block Moderator should consult the diocesan chancellor in advance and obtain approval for the decision.

(3) If confirmed cases in the area are continuously recorded (2 to 3 days), the Mass etc. will be suspended.

3. Protocols to be observed in the resumption of Masses and other activities of the Church.

During Mass celebrations (*Para-liturgy*) meetings, catechisms etc., the "new normal" as announced by the government and the three basic measures to prevent infection must be observed, ① Secure physical distancing, ② Wear facemask, ③ and the washing of hands, the faithful are also asked to avoid the "3 Cs" (Closed spaces with poor ventilation, Crowded places with many people nearby, Close-contact settings such as close range conversations), also check the "Guidelines to follow in conducting gatherings,

such as Mass" (kyo.Prot.N. 56/2020) in a separate sheet.

4. Weddings and Funerals

For weddings and funerals, please consult the priest in charge and concerned officials on infection prevention measures. Please meet the above "Requirements" before proceeding. In areas where infected persons have been confirmed, please follow the "Mass suspension and future measures (4)" (kyo.Prot.N.44 / 2020).

以上