



ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

MONTHLY ENGLISH BULLETIN

April 2020

MISSION 2030: [2020 THEME]

A NEW “COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY”



POPE’S “URBI ET ORBI”

Vatican News

Pope Francis meditated on the calming of the storm from the Gospel of Mark during the prayer service over which he presided on the steps of St Peter's Basilica on March 27,2020. Here is the full text.

“When evening had come” (Mk 4:35). The Gospel passage we have just heard begins like this. For weeks now it has been evening. Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void, that stops everything as it passes by; we feel it in the air, we notice in people’s gestures, their glances give them away. We find ourselves afraid and lost.

Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying “We are perishing” (v. 38), so we too have realized that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this.

It is easy to recognize ourselves in this story. What is harder to understand is Jesus’ attitude. While his disciples are quite naturally alarmed and desperate, he sleeps in the stern, in the part of the boat that sinks first. And what does he do? In spite of the tempest, he sleeps on soundly, trusting in the Father; this is the only time in the Gospels we see Jesus sleeping. When he wakes up, after calming the wind and the waters, he turns to the disciples in a reproaching voice: “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?” (v. 40).

Let us try to understand. In what does the lack of the disciples’ faith consist, as contrasted with Jesus’ trust? They had not stopped believing in him; in fact, they called on him. But we see how they call on him: “Teacher, do you not care if we perish?” (v. 38). Do you not care? They think that Jesus is not interested in them, does not care about them. One of the things that hurts us and our families most when we hear it said is: “Do you not care about me?” It is a phrase that wounds and unleashes storms in our hearts. It would have shaken Jesus too. Because he, more than anyone, cares about us. Indeed, once they have called on him, he saves his disciples from their discouragement. The storm exposes our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities. It shows us how we have allowed to become dull and feeble the very things that nourish, sustain and strengthen our lives and our communities. The tempest lays bare all our prepackaged ideas and forgetfulness of what nourishes our

people’s souls; all those attempts that anesthetize us with ways of thinking and acting that supposedly “save” us, but instead prove incapable of putting us in touch with our roots and keeping alive the memory of those who have gone before us. We deprive ourselves of the antibodies we need to confront adversity.

In this storm, the façade of those stereotypes with which we camouflaged our egos, always worrying about our image, has fallen away, uncovering once more that blessed common belonging, of which we cannot be deprived: our belonging as brothers and sisters.

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?” Lord, your word this evening strikes us and regards us, all of us. In this world, that you love more than we do, we have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything. Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things, and lured away by haste. We did not stop at your reproach to us, we were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick. Now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you: “Wake up, Lord!”

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?” Lord, you are calling to us, calling us to faith. Which is not so much believing that you exist but coming to you and trusting in you. This Lent your

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IMPORTANT Church ANNOUNCEMENTS for April 2020

Coronavirus Preventive Measures

St. Ignatius Church, Kojimachi, Tokyo

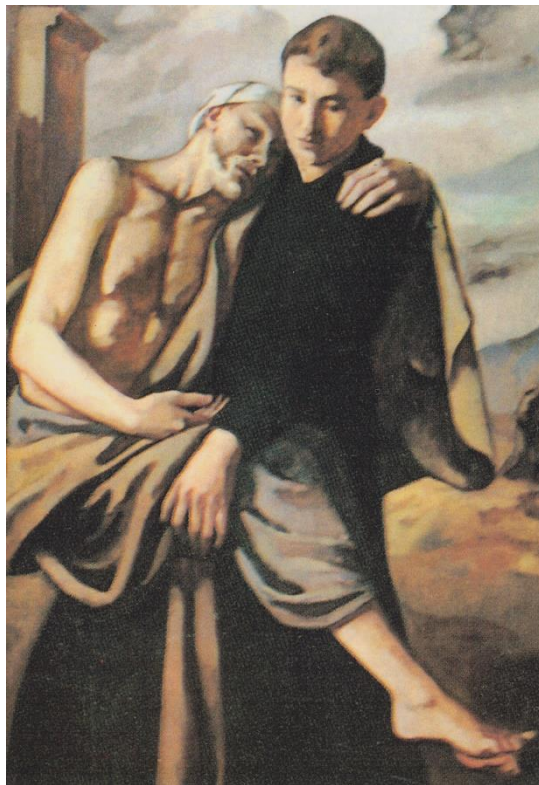
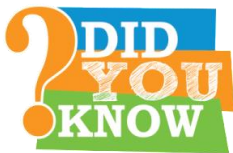
St. Ignatius Church, in accordance with the new directives given by the governor of Tokyo (dated March 25), has decided on the following measures.

