

“Donation of Love” Lenten Campaign

Although the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy closed at the end of last year, the appeal of Pope Francis, “The Church is commissioned to announce the mercy of God,” (Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, 12) will never lose its meaning for years to come. God’s mercy is surely for the oppressed, those in difficulties and those in sorrow. But at the same time, it is for those who are living according to a sense of values contrary to God, because our gracious God embraces all with His mercy. I think the Church as the sign of mercy should not exclude anyone, but welcome all warm-heartedly.

Lent is precisely a season to express God’s mercy concretely to many people. It is the season when we should return to the origin of our faith. We are sent into the world to experience the mercy of our Father and convey it to the hearts of all people.

The Church’s tradition calls us to reaffirm the origin of our faith through prayer, abstinence and acts of charity during Lent. This Lenten Campaign is nothing less than the service of charity combined with the will to make sacrifices. During these forty days, please support our campaign with a self-sacrificing spirit and let’s participate in the Church’s service of charity together.

Lenten donations collected by Caritas Japan are indispensable not only for emergency disaster aid, but also for the protection of numerous lives of those who are threatened by crises at home and abroad. Your donations are also used for long-term aid focusing on minority children’s education, women’s self-reliance and other issues. These aid activities conducted by Caritas Japan are supported by your contributions, especially your Lenten donations, which account for one third of the total of our annual aid.

During Lent this year, please support our Lenten campaign by making a contribution so that we can embody God’s mercy and live with generous hearts embraced by God’s love.

March 1, 2017

Ash Wednesday

Bishop Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi, President of Caritas Japan