



Kyo.Prot.N.50/2021

## 2021 Assumption Message from Bishop Otsuka to the Faithful of the Kyoto Diocese

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Kyoto Diocese,

Coronavirus infections continue to increase. As we celebrate the Assumption of Our Lady, let us offer prayers to Mary in hopes of bringing the corona pandemic to a good end.

**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.**

Let us pray as well for:

*Bishop Emeritus Raymond Ken'ichi Tanaka.* Bishop Tanaka quietly passed from this life on July 29 at a hospital in Uwajima, He would have turned 94 on August 31, and would have celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his priestly ordination on December 21. I want to express my sincere gratitude for Bishop Tanaka's many years of ministry.

*Grandparents, the elderly and the sick.* Pope Francis marked July 25, the day before the feast of Saints Joachim and Anna, the parents of Mary, as the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly to demonstrate the value of the presence of grandparents and the elderly in society. He called on us to applaud them. The pope said we especially must go to the lonely and show them the message of Jesus: "I am with you always" (see Mt. 28:20). Because of Covid, we are kept from visiting the sick and elderly. Let's pray that those who live away from their families and are concerned for their health at this summer vacation time may be united in their hearts.

*Those in distress in this time of pandemic.* In this ongoing pandemic, people struggle to support their lives. Others have been affected by torrential typhoon rains. May the support of the Blessed Mother enable them to overcome their difficult situations.

Mary, comfort of the troubled and afflicted, embrace all your children who suffer. Pray that God's mighty power might save us from this terrible pandemic. Amen.

✠ **Paul Yoshinao Otsuka,**

Bishop of Kyoto

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

August 15, 2021