1. All Masses and activities will remain cancelled until April 12(Sun). People with special health issues and elderly people (above 80) in particular are requested to refrain from coming to the church.
2. All chapels (*including the main church*) will be closed from March 28(Sat) till April 12(Sun). All are requested to pray at home.
3. Weddings and funerals are allowed with minimum number of attendees.
4. There will be no public services during Holy Week. Please spend Holy Week at your home prayerfully and meditatively. You may watch the live-streaming of the Holy Week services by Pope Francis or Archbishop Kikuchi.
5. All group activities and ceremonies (Baptism, Conversion, First Communion etc.) are requested to be rescheduled after April 12 (Sun).
6. This announcement is of March 26(Thu). We will keep you updated as and when the situation changes.

The situation has made it impossible for us to hold the most important Holy Week services. let us pray together in these difficult times, holding our hearts close to the passion of Jesus on the Cross and with the hope for the day when we can truly rejoice in the resurrection of Christ.

Fr. Hanafusa Ryuichiro

Pastor, St. Ignatius Parish, 26 March 2020



Among the saintly relics at the entrance to the Xavier Chapel, there is one of **St. Aloysius Gonzaga** (1568~1591), an Italian Jesuit seminarian. He renounced his noble patrimony and entered the Society of Jesus at the age of 17. While studying in Rome during a plague, he carried victims to hospitals but caught the plague himself and died on June 21, 1591. He was canonized in 1726 and was declared Patron of Youth. His feast is usually observed on June 21, but this year it falls on Sunday.

Through the intercession of St Aloysius, we pray for victims of the coronavirus plague of our own day and for the medical personnel ministering to them.



Letters from Our Pastors

Archbishops' Message about Holy Week and Easter

23 March 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in the Archdiocese of Tokyo:

Infections due to COVID-19 has become widespread on a global level, and there is not a day without reports in the daily news about the increase in the number of infected and dead people, whether domestic or abroad.

As we pray for eternal rest for those who have died, let us also pray for the immediate recovery of those who are infected by COVID-19 and those who are currently receiving medical treatment. At the same time, we only have words of gratitude and appreciation for the excellent work of the scientists and those in the medical profession who work hard day and night responding to the situation and being involved in the treatment. Let us pray for their good health.

With the spread of COVID-19 infections at a global level, countries around the world seem to have fallen into a state of isolation. However, we hope especially during this time for the realization of a world where political leaders transcend their differences, and in trust cooperate with one another. It is also our hope that political leaders give priority to protecting all life, taking actions to ensure that not one person be forgotten from the different aspects of life.

And as we live our Christian faith, we never lose hope in the power of prayer, thus we continue to pray in our respective places, bound together in faith.

This Lent, we are faced with a difficult challenge we have never had before. Although we may agree that such is due to the spread of COVID-19, it is very unfortunate, and it feels painful that the faithful are not able to attend Mass nor receive Holy Communion during this Lent.

Certainly, the suspension of "public Masses" does not mean that the Church community has collapsed. In the midst of facing this crisis, we are reminded to be aware and to inscribe in our hearts that we are all united together in faith. United in prayer, and in solidarity in faith with our brothers and sisters building up the body of Christ, let us shine out of darkness with the light of Christ, the

source of life. As the Lord promised when he sends off his disciples, he will always be with us until the end of time (Matthew 28,20).

This crisis gives us the opportunity to be aware of living out our faith. During these difficult times, we are called to renew our faith, to reaffirm the meaning of the Sacred Host and the Holy Eucharist, to participate in the act of Spiritual Communion, and to reflect on the things we ordinarily take for granted in our spiritual life.

We are not alone in living out our faith, but rather we are bound together in community in the one body of Christ. It is especially during this time that our bond is most important. In community, we are called to protect all life. Now more than ever, compassion is necessary to protect not only one's own life, but to protect the life of one another. We think of the various situations such as medical experts fighting against infections due to COVID-19, patients fighting against the illness, people whose lives are endangered by the present social and economic conditions. Now is the time for us to protect all lives with our fervent prayers and genuine concern for one another.

