

MyBible IV

Let the Word of God Keep You Alive



Author. Akinori Kamachi

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Foreword

The encounter with one of the words in the Bible led to the creation of MyBible (Adonai Ereu, "Be Prepared on the Mount of the Lord") as a collection of words, and the Mass commemorating its publication (in the crypt of St. Mary's Cathedral, Tokyo Cathedral) was dedicated to it. MyBible II (jewel box of the Word) was created by adding explanatory text on how to put the Word of God into practice to this collection of the Word of God. In addition to this, the specifics of how to follow the Lord's example in mind, words, actions, and prayer were also presented, and after 12 years, we have finally reached MyBible III (autonomous person), which is the ideal state of MyBible.

Looking at the production process of the MyBible series, one gets the impression that the power of the Word and the Holy Spirit did a lot more than a single lay person attending Mass and reading the Bible.

I think MyBible III is a very easy to understand and use book for believers and unbelievers, as it contains this reference on how to practice the Word and how to walk the Word.

The MyBible IV (Let the Word of God Keep You Alive) is a collection of testimonies from the lives of interdenominational people (Protestants, Catholics, and other denominations) and from the lives of the saints. Like the sentence, "Just as our bodies have many parts, but they do not all work together in the same way, so also we who are many are one body in Christ, and each one of us is a part of the other" (Refer to Romans 12.4-5), I believe that we can seek unity in the midst of diversity. I hope that this book will advance

this thought, and at the same time, I sincerely hope that it will serve as a reference for many people on how to lead a life of faith.

15th March 2018 Catholic Archdiocese of Tokyo
Archbishop Isao Kikuchi

First of all

Through the production of the MyBible series, I am grateful for the grace of experiencing the power of the Word and the work of the Holy Spirit, and I encountered many doubts and troubles, however, I was able to get through it thanks to appropriate advice from many monks and pastors, including Father Yoshitaka Yoshiike. Thanks to the people of Sekiguchi Catholic Church for their encouragement and cooperation, enabled us to manage to reach MyBible III (autonomous person), which is what MyBible should be. Thank you so much.

Through this production, I thought that, in the modern age, it is important to teach and preach salvation, but I have come to feel that it is equally important to be close to concrete lives, to meet people, and to convey to others what we believe and what we have been saved from. This is evident in the current information society, where one can easily obtain a great deal of knowledge and publications about Christianity if one is so inclined, but this has not been done, probably because there is no opportunity to encounter others that would arouse a "seeking heart". We thought that "encounters" and "testimonies" as the first step to arouse inquiring minds and "sharing" the joy of the gospel would be very important from now on.

These thoughts led us to the publication of MyBible IV (Let the Word of God Keep You Alive). Specifically, we decided to write down the actual testimonies of those who were super-denominational (Catholic, Protestant, and other denominations) and the lives

walked by the saints. We would also like to thank those who contributed manuscripts for this publication.

The original text of the Bible is the Franciscan Bible Institute's translation, and some punctuation and punctuation marks, such as " " and other punctuation marks, have been corrected in relation to the text before and after.

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Learning in Nikko for Welfare

Did you know that Japan's first resort hotel exclusively for foreigners was born in Nikko?

Nikko was seen by Westerners as an attractive place because of its gorgeous wooden architecture, where the mausoleum of the shogun who laid the foundation of the Edo shogunate is enshrined, the abundant nature and abundant water of Lake Chuzenji, and Nantai-san, which has long been a place of worship since its establishment, and thus attracted deep interest. After all, it was a perfect summer resort, avoiding the sweltering summer heat and being close to Yokohama and Tokyo.

The pioneer of resort hotels in Nikko was Zenichiro Kanaya. The Kanaya family had been a family of musicians at Toshogu Shrine for generations since the beginning of the Edo period, but because of the San-Ono-Exclusionist movement that swept through Nikko from the end of the Edo period, Zenichiro was also caught in this wave and was forced to live in poverty.

In 1870, an American, James Curtis Hepburn (a.k.a. Dr. Hepburn), a medical missionary of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.) came to Nikko on the recommendation of an acquaintance. He consulted his right-hand man, Masamasa Tsunatsuna Okuno, a Bible translator (former Toshogu's housekeeper, who later became a pastor and helped popularize hymns in Japan). Dr. Hepburn's stay at the Kanaya house, which was also a close relationship between Okuno and Zenichiro, was the catalyst for the light to shine on Nikko.

Dr. Hepburn contributed to Christian missionary

work, modern medical care and university education in Japan by inventing the Hepburnian Roman alphabet, completing the first Japanese translation of the New and Old Testaments in Japan, and compiling a Japanese-English dictionary.

The foundation of today's international tourist city, Nikko, was laid in 1873 by Zenichiro Kanaya, 21. The "Kanaya Cottage Inn" was opened as a guest house for foreigners by remodeling a house for the now popular foreign visitors. Dr. Hepburn's advice went a long way in opening the business.

After the opening, the number of visitors gradually increased, and the town gradually came to life as more rooms were added but not enough to accommodate all the guests, and with the help of neighbors, overnight guests were invited to stay overnight.

Zenichiro's commitment to the hotel business is due to his sister Sen (who married into the Shinbashi family). Sen put himself in the customer's shoes and thought, "If I were a customer, what kind of 'hospitality' would please me?" He practiced "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Matthew 7.12).

Isabella Bird, who visited Nikko after being advised by Dr. Hepburn to visit the Kanaya Cottage Inn, made its existence known to foreigners in her book "Travels in the Interior of Japan" (published in London in 1880). This prompted him to go to Nikko. In this book, Sen's gestures are also described as showing the essence of hospitality, and this book has brought immeasurable benefits to the Kanaya Kattegein and the Kanaya Hotel.

In opening the present Kanaya Hotel by the Kami-bashi Bridge in 1893, Kobayashi Toshiyasu (President of Shizuoka Bank), who was from Nikko and knew

Zenichiro well from day to day, provided a loan of about 10,000 yen in the money of the time.

The Kanaya Cottage Inn, also known as the "Kanaya Samurai House," was carefully preserved for more than 120 years after the opening of the Kanaya Hotel, and was designated as a Tangible Registered Cultural Property by the Japanese government. In 2015, it was renovated and opened to the public as the Kanaya Hotel History Museum.

Regarding Welfare.

I have been involved with the Kanaya Hotel since I was a child, and I feel that I was able to take this step not only because of the connections and cooperation with the people around me, but also because of encounters with people through a divine scenario that people cannot see. I had also been involved in welfare activities as a volunteer, and I had always prayed and walked with the hope that I could do something useful for those who were burdened and weak in the world.

This desire took shape about 15 years ago in Itabashi Ward, Tokyo, as a facility for people with intellectual disabilities (Down syndrome, autism, etc., over 18 years of age), which is privately owned and operated. He opened the first social welfare corporation in the 23 wards of Tokyo, Mukudori, named Iktos Maim, and is in charge of this institution.

Basic Philosophy of Establishment

(1) A body is composed of many parts, even if it is one, and all parts of a body are one body, even if they are many. (1 Corinthians 12.12) Specifically, users (persons with disabilities and their relations), staff (support

staff), and facilities (management) are viewed as the Trinity, the body of Christ, and the Word that the supporters have as their foundation.

(2) "Love begins first in the home. Love dwells in the home" (Mother Teresa's words)

The majority of the actual support work is daily living care, meals, and care for the lower part of the body, and it is difficult to provide continuous support to the users if they only feel sorry for them. Also, communicating with users takes skill, requires time to grow, and limits how much can be desired. We are always concerned about whether this kind of support is the right approach for users who are less responsive.

Most of the staff are kind hearted and work hard every day in their steady work.

Since the outbreak of Sagamihara case and Utsunomiya abuse case, there have been some white looks from outside, and unfortunately, some parents have said and done things that negatively affect the personality of the staff for the slightest of things.

The welfare field is also in the midst of a climate of "flirting" and "monster parents. Labor includes "physical labor," "brain labor," and nowadays, "emotional labor" with high mental stress, and the work of front-line workers is a perfect example of "emotional labor.

When we come in contact with the smiles and pure actions of the users, which remind us of infants, we are glad to be engaged in welfare and are given the joy of realizing the presence of God. On the other hand, the job requires strict self-control, and there are difficulties in sustaining self-control among the staff.

Since the three parties are viewed as an important body of Christ, all staff members aim to conduct their work with a compassionate heart. There are several

members of the congregation on staff, including a Protestant, and it is hoped that all staff will share the idea of the basic philosophy and support the users through this staff.

For everyone, there is nothing better than the deep love of parents and family, and the home is the most important place. First is the "home" and second is the "facility" after the home.

Since the facility is a communal living situation, it is extremely difficult for the staff to treat the children the same way they would treat their parents at home, however, we hope to be able to support our users as much as possible, caring for them as if they were our family, with all our heart and strength, while pursuing the highest quality and depth.

My desire, since the opening of the center, has been to make sure that welfare and the general society are not on different levels, and that the users are not in the same world as the general society. We believe that the role of the facility is to help them integrate into the community and become financially independent, if only slightly. As part of this effort, the company is involved in the bread business, and the bread produced by users is purchased by the Catholic Church of Sekiguchi, churches, government offices, and companies.

There was unreasonable thing when running a facility, and It doesn't go as expected. In the end, we cannot continue our business unless we can make a profit, which inconveniences users and other parties concerned. This project, which we undertook with the hope that it would be useful to the people of the world, still continues its journey to Exodus with the help of the people around us.

What you sow in tears you will reap in joy. Constant prayer is essential for those who believe in (Psalm 126.5) and aim for the land of Canaan and walk daily toward it.

Hiroyuki Saruhashi

Tokyo Cathedral Sekiguchi Church
Mukudori Social Welfare Corporation Chairman of
the Board
Representative Director, Kanaya Hotel Bakery and
Kanaya Hotel History Museum



Kanaya Cottage Inn around 1891 (Meiji 24)

What it means to live the gospel of Jesus

The earliest testimony of Jesus' birth states that he was "born of a woman, born under the law" (Galatians 4.4). In Jesus' birthplace, the powerful Roman Empire ruled the people strictly, and people lived in a Jewish environment. Jesus was born in an obscure corner of such a land (present-day Palestine).

Jesus began his missionary work around the age of 30, preaching that "the kingdom of God is within everyone's reach". Jesus was at odds with royalty, nobility, religious leaders, and other influential figures in society, was scorned by the world, and was even abandoned by his own chosen disciples, who executed him.

However, Jesus, in his lifetime, did not care about social barriers, but ate a big meal and drank a lot of wine with oppressed men and women, including tax collectors, the despised, those living at the bottom, tofu prostitutes, kafu widows, abandoned children, and the sick, giving them joy and comfort in life, and making them feel relieved and happy. People flocked to the area. No wonder Nietzsche described such a Jesus as a "holy moron."

People can come into contact with true "salvation" through Jesus' actions that transcend religious and social boundaries of purity and impurity, and can be said to have been "infected" with Jesus' salvation. There is no vaccine for this kind of "Jesus infection," and those who are infected with it will be placed directly into the bosom of God, which is truly "thankful."

The Nativity of Jesus renews our thoughts of Jesus

and brings a deep silence. Mary gave birth to Jesus in the fullness of the moon, but there was no room in the inn, the infant Jesus was laid in a manger, and Jesus was born in the worst possible circumstances. Mothers who have had to abandon their children because they cannot find a place to stay; lonely high school girls who have lost their children; parents who grow up in fear of violence and abuse their children; children on waiting lists who are not adequately cared for; and lonely people who die alone. Only Jesus would have such deep feelings for each and every one of us in such a trapped situation.

Even in the midst of harsh reality, there is hope at my feet. From the five young children who participate in our home daycare and are cared for on the first floor of our home, I am learning that there is more to life than academic knowledge. Specifically, they are crying, playing, laughing, eating, drinking milk, defecating, and sleeping. I would like to place my hope for the future in these little Jesuses.

In today's world, there seems to be too strong an atmosphere that something must be done. It seems like they are forcing everyone to do the same thing, and there is a feeling of heaviness in the air. I believe that in human society there are both those who are well done and those who are not so well done, and that is where God's wisdom works. I think we should seek more of God's wisdom to enable us to coexist with each other, free from the pathology of a society that is attracted to strength.

And the most important thing is to "never give up," no matter what happens. This is the empirical knowledge that many people in the world who have overcome difficulties have said. "The world is not that

bad." This is what a father who lost his three children in the tsunami said to me, and who, with the support of many people, is enduring his grief and living on stubbornly. I am sure that Jesus is standing by the side of such a father.

The "gospel" of Jesus captured and held the hearts of many people because of his unparalleled behavior, words, and prayers that kept him close to the nameless people at the bottom of the world.

Mitsugu Shinmen
Professor, Department of General Education,
Miyagi Gakuin Women's University

Perseverance is only possible in the midst of trials

He who endures to the end will be saved (Matthew 10.22).

If you take \$5 steel and turn it into Teitetsu horse-shoes, you get \$15, and if you turn it into needles, you get \$350. If it were made into a knife, the price would be \$32,000, and if it were made into a watch spring, the price would be as high as \$250,000.

There are a number of paths that a crude iron bar must pass through in order to fetch such an expensive price. Each time it passes through this path, it is passed through a hot fire, hammered with heavy hammers, and polished, further increasing the value of the steel as it is forged.

As in this analogy, God uses those who quietly and silently endure as precious vessels, just as Christ was saved each time He passed through many sufferings.

Those who endure trials "will receive the crown of life as a reward promised to those who love the Lord." (James 1.12) Those who have suffered much can also receive much of God's love and follow Christ. Just as Joseph received grace in prison, Moses in the wilderness, and Jacob in the suffering of the Passover of Jab-bok, God brings out the best from us and reveals His glory through suffering.

