

**The 16th LETTER OF THE BISHOP ON THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES
PREVENTING THE COVID 19 INFECTIONS**

The Right Reverend Mario Yamanouchi, Bishop of Saitama
February 5th, 2021

**Re: Responding to the Extension of the “The Second Emergency Measures”
by the Government.**

The Extension of “The Second Emergency Measures” has now been announced by the Government on February 2nd. Responding to this Announcement by the Government, the Diocese of Saitama will, in principle, follow the “Guidelines for Preventing the Covid 19 Infections” issued by the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Japan, the same as before. It reads that, during the time under the governmental emergency measures or any administrative orders of the restrictions against trading or traveling, the public masses (that is, the masses with the congregation) should be suspended.

“The Precautionary Measures preventing the Covid 19 Infections in our 15th Letter” will continually be applied throughout the Diocese until “The 2nd Emergency Measures” will be lifted by the Government (presumably on March 7th). In case, it happens that the 2nd Emergency Measures may be lifted by the Government earlier than March 7th, you will be informed in our next letter.

I will be grateful to you for your understanding for the importance of the duties entrusted by God to protect the life of everybody. During this time of trial continued, we will try our best, praying each other, as well as working together for God’s sake.

Until “The Second Emergency Measures” (at this moment, presumably on February 7th) will be lifted, all the public masses on Sundays, as well as on weekdays, will be suspended.

During the time above, all the faithful of Saitama Diocese will be dispensed from their obligation to attend Sunday masses.

All the parish activities or meetings will be cancelled, except the absolute necessary meetings for running or maintaining the parishes.