To date, the Tokyo Archdiocese has issued two advisories appealing for precautionary measures against COVID-19 infections.

And following the cancellation of public Masses in the Diocese of Hong Kong on 13 February, discussions were made with Catholic medical experts, and in consideration of the view of the Expert Meeting of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare on 24 February, we decided to suspend public Masses for the first time. Moreover, based on the discussions during the Presbyteral Council Meeting on 9 March and taking into account the opinion of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare's Expert Meeting on the same day, it was decided to extend the suspension of public Masses.

Concerning cases of COVID-19 infections, it has been reported that many of those who became infected and are now recovering did not manifest any symptoms. The big problem, however, is that many of those infected can remain asymptomatic and be a potential source of COVID-19 infections.

The Expert Meeting of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare has pointed

out the following environment where infections can easily spread:

"The locations where mass infections were confirmed so far are places where the following three conditions were met simultaneously: (1) closed space with poor ventilation, (2) crowded with many people and (3) conversations and vocal communication in close proximity (within arm's reach of one another)."

As precautionary measures against influenza epidemics in the past, people with fever or those feeling sick were treated at home, whereas those who were healthy could gather at the Church without any problem. However, with COVID-19, it is possible that even those who show no symptoms can in fact be infected and asymptomatic patients can cause severe symptoms to others, especially when transmitted to the elderly and those with chronic illness.

Therefore, the primary reason to refrain from attending public Masses is not to prevent oneself from becoming infected, but rather to avoid the possibility of becoming a source of infection without being aware of it and of putting others at risk.

Soon we shall begin with our observance of Holy Week. Taking into consideration the opinion of the government's Experts Meeting, the Archdiocese of Tokyo issued appropriate precautionary measures on a separate announcement.

We are now about to face a Holy Week we never experienced before. Give importance to every day of Holy Week. Make sure you reflect on the daily readings. Pray together. Let us entrust ourselves to the power of the Lord, who triumphed over suffering and gained the glory of the resurrection. As we contemplate once again on the meaning of living out our faith, let us pray to our compassionate God the Father, that this situation may all come to an end as soon as possible.

We seek refuge under your protection,
*O Holy Mother of God.
 Do not despise our pleas
 – we who are put to the test –
 and deliver us from every danger,
 O glorious and blessed Virgin.*

(From the prayer of Pope Francis)



Tarcisus Isao Kikuchi, SVD
 Archbishop of Tokyo

Tarcisus Isao Kikuchi



Letters from Our Pastors

St. Ignatius Church, Kojimachi, Tokyo

March 13, 2020

Dear Parishioners

+Peace of the Lord be with you.

This year the Lenten season has become a time of testing for us. The Archbishop has cancelled all Masses and other activities until the end of March. Though we expect a revision of this decision (whether to continue with the cancellation of the Mass etc.) on March 23, considering the pandemic nature of the present crisis, a complete recovery of the situation seems highly unlikely.

Even amidst such a crisis, it is important that we spend the Lenten season as a time of blessings for us. In order to encourage this, I would like to suggest the following points:

Reaffirm the Meaning of Mass (Eucharistic Celebration)

The most important duty of the Church is to offer the Eucharistic celebration with the people of faith. As a parish priest, it pains my heart as I am not able to offer this most important sacrament with you. In a sense, this can be considered as the biggest crisis in the Catholic Church. Though we are not able to attend Mass, let us take this chance to reflect upon the very significance of the Mass. Just as we realize the importance of health only when we lose it, let us try to re-affirm the importance of Mass and the Holy Eucharist precisely at a time like this when we are not able to receive them.

Prayers that can be used instead of Mass

It is possible to pray by reading the Bible, reciting the psalms and reflecting on the Word of God personally. If possible, try to match the timing of your prayer with the time you usually attend Mass at the Church. Additionally, you can ask for special intentions, as we do in intercessory prayers (prayer of the faithful), and then recite the Lord's prayer. It is recommended that you read the Sunday liturgy leaflet fully, if it is available. Then make a spiritual communion instead of the sacramental communion. The spiritual communion is a prayer that invites Jesus to come to our hearts and then be thankful for this blessing.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

My Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. (Spend a few moments of silence as to allow Jesus to come to your heart)

I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen

(Prayer by the Carmelite Order)

Along with reciting the prayer of spiritual communion, make sure that you have read the Gospel, said the Lord's Prayer and prayed for your special needs.

