

**The 9th LETTER OF THE BISHOP ON THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES
PREVENTING CORONA VIRUS INFECTIONS
Re: For Resuming the Church Activities**

The Right Reverend Mario Yamanouchi, Bishop of Saitama
June 12th, 2020

Although the Declaration of state emergency issued by the Government is lifted, ‘the time of trial’ has not ended as the Precaution, called ‘Tokyo Alert’, announced by Tokyo Metropolitan Offices, continues. On the assumption of the sufficient cares I, as your Bishop, announce that, in the Diocese of Saitama together with the Archdiocese of Tokyo, we will resume the Church activities. I ask you for your kind understanding and cooperation. I pray for the repose of the souls for those who lost their lives from the coronavirus infections, as well as for those still suffering from them. I sincerely thank for those working in the various places in spite of the risk of the infections.

From June 21st, we will resume the Church activities, but *gradually*.

- 1. The Public Mass will be allowed to celebrate just once every Sunday. I am afraid that, therefore, you may join the mass once or twice a month.**
- 2. You will be asked to join the mass in your Parish, not in other Parishes.**
- 3. For the time being, all the faithful in the Diocese will be continually dispensed from the obligation to attend the Sunday masses.**
- 4. The weekday masses will be continually not open to the public.**
- 5. The persons over 65 years old will be kindly advised to refrain from attending at the mass as the Ministry of Health and Welfare reports that for those over 65 their serious risks, even fatal, from the infections are higher than those under 65. For the persons over 75, I ask you to stay at home to pray from there, taking very care of your given life.**
- 6. When you feel unwell or have temperature, please stay at home.**

We will let see how the situation goes and will reconsider the possibilities of more Church activities, including the frequency of the public masses and repealing of the restrictions for the age limit. We hope for the time to come when we gather at the church to celebrate the masses together for Sundays and weekdays as before without fear but with joy! Thank you again for your understanding and cooperation.

Ave Maria!