

To Our Parishioners

January 5, 2024

Bishop Goro Matsuura

Report on the Damage Caused by the Noto Peninsula Earthquake (1)

+Peace to you

We would like to report on the Noto Peninsula earthquake that occurred on January 1. The situation in general has been reported in detail in the media, so this report is about the church.

Immediately after the earthquake on January 1, Father Yoshihiro Kataoka, pastor of the Ishikawa area, went to a church on the Noto Peninsula, but the road was cut off and he had to turn back. He tried to go there again on January 2, and could visit Nanao Church, but he couldn't go to Wajima Church due to road conditions, but he could get a report from the head of the kindergarten adjacent to the church, which helped us understand the situation. Please see the attached sheet for a report from Father Kataoka on the damage.

I also contacted parishes and monasteries in Toyama and Fukui prefectures to confirm their safety and the extent of damage. There seemed to be almost no damage.

Immediately after the earthquake, Bishop Daisuke Narui, Bishop in charge of Caritas Japan, and Archbishop Isao Kikuchi, President of the Bishops' Conference of Japan, contacted us for support and cooperation. It was also reported that on the 2nd, the Vatican sent a message from Pope Francis to the Japanese side, stating that he was "deeply saddened to learn of the loss of life and damage caused by the earthquake," and that he "expresses his heartfelt solidarity with all those affected, especially the dead and those mourning their loss, and promises to pray for the rescue of those who are missing. The Yomiuri Shimbun reported the news. (From Yomiuri Shimbun Online)

We sincerely appreciate everyone's prayers and requests for support.

Yesterday (January 3), the Diocese of Nagoya (Bishop, Father Kataoka from the area, Secretary General of the Pastoral Council for Missions, and Chairman of the Caritas Welfare Committee), the Emergency Response Support Team (ERST) of the Central Council of

Catholic Church of Japan, the Bishop in charge of Caritas Japan and committee members held an online meeting to confirm the situation and discuss future policies.

About the future

1. Situation in the affected areas

As in the past, we will keep each parish and monastery in the Diocese of Nagoya informed by e-mail and fax as needed. The Nagoya Diocese website is currently under maintenance, but we will make the information of the Noto Peninsula earthquake information available on the Nagoya Diocese website, so please check the information on our website.

2 Nagoya diocese is not currently recruiting volunteers, however, if you are interested, please contact your local social welfare council. For relief supplies, please do the same.

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3 About the Donations

The earthquake has caused severe damage to Wajima Church and Nanao Church in the northern part of the Noto Peninsula. Therefore, the diocese has decided to ask everyone to donate to the relief fund for the support and restoration of the people affected by the earthquake. Please send your donations to the diocesan headquarters in the following way. The diocese will make the first round of donations until the end of June 2024, and will let you know whether or not we will continue to do so, depending on the situation.

Bank transfer

Postal transfer account number: 00810-5-50605

Name of subscriber: カトリック名古屋教区 (Catholic Diocese of Nagoya)

Please write **のと地震**"NONO EARTHQUAKE" in the correspondence column.

Please transfer the funds to the above account even if you are organizing the relief efforts at your parish. The relief funds will be used to restore church-related facilities in the diocese and to support the victims of the disaster. We may also use the funds for other activities that are of public interest (in the affected areas in general).

We sincerely appreciate all the support and prayers that have already been sent so far. We pray for the eternal rest of those who lost their lives and for the speedy rescue of those who are still missing, and for those who have been evacuated from the affected areas and those who have been in the difficult situation.