

ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

August - September 2023

BI-MONTHLY ENGLISH BULLETIN



The Summer Months

By Sr. Flor M. Florece, FI

Strictly speaking, summer in Japan spans three months—June, July, and August. But actually it kicks off around mid-May, lasting through to mid-September. This year it was marked by sweltering heat, unbearable humidity, torrential rains and typhoons that stayed stationary for several days.

How was your summer? Did you spend part of it in your home country? Did you flee from Tokyo's crushing summer heat by local travel like attending a **matsuri** (festival), going to the beach, watching **hanabi** (fireworks)? Did you cool yourself with **kakigori** (crushed ice with syrup)? Beer? What did you enjoy most during the Obon holidays?

These three months, despite the summer heat, there were also many movements in the Church—both within our parish and in the Catholic world at large. In **June**, here in St. Ignatius we had First Communion and Confirmation Ceremonies, re-started the International Masses, cancelled the Sunday 4:30 p.m Youth Mass and transferred it to the noon Mass on the 2nd Sunday of each month. In **July**, the annual General Assembly of Parishioners was held to report on annual parish activities. Fr Toshiaki Koso, SJ shared his ideas on what steps the community could take as we enter post-Covid times.

An award-winning film in English on the life of St Ignatius of Loyola was shown to celebrate his feast day. In **August**, our



delegates to World Youth Day 2023 went to Lisbon, Portugal, and a Summer Camp for Children organized by the English Sunday School was held for the first time. There were other activities, too, like baptisms, weddings, funerals, and visits to museums such as those organized by the International Youth Ministry. And have you noticed that the number of Mass-goers at the English Mass has significantly returned to what it was before the pandemic? And that during the summer months many tourists, with luggage in tow, made attending Sunday Mass part of their Sunday itinerary?

As we move into **September** and gaze at the horizon for the coming months, more activities await us—the Ignatian Youth Day Celebration (IYD), during which our World Youth Day delegates will share their experiences, the inauguration of the new Sunday School Program, an International Mass led by the Japanese Group featuring Blessed Justo Takayama Ukon. (Do you know who he is?) Preparations are in full

swing for an International Mass to launch the present Church's 25th Anniversary. Most importantly, do you realize that we are already in the 3rd phase of preparations for the SYNOD, which will open in Rome in October? How much do you know about the Synod? What is the latest news about it?

Indeed, notwithstanding the havoc wrought by climate changes and three years of limited movement because of the pandemic, the vibrancy in St Ignatius and in the Church at large is steadily returning! That is why, this August-September issue has more pages than usual. Flip the pages and know more about what has been happening these summer months. Enjoy the pictures!

As we move on, hopefully, to cooler months, come and join us in our many activities. For newcomers, see where you can share your gifts and talents.

Be part of St. Ignatius Church, let it be your second home here in Japan!



that, for the first time in the history of SYNODS, participation of women and lay people has been introduced, and that they can vote in the Vatican Assembly?



Previously, only bishops could vote. Last month, the Holy Father released the names of 70 non-bishops who will attend the forthcoming Synod from October 4-29 in Rome. Of these, 10 come from Asia. And, for the first time, a **Japanese and a woman** was appointed by Pope Francis as one of the President

Delegates. Her name is Momoko Nishimura, graduate of Sophia University and member of a secular institute. She is one of several chosen by the Pope, according to the Vatican, “not only for their general culture and prudence, but also for their knowledge, both theoretical and practical.” Their responsibility is to moderate the daily sessions in the Pope’s behalf. Let’s fervently pray that all, bishops and lay, may be docile to the Spirit!

that next year, **October 13, 2024 will mark the 25th Anniversary of the present St Ignatius Church?** The first church, dedicated to St Thérèse of Lisieux, was a wooden structure located some distance away and was destroyed during the Tokyo bombings in World War II. The second structure, built on our present site and dedicated to St Ignatius, was able to accommodate numerous Mass-goers. What you see now was built almost 25 years ago. Last July, a short teaser was played before all the Masses to let people become aware of the significance of the occasion. Did you see it?

The Pastoral Council has begun planning commemorative events. One is the Church Festival on October 8 this year, to be highlighted with an International Mass at 11 a.m. It will be jointly organized by the various communities of St Ignatius—Japanese, English, Vietnamese, Spanish, Indonesian, etc. Another event is a LOGO campaign open to youth and children as well. Why include the children? Obviously, they are the next generation who will make up the future of St Ignatius Church! An awarding ceremony will be held during the Church Festival and all entries will be displayed.

the significance of **August 6, 9, and 15 in Japan?** Lest these dates be eclipsed in our consciousness because of our many summer activities and social media distractions, let’s remember that the first two dates mark the first dropping of atomic bombs in the world—August 6 in Hiroshima and August 9 in Nagasaki, in 1945. It was on August 15 of the same year, while the universal Church was celebrating the Solemnity of the Assumption, that World War II ended. The Japanese faithful attribute this to the intercession of the Blessed Mother.

