

# Be Apostles of Peace !



Edited by Center for Promoting "Apostles of Peace"

Catholic Hiroshima Diocese

2006 Declaration by Bishop Misue

# Let us become Apostles of Peace



Three paths to become Apostles of Peace

## PEACE



Let us work for  
the peace of Christ

## COLLABORATION



Let us work together,  
overcoming the barrier of  
individual, organization or group

## FORMATION



Let us keep  
growing toward  
Christ

Four groups to promote these three important tasks





- ① Peace promoting team
- ② Collaboration promoting team
- ③ Formation promoting team
- ④ Multi-cultural coexistence promoting team

Each team works at the diocese, area, block, and parish level

# Guidelines

## What can we do in order to become Apostles of Peace

These guidelines were made by the request of Bishop Misue, who, on Easter Sunday, 2006, published the declaration concerning Apostolic priorities. It reflects the various opinions discussed at the meeting of the representatives of Hiroshima Diocese, and was revised in 2010. It will help us share the understanding of the situation we are in, to clarify the direction of Apostolic activities of our Diocese, and to promote the mission described in the Declaration by Bishop. Below is the motto of each activity.

		1	2	3
	<b>Peace</b>	Cherish life	Ripple of peace	Practice everyday
	<b>Collaboration</b>	Accept each other	Work together	A new step forward
	<b>Formation</b>	Grow each others faith	Cherish the Mass	The Word is the source
	<b>Multi-cultural coexistence</b>	Overcome the differences	Make our community richer	Society easier to live in

We hope these guidelines will help each area to overcome various challenges with a positive attitude. May we be able to carry out our duties faithfully and in prayer, hoping to become Apostle of Peace.





# Putting peace into practice

[Peace promoting team]

## 1 “to cherish life” – we immerse ourselves in the blessing of life and share joy with others.

- i ) we receive power from the Mass, prayer and good works.
- ii ) we value the link between “the peace of Christ” and evangelization and hope to invite many into “the peace of Christ”.
- iii) we stay close to those who suffer family problems, poverty, loneliness, and sickness, hoping to bring them some peace.
- iv) we focus on problems which endanger love and life such as poverty, the environment, energy resources, the north-south gap.
- v ) we work together with local volunteers and other religious groups to help homeless people and to build a gospel based society.
- vi) we work to compose a “Apostles of Peace” guidelines.

## 2 “Send out a wave of peace from Hiroshima”

– we make our own Pope John Paul II’s “Appeal for Peace” delivered to our Diocese of Hiroshima in 1981.

- i ) we read over the Appeal , share its message, and put it into practice.
- ii ) we value the Memorial Cathedral for World Peace as a place for prayer and study , and we cooperate in its upkeep.
- iii) we insist on abolishing nuclear weapons and all war. We regard the ninth article of the Constitution as a treasure for our diocese; we keep alive its spirit by study in each parish.
- iv) in educating children in faith, we emphasize peace and encourage peace study in Hiroshima.

## 3 “Learn each day, Practice each day”

- i ) we take part in various activities during Catholic Peace week (Aug.6-Aug.15) and also in Okinawa peace activities on Jun.23. We pray for the innumerable victims of World War II home and abroad. We recall during the Pacific War, the Catholic Church in Japan failed to play an evangelical role. We should be aware of the mission of our diocese, which was damaged by the atomic bomb.
- ii ) in February, the month when Pope John Paul II visited Hiroshima, we commemorate his Appeal of 1981 to spread the Pope’s message.
- iii) we publicize peace activities within our diocese and gather materials promoting peace. .
- iv) we form a network of people working for peace and strengthen interaction between these groups.



# Practicing collaboration

[ Collaboration promoting team ]

## 1. Basic principles

- (1) we accept each other
- (2) we work together
- (3) we challenge ourselves to do something new

## 2. Concrete activities

### (1) Mutual acceptance

- i ) The Church is a place for all ; here we get the power to communicate, to cooperate and to collaborate.
- ii ) in order to build up the Body of Christ we respect individuality, especially human weakness, and strive for mutual acceptance.
- iii ) we seek our personal role ; to fulfill it, and to dedicate ourselves to spread the Gospel

### (2) Collaboration

- i ) we bear in mind the evangelical spirit and our diocese's mission, "Let us become Apostles of peace" ; we try to realize collaboration in our parish.
- ii ) in order to put these guidelines into practice, we adapt them in each parish, each block, and each district. For this purpose each parish councils and committees are important. Each section should prepare a system that functions smoothly, connecting the diocesan council to each parish. For this, we pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- iii ) we try to enliven existing bloc endeavors ; respecting geography , we try to further block formation.
- iv ) we support the youth apostolate, and join activities that evoke their faith and sense of vocation.
- v ) we work together for peace with our sister dioceses, Infanta (Philippines), and Pusan (Korea) .
- vi ) we cooperate with the Hiroshima Diocese's Disaster Support Center, to help disaster victims rebuild their lives.