It is also recommended that those who have internet facilities may prayerfully perform the spiritual communion while watching the online Mass telecast by the Archdiocese of Tokyo. Please follow the link here: <https://tokyo.catholic.jp/>

I will be uploading my Sunday Mass and homily on my personal blog. You can also access these sites to read the Gospel and listen to the sermon before reciting the prayer for spiritual communion. Please follow the links below.

<https://hanafusa-fukuin.com/>

<https://iyashinofukuin.hatenablog.com/>

Prayers that can be used instead of Confession

It is advised to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the Lenten season as it is a time for repentance and conversion of heart. However, in this Lenten season, confession also will remain cancelled during the period of Mass cancellation. This is because the face to face conversation in the confessional might expose our elderly priests to an increased risk of infection.

Therefore, it is requested in this Lenten season to spend personal time in repentance and conversion. As we usually do before receiving the sacrament of reconciliation, first make an examination of conscience about your sins. Then read (*and reflect on*) either the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-24) or the story of the sinful woman (Luke 7:36-50). Finally recite any of the following prayers with a heart of repentance and a complete trust in Jesus who forgives our sins.

O My God, I am really sorry for my offences and repent from the bottom of my heart. Through my faults, I not only made myself deserving your punishment, but also insulted the One who is boundlessly merciful and deserves to be loved most. Help me with Your Divine saving power to avoid sinful occasions and thereby avoid offending you again. O merciful Lord, forgive my iniquities.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church (personal translation)

A Prayer to Ask Forgiveness from God

O merciful God, you loved us so much that you gave us your only begotten Son. Through your death and resurrection, you made us worthy to be partakers in your life. However, my self-centered life caused me to turn away from you and to offend others through my sins.

Send your Holy Spirit upon me and bless me with your grace of repentance. Grant that we may hereafter follow Christ and live a life that fulfills sincere love.

(Prayer from the Don Bosco Press)

Make sure that the above prayer is recited not just for the sake of it, but pray it while remembering your own sins with a heart that is remorseful and hopeful of God's forgiveness.

Let us also remember that during the era of Christian persecution, we had great examples of lay people who unwaveringly held on to their faith for 250 years, even without Mass, Holy Eucharist, and the Sacrament of Confession. I honestly pray that, instead of letting this Lenten season pass away meaninglessly, we may take inspiration from those great forerunners of our faith and turn this season into a chance to deepen our faith. I wish you all God's abundant blessings.

Fr. Ryuichiro Hanafusa, S.J.

From Our Parishioners

Reflections on Mass Suspension

When I heard there was no Mass, I was sad. I would not be able to receive Holy Communion, pray with the whole community, and learn about God in my Confirmation class.

I read my previous lessons, and I have finished my homework in order to cope with the classes I missed. I even studied about coronavirus. Why has Holy Mass been cancelled? The reason is to keep us safe. I think God wants to keep us safe, too.

I pray for Holy Mass to be resumed, for the coronavirus to stop spreading in the world, and for us to see through the eyes of God the meaning of all these happenings.

Eliana Darlene Riego de Dios
English Sunday School

When I first heard there would be no Mass from February 27 to March 14, I couldn't think of anything. It seemed like the end of the world. Having started the day with a Mass for so many years, I felt sick and sad. The source of my life was taken away.

Then the Lord, with His merciful love, made me see what I took for granted—the grace of attending Mass every day. He made me realize how blessed I was to set aside part of the day, praying and talking to Him. Doing so has brought me much closer to our Lord, a grace I never before imagined.

Though the Lenten journey continues without Mass till the end of this month, my heart is filled with peace and joy. I have Him in my heart. Nothing can separate me from Him. I feel united with Him and, through Him, with the entire universal Church in praying for the end of Covid-19 as well as for a joyous celebration of Easter this year!

Francisca Okada
Eucharistic Minister

In times of loss, despair and darkness, opportunities for graces abound.