This year is the 78th Anniversary of the bombings. The Japanese government celebrates the occasion with solemn memorials. The Catholic Church, through the Bishops, organize yearly “Ten Days Prayer for Peace.” This year there was a special commemoration on August 12 in the Tokyo Cathedral.

Let’s not forget one of the darkest periods in the history not only of Japan but of humankind. Let’s pray for a world without nuclear weapons, amid growing fears of nuclear war following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

that the next World Youth Day will be held in 2027 in **Seoul, South Korea?** Why four years from now? Because in 2025, a Jubilee of Youth will be held in Rome. So young people, especially teenagers, start saving now for either one of these Church events! Some of the 2023 WYD participants dreamt of participating in a WYD and their dream came true. Now it is your turn to dream. Why not? Seoul is not that far away...



In the meantime, for all those curious or eager to hear from those who attended the WYD in Lisbon, attend the 10 a.m. Japanese Mass on September 3. In the afternoon, there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed by a Youth Party. For those who want to hear the sharing in English, attend the Youth Mass on September 10 at 12:00 p.m.

DIARY OF A PILGRIM (From MAGIS to WYD)

By Rei Villarosa

What it was like...

7/21 (Fri.) 7 pm. Assembly time at Narita Airport. Picture-taking & free time. Departed at 10:30 via Emirates Airline heading to Dubai for a layover. Around a ten-and-a-half hour flight.

Finally, the day has come. We were all so excited! And as for me, I could not believe my childhood dream was about to come true!

7/22 (Sat.) Arrived 4 am (local time) in Dubai International Airport. 3.5-hr layover. Flight to Lisbon at 7:45 (local time). Around 7.5-hr flight. Arrived 12:30 pm in Lisbon International Airport (local time). Bus service going to the main airport. Finished immigration and other procedures by 2:30 pm. Photo-op/simcard for mobile data of others. Left the airport around 3:15 pm via metro/subway going to Villa Magis (main venue: School of St John de Britto) Arrived after 4:30 pm. Registration. Welcoming Program at 5 pm.

Whew! That was a loooooonnnnnnnngggg trip!

6:30 pm Opening Mass. It was the Feast of St Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles.

"We're here because someone told us about the risen/living Jesus! May MAGIS/WYD be an avenue of Renewal of our Encounter with Jesus!... In the gospel, like Magdalene who was weeping, we also experience emptiness in our lives, when we cannot find meaning in our lives, and only Jesus can fill that void/emptiness... But remember that, when we weep, we tend not to see the reality because of our blurred vision and that the reality is that Jesus is alive!...May we seek and strive for MAGIS in our self-giving!..."

Dinner past 8 pm. 9:30 pm Grand Opening Program. Examen. Silence...

7/23 (Sun) Breakfast. 9 am Morning Prayer. 10:30 **Who Are We** (about MAGIS)—Creators of a Hope-Filled Future, Co-creating (praise) a hope-filled (reverence) future (service). *Humility! Finding God in all things! God is already in all things! So we have to be humble 24/7. Remember who you are before him! Remember who you are before your Creator! Serve. The first to lead is to serve! Love is shown more in deeds than in words!*

Lunch time and Sharing of Japan delegation in small groups. 5:30 pm Magis Circle (Sharing per experience group; Mixed with other countries who have the same experiences). 7:15 pm Mass. Dinner. Acoustic Praise Concert (Jesuita Acoustico).

7/24-28 (Mon-Fri) MAGIS Experience. For these five days, there were different MAGIS Experiences/ Experiments prepared, such as Pilgrimage & Journeying, Faith & Spirituality, Arts & Culture, Ecology, etc. All activities focused on the theme "Creating a Hope-filled Future." These various experiences were scattered all around Portugal and Spain.

In my case, I was able to join the Magis Experiment at Rodizio (Casa de Exercisios de Sto Inacio) in Colares, Portugal, which was a Faith & Spirituality experience. We had a week-long retreat focusing on Reparative Dialogue (while reflecting on the journey of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus), *on how we can still see hope and not fall into despair despite our own woundedness/ brokenness—awareness, humility, acceptance—which can lead us to be wounded healers just like Jesus.*

"We cannot heal our woundedness just by mere self-isolation. We have to accept our vulnerability and seek the help of our neighbors and especially of God... To increase patience within ourselves and with the people we encounter, and handle conflicts while seeing Jesus himself in our enemies...If this mindset is instilled in each one's heart, a hope-filled future is surely attainable."

Our activities in this experience included Prayers, Celebration of the Eucharist, Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, Sessions/ Reflections, Magis Circle Sharing, and Service at a Home for the Elderly.



Attending a WYD had always been an aspiration...



Dream come true!

