

The 11th LETTER OF THE BISHOP ON THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES PREVENTING CORONA VIRUS INFECTIONS

The Right Reverend Mario Yamanouchi, Bishop of Saitama
August 28th, 2020

In principle, the Same Precautionary Measures in My 10th Letter Will be Continued Until September 30th.

Dear my brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Saitama,

Two months have already passed after we resumed the Sunday masses, but gradually. Some Parishes having prepared to resume the Sunday masses will resume them on September 1st, for which I am grateful to God and all of you. Some report tells that the peak of second wave of the spread of the virus infections may be over. I have, however, asked their advices of my priests before I send this 11th letter of mine to you. Then, I have decided that, in principle, the present precautionary measures should be continued in my Diocese of Saitama until September 30th. Although I carefully examined in the possibilities of lifting for the age restrictions for the elders, I have come to conclude that it is still not the right time to do so. I am sorry for them for their sacrificial patience. However, I am sure that the time will come to us, the young and the elders together, to celebrate the Sunday masses, as well as receiving the sacraments, as before without any worries. It is, however, still the time for patience with prayers. Thank you very much again for your kind understanding and cooperation in advance.

Special Notice for some changes to be taken place; those are as follows:

- 1: I will allow you to celebrate the Vigil mass on the Saturday evening open to the public, but it should be mass in Japanese or international mass.
- 2: The baptisms which were expected for Easter will be allowed to take place with the conditions of the limited number of the attendants, keeping the precautionary measures for the preventing of the virus infections.
- 3: I can entrust to the Abbots or Abbesses their decisions if weekday masses could be open to the public at the chapels of their monasteries or novitiates within the Parishes, but with the strict conditions following the precautionary measures.

(Note) At the beginning of every month from September onward, my video message will be presented on the Diocesan Web page. Concerning the guidelines for the presentation of the video mass from your Parish church on the internet, you will hear from the Publicity Committee of the Diocese in due course.

Ave Maria!