

For the attention of:
Foreign Catholics resident in Kyoto diocese,
Priests assigned to each Block of parishes & Priests who celebrate foreign language Masses.

Some important policy points in Kyoto diocese's Pastoral Care of foreigners

Whenever I celebrate foreign language Masses with the various communities, I always ask the people to register in the parish where they reside, and also to contribute to the upkeep of the parish (ijih) and take part in parish activities. I take this opportunity now to remind you again, all priests of the diocese and all members of the various foreign communities, to especially take note of the following important points in our diocesan policy relating to the care of foreign members.

1. Parish Registration

- a) Having decided on the parish to which they wish to belong, foreign members should then register there, and where possible, provide a baptismal certificate.
- b) Please ensure that each person is enrolled in the parish register, with the usual membership card.
- c) Even if a baptismal certificate cannot be provided, each parish should enroll the person, including information about the date and place (Church) of Baptism, in so far as these can be remembered, noting that the certificate was unobtainable.
- d) When someone moves to another parish the process will be the same as for Japanese members.

2. Monthly contribution for parish maintenance (ijih)

- a) Foreign members are expected to take part in paying the monthly 'ijih' contribution for maintenance of the parish. I request Priests and parish leaders to kindly make sure that adequate explanation will be provided for those who can cooperate, and to take due care that this is done gently and on a gradual basis.
- b) The collection taken up at foreign language Masses should always be given in its entirety to the parish in which the Mass is celebrated.
- c) Please do not use the Mass collection for honoraria or travel expenses for priests, sisters or catechists. These should all be provided by the parish.

3. Participation in the Parish Pastoral Council

- a) Please ensure that representatives from the English, Portuguese and Spanish Mass communities take part in the Parish Pastoral Council.
- b) The Parish Pastoral Council should ensure that the various groups all draw up plans and budgets for the year's activities. All expenses agreed upon will then be covered by the parish account.

4. Concerning Mass and the Sacraments

- a) I request the foreign members to please attend Mass in Japanese on Sundays when there is no Mass in your own language.
- b) Please do your best to ensure that children who understand Japanese take part in the Japanese Mass and Catechesis for children (Sunday School) so that they can receive a solid formation in the Faith.
- c) Permission from the Priest-in-Charge of the parish to which you belong (cf. above, except in some special cases) is required when you wish to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Marriage. In principle, that priest will celebrate the Sacrament, and then make sure it is inscribed in the Parish Register.
- d) In the case of Infant Baptism, the child's parents, family members and godparents will attend a preparatory seminar provided by the Priest-in-charge of the parish to which they belong.
- e) Filipino Sisters are appointed to each Region for full-time Pastoral Ministry to Filipino communities. Priests who are also involved in this area of ministry are asked to cooperate and meet regularly with the Sisters to plan and share together.