7/29 (Sat) - last day of Magis Experience. 8:30 breakfast. 9:30 Morning Prayer. 10:30 Magis Circle. 11:20 synthesis, last gathering with large group, giving of some gifts for remembrance. Mass at 12 noon. Lunch at 1 pm. 2 pm clean up/pack up. 3 pm departure from the Retreat House. Arrived in Villa Magis past 4 pm. Welcoming of delegates coming from the different experiences. 8 pm dinner. 9 pm concert. Examen.

7/30 (Sun) 8 am breakfast. 8:30 some stretching. 9 am Morning Prayer. 10:30 breakout sessions (joined the Magis Asia Pacific Gathering). 12 noon lunch. 5:15-6:30 pm Magis Circle. 6:45 pm Mass. 8 pm dinner. 8:30 pm-11:00 Festival of Nations. Examen.

7/31 (Mon) 8 am breakfast. 9 am gathering for group photo at field and Morning Prayer. 10-12 noon Talk with Father Arturo Sosa, General of the Society of Jesus. 12 noon send-off Mass. 2 pm lunch. 3:45 pm departure from Villa Magis. Transfer and check-in at Parish (Penha de Franca) for WYD events.

8/1 (Tues) City of Joy/Youth Festival various activities throughout the day. The Magis group was divided into smaller

THE CATHOLIC FAITH

groups in order to move easily through the city and attend preferred events.

The City of Joy is a place of encounter with Jesus where pilgrims will find various experiences of Christian living and joy. They were urged to look at their own lives and discover a path as a response to God who calls each of us by our own name. Passing through the City of Joy means encountering a living God who invites us to experience his forgiveness and mercy and to give our lives generously in response to his loving purposes.

The Youth Festival was a series of cultural, religious, and sporting events organized by WYD pilgrims. More than 100 venues throughout the city hosted events with free admission for all. Main Event: 7 pm Opening Mass led by Cardinal Manuel Clemente, Patriarch of Lisbon.

8/2 (Wed) 9:30-11:30 at Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Porta do Céu. RISE-Up Catechesis Day 1 on **Integral Ecology**. Small group sharing. Sharing in the large group from 5 people. Sharing from a bishop, Bp. Narui of Niigata. 11:30-12:30 Mass. Then City of Joy/Youth Festival for the rest of the day.

8/3 (Thurs) 9:30-11:30 at the Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Porta do Céu. RISE-Up Catechesis Day 2. **On fraternity**. Opening Song, prayer. Sharing/talk by one seminarian from Osaka. Sharing by group on one of the discussion questions. Sharing with

larger group. Synthesis of the bishops' sharing in each large group. 11:30-12:30 Mass by the Archbishop of Osaka. Rest of the afternoon is free time/one's own choice. Visit to Lisbon Cathedral and St Anthony of Padua Church. 3 pm attended Mass of Filipino delegates for WYD in St Mary Magdalene with 3 bishops and other Filipino priests who are attending the WYD. Walked to Parque Eduardo VII (Colino do Encontro) 5:45-7:30 pm Welcome Ceremony for Pope Francis. Performances. Liturgical Service. Proclamation of the Word. Message by Pope Francis. Enthronement of the WYD icons (Pilgrim cross and image of Mama Mary).

8/4 (Fri) 9:30-11:30 at Igreja Charneca. RISE-Up Catechesis Day 3. **On God's Mercy**. Introduction. Recap of 2 days (*Laudato Si', Fratelli Tutti*). Message from Cardinal Tagle. Eucharistic Adoration & Confession. Mass by Cardinal Tagle. Then City of Joy/Youth Festival for the rest of the day (one's own choice). 6 pm Way of the Cross with Pope Francis

8/5 (Sat) Camp-out at Campo do Graca (Parque Tejo) for Vigil with Pope Francis (8:45-10:30 pm). "Pilgrimage/Pilgrims' Walk" going to the venue.

8/6 (Sun) 9 am Missioning Mass by Pope Francis. Feast of the Transfiguration (to shine, to listen, and to...)

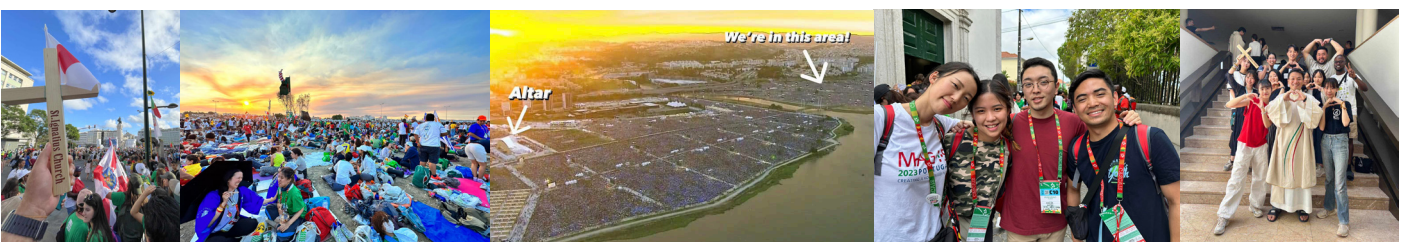
8/7 (Mon) Extra free day. Visit to Fatima by MAGIS-Japan group.