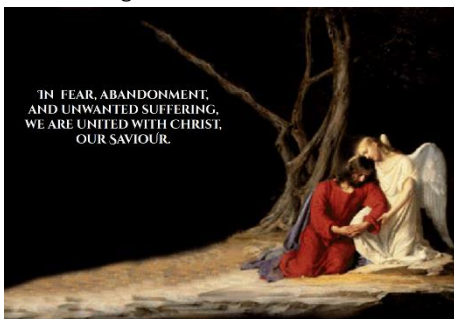
In these virus times, for those not able to attend Mass, let us recall how hard it is for our fellow Christian brothers and sisters today who cannot practice their Faith because of persecution in their own countries. We can also remember that the 'Hidden Christians' of Japan

who were persecuted for 250 years similarly could not go to Mass. How painful it must have been and is for those who loved so much being in the presence of Jesus at Mass yet even now are prevented from receiving this joy.



As part of our Lenten sacrifice, perhaps we can unite in prayer, with the agony of Christ in the garden of Gethsemane, this same 'pain' we feel so that God our Father and Blessed Mother may act to protect peoples across the world, heal those afflicted by the virus, and inspire a medical cure. Let us also pray for all those who are persecuted today for their Faith and for the 'Hidden Christians of Japan' who bravely kept the Faith alive.

It is an unexpected kind of Lenten sacrifice this year, but know this: our joy will be so enhanced when we can at last receive again the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Till that day, let the world know we are Christians! "Pray, hope and don't worry!" as St. Padre Pio said. Be joyful, giving and sharing with those who are afraid. Be the light! This is 'Living the Joy of the Gospel'—this is our vocation—to help people come to know God through the example and witness of our life. As Pope Benedict reminded us, "The world offers you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness."



(Pope in Japan: Witness of Catholic martyrs confirms us in faith)
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2019-11/pope-the-witness-of-the-martyrs-confirms-us-in-faith.html>

Neil Day
English Bulletin Contributor

Many of our normal Lenten activities as Catholics have been cancelled for the sake of health and safety. How the coronavirus (COVID-19) spreads is not yet fully understood. Indeed, in recent days, all of Italy has been placed on lockdown and Masses in the entire country suspended. It is a worldwide problem.

It is a time of greater Lenten sacrifice and repentance this year. Can we view this positively rather than negatively? Has God been the center of our lives, or do we only go through the motions? How can we be of greater service to those around us in this time of crisis and after it ends? It is a call to self-reflection and renewed conversion in our own hearts here and now. We cannot receive the Eucharist but we can long for it. We can make Acts of Spiritual Communion frequently throughout the day and be kind to our neighbors, including strangers whom we might meet. In short, right now we can be Christ's hands and feet on earth, as St. Teresa of Avila encourages us to do.

Above all, the Bishop has stressed prayer. As the leader of a Rosary Prayer Group, I highly recommend that everyone pray the rosary daily, if possible, along with other prayers you like and use. Our Lady will come to our rescue! I am also praying the Stations of the Cross at home in the evening before bedtime and it is helpful in drawing me closer to Christ.

Another important thing to remember at this time is that there are many people in the world affected by this problem who do not have faith, or have abandoned their faith, or are lukewarm toward God. Our role as Christians in the world, to proclaim the Good News of Christ, can help them in this time of sorrow and remembrance through kindness, gentleness, and gratitude. We must make their burden lighter by exhibiting Christ in our daily lives.

As I was writing this, a neighbor went outside and her daughter was filled with delight in the feeling of spring in the air. The virus is a problem, but the power of God's creation exceeds it. Let us also remember the joy of the Gospel. Mother Teresa encourages us to smile and says, "A joyful heart is the normal result of a heart burning with love." Let us surrender to Christ joyfully today!

Susan Miller
Parishioner

Feature Article

<continuation from Page 1>

call reverberates urgently: “Be converted!”, “Return to me with all your heart” (Joel 2:12). You are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a time of choosing. It is not the time of your judgement, but of our judgement: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others.

We can look to so many exemplary companions for the journey, who, even though fearful, have reacted by giving their lives. This is the force of the Spirit poured out and fashioned in courageous and generous self-denial. It is the life in the Spirit that can redeem, value and demonstrate how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people – often forgotten people – who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines nor on the grand catwalks of the latest show, but who without any doubt are in these very days writing the decisive events of our time: doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, religious men and women and so very many others who have understood that no one reaches salvation by themselves.

In the face of so much suffering, where the authentic development of our peoples is assessed, we experience the priestly prayer of Jesus: “That they may all be one” (Jn 17:21). How many people every day are exercising patience and offering hope, taking care to sow not panic but a shared responsibility! How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday gestures, how to face up to and navigate a crisis by adjusting their routines, lifting their gaze and fostering prayer!

