

Dear His Holiness, Pope Francis:

I humbly offered eight English translation works of the Great East Japan Earthquake approximately three years ago. And I recall my pleasure and sincere gratitude when receiving a letter from His Holiness.

I would like to first express my deepest condolences for the Notre-Dame cathedral fire.

Last November, the Japanese media reported that His Holiness would be visiting Japan. It also reported that His Holiness may visit Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and disaster-stricken areas of the Great East Japan Earthquake..

I sincerely wish for His Holiness to visit Ishinomaki. I began to have thoughts of the possibility for His Holiness to meet with the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake in Ishinomaki. As His Holiness knows, Masamune Date was the first to send a mission to the Vatican in Japanese history. Led by Hasekura Tsunenaga and accompanied by missionary Luis Sotelo, the mission departed from Tsukinoura of Ishinomaki and crossed the Pacific Ocean on board the ship "San Juan Bautista" built by the Sendai clan. In current day Ishinomaki, there is the bronze statue of Hasekura Tsunenaga and the restored "San Juan Bautista."

After over 400 years, I believe that His Holiness's visit to Ishinomaki will be a visit of reflection upon the historical ties and for His Holiness's thoughts to be with the affected victims. There are still many people that are struggling. For example, in Onagawa, a husband acquired a diving license to search for his dear wife lost in the tsunami and has been diving into the sea more than 300 times. It would be of great value to the affected victims if His Holiness were to visit the disaster-stricken areas including Ishinomaki and offer a prayer. Also, if His Holiness were to see the remains of the earthquake it would convey a strong message to the world to earnestly consider disaster prevention and mitigation. I sincerely feel that a visit by His Holiness will deepen the bond between both countries.

A world without nuclear weapons and eternal peace on earth are of grave importance. I have visited both Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is my sincere hope that the tragic history will never occur again. The visit by His Holiness will surely convey a powerful message to the world to implement a world without nuclear weapons. His Holiness's visit is greatly anticipated by the victims, and people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Many people today continue to suffer after the Great East Japan Earthquake and the accident of the Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plants as well. According to

news reports dated March 21, 2019, a young sixteen year old man who had voluntarily evacuated from Fukushima had an audience with His Holiness and humbly wished for His Holiness to visit Fukushima.

I understand that His Holiness's time in Japan will be limited. With humility I ask for the realization of a visit to disaster-stricken areas of Miyagi, Iwate, and Fukushima by His Holiness.

With every good wish to His Holiness,  
I am, Sincerely Yours,

May 7, 2019

(Reiwa Beautiful harmony)

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