Believers who train in hardship receive special grace from the Lord. It is same as if a fine product is produced by being sharpened on a lathe with sharp teeth and polished on a whetstone.

Prayer House Pastor
Hiroshi Seo

Belongs to Ichikawa Breakfast Prayer Meeting

From the Saints of the Church

Lourdes' water

The miracle that Bernadette was healed of her illness when she drank the water (water of Lourdes) from where she met Mary near the cave is still believed to this day, and many pilgrims visit here. According to those who have actually been to this place, there were many crutches. It seems that the sick person drank this water, which cured his illness and made his crutch unnecessary, so he left it behind and returned home.

Books by St. John of the Cross

While reading the passages in which he dedicated his life to the reform of the Carmelite Order. One of the priests recalled that he used to tour monasteries all over the country to enhance his spirituality. When he visited a priest who was familiar with the Carmelite Order and asked him about the charism (meaning a gift from God) of this order, he was told: (1) I am the Lord's servant. May it be as you have said, and may it become this body. (2) Imitate Christ.

St. John of the Cross, a mysterious theological scholar of the Carmelites, learned that there are books "Climb Mount Carme", "Spiritual Canticle", "Living Flame of Love" and "Dark Night" as a legacy of faith, and read the Ascent of Mount Carmel. However, it was a very esoteric book, so I visited the Uenoge Church (a church run by the Carmelites) with the advice of my priest.

When I told the priest the reason for my visit, he recommended that I attend a Christian course held at the church. I was allowed to attend this course for six

months. After that, he tried again to read "climb Mount Carmel" and managed to finish reading it.

Also, it was when I was working on MyBible II. The specifics of following Christ's example were shown: (1) the state of mind; (2) the state of language; (3) The way of action; (4) the way of prayer.

Rosary Day

When we came to the October 7 (Our Lady of the Rosary) section, I came across an article about the miracle of the Rosary (derived from the Latin Rosa). I decided to buy a Rosary and visited Don Bosco in Yotsuya. At the entrance, there was a sign saying "Rosary Moon Rosario 15% OFF", and I went inside and asked Sister where the Rosary was. Next, when Sister asked if she was chanting the Rosary, she said, "I'm chanting." When asked why, she said, "I want grace." There are various types of rosaries, and I bought a rosary recommended by Sister and a book that explains how to use it. The priest celebrated the rosary and we have been reciting the rosary every day since then.

When a manager chanted the Nembutsu of "Nanmu Myōhō Renkakyō" while hitting a fan drum, the haze (misconceptions and fears) in his head were gradually removed. I remember the story that now I have come to my mind what to do.

I am convinced that chanting the Rosary can contribute to God's salvation as well as such effects. Rosary prayers can be chanted by non-believers and have the same grace as believers.

Father Yoji Inoue thinks about Nembutsu. The rich are saved by donations, the smart ones by study, and the strong-willed ones by strict adherence to the precepts, but what can save the weak-willed ones without

money or scholarship? As the answer, Nembutsu may have been devised, he said.

Medal

In 1830, Maria appeared in front of the French nun Cataline Labre and told them to make a medal modeled on her. And she said, "People who wear this medal will receive great grace, and those who trust will receive abundant benefits." There was an M on the back of the medal. A cross on the top, two hearts on the bottom, and 12 stars surrounding them. With the spread of this medal, countless complete recovery and amazing conversion were carried out, and the examination committee of this was held about 19 times, and the miracle of "Miraculous Medal" was confirmed.

References Saints of the Church, vols. 1 and 2
Written by Toshio Ikeda, Chuosha Publishing Co.

Meditation for Spirituality

Spirituality is "the relationship between God and man," and I once asked Father how I could improve my spirituality. According to the priest, "When I was young, I traveled around the country visiting monasteries. You should search for "Seseragi" on the Internet these days." Following to his advice, I searched it immediately. Then, I learned that there is a "house of meditation" about 10 minutes on foot from Musashi-Seki Station on the Seibu Shinjuku Line. I found that it was a "House of Meditation" run by the Jesuits.

Various programs are held here, and I decided to attend a meeting in Yotsuya that is close to the date and location of the meeting.

When I attended the meeting and told the priest the reason for attending, I was given personal guidance in meditation. The date, time, and location are exchanged with the priest via e-mail, and the day of the event was reached. The place was Seirei Monastery, which is about a 10-minute walk from Musashi-Koganei Station on the JR Chuo Line.

About Meditation

Faith is being sure of what you want and confirming the facts you cannot see. (Hebrews 11.1)

Meditation, like zazen or meditation, is centered on imaging, and the first step is to sit in a chair and adjust your posture and breathing. Specifically, stand tall, breathe in through the nose and out through the mouth, and Eyes should be half-lidded.

Next, read the Bible verses (Matthew 14:22-33) with the priest. I quietly take the style of meditation and begin

to envision passages in the Bible. After a few minutes, the meditation comes in, and every time I can't meditate as I want, I shake off the meditation and repeat the meditation. After dinner, I was lying in the room with a severe headache, probably because I was tired from training. I had a time like this.

At home, I reread the Bible passages I read in the monastery and worked on my daily routine to meditate.

Commitment to Spiritual Manipulation

After meditation, he worked with the priest on a spiritual exercise devised by the founder of the Society of Jesus, St. Ignatius of Loyola.

First, I divided my life into five stages: childhood, boyhood, adolescence, middle age, and middle age, and wrote down the main events that occurred at that time. In childhood, I started by imagining what was born from her mother's womb.

Image training was conducted for about 30 minutes at each stage, and was conducted every 3 weeks for half a year.

Conduct image training

At Nikorabare in Yotsuya, I worked on image training for meditation for half a year.

Here, I imagined my heart, took it out once in my hands, and shed the light of the Lord on it. Then, I imagined that the heart in both hands was getting smaller, and I imagined that it would be stored in my heart again.

Characteristics of Meditation

When I no longer have miscellaneous and delusion-

al thoughts, I am able to concentrate on things.

The daily meditation is about 15 minutes on family and business matters at home and at work.

What has changed is that I have become more focused on my work and have been able to complete many tasks in a short amount of time.

Application example of meditation

(1) When you want to part from the workings of the flesh

When a person is pulled by the work of the flesh and the work of the spirit, he cannot move, so imagine crucifying the lust and desire of the flesh so as not to be inconvenient (*Galatians 5:24*). Then, imagine yourself looking up at the scene you put on. Finally, I firmly swear the decision to break away from the work of the flesh.

(2) When you are stuck working on a new project or in a relationship

Imagine working on a project, achieving the original purpose, or having a good relationship with new relationships. As a result, problems that could not be helped until now have been solved.

(3) When you go to bed

When I go to bed and try to sleep, my consciousness becomes clear due to various thoughts, and when I can't sleep, I get depressed.

At this time, by continuing to imagine the most enjoyable things, I slept without any confusion.

Words that captured my heart

August 30, 1947, the summer of my 16th year. I attended a special meeting of Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa at Akiki Kaikan in Noshiro City and decided to join the church. On March 28 of the following year, he was baptized along with his sister and 10 others by Pastor Genichiro Tamba at the Resurrection Memorial Service at Noshiro Church of the Japan Christian Church. On the day of the event, it was a cold winter with a blizzard and not an inch of visibility. Pastor Tamba spoke softly to me with warm eyes, "Mr. Seo, you came well despite the blizzard, Jesus was waiting for you to come." I still remember these words now that I am an evangelist.

January 15, 1950, we conducted a roadside evangelism to about 100 people in the public plaza in front of Noshiro Station. At this time, "Whoever wishes to follow me must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Matthew 16.24), and he decided to devote himself to it. I saw an advertisement in that day's Christ newspaper for "Application for the first term of the Japan Holiness Church Tokyo Bible Institute" and ordered an application form.

Regarding the contents of the application, (1) Are you sure of salvation? "Yes" (2) Do you have a vocation as an evangelist? "Yes" (3) Did you read the Old Testament? "No" (4) Do you have a letter of recommendation from the pastor? "No" (5) Do you have an admission fee? "No" (6) Do you have school fees and dormitory fees? "No" (7) Do your family agree with your dedication? "They disagreed" and mailed it.

When I thought that admission was not permitted,

I received a postcard from the vice-rector, Teiji Yamazaki, saying, "I received your application. I will be your guarantor, so please go to Tokyo." Overcoming the opposition of his parents, he moved to Tokyo with one body and entered the school on April 1, 1950 as a first-year student at the Tokyo Bible Academy.

After that, when I visited Professor Tamba's house, he still said, "Mr. Seo, preach is not an interpretation or explanation of the Bible, but an evangelist who speaks the message of the Bible."

No matter how painful I was, I was a devoted person, so I decided not to work in this world, but to stand in faith and devote myself to evangelism.

The Holy Spirit also fell in worship, held a 10-day continuous evangelism meeting, and actively performed fasting prayers and all-night prayers, and many were healed.

Given the illusion of overseas missions, visiting 7 countries in Southeast Asia and 12 countries in North and South America and conducting missionary activities was a great stimulus for my life.

Jesus was passionate about personal evangelism, and Paul followed his example, traveling from Jerusalem to the state of Illinois, preaching the gospel so widely that there was no room for evangelism in this region. I followed this personal evangelism, and for 65 years I followed the evangelistic style of "walking door to door, sharing Christ, and leaving the results to God" by going door to door, while crying out for a "church that puts evangelism first". He also grasped the fact that 100 door-to-door evangelism visits per day would result in one person who was interested in Christianity.

Personal evangelism is the best way to lead to salvation, and those who are led to salvation through personal evangelism grow healthier in their faith and leave the church at the lowest rate.

In my 65 years of faith, I have realized that

(1) Memory of the Word

The Word of God is memorized accurately up to chapter 00, verse 00.

(2) Accept the Word of God at face value and walk in obedience.

He is the Son of God, yet He learned obedience through many sufferings. (Hebrews 5.8)

Mary replied, "I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (Luke 1.38)

My heart is meek and humble, therefore accept my yoke and learn from me. (Matthew 11.29)

Moses was a humble man, more humble than anyone else in the world. (Numbers 12.3)

Pastor Hiroshi Seo has baptized 300 people and ordained 30 people.

Prayer House Pastor Hiroshi Seo
Belongs to Ichikawa Breakfast Prayer Meeting

Snuggle up to your sister

I would like to share one recent happy experience with you. It was my sister who died 10 years ago at the age of 61.

The cause of her sister's death was ovarian cancer cancer of the ovaries. This cancer ranks at the top of the list for late detection, but the doctor said, "We can't say for sure until we open it up, but there's a chance we can manage it once it's removed." I was a little relieved when the day of the surgery arrived.

On March 5th (Ash Wednesday), the surgery should have started after 1pm and returned to the hospital room at 5pm at the latest. But within an hour I was called away and told, "The surgery is over. I'll tell you more later, but it was out of control." I still clearly remember my mind went blank.

The doctor explained that the cancer had metastasized so severely that it had spread throughout the entire colon and that if this part of the colon were removed, the stomach would be empty. Once it is removed, it will be easier, so at least in May, I will be able to go back to Hiroshima." His words before the surgery disappeared in an instant, and the doctor said that she had only three months to live. The only paths left are to enter a terminal care facility or to choose the path of anticancer drug treatment. The doctor said, "Please take your time and think about it before you give me your answer."

My sister says, "What shall we do, brother?" Since the time of the aborted surgery, my head was not working properly and I had no words to return and three days flowed by when I purposely did not men-

tion it.

My thoughts were betting that my sister would opt for anticancer treatment. Because I thought there was a chance of recovery, in case it was not possible.

When it is just the two of us, the conversation is in Hiroshima dialect, and he asks again, "What shall we do, brother?" Fumiko asks back, "What does Fumiko think?". She said "I'm not confident and I feel scared, but I'm thinking of trying an anti-cancer drug." I answered "Well, if that's what Fumiko wants to do, then of course I agree with her.", but after a year or so, I realized how sweet my feelings were.

Anticancer drug treatment is advancing rapidly, and pain clinic, a treatment to relieve pain, is also advancing rapidly. With terminal cancer, it used to be common to treat patients with morphine to the point of unconsciousness, but now it is not uncommon for people to die on their deathbeds with cheerful conversation and without uttering a word of pain until the very end.

Ten years ago, Fumiko was treated with an anti-cancer drug and experienced the suffering of hell while fluttering around. In front of her sister who cried and shouted, "It's painful, brother", I just shed tears and tears in the regret that I couldn't do anything. She extends her life expectancy of three months by about a year and leaves on May 13.

My sister was born on January 2nd, so the celebration of the birthday party was erased by the celebration of the New Year, and it seems that she was very disappointed.

The person preparing the memorial book asked me what Fumiko's favorite flower was, but I did not know much about it, and the members of Teshima Church

who joined me in the work immediately answered, "It's Kawarakawara nadeshiko." Fumiko's friends, like her relatives, knew things that I did not know in just one year.

The other day, a person who happened to read our collection of essays told us that he found some Kawahara Nadeshiko at a flower shop and brought us three plants. I was very happy because it is not easy to find this flower even if you look for it. He immediately planted them in the flower bed in front of the small cathedral, and every time I pass by there and look at them, I feel as if Fumiko were there.

Fumiko's motto was "A little flower in the corner of the garden, blooming in secret."

Chief Priest Tetsuya Nishikawa
Tokyo Cathedral Sekiguchi Catholic Church



Tokyo Cathedral Sekiguchi Catholic Church

Hear and obey the voice of the lord

On October 16, 2015, after finishing the night prayer, I went to sleep and suddenly heard a loud voice saying "Get up and write!" And woke up. The moment I wondered what this voice was, she knew it was the voice of the Lord. However, everyone has no idea what it means to "get up and write."

