



DIOCESE OF HIROSHIMA

ALEXIS MITSURU SHIRAHAMA
DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA EPISCOPUS HIROSHIMAENSIS

BISHOP'S OFFICE
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PROT.N.

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Diocese of Hiroshima

Bishop of the Diocese of Hiroshima
Alexis Mitsuru Shirahama

On the News of Pope Francis' Death

+ Requiescat in Pace

On April 21, Monday of the Resurrection of Our Lord, at 7:35 AM, Pope Francis returned to Heaven at the age of 88. I would like to join my heart with all believers around the world and with my brothers and sisters of the Diocese of Hiroshima in praying for the eternal rest of Pope Francis.

Pope Francis emphasized the mercy of God, and during his pontificate, he was especially mindful of protecting the lives and rights of the poor and vulnerable. He also visited Japan in November 2019 under the theme "To Protect All Life." On November 24, he visited the two A-bombed cities (Nagasaki and Hiroshima), and at the "Gathering for Peace" held in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, he met directly with the A-bomb survivors and delivered a powerful message calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Pope Francis also focused on church reform and on the issue of sexual abuse by the church clergy. He opened the 16th World Conference of Representative Bishops (Synod) from 2021 to 2024 to promote the creation of a "Church that walks together" for Communion, Participation, and Missionary Endeavor.

The Diocese of Hiroshima would like to offer a Mass of thanksgiving to Pope Francis for his visit to Hiroshima and pray for his eternal rest on Friday, April 25, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the World Peace Memorial Church (Cathedral). We would also appreciate if each parish could offer a prayer for Pope Francis in the General Intercession Prayers on the next Sunday Mass (Divine Mercy Sunday) and in the Eucharistic Prayer.

Sample text of the General Intercession Prayers:

§ God of divine mercy, as your faithful servant for 12 years guiding the Church around the world, receive into your presence Pope Francis and grant him eternal rest.

§ God of everlasting grace, you sent Pope Francis to the A-bombed cities to defend all life and to appeal for World Peace, especially the abolition of nuclear weapons. May we carry out his will and fulfill your mission as apostles of peace.



+ Alexis Mitsuru Shirahama