8/8 (Tues) Travel back to Lisbon for flight to Tokyo.

8/9 (Wed) Arrival in Japan. **Tadaima!**



Caption from left to right: 1. "Welcome to World Youth Day!"; 2. Arrival of Japan delegation; 3. MAGIS Departure; 4. WYD Main Stage



1. Opening Mass and cross from St. Ignatius; 2. Camp-out at Campo do Graca; 3. Our location during the vigil; 4. Japanese group reunited after catechism; 5. Delegates from St. Ignatius at Coimbra



1. Sea of pastors during the Missioning Mass; 2. Santuario de Fatima; 3. Walking for hours and hours; 4. Next WYD announced **See you in Seoul!** (<https://www.lisboa2023.org/en/article/see-you-in-seoul-in-2027>)

“Life After World Youth Day 2023”

And now, the 1.5 million participants from 21 countries are back to their own berths; we, too, who watched the Closing Ceremony in St Mary's Chapel. Have we slipped back to “normal”?

St Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus and from whom we all drink from the fountain of “Ignatian Spirituality,” suggests to those who have received much “consolation” to “ruminate,” to draw fruit from the experience. Our Holy Father, son of Ignatius that he is, urged all to take the fraternal experiences back home and apply them to their daily lives.

Here are some of the “good seeds sown” during the packed six-days of the WYD. They were chosen intermittently from the speeches and homilies of Pope Francis, mostly delivered spontaneously. They were taken from various domains on the Internet.

“As you return home, please continue to pray for peace. What is more, you are a sign of peace for the world, showing how different nationalities, languages, and histories can unite instead of divide. You are the hope of a different world.”

“Beware of false happiness of the virtual world and the ‘tyranny’ of social media. While social networks know young people’s names, tastes, and preferences, all this does not understand your uniqueness, but rather your usefulness for market research... The illusions of the virtual world attract us and promise happiness but later show themselves to be vain, superfluous things, substitutes that leave us empty inside. I’ll tell you something, Jesus is not like that. He believes in you, in each one of you and us, because to him each one of us is important.”

“God loves us as we are, not how we would like to be or how society wants us to be, as we are. He loves us with the limits we have, with the defects we have, and with the desire we have to keep moving forward in life! He loves us like that. Believe it, because God is Father. It’s not easy, but we have a great help in the mother of the Lord. She is our mother, too.”

“Never grow tired of coming to God with questions. Asking questions is good. It is often better than giving answers, because those who ask questions remain restless, and restlessness is the best remedy for a routineness that can ‘anaesthetize the soul.’ Life goes on giving answers. We just have to wait for them.”

“In the Church, there is space for everyone, and when there isn’t, please, let’s work so that there will be also for those who make mistakes, for those who fall, for those for whom it is difficult. Jesus expressed this clearly in the Gospels in parables where all are called: the young and the old, the healthy and the sick, the righteous and sinners: everyone, everyone, everyone, everyone! The Church isn’t a place of rigid rules where only the perfect can be let in, but rather a “field hospital” for wounded souls, where all are welcome. That is the Church, the mother of all. There is room for all!”



“The Church, is ‘the community of the called,’ not a community of the best people. Rather, we are all sinners, all called ‘as we are, with our problems and limitations.’ We are a community of brothers and sisters of Jesus, sons and daughters of the same Father.”

In conclusion he said, “The Church and the world need you, the young, as much as the earth needs rain. Don’t be afraid, have courage, go forward knowing that we are loved...”

References:

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ITkrUoPgN0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXAXhWxAAU8>

ST. IGNATIUS NEWS AND CHURCH EVENTS

2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Discourse by our Pastor, Fr Toshiaki Koso, SJ

Today, July 1, is the memorial of Blessed Peter Kibe and 187 Martyrs; this year 2023, we commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Great Martyrdom of Edo; in 2024, we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the dedication of our present church. I would like us to remember all who went ahead of us, who became the foundation of St Ignatius Church, and renew deeply in our hearts the memory that we stand on this foundation.

Keeping in mind the call to "return to church," we should now look to building a community of "prayer and love" in this post-pandemic time. Let's go forward together in keeping with the theme of the church, "Joined with Jesus, accepting one another, let us walk together towards the house of the Father."

- "Go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee. There they will see me" (Mt 28:10). → Getting back to the basics of our life in faith, may our parish be another Galilee. May it be a place where we encounter in the Gospel the Lord Jesus and be joined to him.