As a shepherd, I have served the Lord for quite some time, and although I am poor, I am preparing a weekly sermon, but I asked, "What should I write?" rice field. Then it turned out that the Lord was telling me, "Write down your faith," whatever you want.

I have written letters and papers, but I have never been interested in or thought about poetry or tanka at all.

Write down, thy song, without talent
Follow Me, the Way of Faith

Don't doubt. Follow God's voice.
I know that the Lord is full of power.

Don't think of yourself as a pauper.
God's choice is made even from a stone.

Obedience to the voice of the Lord is a natural part of being a pastor, so I obeyed the voice that said, "Write," took out a pen and notepad in the middle of the night, and began to write blindly the phrase, "Even without talent....".

Since that day, the Lord has given me no rest, whether sleeping or waking, walking or eating. I com-

posed about 1,500 haiku and tanka poems for about two and a half months until the 31-Dec-2015.

The Holy Spirit is poured out upon me, and the songs I recite
I pray for God's protection.

The Lord, who loves and uses the talented, has spent 75 days singing every day, just thanking the grace of pouring the Holy Spirit abundantly into the poor and letting them do what they cannot do.

I used to live in darkness.
Picked up by the Lord to be people of light.
I look behind me, and I suddenly realize
Happy is the man who has met the Lord

I will not retreat from the Lord's path, not behind you.
The hem of the Lord's hem I grasped to keep my hand

Do not be in a panic. Be still and wait for the Lord.
The peace of the Lord, a good time to know

Miracles of the Lord, not a one-time thing.
It's always present for Christians.

Standing on the shore of the Lake of Galilee, to the Brittleness.
Teaching Love Jesus is God and

I am the firm stronghold of faith.

With God's protection, the storm will pass.

On December 31, 2015, many songs that I just kept singing without any knowledge stopped suddenly from this night. After that, he couldn't move even if he tried to sing for some reason.

I believe that this precious and miraculous experience will be of great help to the pastoral care in the future.

Your Word is full of grace and wisdom.

I offer salvation in the form of a human being.

I received encouragement and wrote down a thousand more phrases.

I pray with all sincerity in my faith.

Senior Pastor Kazumi Sugawa
The New Christian Church
Belongs to Ichikawa Breakfast Prayer Meeting

Thank you for life

There is Kameshima Bridge about 15 minutes on foot from Tokyo Station on Yaesu Street, and there is a monument to Yasubei Horibe who was active as a Ronin Ako under this bridge. The head office building and showroom of Mercedes-Benz Central (Nakarin Auto Co., Ltd.) can be seen on the right after crossing this bridge. The company boasts the best sales record in Japan for Mercedes-Benz dealers. The founder and chairman of this company is Takeo Nakajima, who will turn 91 in 2017.

Takeo was a substitute teacher for an elementary school in his hometown (Hyogo Prefecture), but moved to Tokyo at the age of 21 to study at Waseda University's night club. When he was looking for a job, he happened to meet a person who was about to start a bicycle shop, and while working at this shop he started studying at university at night. One night, two years later, the owner forced him to escape at night, but Takeo refused the story, thinking that he should never lose credibility, and the frontage was one and a half. I decided to leave in a small store with debt.

We cleaned bicycles free of charge in order to earn the trust of our customers, and by selling bicycles on an epoch-making monthly installment sale at that time, we caught the hearts of our customers and increased sales, and became famous in the industry. Takeo graduated from university in 1951 and devoted himself to selling and repairing bicycles. After that, the era of motorcycles came, and customers asked me if I would like to sell motorcycles, and I said "I will do it" to handle motorcycles. Next, he was told to "sell

cars," and he said "I'll do it," and he worked hard on this as well. In this way, the business is put on track while being guided by the customer.

While becoming an authorized dealer of Mitsubishi Motors, Mercedes-Benz Japan planned a new sales network as a measure to strengthen sales, and as the first dealer, the Nakarin Group got a white arrow, and it continues to the present day.

What Mr. Takeo learned by attending Konosuke Matsushita's lecture was, "Doing something useful to our customers, that is business." The idea was to satisfy our customers, develop the company, and wish the happiness of our employees.

The Hatchobori area is also an office district, but it is said that 80% of new car sales are when customers introduce new customers. Mercedes-Benz products are the same no matter where you buy them, so the point of differentiation is "people." However, although we value the telephone response and the first impression of our customers, we do not provide special employee training. He cherishes daily accumulations such as greetings and vocalizations in the morning, how to bow, and the president himself sweeping in front of the company with a broom.

One day after the 60th birthday in 1987 (Showa 62), a sales representative visited for greetings when the Hyakujushi Bank opened a branch office. At that time, when he heard the story of visiting the 88 sacred sites in Shikoku, Mr. Takeo immediately decided to make 10,000 volumes of sutras (sheets) of the Heart Sutra (the text is 262 characters). Every day after that, I copied three volumes for the deceased, customers, employees, and the company. Partly because I got used to it, one volume is now about 45 minutes, and I

have never missed three volumes of sutras from 3:00 every morning. Early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up and went out to a remote place, where he prayed. Reminiscent of (Mark 1.35), this act can be said to be Yinde Yang News.

On September 28, 2016, the target of 30,000 volumes was achieved, and he went to Koyasan Tokyo Betsuin and dedicated it. In addition, the tour of 88 sacred sites in Shikoku will be the 25th time next time.

It is said that the merit of copying sutras, which has never left the mind for 30 years, is immeasurable by performing it with all one's heart. Throughout his past 91 years, he has suffered all kinds of illnesses such as stroke, lung disease, stomach cancer and cecum, but mysteriously, he is supported by his health and his wife.

At the height of the bubble, the unit price of land owned by the company was unexpectedly high, and the bank borrowed as much as 9 billion yen with the sweet words that it would lend as much as it could. When the bubble bursts, even if all assets are sold, 4 billion yen of debt remains. When I said this to her wife, she said, "I know. We were born naked to each other. How pretty!", She said. Then, when I did this with my wife's words that I should write two strokes of land in one stroke, a beverage maker who wanted to buy this land appeared and sold it, and the debt disappeared. In 2018 (Heisei 30), we celebrated the 70th anniversary of our founding.

Takeo Nakajima
Nakarin Group Representative

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The novena that defined my life

When I was in junior high and high school, the questions that came to my mind from time to time were the existence of God, the truths of life, and the purpose for which we are born. I was able to learn about these things in Catholic Essentials and was baptized in December of my sophomore year of college. The happiness I felt at that moment was the best. I have become a child of God, and you should all be like me!" I was filled with a desire to shout out loud to the whole world, "I am a good person!

Some of my friends had decided to enter the monastery after graduation. "They are good people, so I think they are good people to be nuns. Please go to the monastery. I'm not like them, so I won't go to the monastery.", I was muttering so in.

It was when I was in the 4th grade and was talking to a close friend about the future. She said to me, "You don't seem to think about monasticism, but I'm sure there will be a call." She was baptized a year earlier than I was, she knew Christianity well, and she knew me well, so she thought it was a very important word.

The Lord must have chosen the path for me and waited for me. So, if he asks the Lord to "show me the way," he will always tell me. I thought I had to pray for that, so I asked for the intercession between Mary, who was chosen as my baptismal name, and the little St. Theresia. I started Novena (9 days prayer) with complete confidence that the Lord would appear in front of me and tell me, "Do this," but in a way that is clear to me.

It was only a few days after finishing Novena. Upon exiting the cathedral, there was a statue of the Virgin Mary of Lourdes (life-size), and at her feet there was always a small box (containing a piece of paper with the word and prayer written on it). I knew the existence of this piece of paper, but I have never taken it. "If there is a word about salvation in it, I think I'm called to a monastic life," whispered to my heart, and when I took out a piece of paper, the following words were written in English. "For Thy bitter sadness at the loss of souls, we will console Thee, Lord." The moment I read this, "This is the word to live for salvation." And I was convinced that I had a vocation of monastic life.

While I was amazed at the words given to me, I was also very happy to think, "The Lord is calling even a servant like me.

When I told my best friend about this, she said, "I knew it," and did not wonder. When I mentioned this to another friend who was preparing as a novitiate, she said, "It's too early to decide after just one novena that there will be a call, I've done several novenas myself." The Lord responded to my complete trust. When I thought about it, I was very reluctant to do the novena again.

Later, when I discussed my career path with a priest with whom I have become close, he recommended that I enter the teaching profession at a school run by the sisters in the congregation to which he belongs, and he introduced me to this school. The Lord then showed me through various signs that He was calling me to this association, and in the end, I joined under the guidance of the sisters.

I am truly grateful every day to be in this associa-

tion now. In these days when the Lord's sorrow is not often mentioned, the card of Francis, one of the pastors who received the apparition of Our Lady of Fátima, says: "I love Jesus. But Jesus is very sad because of my many sins."

My parents, who are not Catholics, forgave me for baptism and enrollment, saying, "If you think you are happy," without any objection. I am deeply grateful to the Lord and my parents for giving my parents the grace of salvation and rewarding this.

I hope that I will continue to be constantly aware of the mission of the Rescue Spirit that I have received, and that I will be able to work until the very last moment of my life.

Nun

Belongs to the Missionary Sisters of St. Dominic

A life dedicated to the Lord

With my father's transfer, I moved to the United States at the age of 14 and studied physics in the United States.

By pursuing physics, you will discover how beautiful nature is. Beauty is "something that stimulates perception, sensation, and emotion, and induces a sense of internal pleasure" (Kojien). The mathematical beauty of nature allows us to know the existence of the Creator.

There must have been a theory of evolution and laws of physics before man and the universe were created.

It can be said that unicellular organisms could evolve into humans because of the law, and that this universe was created because matter moved according to the law.

Einstein, the great scientist, said, "I want to know on what laws God created this world, and the rest are small things."

Some scientists say that this universe was created by chance, and this cannot be denied, but unlike matter, laws are laws, so there is no such thing as chance. God created the law miraculously out of nothing. As long as we exist, this miracle cannot be denied. Because the Son made this law from nothing, miracles such as the ones in the Bible are quite simple, and these miracles were performed by the Father through Jesus, the Son.

The Holy Spirit tapped me on the shoulder regularly. And then he said, "If you understand the structure of the universe, then you understand the existence of the Creator, so serve me." I said, "But I am not ready,

because I have not yet achieved my goal." I declined many times.

When I turned 56 years old. I realized that I had accomplished everything I needed to do as a physicist, thanks to God supplementing me in many ways. Masatoshi Koshihara, the Nobel Prize winner in physics, understood this. He decided to devote the rest of his life to God and studied theology at Nanzan University while continuing his university work, and at the age of 62, he was ordained a deacon in the Diocese of Nagoya.

My mission from now on, which God has given me, is to proclaim the gospel of the Lord, communicating the consistency between the science God has created and the Bible that God has spoken.

Ichiro Sanda, Deacon for Life of the Diocese of Nagoya
Professor Emeritus, Nagoya University

Heirs of the Work of Atonement

Fifty years ago, in 1967, when I was a freshman in college, I attended a service at Tokyo Ikebukuro Church through a friend and met Pastor Ryoichi Kato. It was the first time. At the same time, Pastor Kato was also involved in the Southeast Asian Culture and Friendship Association project. About 20 students from Southeast Asia were living together in a building adjacent to the church.

Pastor Kato was sent to Ambon Island in Indonesia as a military pastor during the Pacific War. The Japanese military's purpose in sending Pastor Kato to Ambon Island was to build good relations between the Japanese military and the local people, but it was also a time of war and many tragic events occurred.

One time, when Pastor Kato encountered a Japanese soldier cutting down a local man with a Japanese sword, he firmly and resolutely urged the Japanese soldier to kill me first, which saved the local man's life. "He who loses his life will keep it" (Luke 17.33) Since then, the locals have come to trust and adore Pastor Kato.

After the war ended, Rev. Kato and other Japanese soldiers had to return to Japan once to fulfill international law. Upon his return to Japan, Pastor Kato began working on the "Work of Atonement" project, as he felt that he had caused a great deal of trouble to the people of Asia as a perpetrator. Specifically, children born to Japanese soldiers and local women, as well as children who have lost their parents in tragic incidents, are welcomed to Japan to study at universities and vocational schools, and then return to their home

countries to play an active role.

The policies of Tokyo Ikebukuro Church at that time were (1) a family-oriented church, (2) a church with active youth activities, and (3) a church serving Southeast Asia. In 1970, when the Osaka Expo was held, a great opportunity arose for the youth of the church. It told the youth to "go see how the Asian countries are doing." This visit opened my eyes to other Asian countries, and I still have strong ties with the colleagues who accompanied me on this trip.

In addition to teaching foreign students, Pastor Kato also conducted cultural exchange projects between Japan and Asia. As part of the exchange project with the Philippines, in 1977, a monument to Ukon Takayama, a feudal lord of the Sengoku period (who was canonized as a blessed man), was built at Paco Station in the former Japanese settlement. And we made it a park that will be a symbol of Japan-Philippines friendship. In this project, Japanese Catholics and Protestants collaborated with Filipino church officials.

We began accepting international students from Southeast Asia, and approximately 800 students have flown out of our dormitories. On Christmas Day 1991, Pastor Kato ascended to heaven at the age of 81.

Indonesia has a population of approximately 250 million and is over 90% Muslim. Pastor Kato said in his will, "Please bury my bones in Ambon, Manado, and Jakarta." So, Pastor Kato's tomb was built in Jakarta, and on the tombstone is engraved the words, "Whoever wants to be great among you should serve everyone instead" (Mark 10:43).

