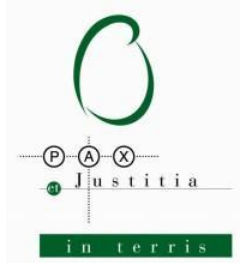


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Prot.No.26/2024
May 9, 2024

Bishop of Nagoya
Bishop Goro Matsuura

Report and Response to the Damage Caused by the Noto Peninsula Earthquake (6)

Dear Parishioners,

+Peace to you!

Four months have passed since the Noto Peninsula earthquake. I would first like to thank everyone for the many prayers and the donations that arrive daily from all over Japan. We have received goodwill from churches, organizations, and individuals from Hokkaido to Okinawa, and even from overseas, and I am keenly aware of how many people are supporting us. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

As you know from news reports and other media, infrastructure such as water supply is gradually improving, but in the affected areas, especially in the northern part of Noto and parts of Uchinada where liquefaction has caused serious damage, broken houses are not being demolished or even removed, so we expect that it will take a considerable amount of time to rebuild the houses. It is expected to take a considerable amount of time to rebuild. As of April 30, as many as 4,606 people were forced to live as evacuees at schools or in hotels far from the affected areas.

Future Church Reconstruction

We will provide a detailed report on the church's recovery plan and how the donations collected will be used in the future, but today I would like to give you a general idea of the direction we are heading.

By the end of April, donations to the Diocese of Nagoya totaled more than 140 million yen. We are in the process of disbursing these donations to provide lump-sum payments and purchase goods for the affected congregations, as well as to cover personnel expenses for priests who have come to the diocese for pastoral cooperation and other various expenses. The funds will be used to repair and construct church buildings damaged by the earthquake and to improve the site where the land was broken. We are in the process of examining what and to what extent to repair and rebuild after conducting a safety assessment of the buildings and surveying and estimating the land.

Future Community Support System

The parish is working with the support of Caritas Japan for people in the local community. As a base for volunteers, we used to use Hakui Church as a base for women, but now that we have a place for both men and women to stay at Nanao Church, we are expanding our activities from there to the suburbs of Nanao City and Wajima City.

The ERST (Emergency Response Support Team) of the Central Catholic Conference, which has been cooperating with us since the disaster began, was dispatched for a period of three months (until April 12), but we asked for an extension and received approval to dispatch them for another three months. However, they will not provide full support as in the past, but will be involved and give advice as needed. In addition, Franciscan Father Katsuya Motoda, who has been supporting us for a long period of time, will finish his term of dispatch on May 12, and Father Insen of the Divine Word Missionary will also finish at the end of May. Thus, the support system will change little by little, but now, four months after the disaster, we are entering the stage of creating a continuous reconstruction support system for the recovery from the emergency support system that has been in place until now. We will make another announcement in the near future regarding the staff, volunteers, etc. that will be needed.

That is all