

Catholic Sendai Diocese Newsletter

No.14 Issue(250)

June 11, 2023

Catholic Sendai Diocese

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Issued by public relations committee

URL <http://sendai.catholic.jp/>

Ordination of Fr.Takagi Kentaro



On April 29, 2023, the ordination of Deacon Takagi Kentaro was held at Mototerakoji Cathedral. Prayers of thanksgiving were offered along with joy at the birth of a new priest, the first for Sendai Diocese in 17 years.

Ordination Mass

Following the "Vocation Meeting in Sendai" held in the morning, children all over the diocese of Sendai dressed in white samurai uniforms and nervously clasped their hands together as the procession began. More than 40 children entered the cathedral amidst echoes of song of jubilation.

The priests entered the sanctuary, followed by Deacon Takagi Kentaro, Bishop Koda Kazuo, Bishop Hiraga Tetsuo, and Bishop Gacutan Edgar, and the Mass began.

More than 400 people gathered in the cathedral expressed their joy through singing the hymn of glory and praises after being deprived of music and singing for the past 3 years because of the pandemic.

The first reading from 1 Thessalonians 5:4-18 was read by Mr. Kim Jian. After the responsorial psalm and the Alleluia, the Gospel reading of Mark 1:16-20 was read by Deacon Watanabe Tetsuro, SJ.

The Rite of Priesthood Ordination



Calling of the Candidate: After the procession into the Church, Opening Prayers and the Liturgy of the Word, the ordaining Bishop - in this case Bishop Gacutan Edgar - calls the priestly candidate-Deacon Takagi Kentaro- by name. The candidate responds, "Present".



Presentation, inquiry, and acceptance of the candidate. Examination and promises of obedience.



Chanting of the Litany: During the singing of the Litany of the Saints, candidate prostrates before the Altar. The prayers of the Litany invoke God's saving mercy and the intercession of all the saints to send down the Holy Spirit upon the soon to be priests.



Laying on of Hands and Ordination Prayer: This is when the Bishop ordains the candidate by laying his hands on the top of his head to invoke the Holy Spirit in the new priest. Other priests present lay their hands on the newly ordained priest.



Vesting of the new priest: The newly ordained priest removes his deacon stole and is presented with his priestly Stole and Chasuble.



Anointing of the hands



Offering of the gifts: The gifts of Bread and Wine are brought to the Altar for the celebration of the Eucharist. The new priest receives the Paten and Chalice from the Ordaining Bishop.



After the Ordination Rite the Mass continued.

Thanksgiving Message from Fr. Takagi Kentaro

Come, Follow me!



On April 29th (Saturday, national holiday), I was ordained as a priest at Mototerakoji Church of the Sendai Diocese under the warm gaze of many people. I am very grateful for your attendance. Thank you to those who could not make it that day, but prayed for me from afar.

I would also like to thank all of you who worked so hard in the many meetings, preparations, and set-up for my ordination. Many priests came from afar, even though they were busy the following day because it's Sunday. Many priests came from far away, and some of my junior classmates also came. I would like to thank everyone I met. I would also like to thank the Vietnamese Youth Association from the 4th district for presenting the ordination chasuble, Mizusawa Church and its volunteers for the four-color chasuble, and Fr. Aime for the chalice. Thank you very much. In the morning before the ordination ceremony, a vocation meeting was held. Thank you to everyone who spoke and gave a presentation, it was a wonderful gathering. Thanks also to all who served as ushers! My priestly life has begun. The next day was the first Mass at Mototerakoji Church at 7:00, 9:00, and 6:00 pm. There was no limit to the number of people who could attend the first Mass. Many people came. Thank you very much. I was nervous, but it was truly a Mass of blessings. I felt great joy while presiding over the Mass with Fathers Onodera Yoichi, Varela Miguel, Martinez Ignacio, and my classmate Fr. Ito. In addition to all the chaplains, the Vietnamese youth also served as acolytes including one who served at the 6:00 p.m. Mass. Thank you everyone! Three months after my ordination, I will be sent to study at Saint Louis University in Baguio, Philippines by the end of July. I was surprised when I first heard about it. I never thought that I would study abroad. God really does work in mysterious ways. I will walk as a priest with Jesus' words in my heart.