After graduating from college, I was trained under

Pastor Kato, and in 1972, I became involved in the co-management of a hotel in Manza Onsen, Gunma Prefecture. Manza Onsen (Nisshinkan) is located in Tsumagoi Village, Gunma Prefecture, at an altitude of 1,800 meters, and prospered as a hot-spring cure. Manza Onsen is at a high altitude and the roads are narrow, so a modern hotel could not be built. However, with the coming of the ski boom, it became necessary to build a hotel, and a supporter of Pastor Kato's "work of atonement" became the president of the bank with which he did business. A young man who had been trained by Pastor Kato was working hard on the hotel and decided to cooperate with the hotel, so a loan of 1 billion yen was approved and the modern Manza Onsen Hotel Nissinkan was completed. At this time, I learned the importance of meeting people and trust, and also felt God's providence.

At midnight in February 1983, a fire broke out in the wooden building. Although none of the more than 400 guests were injured or killed, the subsequent hotel management was very difficult.

None of the trials that have befallen you have been humanly unbearable. God is worthy of trust. He will not put you through trials that you cannot endure, but will prepare a way out of them so that you may be able to endure them (1 Corinthians 10.13). How encouraged and saved by the words.

Later, in serving customers at Manza Onsen, he said, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." (Matthew 7.12). Thanks to the words, we have tried to manage our business from the customers' point of view, and have built an open-air bath. On the karaoke stage, Kenichi Kuroiwa (a singer-songwriter who made his debut under the name of Ken Izumi)

performed a song show and a karaoke contest, and a direct bus from Shinjuku Station to the Manza Onsen Hotel was operated without transfers. We aim to be a hotel that pleases our customers as much as possible.

I have also been a Tsumagoi Village councilor since 1995, and this year I am entering my sixth term. The village's challenge is to secure workers in farms, tourism, welfare, and long-term care due to the declining birthrate and aging population. We are confident that the Lord will give us wisdom to solve these problems and that we will surely meet the path to a solution, and we are praying as we walk.

Currently, my roles include hotel management, president of the Southeast Asian Culture and Friendship Association, and a member of the village council. We are sincerely grateful for the warm support we have received from many people and the Lord's grace and guidance that have enabled us to manage these tasks.

Katsumi Ohno

Advisor, Nissinkan Corporation Manza Onsen Hotel
Tsumagoi Village Council Member
President Southeast Asian Culture and Friendship
Association

Primaveira's Decision

When I was stationed in India. There was a time when my daughter temporarily returned to Tokyo for three months to take a university entrance exam. First morning back in India after running errands.

I had just finished breakfast, dropped my husband off at work, and was sitting alone in the dining room thinking about the menu for tonight's guests. The cook, Mr. Shanti, suddenly appeared in front of me and said, "Madam, I actually need to talk to you. Please forgive me." and then he got down on his knees and apologized. I was perplexed as to what had happened, but I immediately said, "Well, calm down, Miss Shanti! Let's calmly discuss what happened between us," I soothed him, and we slowly listened to what was going on.

"Actually, while Madame was away, I had an affair with Mr. Srinivas, who is a driver, and now I am pregnant with my child," she said. She said she is now four months pregnant. She told me about her decision, "I really want to give birth to this child." She also said, "My parents disowned me and I can't go home. Madam! I wonder if I can stay in the company housing."

When I said, "Are you able to take responsibility for raising that child on your own, even though you have a difficult relationship with your family?", he responded with firm determination.

Normally, I would have dismissed him immediately because of his misconduct, but the other driver submitted a leave of absence request to the company and returned to his hometown, and a month later, he has already submitted a resignation request to the compa-

ny. I was faced with a difficult decision. Shanti's parents must be confused. Shanti is suffering in loneliness, having been abandoned by her parents. What's more, it's not easy to find a job when you're pregnant if you're laid off. Even ordinary people find it difficult to find a job in India.

Shanti's family of six knew that she was supported by her work. The more I thought about it, the more I had to make a really painful decision because I couldn't just dismiss him easily.

At this time, words from the Bible came to my mind. In response to the question, "How many times will you forgive?" Jesus replied, "Seven times seventy [forever]." I am reminded of the passage (Matthew 18.22) where it is said. I asked myself, "Jesus, you would forgive, wouldn't you?" and I immediately did.

Originally, it seems that employees were not allowed to stay in the company housing unless there was an extraordinary reason. We were faced with a very difficult decision this time and could not not not allow it, so we decided to accept Mr. Shanti after considering all the various circumstances.

After that, it was before returning to Tokyo temporarily for three months due to my daughter's exam. For Shanti's unborn child, we converted a little extra futon in the company housing into a futon for the child, made a lovely cover and pillow, and decorated the pillowcase with beautiful lace. Leaving it behind, I left for Tokyo. During her furlough, Shanti gave birth to a beautiful ball of a girl. His name is Bisinupria.

When I returned, they immediately brought him in to show me. Her parents forgave her and she began to commute from home as before, and normalcy returned to her home.

Shanti went through many painful experiences. We thank you for your sincere dedication and help for us, even if you were not in good health. Without them, we could not have welcomed and entertained so many guests in the intense heat all year round.

It was a really hard decision at the time, but we confirmed his wishes, two lives were saved, and I am still thinking that this was the right thing to do.

Hiroko Kurihara

Koganei Catholic Church

From a collection of essays entitled Prima Beira



Primaveira's Decision

A synagogue gifted by the Lord

Faith is the assurance of what is hoped for and the assurance of what cannot be seen. (Hebrews 11.1)

This year marks exactly 13 years since the church building was built. The construction of the synagogue began with the hope that "Please give us a new chapel." Dreams, visions, faith... There are various expressions, but everything starts with having a dream where there is nothing.

We have been given the power to think freely, and by having dreams and visions, we conceive them in our minds through the Word of God.

We continued to pray to God to give us a synagogue, and at the same time, we gave what we could now, and searched for land. Then prayers were heard and the land was purchased. The bank also approved the necessary loan to finance the construction, and a construction contract was signed with the general contractor. However, just as we were about to start the construction of the church, the construction was halted and the contract was defaulted due to the fact that the construction could not be completed at the contracted price. We were faced with the ordeal of having to reconsider the nature of synagogue architecture.

We then looked for and negotiated with various general contractors, but none of them were willing to take on the construction at our budget. So we were faced with two choices. One proposal is to reduce the size of the project, and the other is to proceed on the same scale as before. However, we decided to opt for a third idea. The idea is not to build a congregation that fits our budget, but to ask God what kind of congre-

gation we should build and to expect Him to do it. With this in mind, we have once again reviewed the architecture of the Kaikan. As a result, the architectural specifications were considerably higher quality and more respectable than originally planned, and costs were significantly higher. However, the Bible has the following words.

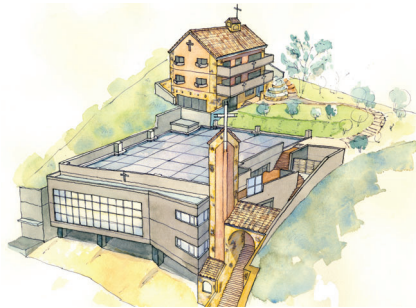
Along with trials, He also prepares a way out. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

We believed this Word and prayerfully searched for a way out. Then a miracle happened and we met this road.

While new plans were being made, building contributions increased and the bank offered low interest rates and long-term loan terms. Furthermore, a major general contractor was going to develop the entire area adjacent to the church building site, and the general contractor was going to undertake the construction of our church building as well, which would significantly reduce the cost. With our budget, they undertook the construction of the synagogue.

God has indeed provided a "way out". We experienced firsthand that the words "there is a way out" are true. This very synagogue was built with encouragement from God. So, I can say it clearly. Even if you encounter various difficult problems in your life's journey, you will surely encounter the "way out" that God has prepared for you. Therefore, God is still telling us not to give up, but to prayerfully seek this path.

Senior Pastor Kazushi Mitani
Shiboku Kamiki Jesus Christ Church
Sermon at the 13th anniversary service of the
congregation's building



Kamiki Christian Church

Invited to the Lord's Salvation

My daughter was battling an illness, and when I asked my husband what I should do for her in the future, we decided to go to Sekiguchi Church through an introduction from an acquaintance of my husband.

My daughter had previously attended a Catholic kindergarten and had long been a devotee of Mary. When my daughter was in high school, she suddenly told her brother, "I want to go to church," but he stopped her because he said, "I'm running away from religion." This time, when I told my daughter that we were going to church, she was very happy and smiled at me. Mika, your mother was very happy to see your smile, thank you.

The day came when I attended Mass at Sekiguchi Church for the first time. As soon as I entered the cathedral, tears suddenly welled up from my eyes, a very strange experience. The Mass that day was very holy. The pipe organ sounded pleasant.

When I woke up the day after the Mass, strangely enough, my heart felt so much lighter and I felt as if I understood the reason for the tears I shed yesterday when I entered the cathedral. It was my daughter that prompted me to go to church, but God already knew that I was also suffering from a lot of problems and was exhausted. I also thanked God that I, along with my daughter, was able to meet Him.

After Mass, I decided to take a one-year introductory Christian course taught by Sr. The sisters explained everything very clearly and kindly. The sister's explanation was very easy to understand, and she taught me kindly.

I had read the Bible before. I have always had questions about why it is our salvation when we are the ones who crucified Jesus. As the course progressed, I finally understood that Jesus' death on the cross would be our salvation. Until then, I had been going to church every week, thinking that going to church was an obligation, but now that I know this, I look forward to coming on Sundays very much.

I thanked God for the grace of receiving the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, which I had longed for, with my daughter at the Resurrection All-Night Service (Easter) in March 2016. Even now, I cannot forget the emotion of the baptismal ceremony. I felt the joy of being born again, the sense that the heavens had opened and the entire universe was moving, and my heart was shaken.

Since then, the Lord has helped me blissfully. When my children were in trouble, they were helped by the people in the apartment where we lived, and when I was in trouble, my surroundings naturally changed. Also, when I lost confidence and fell into a state of self-destruction, I woke up in the middle of the night and felt the presence of the Holy Spirit, as if there was something warm revolving in my heart. When I woke up in the morning, my mind was very calm and I was also able to think positively about things.

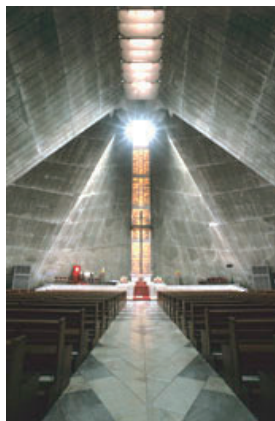
Every time I attended Mass and received the Bread of Life (the Holy Eucharist), I found that my heart became very energized. My daughter's health is slowly recovering and she is taking steps forward, one step at a time, with a goal in mind.

The Lord said, "Even though there were ninety-nine lambs, I looked for the one that was lost.", "Love

your neighbor. Love your neighbor, love one another.", and "Do not judge,". These words have completely changed the way I have been looking at things. Relationships are very important in social life. For example, as they say, compatibility is good and bad, and each person has people who fit in and people who don't fit in. When I thought that, as the Word says, God created man, and man is God's child, my view of the other changed. Each person has his or her own personality, strengths and flaws. I used to only see the flaws, but now I can see the strengths as well. And when my shortcomings suddenly come to mind, I am able to accept this.

I am thankful for the grace of being part of the Lord's salvation. As we move forward and backward, we will not forget our prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord, and together with our daughter, we hope to walk with all our hearts and all our strength into this day that we have been able to welcome.

Yoshiko Sakamoto
Tokyo Cathedral Sekiguchi Church



Inside the Tokyo Cathedral Sekiguchi Catholic Church

Yoke

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Let's give it a rest. Accept my yoke and learn from me, for my heart is meek and humble. Then you will find rest for your souls.

(Matthew 11.28-29)

By using the yoke to link two cows together, farmers can be much more productive and produce more harvest.

As the son of a carpenter, Jesus seems to have been a good yoke-maker.

The two yoked cows move simultaneously to the right when directed to the right and to the left when directed to the left. The cow on the left is Jesus and the cow on the right is a person. One is forced to move left and right, following Jesus, and the yoke follows His steps. By wearing a yoke (obedience), one can surrender oneself to the Lord, and the soul becomes at peace and the body and mind become at ease. And obedience, says the Lord, is born of meekness and humility.

Maria says. I am the Lord's handmaiden. I learned the importance of obedience from the words, "Let it be as you say," (Luke 1:38). And it was engraved in my heart.

Blessings of the Breakfast Prayer Meeting

I was at a crossroads in my life when I was 15. Our family was poor, so I chose to give up going to high school. I chose the way to find a job because I wanted to make my mother easier by getting a job. This gradually became a burden for me.

Upon graduation, he entered an apprenticeship at a barber store in front of a station in Nobeoka City, Miyazaki Prefecture. One day, about six months later, he was not dissatisfied with his job, but he became mentally unstable and turned into a living corpse as he began to seek meaning in human life and to wonder about who people are and what they live for.

At this time, I happened to come across an article in a monthly magazine called "Barber Bunka" in which Pastor Sakae Akaiwa wrote, "Man can attain true peace and contentment through the Word of the Bible." One of them said, "A boy in the prime of his life, in front of a feast, can attain true peace and serenity that goes beyond eating." If this is true, Christianity is an awesome religion, and I immediately started looking for a church.

Searching around town, one encounters the Japanese Christian, Catholic, and Japanese Evangelical Lutheran churches. After attending two church services of the Nippon Christian Church, he attended a service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Japan. The entrance to this congregation had a statue of Christ on a cross, which was very Scandinavian. I was so struck by the architecture of this congregation that I decided to worship here.

