

英語
ENGLISH

2019年 四旬節愛の献金 趣意書

Our Lenten Donation of Love

Our world does not exist in chaotic meaninglessness. Our faith teaches us that God created the world according to a divine plan. In that plan, God has created each of us in the divine image and given us a special dignity and mission.

Unfortunately, we do not make God's plan happen. Instead, many people live in situations where they are deprived of their dignity and are unable to fulfill their vocation. Sometimes those situations are the result of distortions caused by human pride and selfishness.

In his Lenten message this year, Pope Francis calls upon us to take a new look at our relationship with the rest of God's creation and to not devote ourselves to greed, but to humbly build mutually life-giving relationships. We do not want to choose the way of competition. Rather, we hope to help each other along the way by living the law of God, the commandment of love.

Lent is a time to take new practical steps on that path. That requires that our faith undergo a continual conversion. We must return to the roots of our faith, asking ourselves if we faithfully strive to bring the light of the Gospel to all people.

One of the essential elements of the Church is loving service, and for us the work of loving service does not mean simply being nice. It means living the essence of faith. In that sense, our various efforts to protect God's gift of life are certainly works in service of love.

The Lenten tradition of the Church calls for us to rethink our faith, emphasizing prayer, fasting and works of love. Our Lenten contributions are a work of love done with a heart devoted to making a sacrifice. During these 40 days, please cooperate with the Caritas Lenten campaign by participating in the Church's work of love with a heart willing to sacrifice for others. Let's work together to protect God's precious gift of life.

In addition to emergency disaster relief, your response to the Caritas Lenten Campaign provides long-term support for programs to protect endangered life in Japan and abroad by supporting the education of ethnic minority children in developing countries and women's empowerment. Of course, support for Caritas Japan comes from everyone's donations throughout the year, but one third of that support comes from contributions to the Caritas Lenten Campaign.

Please cooperate in the Caritas Lenten Campaign again this year so that the love in your heart can reach many people throughout the world.

Archbishop Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi, President
Caritas Japan
Ash Wednesday, 2019