Diocesan Vocation Gathering at the Sendai Cathedral

On April 29, prior to the ordination of Deacon Takagi Kentaro, a "Vocation Gathering" was held at Mototerakoji Cathedral with volunteers from elementary school students to young adults from all over the Sendai Diocese.

In his address, Bishop Gacutan Edgar said, "Each one of us, without exception, is given a vocation. The vocation of our mothers and fathers who raised us. The vocation of the priests and leaders who taught us about Jesus Christ. We experience God's love thanks to various people. Let us think together about how we can share this same love of God."

The gathering began with the singing of "Amen Hallelujah" lead by Fecteau Julie and Sr. Gardner Odile.

The first session began with a presentation by Araga Kunio of Mototerakoji Church on "Martyrs of Sendai Diocese." Through this presentation, the participants learned about the faith of our predecessors. Then, as "disciples of Jesus," six adults spoke about their callings.



Fr. Horie Setsuro talked about his encounter with Jesus and his mission overseas. Fr. Too Paul talked about his experience in his hometown in Kenya and how he became a missionary. Sr. Inae Sawako joined the Sisters of Ottawa after being sent by Caritas Japan for the Great East Japan Earthquake. Muller Sylvie, from France, shared her experience of volunteering at a community called "Kokoro no Minato". Mr. Nguyen Dinh Quang, a Vietnamese technical intern, shared how he decided to become a priest of the Sendai Diocese. The last person to appear at the event was soon-to-be ordained priest, Deacon Takagi Kentaro. He said that the best way to serve Jesus is to become a priest or a sister.

NEWS FROM SENDAI DIOCESE

The 1st anniversary of the ordination of Bishop Gacutan

March 19, the fourth Sunday of Lent, marks the 1st year anniversary of ordination of Bishop Gacutan Edgar of the Sendai Diocese, which took place exactly one year ago on March 19 at the Cathedral.



Caritas Michinoku Gathering



March 18th (Saturday), "Caritas Michinoku Gathering" was held at Caritas Ishinomaki Base. "Caritas Michinoku" is an all-Japan system of Catholic churches in Japan, with eight volunteer bases built in the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. This group was established by staff volunteers of Caritas on the 10th anniversary of the disaster. They aim to maintain the ties that have developed up to this point, to exchange information, to train, and to respond to future disasters.

The 4th General Assembly of the Sendai Diocese Public Relations Committee



The general meeting of the Sendai Diocese Public Relations Committee was held on March 21 at Mototerakoji Church for the first time in three years, with Bishop Gacutan, six members of the public relations committee, and representatives from the eight districts. Bishop Gacutan emphasized the importance of public relations for the Gospel ministry, referring to the Second Vatican Council's "Decree on Public Information Agencies."

NEWS UPDATE FROM THE DISTRICTS

District #1

Namiuchi and Honcho Churches

This year, for the first time in two years, we were able to celebrate Holy Week and Easter Sunday together. The triduum was held at Namiuchi Church together with Honcho Church.



District #7

Nodamachi Church

On Saturday, April 22, 2023, before the transition to the new district system, parishioners from District 7 gathered at Nodamachi Catholic Church in Fukushima to attend a conference. The topic of the conference is in line with

the theme of the Synod on Synodality which is "Journeying Together: Communion, Participation, and Mission." Bishop Koda Kazuo was the guest speaker, Bishop Gacutan Edgar presided the Mass, and Deacon Takagi Kentaro joined the whole event.



Koriyama Church

After 25 years, Koriyama Church bought a new organ. On April 30th (Sun), there was a celebration for the blessing of the new organ.