After about six months, he was baptized. However,

the burden in his heart remained unchanged. I was on a cherry blossom viewing trip with my barbershop association and was alone, gazing sadly at the azaleas in full bloom. God said to me in a male voice, "Do your best, Kai." Now a woman's voice said to me, "Do your best, Kai-san." I hear this voice four times. My intuition told me that this was God's voice of encouragement, and it was at this point that I renewed my faith in Christianity.

This year marks 63 years of faith. Moved to Tokyo at the age of 25 and married at 31. While running a barber store, he raised three children.

We are given the secret of life at any time and in any situation. I can do all things because I am connected to the one who gives me strength. (Philippians 4.12-13) This word gives me the strength to go forward with courage, hope, and willingness, without fear, in every situation I encounter. This Word protects us and makes us fulfill our life of faith. He became more and more determined to become a pastor, and was led to seminary, where he was licensed as a pastor at the age of 62. The pastor of the church was called and he took over.

I am convinced that even now, by waiting for the Holy Spirit, quietly surrendering our body, mind, and soul to Him, being guided by Him, and walking according to the compass of His Word, we can live with peace of mind, no matter what circumstances, trials, and tribulations we may be facing.

Breakfast Prayer Meeting.

It has been 17 years since I have attended the Ichikawa Breakfast Prayer Meeting (abbreviation of Breakfast Prayer Meeting).

The Breakfast Prayer Meeting was born in January 1947 when 14 Christians gathered in the cafeteria of the Osaka Christian Center, which had just been built. It was the beginning of the "Osaka Breakfast Prayer Meeting," which spread throughout the country.

We gather early in the morning, praise, listen to the Word, pray, share breakfast, and then go to work.

Breakfast Prayer Meetings in Japan are organized by only one denomination (Catholic, Protestant, multi-religious), and there are 132 branches nationwide with about 2,150 members.

The Breakfast prayer meeting is where I meet you and speak to you. (Ex. 29.42) "Meet you" is a place where we gather in the name of Christ and pray together at a morning service (a place where believers and non-believers gather) where God is present. If two of you agree on earth and ask for it, it will be done for you by My Father who is in heaven. Where two or three are gathered in my name, I will be among them. (Matthew 18.19-20). The prayers of those who gather at the morning prayer meeting are sharpened and trained into prayers that are heard by the Lord.

The phrase "I speak to you" indicates the purpose of the morning prayer meeting. The Christian feels the presence of God through praise, is renewed by the Word of God spoken, is filled with the Holy Spirit, and becomes a witness for the Lord through the practice of the Word.

God is about to perform a new work in Japan through the Morning Prayer Meeting. Joel said and prophesied, "I will put my spirit in everyone. ... Old men dream dreams and young men see visions" (Joel 3.1) God entrusts the saving Spirit to an old man who is

easily burned by the Holy Spirit. The morning prayer meeting is truly a spiritual and faithful "spiritual power of renewal dojo".

I have also decided to accept the position of Kanto block representative. Because God chooses the weak, and through this one, God's power works.

Seiji Kai

Pastor, Higashi-Narashino Lutheran Church
Belongs to Ichikawa Breakfast Prayer Meeting

Good Samaritan met through prayer

After an international Girl Scout conference, I stopped in Bali with a friend on my way back to Japan. I was lying in bed, recovering from the fatigue of the trip. I decided to go to Kuta Beach, famous for its beautiful sunset, and applied for a scooter with a driver at the front desk. When I got there, well, the beach was beautiful! It was wide, very quiet, and the sun seemed to be setting beyond the horizon with a sound that was more beautiful than anything I had heard. The driver said he would drive us back along the coast, which would be a shortcut, but we were unwilling to do so and left him to it.

After running for a while, my body suddenly seemed to float up and I was knocked down into the sea. The coastline was pitch black, and the car seemed to have plunged into the sea after failing to round a gentle curve. Fortunately, the depth was about chest-deep, and the sea served as a cushion and the two were uninjured. I was soaked to the skin, and in my heart I said, "God, help me!". We managed to carry the scooter to the shore against the waves. It was a dark night when I could see nothing, but he pushed the scooter toward the woods and I let myself be pulled along by the scooter.

I saw a faint light in the darkness, so I walked over to it and found a small oil lamp. Behind her, a thin, girlish woman sat in a hut with a young infant in her arms. This place seemed to be an inn that accommodates hippies. There was hot tea on the menu, so I ordered it. I was very happy and relieved to find that a cup of hot tea warmed my cold body. The thin kaftan

(dress) I was wearing also began to dry.

The ceiling already had visitors, and several large geckos were crawling around and chirping. As soon as I heard this voice, I immediately started shaking my body and said, "God~ please don't let a gecko fall on me~! I prayed as if shouting in my heart.

The innkeeper went into town to buy Coca-Cola and would return soon. The caftan dried up well and time passed further.

With the sound of an engine, the owner of the store returned. When my husband heard about the engine trouble, he didn't look disgusted and immediately looked at the scooter to see how it was doing. We both pushed this thing and tried many times to get the engine running. I could only pray while standing by my side, but I did not give up and looked up to the heavens and said, "God, please let the engine start! I prayed in my heart, but the motor, which was soaked in seawater, did not even twitch.

The sweaty host said, "Please take the customer to the hotel on my scooter. If you buy parts in town tomorrow and come back, I'll help you get the scooter running."

Even though a stranger is in trouble, if I were to trust him without feeling uneasy and lend him my scooter like this master, would I really be able to save the plight? I was amazed.

From the plane that took off from Bali, I looked at the beautiful Bali spread out below, and smiled wryly at myself, who still specializes in asking God for help in times of trouble. Because his prayers were not heard at that time, he was able to meet his master's sincere personality and realized that this was God's will. I prayed for his happiness and said, "God, I will try to

follow his example. Thank you for allowing me to learn such a valuable lesson."

And as I prayed for those who have been so kind to me, I was reminded of the camp life I spent with many high school students at the Girl Scouts campground at the foot of Togakushiyama Togakushi Mountain a few summers ago.

In the morning, students were awakened by the chirping of birds, the haze of Mount Togakushi and Mount Kurohime like an ink painting, and were enthralled by the majestic beauty of nature and wondered who had created such nature. The conclusion was that it could not be anyone but God.

Life is short, and I have no time to speak thorny words or envy when I realize that my existence is not even a "dot" on the horizon. The founder of the Girl Scouts taught how to live a short life, "If you make others happy, you will be happy too." It can be said to be "Mou-ko-ki-ta" (forgetting oneself and living with the joy of others as one's own joy).

My life is mostly asking for help and thanking you. But I feel like God is still telling me to do something useful.

Yoshiko Odaira
Tokyo Cathedral Sekiguchi Church

Blessings to all peoples

I was residing in Bangkok, Thailand. It was when I returned to Japan after completing evangelical missionary work in Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar. Next, as to what ministry we are to serve, "Whatever two of you ask on earth with one mind, our Father who is in heaven will fulfill it." (Matthew 18.19), so the "Oasis Prayer Meeting" at the International Navigator, Tokyo Kanda Many people prayed at the "Tokyo International Morning Prayer Meeting" at the YMCA in Kanda, Tokyo and the "Aishin-kai" at the Tokyo Marunouchi Hotel.

I myself said, "Lord, I will do whatever You will. I will go to Africa, to Asia, to the ends of the earth. If You want me to evangelize the homeless, to evangelize college students, or to pastor a church, I am willing to do it." He prayed.

At this time, God led me to share the gospel with businessmen. And the biblical words given are as following. "I will bless thee and exalt thy name and you will be a source of blessing. ... All the peoples of the earth will be blessed" (Genesis 12.2-3) "I will bless you and multiply your descendants as the stars of the sky and as the sand on the beach." (Genesis 22.17).

Not knowing where to start, I took the first step and began by praying that the Lord would give me a good collaborator guided by Him, just as He chose His disciples. Then seven or eight businessmen were given to us, and we started a "prayer meeting" with them. The name of the association is, "You are precious in My sight and will be honored." (Isaiah 43.4), we named it the "International VIP Club.

We invited your unbelieving friends, colleagues, subordinates, bosses, etc., and aimed to change from KKT (dark, hard, boring) to ATT (bright, fun, informative). We started evangelistic meetings for businessmen at home, held once a month in the evening.

For the first five years, the meetings were held in one location, but as the number of participants grew, we divided the venue into two, one for the elderly and one for the young. At that time, we started all-night prayer meetings. In the grace of the Lord, the number of unbelievers participating has increased as our locations in various parts of Tokyo have expanded and, thankfully, more souls have been given to be saved.

With the Lord's blessing, "VIP Clubs" were started not only in Tokyo, but also in Osaka, Nagoya, and other places in Japan. Overseas, we started it in New York, London, Bangkok, Lagos, and other major cities in the world. Today, the company has about 2,500 participants at a total of 250 locations, both in Japan and abroad. "VIP Clubs" are held and the gospel is proclaimed in various parts of the world.

A businessman analyzed the workings of the VIP Club and found three secrets to its blessing.

(1) Purpose: Our mission is to reach out to business people.

(2) Freedom: Not bound by any constitution or by-laws.

(3) Impression: It will impress attendees and make them want to come back again with their unbelieving friends.

And these three are supported by "prayer".

VIP Club started with "prayer" and has grown with "prayer". We are confident that we will continue to bear abundant fruit through "prayer," and it is truly a

work in which the wind of the Holy Spirit blows and the river of the Holy Spirit flows through us.

Now the VIP Club's charter plane is flying high in the sky with its engines at full throttle. The driving force of this engine is the Holy Spirit, to which prayer adds great power.

The "Kingdom of God" will be realized when the love and gospel of Christ is proclaimed to the ends of the earth and business and professional people in Japan and around the world are saved. God wants us to "bless all peoples of the earth".

Kazuo Ichimura

Founder and President, International VIP Club

Mother's Prayer

I was born into this world through my mother's faith, and this year I will be 84 years old, and I thank God every day for the blessings that keep me alive.

My parents were married for 10 years and were not given children, and my father said he would "believe in God" if they were given children. My mother said that she fasted only for lunch and prayed, and in the first week, she heard only a voice saying, "I will give you a child within six months. ". Five months later, there was no sign of it. People around me told me that my desire was so strong that I must have had the illusion of hearing God's voice, but my mother never gave up, saying, "There is still one month left. I was hopeful. Eventually, in the sixth month, my prayers were heard, a child was given to me, and I lived my daily life, thankful to the Lord.

One day, I suddenly stopped feeling any healthy fetal movement, so I went to a hospital near my home and called an obstetrician there to examine me. "There is no heartbeat, there are two uterine fibroids, and the baby is dead. If we don't put her in a general hospital in Kawasaki and perform a caesarean section as soon as possible, her health is in danger", she said. Then, my mother wrote a letter to this hospital and returned home.

When I got home, my stomach hurt and I was bleeding, but my heart seemed at peace. The mother prayed earnestly to the Lord, "Lazarus came back to life on the fourth day, but let the fetus come back to life on the third day," and waited in faith. On the third day of the appointment, my belly twitched and I

felt a fetal movement, so I went to see the obstetrician, who told me that I had a good heartbeat and that the fibroids were gone. This is said to have led the midwives to believe in God and become active in the community.

As a believer, my mother lived to the age of 99 and was taken to heaven as she slept at home. Although he was bedridden for the last five years of his life, he was always grateful and encouraged those who visited him.

Every morning, my mother looked forward to the time she spent praying with me, naming friends and acquaintances by name. I was always given joy and filled with gratitude through caring for my mother.

Believe that whatever you pray for will be fulfilled. If you do, you will be right. (Mark 11.24)

If you believe and pray, all that you ask will be fulfilled. (Matthew 21, 22)

My mother used to say to me. "If you believe that what you pray for will happen, it will happen. If you don't, it's because you wonder if your prayers were heard." And Isaiah says, "A child is born to us, a baby is born to us. A son was given to us." (Isaiah 9.5). At the end of the prayer, we say, "Thank you, God, for hearing my prayer. We thank you."

I was born into this world with the Lord's grace, but I could not easily believe in God and lived a selfish life. When I was about 45 years old, I had a hematemesi, so I had a checkup and found that "the mucous membranes of my organs had become thin and the blood vessels were floating. I was terrified of death. Around that time, I was watching a televised evangelism of the Rex Humbird Mission. I remember my body felt very warm and I felt touched by the Lord's love. After that, the floating blood vessels mys-

teriously returned to normal, saved, and continue to this day.

I am currently serving in a nursing home for the elderly. My role here is to be the conduit of the Holy Spirit between God and the residents. Specifically, I place my hands on the bodies of the residents and pray and rub them, and the Holy Spirit works through me on the residents and they become calm or even healed.

Through my experience, I hope to share God's love with as many people as possible, to be a witness and testimony of the Lord, and to walk through the rest of my life.

Kiyoko Narisawa
Shiboku Kamiki Jesus Christ Church

Sadhana Meditation

Sadhana means "the way to God" and was devised by Father Anthony de Melo (Jesuit), who is familiar with many works such as "What and How to Pray". Based on the psychics of St. Ignatius de Loyola, it is a way of praying that incorporates the rich fruits of psychology and oriental meditation.

This is aimed at deepening prayer, experiencing a liberation of the heart, and maturing as a Christian. First, sit in a circle with the instructor and pray while receiving instruction. Then, beginning with an awareness of the sensations of the body, through exercises such as sound awareness, and through emotions and imagination, we aim to know the world of the unconscious and further experience the realm of the spirit. It is from perceptual prayer, through piety prayer, to kanso contemplative prayer. They will share their experiences in small groups and receive more detailed guidance.

