

11 July 2024.

To all parishioners,

Catholic Diocese of Nagoya

Bishop Goro Matsuura

**Basic Policy of the Diocese of Nagoya in Noto Peninsula Earthquake Disaster
Reconstruction Assistance
“Leave no one behind”
-Listen to the voiceless and walk together with them.**

Introduction.

On 1 January 2024, while many people were enjoying their New Year's gatherings, a major earthquake struck the Noto Peninsula. Many people died in the sudden earthquake, and the suffering of those who lost loved ones and their place in life and prospects for the future in an instant is immeasurable. Similarly, those involved with churches and Catholic kindergartens on the Noto Peninsula were also severely affected. Our hearts and prayers go out to all those affected.

Immediately after the disaster, as the days went by, the extent of the damage and the difficulty of providing support in the Noto Peninsula became clearer. The day after the disaster, Caritas Japan and the ERST (Emergency Response Support Team) offered their support and cooperation, and the diocese was able to set up the Caritas Noto Support Centre and other support structures at an early stage. We also received many prayers and donations from all over Japan and abroad, which gave us great encouragement and support. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Six months after the disaster, we have assessed the situation in the affected areas and our support activities to date together with the people concerned, and have confirmed our direction.

From now on, the Diocese of Nagoya will carry out support activities in accordance with the following basic policy.

Basic support policy

While responding to the voices of the Noto Peninsula earthquake victims, we will be involved with the mindset of 'leaving no one behind'. To this end, we value the attitude of trying to listen to the 'voiceless'.

We place this policy at the heart of our relations with all those affected by the earthquake, regardless of church or region.

We are inviting everyone to get involved with the people affected by the disaster. Even if you cannot go directly to the affected areas, you can help by praying and sending supplies. Furthermore, we can become aware of those close to us who are 'left behind' and 'unable to speak out about their suffering', and through living this policy we can become involved with the affected people.

Caritas Nono Support Centre will support the recovery of the region based on this basic policy. Caritas Nono Support Centre Activity Policy is as follows.

We live together with people in the affected areas to realize a society in which each and every person is valued.

In order to achieve this, we will

(1) Go out into the midst of the people and listen to their silent voices.

We will walk together with the people in the disaster-affected areas, valuing the inner thoughts and wishes that we hear from our encounters and relationships with them.

In particular, we place importance on visiting people who are unable to come to the meeting place to offer support.

Main activities: water support, visits to temporary housing and home evacuees, needs assessments, etc.

(2) Create opportunities for interaction

We will develop activities to connect residents of the affected areas with each other, with volunteers and with people who care about them.

Main activities: 'Jinnobi Café', salon activities in temporary housing, links with the local community through kindergartens and churches, etc.

(3) Create opportunities to make use of each other

We will develop activities that transcend the positions of victim and supporter and make use

of each other's existence.

Main activities: dispatch of volunteers, cooperation and collaboration with social welfare councils and other organizations, etc.

(4) Expanding the circle of connection

Through these efforts and prayers, we will share the expansion of the circle of 'visible and invisible' connections.

Main activities: information dissemination, 'Tsuitachi no Prayer', inspection visits, evaluations, etc.

Fundraising

The road to recovery is expected to take several years, so we will continue to make donations. We ask for your cooperation by clearly dividing the purpose of the donations between the Diocese of Nagoya for church recovery and Caritas Japan for regional support.

■ Nagoya Diocese

Postal Transfer Account No. 00810-5-50605 (Please write 'NOTO' in the correspondence box)

Subscriber Catholic Diocese of Nagoya

Purpose: For church-related victims and church reconstruction. However, if a purpose such as 'for kindergartens' is written in the remarks column of the transfer, we will use the money for that purpose.

■ Caritas Japan (see website)

Postal transfer account number 00170-5-95979 (Please write 'Noto Earthquake' in the correspondence column")

Subscriber Catholic Central Council Caritas Japan

Purpose: To support people in the affected areas (not to be used for the Church)