

Kyo.Prot.N. 78/2020

To the Catholics of the Kyoto Diocese

THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY 2020 **A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP OTSUKA OF KYOTO**

The number of people infected by the corona virus is constantly increasing. Masses, which resumed in June, are again suspended. Celebrating the Assumption of Our Lady, we offer our prayers based on the prayer of Pope Francis in this pandemic. (cf. Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Faithful for the Month of May 2020)

■ **Mary's protection**

In this tragic situation when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection. Virgin Mother, turn your merciful eyes toward us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Protect us in this anxious time, especially the sick receiving treatment, those who suffer from aftereffects, their families, and those who fear infection. End the spread of infection quickly.

■ **Prayer for the dead**

Mary, comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died and whose funerals at times must take place in ways that increase their grief. Pray with us to the merciful Father that all who have died from infectious diseases all over the world receive eternal peace.

■ **Comfort for people who cannot meet**

Mary, be close to those who are concerned for their sick loved ones but who in order to prevent the spread of the disease cannot be close to them.

Many people must refrain from visiting the sick and elderly. Some who live away from home cannot visit their families during this summer vacation. May they be able to communicate with their hearts and deepen their ties while being careful of each other's health.

■ **Anxiety about work and life**

Mary, fill with hope those who are troubled by uncertainty over the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Due to the prolonged spread of infection, people in all occupations continue to face a serious situation that affects their lives. In addition, people affected by the heavy rains in Kyushu and Tohoku in July are suffering. Mary, support them all to overcome these trials. Keep us mindful of the needs of the vulnerable.

■ **Gratitude**

Mary, protect doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic efforts and grant them strength, generosity, and continued health. We also thank the laity, religious, and priests who serve in our parishes seeking to prevent infection. May we continue to receive the blessings of safety and health and maintain the unity of our faith community.

Mary, Consolation of the Afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God's all-powerful hand will free us from this terrible pandemic so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

Assumption of Mary 2020

✠Paul Yoshinao Otsuka