By knowing yourself as you are and how others' minds work, you can experience deep communication.

Objective

It is about deepening our prayers, freeing our hearts, maturing as Christians, and growing as community members.

Specific Methods

Please join us for a sadhana meditation.

Effect

We can experience "encounter with God" by "quieting the mind and intellect" and "knowing oneself" which are important for human beings.

Wataru Ueguri

Jesuit priest

Sadhana Meditation Instructor

What is a saint?

The saints are people who faithfully practiced God's will throughout their lives, fell and got up again and again, and asked for forgiveness. The saint is a person or saint who has been canonized for his martyrdom or deeds of virtue, who has given hope to the church and who has been revered by many people. We hope we can follow in the footsteps of this saint.

Recently, the canonization of Pope John XXIII (who held the Second Vatican Council), Pope John Paul II (familiar with the flying pope), and Mother Teresa (Saint Teresa of Kolkata) was held by Pope Francis. They became saints.

Life of St. Francis

During St. Francis' conversion and subsequent life, the Word of God not only had a profound impact on him, but also became the foundation and standard for his life. For example, in the early days of my conversion, I was at the Mass of St. Matthias in the little church of Portiuncula, which was last restored by St. Francis. He heard from Matthew 10:5-10, "Jesus commanded his disciples in sending out the twelve," and said, "This is what I really wanted and sought." (1 cherano 22) With this Word, St. Francis finally understood what his new life was all about, and he discovered and was convinced of the mission he had been given.

In addition, in his last will and testament, consisting of 41 verses, written by St. Francis in his last days, the expression "The Lord has made me ..." appears several times. At the end of his life, St. Francis reflected on himself and became deeply aware of how he had been invited by God and how he had responded to that invitation, which he left to his brothers as his last testament. Among them are the following words.

" If I find the written and holy Word of the Lord in an unworthy place, I will always pick it up. I ask that others also pick it up and put it in its proper place. We must also honor and respect all theologians and those who preach the Word of the Lord and Holy Ghost as those who give us 'spirit and life' " (Testament 12-13). This is one of the specific examples he lists of how the Lord has given St. Francis the grace of faith.

St. Francis continued, "When the Lord entrusted me with my brothers, there was no one to tell me

what I should do. But the Most High himself revealed to me that I should live according to the style of the Holy Gospel. So I simply had it written down in a few words, and the Pope approved it for me" (Testament 14-15). This means that the Holy Gospel is also the guideline for living not only for St. Francis alone, but also with the brothers whom the Lord has given us.

St. Francis goes to the church with the brothers who first came to him, opens the Gospel book in the cathedral and asks God's will. The Word of God there was, "If you want to be perfect, go back and sell your possessions and give to the poor." (Matthew 19.21) and "Take nothing with you on your journey. Take neither staff nor bag, bread nor money, nor even two pairs of underwear." (Luke 9.3), and "Whoever wishes to follow me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Matthew 16.24). At that time, St. Francis said, "This is our life and our constitution" (Great Biography 3.3). It was indeed a "revelation" from the Most High to the brothers, and eventually evolved into the "Constitutions of Francis," which were finally ratified by the Edict of Directives in 1223.

Yoshitaka Murakami
Franciscan Japan Province

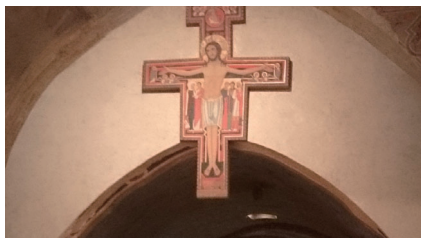
Cellano: Biography of St. Francis

Last Will and Testament : The Last Will and Testament of St. Francis

Great Biography: St. Bonaventura reads the Resenda Mayor of St. Francis of Assisi "on the feast of the Saints". It is said that he wrote a "book" called the Great Biography.

Imperial letter: a document written by the Pope

Adjudication: the Pope grants permission to the applicant.



Cross in the Basilica of San Damiano

Franciscan Japan Provincial History

Francis, for many Japanese, may be Francisco Xavier. Or perhaps the current Pope Francis? The Franciscan Order was founded in 1209 by Saint Francis of Assisi (1182-1226), the namesake of these two famous people.

Franciscan activities in Japan began during the Christian era (16th century), but were interrupted by persecution beginning with the martyrdom of the 26 saints. He returned to Japan in 1907 and resumed missionary work with his first community in Sapporo. There are currently 13 communities in eight dioceses (Sapporo, Saitama, Tokyo, Yokohama, Niigata, Nagoya, Osaka, and Nagasaki) with about 90 members. The parishes and kindergartens are the main places of missionary pastoral care.

The name "Franciscan" is a common name, and the official name is "Ordo Fratrum Minorum" (incidentally, "Francis" is the name his father, who was not present at the time of his birth, later changed, and his baptismal name is Giovanni Bernardone). In addition to us as a congregation, there are other congregations, the Conventuals and the Capuchins (both common names), who follow the same constitution (1223) as sanctioned by St. Francis.

The charism of the Congregation as expressed in its Constitution and Constitutions

The Adjudicated Constitutions of St. Francis begin with "Observe the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and live chastely, taking nothing for yourself, in obedience." The Holy Gospel is the constitution and

we are a living community that observes it through our vows.

The Franciscans were one of the first religious orders to emerge in the 13th century as a completely new style. It is not a sedentary lifestyle, but one that allows you to go wherever you need to go. The Church used the Franciscans, along with new religious orders such as the Dominicans, for the renewal of the entire Church. Francis sends his brothers (at least two each) as *fraternitas* (friends). Although we do not have the self-sufficient, sedentary lifestyle of a traditional monastery, we do assume a communal lifestyle. Francis considers the world itself, not the building, to be a "cloister" (see in *Sacrum Commercium*).

What we really value is the lifelong formation that needs to exist and be supported by a community of faith that lives in gratitude for the grace of faith it has received and continues to share, communicate, and witness the "joy of the Gospel".

The Franciscans held a general assembly in Asisi in May 2015. The theme was to serve as "lesser" by creating and expanding brotherhood. This was a general meeting to return to the origin of the charisma of the association, to live anew, and to reaffirm our commitment to keep moving forward. We hope to contribute to the evangelization of Japanese society in the original way of service, in keeping with the charism of the Congregation. And we believe that the Lord will give us new "brothers" (Francis' testament) who will share in this walk.

Yoshitaka Murakami
Franciscan Japan Province

reference data

- (1) Franciscan Japan Province Mission Basics
- (2) Sacrum Commercium "A fresh start from the Gospel"

Life of St. Ignatius de Loyola

One's birthplace

St. Ignatius de Loyola was born in 1491 in the northern Spanish town of Loyola, the son of a castle lord. In his youth, he was a knight, a young man who lived to fight in many wars and aspired to worldly honors. A minor incident forced him to leave his homeland, and he fled to serve the Duke of Nahera, a lord near the French border.

In 1521, he participated in a war against the French army and was severely wounded. Sent back home, St. Ignatius de Loyola spent a long period of time in the Loyola castle waiting for his wounds to heal.

Days with nothing to do. ... He tries to pass the time by reading, but the only books he finds in Loyola Castle are "The Life of Christ" and The only book available was "The Flower of the Saints" ("Golden Legend").

His dream of achieving worldly achievements as a knight gradually clashes with the holy way of life in the book. Then, regarding these two paths, I began to feel a movement of the mind, where after the unfolding of the dreaming of the former, a lonely dissatisfaction would arise in my mind, and in the latter, a sense of satisfaction and joy would follow.

Choose your life path

By 1522 his wounds had healed and a desire to live a "holy life" had grown in his heart, so he decided to leave the castle. He became a poor pilgrim and devoted himself to prayers for repentance of sins and elevation to a holy life in several pilgrimage sites and holy

places in the Spanish territory.

He spent about a year in Manresa, a holy city not far from Barcelona, living a life of prayer, service, and hard work. While living this life he began to write what would become the basis of his "Spiritual Manipulation". While sitting on the banks of the Cardonel River near Manresa (which would be completed 25 years later), I received an overflowing intellectual illumination about God. During his stay in Manresa, he also received God's will that he should devote his entire life to "the greater glory of God" and "the salvation of people.

In Barcelona, he realized that to fulfill this mission, he needed to be intellectually literate and educated, so he began his studies. At age 34, he sat at a desk with a group of elementary school students, first in Latin. A 12-year period of study in philosophy, humanities, and theology followed. During this period, he devoted himself to devotion to prayer and spiritual life, while studying hard, and taught many people to pray.

Meeting Comrades

He studied theology at the University of Paris, and during his dormitory life at this university, he met Francis Xavier and Petro Fabre as comrades in the mission of God. Thereafter, a succession of comrades united in Paris, and all seven members together took three vows. It was the three vows of poverty, chastity, and pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

The number of comrades then grows to 12. These comrades entered Rome to obtain permission from the Pope for priestly ordination and pilgrimage to Jerusalem, but only St. Ignatius de Loyola decided to stay in Venice because of the opposition within Rome

against him. The group reassembled and the comrades were ordained priests in Venice or nearby.

Birth of the Jesuits

The comrades then gathered again in Rome and named their association "Jesuits" (1539). In addition, the dispatch of comrades was initiated to respond to the needs of the world. He supported the guiding principles of the Council and sent them to India and other mission fields.

St. Ignatius de Loyola, who was the spiritual and emotional support of the comrades, was also their unifier amidst the persecution and slander they suffered from the world. There was an extended period of prayer and exchange of ideas regarding the establishment of a new religious order, the Jesuits. Then the vow of obedience was added and a new congregation was born.

The congregation had several characteristics. Although the three vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience are the pillars of the traditional novitiate, in the Jesuits, the fourth vow is the vow to "serve apostolically in accordance with the Pope's request. The apostolic character of this congregation was dynamic, and from its inception, its areas of activity were widely dispersed throughout the world, each trying to respond thoroughly to the needs of the Church in its assigned place.

Appointed as President

In 1541, the Jesuits had to choose a president. Those who remained in Rome voted here, and those who were sent far away had their ballots sent to them. The vote resulted in a unanimous vote for St. Ignatius

de Loyola as president. Francisco Xavier, one of the electors, wrote, "It was he who brought us together through hard work."

In Rome, St. Ignatius de Loyola, while fulfilling the ministry of the chancellor, also worked apostolically himself in various ways to the extent that his direct ministry was possible. Examples include creating an organization called "Seekers' Activities," establishing and running "St. Martha's House" to help prostitutes, distributing food to the poor and hungry, and "street preaching" in towns.

Showing what a Jesuit should be.

In 1551, he established the "Roman Institute" so that he could offer advanced language, philosophy, and theology.

Even though St. Ignatius de Loyola deployed many apostolic ministries in a wide range of hands, he never seemed to tire, always encountering God in whatever he did and always feeling the presence of Christ in his heart. This state of mind is the path and pillar of the Jesuits' goal of "contemplation with activity."

He also devoted all his energies to creating a network that connected members who were sent around the world. He wrote letters of command and support (some 7,000 letters survive) and wrote buried in papers. And while staying in the room, he guided and inspired the members with his passionate spirit.

Time to part

Even as his health began to fail, he continued to work on short sleeps for the benefit of his members who were sent all over the world. Needless to say, we had an extremely intimate communion with God dur-

ing this time.

July 31, 1556, at six o'clock in the morning (65 age), He uttered the word "Jesus!" and departed for heaven.

Wataru Ueguri
Jesuit priest



Portrait of St. Ignatius de Loyola

The History of the Jesuit

A characteristic of the Jesuits (novitiate) led by St. Ignatius de Loyola is that all members have in common a heart that thoroughly follows Christ. The people who support this association are not so much people of remarkable talent as people who seek to faithfully follow Christ in every aspect of their lives and work. In other words, he or she is a person who can honestly detach himself or herself and surrender to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This is to be imitators of Christ, as the word says, "Be imitators of me" (1 Corinthians 4:16). It is also to be obedient, as Mary said, "Let it be to you according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

The Jesuits, like many religious orders, are an apostolic active religious order that makes three vows: poverty, chastity, and obedience. To this was added St. Ignatius de Loyola's fourth vow of obedience to the pope's intentions. This fourth vow was born because it is the way to find the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church in a foolish way.

The spiritual pillar of the Jesuits is formed by "Spiritual Manipulation. In this prayer path called "Spiritual Manipulation," the emphasis is on identifying with the Holy Spirit and improving one's way of life through the guidance of the Holy Spirit in one's daily life. In the Jesuits, each person identifies and selects a life plan, and proceeds to practice these plans with clear illumination, not ambiguity or ambiguity.

Wataru Ueguri
Jesuit priest

Life of St. Dominic

Historical Background of the Dominican Order

In 2016, the Dominican Order celebrated its 800th anniversary. Throughout these long years, the spirit of the Dominican Order, founded for the salvation of people's souls and preaching, has fascinated many people throughout the world, through the various transitions and light and dark periods of history, and continues to inspire today by providing direction for various periods.

In the 12th century, with the budding of modernity that marked the end of the feudal system, the European culture of 1200 years. It was a turbulent period that created cracks in the Christian faith that had permeated the very foundations of society.

St. Dominic read this transition, forged a new path, and gave suggestions not only for his time but also for the time that followed, faithful to his vocation and practicing the "truth" (Veritas) that is the hallmark of the Dominican Order. And throughout his life, he lived "love of the first truth," "live, learn, and teach virtuously," "contemplate and pass on the fruits of contemplation" (contemplari et contemplata aliis), and "love of the first truth" (contemplari et contemplata aliis). He realized the spirit expressed in the Society's mottoes: "Laudare, Benedicere, Praedicare" (Bless, Praise, Preach), St. Thomas (tradere), and so on.

