

The 23rd LETTER OF THE BISHOP ON THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES FOR PREVENTING THE COVID 19 INFECTIONS

The Right Reverend Mario Yamanouchi, Bishop of Saitama
June 30th, 2022

After the careful considerations on the current situation concerning the Covid 19, as well as on the requests and advice I heard at the Diocesan meeting with the priests and the deacons on June 20th, we, the Diocese of Saitama, have decided to ease the Diocesan Precautionary Measures for preventing the Covid 19 infections as follows:

1. The Sunday masses with the congregation (including the vigil masses)

As it has been before, the masses with the congregations will only be allowed to celebrate in Japanese, or in Japanese with the part of the readings and/or the part of the prayers of the faithful in the foreign languages.

Concerning the resuming of the masses in the foreign languages, you will see the details on the forthcoming 24th Letter of the Bishop on the precautions measures for preventing the Covid 19 infections in due course.

2. The grouping of the congregation for the masses

As the situation is different from one parish to another, you will be entrusted to make your decisions concerning the way of grouping for your congregation after your careful considerations between your Parish Priest and the parochial committee.

3. The singing the hymns (including the responsories and the Lord's Prayer etc.,) at the Sunday masses

You will be requested to put the mouth masks on. You may decide who may sing the hymns etc., either the soloist or the choir or even the whole congregation but in small voices.

4. The Holy Communion

As it has been before, you will continually be asked to put the mouth masks on, to wash you hands carefully and not to receive the communion in the mouth.

5. The serving at the altar by the altar servers etc.

You will be asked to keep the precautions measures for preventing the Covid 19 infections, such as to put the mouth masks on and to disinfect your hands and fingers carefully etc., as before.

6. The restrictions on the numbers at the parochial meetings and study groups etc.

You will be entrusted to make your decisions on the numbers at the parochial meetings etc., but by keeping the precautions measures for preventing the Covid 19 infections, such as to put the mouth masks on and to avoid the congestions etc.

However, you will not be allowed to hold the gatherings with food and drink after the masses etc., for the time being.

Thank you very much for your understanding and kind cooperation.