- "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit" (Jn 15:5). → We will wither and die if we do not abide in Jesus. When the Father prunes, it will be painful, but later we will bear much fruit.

- "If you forgive others for the wrongs they have done, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions" (Mt 6:14-15). → It may be difficult to forgive others, and even at times to forgive ourselves, but let's forgive and accept one another, as we pray in the Lord's Prayer.

Let's join our hearts to the coming Synod, celebrate the 25th anniversary of the church's dedication, and pray together that the accomplishment of "Mission 2030" may become the basis for further development of our parish. Let's further deepen our theme and strive to build a living community permeated with "prayer and love."

Annual Assembly Reports

Fr Kiyoshi Shibata, SJ

I would like to talk about LIFE which I thought about for a year, under two themes.

(1) Disaster Prevention. In December, a working Team was established from a Subcommittee which currently has eighteen active members. There was an evacuation drill in the Main Church and specific guidance was given on how to help those who are unable to go home and show them where the toilets and stockpiles of goods are. A manual will be prepared within a year with advice from experts, it will be translated into different languages and given to volunteers for distribution.

(2) Beetles - The beetles that we started raising in 2018 in our church are now in their third generation. While the children are experiencing the mysteries of life as they follow their

development, they are supporting refugees through fundraising.



General Assembly

Fr Bony James, SJ

I have been praying and at last the time has come. I'm glad we have overcome the Covid pandemic. Looking at the youth, junior and senior high school students, as well as other teenagers, really brings me joy. They are the generations that will define the future. However, their number is rather limited. Thus, gathering them is our homework task.

In addition, parishioners of various languages gather as an English-speaking community. So it is important to walk together, as "Synodality" emphasizes. Also, the Sunday School of the English-speaking community is gradually developing its structure, though the syllabus is still undergoing formation. There is much joy throughout this process, but there are many challenges. Right now, we are working on how to meet these challenges.

Fr Nguyen Thanh Nha, SJ

These days, I have been occupied with pastoral activities with the Vietnamese community. We have more than 700 youths in their twenties gathering every Sunday at the 3 pm Mass, some 300 to 400 people join the Marriage or Faith Introduction course, and various other tasks are distributed among priests and sisters almost every evening.

Since May, a Vietnamese part-timer has been helping me work together at the An Viêt Center. We started a Catechism Class with a focus on the faith formation of Vietnamese children. Around 20 children have joined the class. Through this service, we also hope to help these children be able to share their faith with their families in Vietnamese.

Fr Saturnino Ochoa, SJ

I'm convinced that this parish is alive. It is blessed with diversity in terms of the variety of groups it includes. Let's pray that this diversity will not be lost, but rather enhanced. Specifically, let's pray about how the many groups can become more unified. This is our challenge. We can think about how to make this parish more welcoming to everyone, especially by maximizing the experience of senior parishioners and the local characteristics of Tokyo. So let's think actively about this and be united in this endeavor.

Source: MAGIS August-September Edition, pages 2-3, translated by Izumi Sakura, David Youri, Theodorus Jonathan Wijaya

ST. IGNATIUS NEWS AND CHURCH EVENTS

CONFIRMATION Memories

Confirmation came sooner than I expected. The lessons flew by so fast, but I still remember a lot. I learned so many new things I never knew before. The ceremony was beautiful but long. I struggled with the Japanese Mass, as I'm not very good at Japanese. (Elise Riego de Dios)

“Be the person God wants you to be and you can set the world on fire!”

The homily of Archbishop Kikuchi, although I didn't understand much because it was all in Japanese, reminded us to trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the companionship of Jesus in our daily life. (Phielle M. Endaya)

I was very nervous but felt much joy when I received the Holy Spirit. I was very glad we were able to prepare with Isabel. I learned a lot and I hope to remember them and be guided by the Holy Spirit in my decisions from now on. (Eva Ambily Babu)

When I received the anointing, I felt a surge of happiness and at that time I really felt closer to God. I hope the Holy Spirit will guide me in the future to make choices and to do good. (Elisha Botardo Picasso)

Through this experience, I was able to understand more about the Catholic faith and I understand more now that the Holy Spirit will always be with me. I especially asked for the gift of knowledge so that I would always know the right thing to do. (Sofia Collado)

What a grace it was for me to prepare the teens for confirmation! Looking at their thirst and enthusiasm, I can see how the Holy Spirit is alive and acting in them. There is no greater joy for a catechist! What God has started, he will bring to completion. That's why the adventure goes on, and we are grateful that we will meet again this September to continue our journey of faith together. All teens from 12 to 14 or more are welcome in our group and others, too, who want to prepare for their Confirmation. Parents, let's help our teens to grow in faith and intimacy with God. That's the most precious gift we can offer them! (Isabelle Bonnasse, Teens' Catechist)



Teen Confirmandees with Archbishop Kikuchi

Re-starting of International Masses

After three long years, the monthly International Masses celebrated before COVID-19 and sponsored by the various regional groups have resumed. The African Community sponsored the first one in June, followed by the Filipino Group in July.