The Search for the Word and the Practice of Loving Virtue in the Life of St. Dominic.

At the age of 15, St. Dominic entered the Universi-

ty of Palencia to help those who were suffering from the famine that covered all of Spain and were dying of hunger, and he was determined to save them. In the absence of printing technology, he sold everything he owned, both the books the students needed and the parchment Bibles with their own commentaries. "You can't study when people are starving," he said. He set up workhouses and distributed food daily. Many who saw this followed his lead. The thoroughgoing determination to give one's all manifests itself in a complete service of giving oneself without reserve.

On one occasion, Mary stood before St. Dominic and made 15 promises that by fervently reciting the prayers of the Rosary, she would fulfill what was truly needed.

Not settled in a certain place

At the age of 36, St. Dominic, as a counsellor at Osma, performed liturgical and missionary duties as subdeacon, where he prayed without reserve, read and preached from the New Testament, and always encouraged people to pray the rosary. As an apostle of Christ, he gave himself entirely to communicating Christ to people. There, the church was reformed under the impetus to imitate the life of the apostles of the early church.

When people become accustomed to a certain lifestyle, they become conservative and seek stability. However, he never fell into a lukewarm religious life, but always kept his heart open to new calls from God, listened to God's voice, and strived to fulfill the essential roles of a counselor member, such as constant prayer, excellent love and virtue, and chanting the daily routine of the Divine Office.

At the king's request, on his way to Denmark with the bishop, in the south of France, when he encountered heretics of the Cathar school of dualism, who held that the spirit was created by a good God and the body and matter by an evil God, he decided to preach in heretical lands. This suddenly changed the contemplative life of St. Dominic. Here we return to the way the primitive church was, as when Christ sent his disciples, "Carry nothing with you on your journey. Take neither staff nor sack, nor bread nor money, nor even two pairs of underwear." (Luke 9.3) and preached to meet the true needs of his neighbors' spirits.

Foundation of the Order of Friars Minor

St. Dominic founded the Dominican Order (formally known as the Congregation of Preachers and Brothers: *Ordo Fratrum Praedicatorum*) with an emphasis on missionary work. From the time of its founding, the Dominicans were appointed by the Pope, who pastored the Church, to publicly preach the Word. By doing this, he preached the word of faith and truth to those who believed in heresy and paganism by preaching sermons, which at that time were only given to bishops.

Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature that is made." (Mark 16.15) are words that express the spirit of St. Dominic. Until then, monastic life had been described in terms of "Ora et Labora" (pray and work) and separated from the secular world, but St. Dominic lived for many years as a "takuhatsu mendicant," sharing the Word of God and positioning this as the spirit and mission of his monastic community. St. Dominic, as was characteristic of the Dominicans, sent his associates to central places where world

affairs were dealt with, especially where there were universities and Paris.

Passion for Truth and Love of Study

The search for truth was an important concern for St. Dominic. Through rigorous study he connected to the depths of contemplation and explored the truth. He wanted to share the fruit of that overflowing truth with people. He was always with God, contemplating and loving to talk about Him. With this fruit he allowed the mysteries of Christ's life to dwell in his own life, spoke about God and the gospel of peace to those who met him, and found new strength in this preaching.

St. Dominic was given the pilgrim's staff by St. Peter so that he could begin his journey, and by St. Paul, words only from the Bible showing the revelation, unity, and plan of God, and through vision he gained self-confidence. He preached the gospel of peace, conveying the redemptive life of the crucified Savior, following Christ who brought new life through the cross. "Go and preach!" (summarizing Matthew 28.19-20, which is the motto of the Dominicans).

Dominican freedom and responsibility

St. Dominic's fascinates us with its freedom. It is the freedom of the poor traveling preacher, the freedom to establish an association quite different from the one that existed before. When he was approved in Rome as a congregation, he did not wait for the congregation to stabilize, but saw the universal character of his congregation and said, "If a grain of wheat does not fall to the ground and die, it remains a grain, but if it falls to the ground and dies, it remains a grain.

But if it dies, it bears abundant fruit." (John 12.24), he sent 16 companions to Paris, Spain, and other places to fulfill his words. At the same time, he sent his brothers to various universities.

"The body is made up of many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body" (1 Corinthians 12:12) Like this words, I thought this was an act of love born out of a passion for truth, even if my opinion was different.

Contemplation and Activity

St. Dominic was a man of deep contemplation. He lived a liturgy-centered life with the solemn chanting of the Divine Office, from which he derived spiritual sustenance, nourished his divine life, and moved him toward deep contemplation.

In modern times, the prayer "must be set aside for an hour of contemplation allocated at two prescribed times each day" is specified as obligatory. But since St. Dominic and the early members were always contemplative, there was no need to squeeze the essential prayer time into the fixed framework of the daily routine. With spiritual fervor and sincerity, they were always one with God, remained before him, and were in a state of contemplation in relation to nature and God.

They spent their time, except for the apostolic time they spent for the salvation of souls, either in the monastery's singing group or in the novitiate. In the choir room, he sang songs of praise to God day and night with great vivacity and solemnity, and in the study room, he only read, wrote, and prayed.

St. Dominic was a man of prayer above all others. "He either spoke of God or with God." Through a

small work, "The Nine Ways of Praying of St. Dominic," which survives today, we can also see how he relieved the fatigue of his incessant apostolate in devout prayer.

St. Dominic balanced the close and inseparable relationship between the spiritual disciplines of religious life and apostolic activity. In doing so, he transcended the boundaries of the traditional monastic system and established St. Dominic's own spirituality. For the salvation of people, he performed self-prayer, atonement and penance.

Sanctified through contemplative prayer and brought into intimate union with God, St. Dominic was filled with the love of God that burned people's hearts with apostolic spirituality, overcoming the monastery's stagnation and bringing the light of the Gospel to the whole world. Whereas previous traditional monastic orders had established their monasteries away from the city, either on a mountain top or in the countryside, St. Dominic's established its monastery in the middle of the city. This facilitated the brothers' preaching activities.

The active life of the congregation founded by St. Dominic, such as preaching and teaching, was an activity from the fullness of contemplation.

A contemplative in deep union with God from the beginning of his life, St. Dominic was at the same time a fervent apostle working for the salvation of souls, and lived a life of search for truth, observance of precepts, and sacrifice in order to make his purpose fruitful. Thus, St. Dominic's life was dedicated to the salvation of souls.

When he lived with us in this world, he wore rags, ate a coarse diet, abstained from wine, and practiced

true poverty. Guided by the spirit and having defeated the desires of the flesh, with constant prayer, with compassion and zeal overflowing with the gift of tears, he beseeched for his sons the salvation of their spirits. He was ascetic and unwavering in the face of adversity. St. Dominic's ideal of regular life was spurred on by his fine example of holiness. Those who follow the spirit of St. Dominic still, in contemplation, hold onto their ideals, sharpen their consciences, strive to imitate Christ, the Rewarder and Judge of souls, preach, and emains diligent in their studies. 'continually and lovingly relative to the Lord' (cf. Ps. 16.8)

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Portrait of Saint Dominic

History of the Missionary Sisters of St. Dominic

The Missionary Sisters of St. Dominican have their origins in the sisters of the Dominican Order.

The Missionary Sisters of St. Dominic conceived and proclaimed the truth which was the fruit of contemplation, and cooperated in the missionary work of the Friars of Preachers and the Province of St. Rosary, founded by St. Dominic "for the preaching and the salvation of souls."

Contemplating the missionary charism of St. Dominic, it has been oriented toward mission in the Far East since its inception. The Society carries out its apostolate through the education of young people through schools, educational facilities, spiritual education, and girls' dormitories, as well as social welfare programs for the sick and elderly in areas where there is the greatest need for the proclamation of the gospel by various religions and churches.

Following Christ, we live together in unity of mind and heart in the style created by St. Dominic, remaining faithful to the vows of the evangelical exhortation and perfecting our love for God and neighbor through liturgical community rites, constant study, and adherence to religious discipline. At the same time, he strives daily to contribute to the salvation of people's souls, with and about God, both for himself and for his neighbors.

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Another Marian piety Scapulario of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

The custom of venerating Mary as a model Christian has been a tradition since the beginning of the Church's history. When one thinks of Mary, the Ave Maria and the rosary naturally come to mind, so much so that Mary is deeply embedded in the religious life of the Catholic Church. However, this also led to various excesses and rejections regarding the veneration of Mary. In this issue, I would like to briefly introduce the Scapulario of Mount Carmel, while properly placing this Marian piety within the faith of Christ.

By the way, the modern church speaks less of Mary than in the past. The past excesses of Marian veneration have led to the abandonment of Marian piety among Protestant denominations. The Protestants' point of view that venerating Mary, who was only a human being, might hinder pure faith in Christ, despite the fact that Christ alone is the Savior of mankind, was certainly reasonable considering the historical and cultural background of the time. Therefore, the Second Vatican Council drafted a document that emphasized Christocentrism and also reconciliation with the Protestant denominations. Because of this, Mary was only mentioned collectively in Chapter VIII of the Church Charter.

Based on this Church Charter, Marian piety should be considered in relation to faith in the Church. This is because the reality is that our faith, while a gift from God, is always given through the Church, the community of believers. Herein lies the mystery of the Church, an imperfect human gathering, giving birth

to Christians. The Church has understood this mystery to be the indwelling of the Holy Spirit through the faith of each individual, just as the Mother of God conceived the only begotten Son of God in her womb with the response, "Let it be done to me according to your word." Indeed, if we do not revere Mary as the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church, it will be difficult to see the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ, beyond the reality of man's many sins. Therefore, it is essential for the Church to look up to and follow the example of Mary, who gave herself completely to God, in order to more fully fulfill her ministry as the Mother of God's people.

When viewed from the perspective that the faith in Christ is nurtured in the bosom of this Mother, the Church, it becomes clear that the recitation of the Rosary in a family or small group is an excellent means of contemplation for Christians as an imitation of Mary who carries the mystery of Christ in her body.

Now, the scapulario as a piety handed down from the early days of the Carmelite Order, which venerates Our Lady of Mount Carmel, is, if we compare it with this rosary, a piety that conveys the very mystery of being "held in the bosom of the Mother". Every human being probably has a natural desire to feel safe in the bosom of his or her mother. The desire is not something morbid or escapist, but rather something that inevitably accompanies the attempt to live out one's faith as it is. Therefore, it is no coincidence that our faith in Christ is truly incarnated through Mary's presence, and that Marian piety has contributed to the acceptance of Christianity in various cultures.

And in Carmel's spirituality, we are told that it is precisely those who seek to deepen their intimacy with

God who will have a crisis of faith (a dark night) in which they feel as if Jesus is totally absent. In the midst of such loneliness, suffering, and darkness, wearing the scapulario, Our Lady's garment, helps us to feel Mary's protection and to maintain faith, hope, and love. Therefore, in its connection with the spirituality of Carmel, the scapulario became a piety that many sought, even the Pope recommended it at a time of crisis of faith and of the Church. So the mystery that the scapulario presents is a kind of harbor for us to live our faith in a natural way. And that port, being the bosom of the mother, also shows what the church should be. And, to speak further in terms of the Carmelite connection, the fact that Little Theresa spoke of her vocation as "the heart of the church" is a grim reminder that the mystery of the scapulario is at the heart of Carmelite spirituality.

The Scapulario of Mount Carmel is also held in Japan every year on July 16, the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, when the dressing ceremony is held in the Carmelite congregation. In the Catholic Church, acts that have a direct origin in Jesus are called sacraments, which are currently defined as seven, but the scapulario is recognized by the Church as a quasi-sacrament, as it does not have a direct origin in Jesus, but is a sure sign of God's grace. In order to live our faith in the difficult times of our time, we need now more than ever to bond with the Blessed Virgin.

Masanori Fukuda
Carmelite Priest

Praying the Rosary

History

St. Paul insisted on constant prayer, and the early Christians took this advice seriously, reciting the Old Testament Psalms as a solution to this problem in their Divine Office. Early devout monks are said to have recited 150 psalms a day.

Today, the 'Divine Office' is called the 'Church Prayer', and it is also called the 'Time Prayer' because it is prayed at a fixed time. The heart of the "Church Prayer" is the collective recitation of the 150 Psalms.

In the Society of St. Benedict, 150 psalms were divided into 1 week and recited, but in the modern "church prayer", 150 psalms are divided into 4 weeks (5 / 1 day x 30 days) and recited. Some believers began to recite the Lord's Prayer 150 times instead of chanting the 150th Psalm.

Another background is the spread of veneration for Our Lady, and in addition to the 7-8 times a day 'Holy Office' at monasteries, 'Holy Mother's Minor Office' is added. Since the believers also want to perform the "Little Divine Office to Our Lady" like the monks, they began to recite the prayer of Ave Mary (Angel's Hail) 150 times instead of the 150th Psalm.

While chanting in various formats, the format of (1) the Lord's Prayer 1 time, 2) Ave Maria Prayer (Angel's Salutation) 10 times, and 3) the format of 1 chanting (this is called Ichinen) has become established, and is still used today. , It is common to recite the Rosary in 5 stanzas (1 stanza x 5).

The rosary is said to be the crown of roses, and if the angelic salutation is replaced with another word, it

cannot be called a rosary.

Pray the Rosary

Pray in meditation (imagery) on the life of the Savior and Our Lady and the events of salvation history.

The desire to meditate on the life of the Savior, the Virgin Mary, grew, and the practice of this meditation increased around the 12th century.