How many are praying, offering and interceding for the good of all! Prayer and quiet service: these are our victorious weapons.

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith”? Faith begins when we realize we are in need of salvation. We are not self-sufficient; by ourselves we flounder: we need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the stars. Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them. Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God’s strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our

storms, because with God life never dies. The Lord asks us and, in the midst of our tempest, invites us to reawaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering. The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith.

We have an anchor: by his cross we have been saved. We have a rudder: by his cross we have been redeemed. We have a hope: by his cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love. In the midst of isolation, when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side.

The Lord asks us from his cross to rediscover the life that awaits us, to look towards those who look to us, to strengthen, recognize and foster the grace that lives within us. Let us not quench the wavering flame (cf. Is 42:3) that never falters, and let us allow hope to be rekindled.

Embracing his cross means finding the courage to embrace all the hardships of the present time, abandoning for a moment our eagerness for power and possessions in order to make room for the creativity that only the Spirit is capable of inspiring. It means finding the courage to create spaces where everyone can recognize that they are called, and to allow new forms of hospitality, fraternity and solidarity.

By his cross we have been saved in order to embrace hope and let it strengthen and sustain all measures and all possible avenues for helping us protect ourselves and others. Embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope: that is the strength of faith, which frees us from fear and gives us hope.

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith”? Dear brothers and sisters, from this place that tells of Peter’s rock-solid faith, I would like this evening to entrust all of you to the Lord, through the intercession of Mary, Health of the People and Star of the stormy Sea. From this colonnade that embraces Rome and the whole world, may God’s blessing come down upon you as a consoling embrace.

Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: “Do not be

afraid” (Mt 28:5). And we, together with Peter, “cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us” (cf. 1 Pet 5:7).

SOURCE:

<http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/evens/event.dir.html/content/vaticanevents/en/2020/03/27/uniti-in-preghiera.html>

LOCKDOWN

By Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi

People are singing to each other

across the empty squares,

keeping their windows open

so that those who are alone

may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland

Is offering free meals and delivery to the

housebound.

Today a young woman I know

is busy spreading fliers with her number

through the neighborhood

So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and

Temples

are preparing to welcome

and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their

neighbors in a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new

reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.

But there does not have to be disease of the soul

Yes there is even death.

But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live

now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic

The birds are singing again

The sky is clearing,

Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul

And though you may not be able

to touch across the empty square,

Sing.

John de Britto English Center

Office Address: 6-5-1 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 102-0083

Office Hours: Weekdays (10:00 AM – 12:00 NN, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM)

Weekends (11:00 AM – 1:00 PM)

Telephone No: 03-3263-4576



John de Britto English Center Groups and Ministries

ALTAR SERVERS	Serve before, during, and after the English Mass assisting the priest and Liturgical Ministers. They are boys and girls from ages 10-15 who have already received First Communion.
ANGELS Group	Serves every 1 st Sunday of the month. Gathers children in Xavier Chapel just after the Opening Prayer of the Mass and provides stories of the Gospel in a language understood by them. They are adults and young people who love children.
CHOIR	Sings in the English Mass every Sunday. Practice before the Mass in Room 401, 11:00 AM
COFFEE WELCOME MINISTRY	Every last Sunday of the month in St. Teresia Hall, 1:00 - 1:45 PM Facilitates the opportunity for newcomers/parishioners to meet and feel that the Church is “my second home.”
ENGLISH-SPEAKING GROUP MEETING	Every 3 rd Sunday of the month Arrupe Hall Rm. 301-B (Main Bldg.) 2:00 - 3:15 PM Gathers to plan and think of better ways to serve St. Ignatius Church.
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	By turns they serve in the 12:00 NN English Mass. Special formation is required.
FAITH FORMATION CLASS FOR ADULTS	1 st Sunday of the month, Kibe Hall Rm. 310. 2:00 - 4:00 PM For adult Catholics who wish to deepen their understanding of the faith. Non-Catholics are welcome.
FAITH SHARING GROUP	Every 2 nd and 4 th Sunday of the month, Kibe Hall Room 310, 2:00-4:00 PM. For those who want to deepen the Sunday Readings of that day.
READERS GROUP	They serve in 12:00 NN Sunday English Mass. They are those who would like to proclaim the Word of God and guide the assembly during the liturgical rite.
MEDIA GROUP	Prepares the Sunday Mass power point, the monthly English Bulletin, special posters, and takes care of the English website and Facebook of St. Ignatius Church.
WEEKDAY OFFICE STAFF	They open the English Center on weekdays to attend to the needs of those who come.
PRAISE AND WORSHIP GROUP	Every 1 st Sunday of the month, Arrupe Hall Rm. 203, 10:00 AM onwards. Gathers to praise the Lord through songs, give thanks, and listen attentively to His life-giving Word. Personal intentions are received to be offered up in prayer.
USHERS	Every Sunday during the 12:00 NN English Mass. They facilitate an orderly and prayerful atmosphere before, during and after Mass.
YOUTH MINISTRY	Every 4 th Sunday of the month, Arrupe Hall 301-B, 1:30 – 4:00 PM. Made up of a very international group. Come and join their very energetic, dynamic monthly “Hangout”!