### (3) New Challenges

- i ) we try to understand the priorities of the Hiroshima Diocese and share its vision.
- ii ) we "launch out into the deep" in order to realize "collaboration within the parish," "collaboration beyond the parish," "collaboration with society," and "collaboration with resident foreigners"
- iii ) being aware that each one of us is a Christian, we share opinions, build mutual bonding, and respect the three principles of the decision-making process.





# Practicing Formation

[ Formation promoting team ]

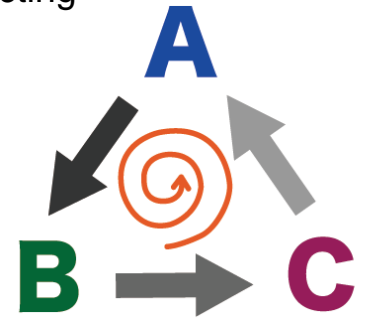
## 1. The formation vision (ABC, three factors)

Three revolving factors are at work in formation, affecting each other.

A : orientation to God

B : telling the good news

C : the Church, the light of the world



### A. We keep walking toward God

**This is the sign of spiritual growth.**

- 1 ① growing toward God includes developing our human potential.
  - i ) learn to communicate smoothly and relations with others.
  - ii ) have the courage to face oneself and walk the path inner freedom.
- ② growing together with others
  - share one's faith with others and support each other
  - (there are many methods and styles of building faith in a community)
- 2 We emphasize handing on faith to the next generation.
  - ① in each family
  - ② in each church

### B. We aim for growth in order to spread the gospel of peace

Our source for spreading the gospel is the Mass. We are nourished by God's words and the Body of Christ, and then are sent forth to family, school, workplace, local community and society.

- 1 The foundation for formation is Jesus' priestly, prophetic, and royal role.
- 2 We cherish the Sunday Mass and daily prayer.
- 3 The details of formation are important.
  - ① planning that fits the needs of the situation.
  - ② planners, participants, priests, and religious have to learn from each other.
- 4 Respect the characteristic of formation of each district



## C. Be aware of the fact that the Church is the light of the world

**Each of us is the Church. We, who live in the midst of society, are sent to the world as ones who make the light of Christ shine, as a leaven in society. Our very existence and work speak the good news to those around us..**

1. The Church is the light of the world spreading the gospel
  - ① we aim for a more active Church
  - ② we become more aware of the role of the Church in modern society
  - ③ we become more conscious of evangelizing non-Christians.
2. Priests, religious and lay people have a distinctive role
  - ① we promote the communication and collaboration between lay people, religious, and priests
  - ② each of us independently strives to fulfill his mission serving the faith community, and putting God's word to practice daily.
  - ③ religious and priests, aware of their special vocation, actively participate in formation.

## 2. basic principles

### (1) We grow together as a community that shares the same faith

- ① we join groups that performs various activities in the Church. When priest are not available, we follow the example of the early Christians. We join a group that takes care of liturgy, finance, events, cleaning, maintaining facilities, funerals, evangelization, visiting the sick, or helping the needy, and so forth.
- ② we provide opportunities for each age group to share their joys, sorrows and problems across the parish, block and diocese.

### (2) We cherish the Mass

- ① we assist Mass to offer the week's joy, sorrow, and sufferings to God with Jesus.
- ② we read in advance the readings of the Sunday Liturgy .
- ③ we think of general intercessions and pray for each other.
- ④ we admit to things beyond human power and pray relying on God.
- ⑤ we deepen our understanding of the Mass.
- ⑥ we assist Mass conscious of being missioned after Mass, to witness our faith.

### (3) We become someone who live the gospel

- ① each one of us becomes aware where our mission sends us.
- ② we look for situations in society or inside the Church that call us to missions such as visiting the sick, helping the poor.
- ③ we establish the guidelines of peace and work together
- ④ we learn the mission and how Christians should live from the Second Vatican Council and documents of the Japanese bishops.





# Practicing 'Multi-cultural coexistence'

[Multi-cultural coexistence promoting team]

## 1. Basic principles

- (1) We overcome the differences of nationality, race, culture, language, and make efforts to realize the "Kingdom of God" faith-community.
- (2) We turn differences into treasure to make the community richer
- (3) We make an effort to make Japan an easier place for both Japanese and non-Japanese to live

## 2. Activities to achieve these goals

- (1) make an effort to prepare an occasion where people from the same parish and community dedicate the Mass together
- (2) when needed, everyone should be able to take part in the Mass, liturgy, and sacraments in their own language
- (3) we help children who have a foreign nationality or parents married to foreigners so that they can grow in faith
- (4) we try to encourage residing foreigners to join in activities and decision-making as a member of the community, in addition to the liturgy
- (5) we translate important notices and information of the community, parish and diocese into foreign languages
- (6) we prepare opportunities where inter-cultural communication and multi-cultural coexistence become possible. We hold events like cooking class, language class, bazaars and sports festival so that Japanese and non-Japanese can learn each other's culture.
- (7) let us solve various problems of family, education, housing, health, employment and working conditions, social insurances, human rights and so on.  
We form a network with local volunteers and authorities who are dealing with these problems.