The custom of meditating and reciting psalms before reciting them in the monastery's "Divine Office" was born.

All this influenced the prayer of the Rosary by the faithful, and led them to meditate on the life of the Lord before reciting the Lord's Prayer in the Rosary.

Mystery of Joy (Mondays and Saturdays)

(1) First Meditation: Annunciation, Mary receives a sign from an angel.

(2) Second Meditation: Mary visits Elizabeth.

(3) Third Meditation: The Birth of Jesus

(4) Fourth Meditation: Dedication of the Temple of Jesus

(5) Fifth Meditation: Mary Finds Jesus in the Temple

Mysteries of Light (Thursday)

(1) Meditations 1-5 along the Mystery of Light

Mystery of Suffering (Tuesdays and Fridays)

(1) Meditations 1-5 along the Mystery of Suffering

Mystery of Prosperity (Wednesdays and Sundays)

(1) Meditations 1-5 in accordance with the Mystery of Prosperity

For more information on the content of the meditations and how to pray the rosary in each mystery, see *Praying the Rosary in Pictures*, Don Bosco, Inc.

Make intentions and pray the rosary

Make an intention, meditate, and pray the Rosary for family, friends, church, and social events. By continuing to pray every day, it becomes an intercessory prayer, and we can all pray together.

Feast of the Rosary (October 7)

It celebrates the great victory of the Christian army at the Battle of Lepanto in 1571. Pope Pius V, from the beginning of the battle, relied on Our Lady to pray the Rosary diligently every day and to make men and soldiers do it. The victory in this battle was attributed to Our Lady having heard the prayer of the Rosary. Pope Gregory XIII declared the first Sunday in October to be the feast day of the Rosary to commemorate the occasion.

Our Lady told St. Dominic, "Preach the Rosary and teach me how to pray this way. This is the best way to please my Son and I," and made 15 promises. The outline is as follows:

- It is a special protection and blessing to the devout Rosary, a mighty weapon against hell.
- The Rosary brings forth virtue and good craftsmanship, and gives the soul an abundance of mercy.
- Meditatingly chanting the Rosary overcomes evil and avoids an unhappy death.
- Those who recite the Rosary are immediately delivered from purgatory by the grace of God in life and at the time of death.

- Whatever you ask for through the Rosary will be given to you.
- Help is available to those who wish to spread the Rosary.
- Devotion to the Rosary makes great prophecies.

Our Lady promises Blessed Alano: "I will gladly listen to the wishes of those who pray and continue to pray the Rosary with devotion. To those who say the Rosary I promise them special protection and great grace. Whoever recites the Rosary and trusts in me will not perish."

Our Lady exhorted Saint Bernadette (11 February 1858) to pray the Rosary diligently for the conversion of sinners. Our Lady gave the Holy Spirit to the Three Shepherds of Fatima (1916), and the believers received much help without their knowledge. She also recommended that she recite the Rosary daily because she would convert sinners and end wars.

Train yourself for piety. (1 Timothy 4.7)

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Afterlife

My Father's house has many places to live. (John 14:2) Therefore, a man will return to his father's house. A rich man who went back to his father's house...I have five brothers. Please tell them well not to come to such a painful place. (Luke 16:19-31). Also, do not appear before the Lord empty-handed. (Sir 35:6) So let's pause once again to see what kind of gift we should prepare.

Do what you need to do now while you are healthy and able to move, live your one-time life with joy and gratitude, and make sure you are well prepared for your departure so that you will have no regrets after you die.

Mission of the Church

(1) The church has received the gift of Christ's salvation, and when this salvation reaches all mankind, history will be completed and come to an end. Until then, the church on earth is on a mission to be the light of the world.

(2) The church prays not only for fellowship among believers, but also for the dead, venerates saints and asks for their intercession.

It is said that by praying for the dead, the dead prayed for will pray for us from Heaven.

Death

(1) As with the birth of a person, death becomes the birth of another being. For example, just as a chrysalis sheds its shell and becomes a butterfly, human death sheds its body into this world and transitions to eternal life (soul), returning to a state of com-

pleteness without fear or anxiety.

(2) No one dies alone, people who love them, people who care about them, guardian angels will come to pick them up and they can go to the people they love.

(3) After death, each person receives a "private judgment," a judgment of his earthly course according to God's standards. The "judgment" is an event in the apocalypse, when it is believed that there will be a resurrection of the body.

Heaven

(1) What does it mean for a person to go to heaven

Participation in God's life will be accomplished in heaven, "and then they will see face to face" (1 Corinthians 13:12), "These men can no longer die. For they are sons of God, as children of the resurrection, like angels" (Luke 20:36).

God and man will be united forever, and there will be no possibility of separation from God, and God will be all in all (1 Corinthians 15:28).

God wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. (1 Timothy 2:4) Therefore, man's final destination will be heaven.

(2) How to go straight to heaven

I ask the Lord to free my mind from all attachments and to give me the suffering it needs to go to heaven.

(3) What is happiness in heaven

There are thousands of different types of happiness, and everyone's wishes can all be fulfilled.

(4) For those who do not know the Lord

Even those who do not know the Lord and live according to their conscience can be saved by the Lord

and go to heaven.

Purgatory

(1) What is purgatory

As repentance for sins, in the sacrament of Reconciliation, sins are forgiven but atonement remains. Also, while people are living in this world, they do not necessarily live according to God's will all the time. We need to make amends for the sins that remain within us so that we can be united with God in Heaven. Souls want to make amends for their sins and go to Heaven as soon as possible, so the period here seems to be long.

Purgatory is a place where people go to Purgatory not because of God's instructions, but because they want to make amends and purify themselves. The suffering in purgatory is more severe than that on earth, and the soul seems to have already realized this suffering.

(2) Exemptions in Purgatory

Baptism, the sacrament of forgiveness, and good deeds are exempt from atonement in purgatory.

If you suffer mentally or physically in this world, the Lord will give you new faith and courage by swearing, "Oh my God, to save my suffering from my soul."

(3) Intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The souls of Purgatory tell Mary of their anguish, and she comforts them, giving them joy and hope, and making them reluctant to return to earth.

She said Mary releases them on Christmas, All Saints Day, Good Friday, Ascension Day of the Lord, Assumption of Our Lady

(4) To avoid purgatory and go straight to heaven

Love for God, humility, and self-abandonment.

Since the souls of purgatory are powerless beings who cannot do anything, they offer masses, pray for them, fast themselves, practice penance and abstinence. By doing the Way of the Cross, you will cause us to turn, to hate sin and to thirst for the salvation of all people.

The Way of the Cross makes us convert, hates sin and craves salvation for all, and relieves our suffering in Purgatory.

Reciting the Rosary three times (15 stanzas) for the dead.

(5) Others

St. Michael, the Guardian Angel and Our Lady visit us against the spirits in Purgatory.

Suicide is the result of illness, souls regret their deeds, and we see the good deeds they could have done by shortening their lives.

Souls that self-destruct with drugs suffer in Purgatory.

There are children in purgatory, but not for a long period of time and without suffering.

When demons disguised as spirits of purgatory come into the world, strongly say, "Devil go away."

Hell

(1) God has given humans free will so they can choose freely. If you deny the existence of God and choose not to go to God, you will enter hell (a state in which God and people are forever separated).

(2) Prayer for someone, a simple prayer, can prevent a spirit from going to hell.

Steps in this World

(1) Love others unconditionally, practice loving, and ask for nothing in return.

(2) Resolve that you will never go to purgatory.

In our lifetime, trials, sufferings, illnesses, and encounters with hardships are the cleansing of sins.

It is believed that the reason they do not go straight to heaven is because they are resisting these trials.

(3) We need repentance and humility.

(4) Children's prayers have great power, and parents set a good example for their children, pray for God's blessings on them, and teach them about God and how to pray.

(5) To obtain partial atonement (i.e., pardon for the sins of this life)

Annunciation Prayer, Alleluia Prayer, Meditation (Meditation), Bible Reading, Rosary Prayer, Scapular (semi-sacrament).

(6) To obtain full exemption

Holy Communion, Prayers for the Pope's Intentions (1 Lord's Prayer, 1 Angelic Salutation, Recitation of the Declaration of Faith)

Reciting the Rosary three times (15 stanzas) in a church as a family or community

walk the way of the cross.

Visit cemeteries for the dead.

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み言葉の実践 主の道こそ真理 悲しみは死を招く 疑いや怒りを断つ 復讐は主に委ねる
 苦悩には主の軛くびきを負う 主の前に正しい人は報われる 不誠実は滅びる 陽気は良薬
 陰気は骨を枯す 銭の慾は悪 惜しみなく与えるは善 言葉は言霊ことだま 舌を制して成功せよ
 真福八端しんふくはつたんを知る 主の心と言葉と行動と祈りを倣うと自律した人になる 主に感謝せよ
 求めれば与えられ探せば見いだし叩けば開かれる 主は神の僕となり遜へりくだる 前後際断ぜんごさいだん 忘己喜他もうこきた
 霊に満され熱心に祈りあとは委ねる 疲れたら黙想 み言葉と主の知恵と健康こそ財産
 命を捨てる者は与えられ守る者は失う 造られた者に福音を宣教せよ 信仰とは望みを保証し見えないことを確信する
 み言葉は羅針盤 見栄や虚栄を断つ 主と霊で繋つながりみ言葉が有れば望みは叶う
 知恵と英明や良い動機での祈りは叶う 主の祈りや薔薇ロザリオを唱える 信じて祈れば全て叶う

The Liturgy of the Word is a summary of MyBible III (Autonomous Person). If you wish to utilize this as a sutra, please use only the large kanji characters in the GWord-book. The number of characters for the text using only Kanji characters is 318.

御言葉典

神は天地を創造された 土から男が骨から女が生まれ蛇そこのかに唆され罪が入り神と人の間に
 溝が生まれる 贖い主の誕生を預言 聖霊で救い主が誕生 主の受洗
 神の国は近いと言つて宣教を開始した 癒しいや慰め励まし喜びの奇跡を行う 最後の晩餐で主の体を
 食べ血を飲む 受難と十字架刑 三日目に復活 昇天
 聖霊降臨 受洗で罪は赦される 人は死で煉獄れんごくにて罪を償い天国又は地獄へ
 父と子と聖霊の三位一体 体は霊が宿る神殿 欲や執着は苦を招く
 主の掟と十戒をを守る 一いちの心と成る 他者を許し寛容となる 善よに聴きく悪あに疎うとい 先祖を敬う
 主を畏れ知恵を得る 恐れや失望は主が不在 試練は訓練であり忍耐で救われる
 主アドの山ナイに備エえ有レり 無所有が悩を断つ 愛は人を思いやる心 思い悩みは妄想

苦腦主軛負 主正人報 不誠實滅 陽氣良葉
陰氣骨枯 錢慾惡 惜与善 言葉言靈 舌制成功
真福八端 主心言葉 行動祈 做自律人 主感謝
求与探見 叩開 主神僕 遜前後際 斷忘己喜他
靈滿熱心 祈委 疲黙想 言葉主知 惠健康財產
命捨与守 失造福音 宣教 信仰望保証 見確信
言葉羅針盤 見栄虚栄 斷主靈繫 言葉有望叶
知惠英明 良動機 祈叶 主祈薔薇 唱信祈全叶

大司教 菊地 功殿 多樣性 一致 實現 祈念

第一卷 平成三十年七月吉日 蒲池明憲 謹書

御言葉典

神天地創造 土男骨女生蛇唆罪入神人間
溝生贖主誕生預言 聖靈救主誕生主受洗
神国宣教開始 癒慰勵喜奇跡 最後晚餐主體
食血飲 受難十字架刑 三日目復活 昇天
聖靈降臨 受洗罪赦 人死煉獄罪償天国地獄
父子聖靈三位一體 體靈宿神殿 欲執着苦招
主提十戒 一心成 他許寬容 善聽惡疎先祖敬
主畏知患得 恐失望主不在 試練訓練 忍耐救
主山備有無所有 惱斷 愛人思心 思惱妄想
言葉實踐 主道真理 悲死招 疑怒斷 復讐主委

Foreword by Isao Kikuchi

November 1958 Born in Miyako City, Iwate Prefecture

1986 Ordained as a priest

He was then sent to Ghana in West Africa as a missionary until 1994.

After returning to Japan, he took a position in the Shingonkai.

2004 Appointed Bishop of Niigata and ordained as a bishop

2017 Appointed and seated as Archbishop of Tokyo

Introduction of the editor Akinori Kamachi

1950 Born in August

Baptized at Osaka Nihonbashi Christian Church of the Japan Free Methodist Church

Transferred to Ikeda Mayuyama Church of Christ Convention of Japan, to which an acquaintance of my father belongs.

Transferred to Musashi Oyama Church of Christ Convention of Japan, to which his father belonged.

Transferred to Tokyo Ikebukuro Church of Christ Church of Japan upon marriage.

The entire family converted to Catholicism with Shozo Fukukawa (a member of Azabu Catholic Church) as their substitute father.

Became a member of Catholic Tokyo Cathedral Sekiguchi Church

Belonging to Ichikawa Breakfast Prayer Meeting (held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at Yamazaki Baking Company Pension Fund Hall 2F)

Joined The Sanwa Bank, Limited (currently The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd.

President and Representative Director, Chiyoda Information Systems Co.

MyBible IV Let the Word of God Keep You Alive

The Japanese Bible is the Franciscan Bible. punctuation marks, "", and other contractions have been corrected due to the relationship between the text before and after.

Translator Yuta Minakuchi

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Published by International MyBible Society

URL <https://mybible.tokyo/>

2018 April 6, First edition

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MyBible IV

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