SACRAMENTS: SCHEDULE AND CLASSES

INFANT / ADULT BAPTISM	Schedule: 3 rd Sunday of February, April, June, September, and November, Xavier Chapel, 10:00 AM Classes: To be arranged with the Coordinators in-charge
FIRST COMMUNION	Schedule: April Classes: January to March
CONFIRMATION	Schedule: June Classes: April to May
MARRIAGE PREPARATION	Inquire at least 4 months before the wedding day.
OTHERS	English Sunday School for Children 1 st and 3 rd Sunday of the month, 10-30-11:30 AM, Main Building, Rm. 302 Sunday Japanese Language Classes <i>Schedule: Please contact English Center.</i> <i>Time & Venue: 1:45 – 2:45 PM, Kibe Hall, RM 304, 305, 306, 307</i> Newcomers visit RM 305

WE NEED NEW VOLUNTEERS! For further inquiries, please visit us at the English Center.

Prayer

ORATIO IMPERATA [MANDATED PRAYER]

The *oratio imperata*, which means obligatory prayer for a special intention, is an old Catholic tradition. The Pope or the Bishop of a diocese may require this prayer to be said during Masses in all parishes. Common reasons for the religious invocation of the prayer are natural calamities such as storms, snow, and drought, while other more rare circumstances which call for the prayer are war, plague, and the disruption of public peace in society. This prayer is preferably recited kneeling and can also be prayed individually.

Example of an ORATIO IMPERATA for COVID 19

God our Father, we come to you in our need to ask your protection against the COVID 19 that has disturbed and even claimed lives. We pray that you guide the people tasked to find cures for this disease and to stem its transmission. Protect the medical experts that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion. We pray for those afflicted. May they be restored to health soon. Protect those who care for them. Grant eternal rest to those who have died. Give us the grace in this trying time to work for the good of all and to help those in need. We implore you to stop the spread of this virus and to save us from our fears. Grant all these through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

We fly to Your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our petition in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen. Our Lady, health of the sick, pray for us. St. Raphael the Archangel pray for us. St. Rock, pray for us... (One might implore his/her favorite saint/s)



Pope's Prayer Intentions for April 2020

Freedom from Addiction: We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.



Eucharistic Adoration

Every Thursday at 6:45pm
at Xavier Chapel

Mission 2030 Prayer Intention:

April 2020

As we welcome the spring season and the new fiscal year, we pray, Lord, that you grant us the courage and strength to build a compassionate society that protects and respects all life. Through the Risen Christ, may God's love reign over all in the Church and also in new areas of opportunity unfolding in various places in the world.

Staff of St. Ignatius Church

Pastor: Fr. Ryuichiro Hanafusa, S.J.

Associate and Support Priests:

- Fr. Sang-won Lee S.J. Fr. Bony James S.J.
- Fr. Atsushi Tamaru S.J. Fr. Generoso Florez S.J.
- Fr. Javier Garralda S.J.

- Brother:** Bro. Hiroaki Yoshiba S.J.
- Sister:** Sr. Ivette Sanchez, M.C.

John de Britto English Center:

Fr. Bony James, S.J. Director

- Adelfa Armentia Sr. Flor Florece FI
- Sr. Leny Fery FdCC



<http://www.stignatius.jp/>

For all those who made this monthly bulletin possible, we extend our deepest gratitude. Thank you very much!



<http://www.facebook.com/stignatius.jp/>