African Choir

The African Mass, it being the first, had a great impact. It was a joyous celebration led by Fr Ghislain Tsikendwa Matadi SJ from DR Congo, with Fr Koso SJ, Pastor of St Ignatius Parish, concelebrating. It was basically a sung Mass with various African

languages—in particular, DR Congo, Nigeria, Eastern Africa—accompanied by drums and other musical instruments. The readings were from Ghana and Uganda. A special intercessory prayer asking the Holy Spirit to bless the leaders of African countries with his gifts of wisdom and understanding to enable them to work for the peaceful development of their respective countries. A reception was held in St Joseph's Hall after the Mass, where some African dishes were served to the delight of the parishioners. (Raymond Gasu)

The Filipinos, especially the Ushers Group, donned traditional attire for their Mass.

Nostalgic liturgical songs stirred the hearts of many because a large percentage of English Mass-goers are Filipinos. The homily was delivered by Fr Jody Magtoto SJ, the only



Filipino Mass

Filipino Jesuit in Tokyo. It was a rarity to hear part of the homily in Tagalog. The Mass was capped by a simple choreographed rendition of a popular Jesuit composition which says, “Go, Proclaim, Praise God with Joy throughout the world,” a trait all Filipinos are called to witness to in whatever part of the world they are. (Sr. Flor Florece, F.I.)

Soon it will be the turn of the Japanese Community. The organizing community thought of introducing Blessed Justo Takayama Ukon to the foreign community. His relic will be placed on the altar during the Mass and a prayer will be said.



Relic of Takayama Ukon

A Japanese Catholic Christian feudal lord and samurai, blessed Ukon lived from 1552–1615, was baptized at the age of 12 but neglected his faith. When he was nearly 20, he decided to abandon his status to devote himself to his faith. He put away his sword as a samurai and transformed it into the Cross of Jesus Christ for his spiritual life.

In 1614, at the time of the persecution of Christianity in Japan, on orders from Tokugawa Ieyasu, Justo Takayama Ukon was expelled from Nagasaki to Manila. He arrived there in December 1614 but died 44 days after his arrival.

His faith became a good example of the ‘Servant of God.’ He was beatified in Osaka on February 7, 2017. Here in Tokyo, there are quite a number of Filipino devotees praying for his canonization. (Masako Sakaguchi)

Sunday Salon



Sunday Salon

Occasionally conducted after the 10 a.m. Sunday Japanese Mass. Delicately prepared fresh herb tea, re-connecting with acquaintances, meeting friends, faith sharing in a relaxing ambiance...

Do drop by Joseph Hall on a Sunday when there are no reserved functions.



The Sunday Salon Crowd

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Evaluation and Planning

By Ronelle Endaya (Parents' Leader)



On July 17, the Sunday School Team had their annual Evaluation and Planning in **Kyodo no Mori** in Fuchu City, in the central part of the Tokyo Tama area. The park is actually a large, beautiful open-air museum with a lots of lush greenery. After working so hard the whole year, it was a combination of work and fun!

Facilitated by Sr Flor Florece, FI, the catechists (Jessie Buendia NDV, Isabel Bonnasse NDV, Sakura Izumi, Mae Grace Harashima, and Carol Garcia) shared 1) their experiences in teaching the children in their respective classes (content and process, joys and challenges, teamwork), 2) how each have grown personally in the mission entrusted to them, and 3) Plans for the new term (September 2023 to March 2024) based on last years' experience.

The sharing was very enriching. We got to know one another better in a more relaxed setting, learned of new methods and strategies in teaching catechism, and realized how much we share the same zeal for this special mission in the Church. We appreciated very much the presence of Fr Bony, who gave us his own feedback and suggestions. Knowing how busy he usually is, we were very glad he could join us for an entire day!

As leader of the parents, I shared the type of leadership which I discovered works for them—clear information dissemination, mutual understanding, and regular animation so that the children will come to church regularly. In looking for volunteers for tasks, it is better to keep things light and less demanding. Occasionally, parents need a listening ear with regards to their parental woes and challenges. They are happiest when they see their kids enjoy their catechism classes and develop friendships among their peers.

Meeting in a traditional Japanese house and eating a hearty lunch, we ended the day with delicious soft cream and kakigori. We even had some time to stroll around to admire the many facilities the park has for children. Shall we bring the children here for an outing in the future?

Sunday School Children Summer Camp “To Find God in All Things” (August 11, Church Grounds)

“It was very successful! God is so good, it did not rain!” (Francisca Okada)

“Everybody was helping each other, even the fathers. Very well organized!” (Grace Tanaka)

“It was our 1st camp ever. I enjoyed it so much! It was a chance to meet the parents, understand the children more. Hopefully, they will become Altar Servers!” (Maria Koretti)

“I was surprised that God allowed me to see Him through the children in a beautiful and unexpected way.” (Theo Wijaya)



Blessing of Fr. Bony before for the start



When will I finish...

We asked the children,

“Did you enjoy the Camp? A resounding “YES!”.

“Which one?” **“EVERYTHING!”**

“DID you find God?” With convincing nods, they exclaimed, “In creation, in the family, in friends, in me, in the church...!”

Enjoy the pictures! But if you want to see more, join us on September 17 in Joseph Hall from 1:30 p.m. for the Opening of the second semester of the Sunday School. We will show a lot more!

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Caption from left to right: 1. Visiting God's House; 2. The Prophet Elijah waiting for God; 3. Creation Booth; 4. Family Booth



Caption from left to right: 1. Friends Booth; 2. God is in You! Booth; 3. Fishing was fun!; 4. Mother and daughter tandem



Caption from left to right: 1. Hit it right!; 2. De-li-cious!; 3. Hiking to find God's message...; 4. Ice-cream treat after the hike!



Caption from left to right: 1. Draw where you found God; 2. What to thank God for; 3. Closing Prayer



Caption from left to right: 1. Hanabi...; 2. More...!; 3. Thanks for your collaboration!



St. Ignatius English Sunday School, 2023-2024

(イグナチオ教会英語圏教会学校 2023~2024)

	Age Limits	Class Timings	Important Notes
Angels	Open to all children	Every 1 st Sunday (during the 12 noon English Mass)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will be gathered before the Opening Prayer and led to Xavier Chapel for brief catechism. They return after the priest's homily and receive blessing before Offertory.
Sunday School Classes	Primary 5~7 yrs old	13:30~14:30 1 st & 3 rd Sundays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Primary level, instruction is bilingual. For Sunday School catechism, we generally follow the textbook: "YOUCAT for Kids-Catholic Catechism for children and parents" along with other reference texts. For Pope Francis's Foreword for "YOUCAT for Kids" here: https://www.youcat.org/products/youcat-for-kids/
	Intermediate(English) 8~12 yrs old	13:30~14:30 1 st & 3 rd Sundays	<p><i>Those who already received First Communion but are not yet teens, the textbook used is the bilingual (Japanese-English) Bible for Children.</i></p>
	Teens 13~18 yrs old	13:30~14:30 1 st & 3 rd Sundays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While bilingual, this class is meant for kids who prefer to take classes more in Japanese than English.
First Communion Classes	Intermediate(Japanese) 8 yrs old and above	13:30~14:30 1 st & 3 rd Sundays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional classes may be required depending on the basic knowledge of the faith of the child.
	8 yrs old and above	13:30~14:30 1 st and 3 rd Sundays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Communion for 2024 is scheduled in June during the 12 noon English Mass. Children who wish to receive First Communion next year (2024) should attend the year-round Sunday School classes for better foundation. They should enroll on or before September 17, 2023. Classes are offered in English and Japanese
Confirmation Classes	13 yrs old and above	1 st and 3 rd Sundays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional classes may be required depending on the basic knowledge of the faith of the applicant. Confirmation for 2024 is scheduled in June during the Japanese Mass Applicants join the regular schedule for Teens and later may have a separate time slot to focus on the Sacrament of Confirmation. They should enroll on or before September 17, 2023.

**For more information or details on admission, please contact
Sr.Flor Florece FI, Jessie Buendia NDV or Fr.Bony James SJ, on Sundays at the English Center**

JOHN DE BRITTO ENGLISH CENTER

JOHN DE BRITTO ENGLISH CENTER GROUPS AND MINISTRIES

ALTAR SERVERS	Serve before, during, and after the English Mass assisting the priest and Liturgical Ministers. They are boys and girls from ages 10-15 who have already received First Communion.
ANGELS GROUP	Serves every 1st Sunday of the month. Gathers children in Xavier Chapel just after the Opening Prayer of the Mass and provides stories of the Gospel in a language understood by them. They are adults and young people who love children.
CHOIR	Sings in the English Mass every Sunday. Practice before the Mass in Room 401, 11:00 AM.
COFFEE WELCOME MINISTRY	Every 1st Sunday of the month under the tree in front of the main church, 1:00 - 1:45 PM. Facilitates the opportunity for newcomers/parishioners to meet and feel that the Church is "my second home."
ENGLISH-SPEAKING MEETING	Every 3rd Sunday of the month. Arrupe Hall Rm. 301-B (Main Bldg.) 1:45 - 3:30 PM. Gathers to plan and think of better ways to serve St. Ignatius Church.
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	By turns they serve in the 12:00 NN English Mass. Special formation is required.
FAITH FORMATION CLASS FOR ADULTS	1st Sunday of the month. Kibe Hall Rm. 310, 2:00 - 4:00 PM. For adult Catholics who wish to deepen their understanding of the faith. Non-Catholics are welcome.
SUNDAY READINGS - FAITH SHARING GROUP	Every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. Kibe Hall Rm. 310, 2:00 - 4:00 PM. For those who want to deepen and share the Sunday Readings of that day. Everyone is welcome!
READERS GROUP	They serve in 12:00 NN Sunday English Mass. They are those who would like to proclaim the Word of God and guide the assembly during the liturgical rite.
MEDIA GROUP	Prepares the Sunday Mass power point, the monthly English Bulletin, special posters, and takes care of the English website and Facebook of St. Ignatius Church.
WEEKDAY OFFICE STAFF	They open the English Center on weekdays to attend to the needs of those who come.
PRAISE AND WORSHIP GROUP	Every 1st Sunday of the month, Arrupe Hall Rm. 203, 10:00 AM onwards. Gathers to praise the Lord through songs, give thanks, and listen attentively to His live-giving Word. Personal intentions are received to be offered up in prayer
USHERS	Every Sunday during the 12:00 NN English Mass. They Facilitate an orderly and prayerful atmosphere before, during, and after Mass.
YOUTH MINISTRY	An international group that leads the Youth Mass every 2nd Sunday of the month; conducts various activities such as the "Hangout, Yotsuya Walk, Language Café" on 4th Sunday Meet them in Room 103.

SACRAMENTS: SCHEDULE AND CLASSES

INFANT / ADULT BAPTISM	Schedule: 3rd Sunday of February, April, June, September, and November, Xavier Chapel, 10:00 AM Classes: To be arranged with the Coordinator in-charge
MARRIAGE PREPARATION	Inquire at least 4 months before the wedding day.
OTHERS	English Sunday School for Children 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month, 1:30-2:30 PM. For room assignments, inquire from the English Center Sunday Japanese Language Classes (Presently suspended) Schedule: Please contact English Center. Time & Venue: 1:45 - 2:45 PM, Kibe Hall, Rm. 304, 305, 306, 307 Newcomers visit Rm. 305

Volunteers are most welcome!

JOHN DE BRITTO ENGLISH CENTER

Office Address: 6-5-1 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 102-0083
Office Hours: Weekdays (10:00 - 12:00, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM), Weekends (11:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
Telephone No: 03-3263-4576

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Schedule of Masses, etc.

WEEKDAYS: All in Japanese, Main Church	
7:00 AM	Weekday Masses
12:00 NN / 6:00 PM	Weekday Masses
12:00 NN	Saturday Mass
6:00 PM	Anticipated Sunday Mass
SUNDAYS:	
Main Church	
7:00 AM / 8:30 AM / 10:00 AM / 6:00 PM Japanese Mass	
12:00 NN English Mass	1:30 PM Spanish Mass
3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass	
Masses at Our Lady's Chapel	
1 st Sunday: 12:30 PM (Portuguese)	4:00 PM (Polish)
2 nd and 4 th Sunday: 4:30 PM (Indonesian)	

Confessions are now held inside the Main Chapel's confessionals.

Staff of St. Ignatius Church

Pastor: Fr. Toshiaki Koso, S.J.

Associate and Support Priests:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Fr. Saturnino Ochoa, SJ | Fr. Kiyoshi Shibata S.J. |
| Fr. Bony James S.J. | Fr. Manuel Silgo S.J. |
| Fr. Generoso Florez S.J. | Fr. Javier Garralda S.J. |
| Fr. Nguyen Thanh Nha S.J. | Fr. Etsuo Sekine, SJ |

Sister: Sr. Ivette Sanchez, M.C.

John de Britto English Center:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Fr. Bony James, S.J. | Director |
| Sr. Flor Florece, FI. | Coordinator |
| Jessie Buendia, NdV | Coordinator |

CHURCH WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGE

English Website:
<http://stignatius.jp/en/>



Important Liturgical Dates to Remember

September	
8	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (F)
14	Exaltation of the Cross (F)
15	Our Lady of Sorrows (M)
October	
2	Holy Guardian Angels (M)
4	St. Francis of Assisi (M)
7	Our Lady of the Rosary

Do Not Forget!

September	
3	Ignatian Youth Day
17	Opening of Sunday School New Semester (1:30 p.m. Joseph Hall)
October	
8	Church Festival/ International Mass at 11:00 (There is no English Mass at 12 p.m.)
29	Halloween Mass for Children (12 p.m. English Mass) Living Rosary (4:30 in Church lawn)

Pope's Prayer Intentions

September

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

October

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

For all those who made this Bi-monthly Bulletin possible, we express our deepest gratitude.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH and GOD BLESS!