



14 March 2011

His Excellency
The Most Reverend Leo Jun Ikenaga
Archbishop of Osaka
President of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of Japan
Tōkyō 135-8585
Japan Catholic Center
10-10 Shiomi 2-chome
Kōtō-Ku

Your Excellency,

The news of the destructive earthquakes and the resulting damages and loss of life have filled my heart and those of the faithful entrusted to my care, some of whom also live in Japan. I hasten to express my heartfelt sympathy and prayerful support for you, your brother Bishops, and the victims of this immense natural disaster.

I know that my Episcopal Vicar for Asia and Europe, the Most Reverend F. Richard Spencer, has been in contact with the Catholic Chaplains. I have no doubt that the US Armed Forces in Japan will do all that they can to assist your noble people in this challenging time. Knowing how many of my faithful benefit from the gracious welcome of the Japanese people, I feel particularly struck by this tragedy.

The destructive force of nature reminds us all of the fragility of life, the importance of trust in God, and the opportunities we have to come to the aid of brothers and sisters in need. Indeed the Lord Jesus tells us that responding to a brother or sister in need is an opportunity to meet Him. I am certain that CRS, the US Bishops' primary relief agency will also offer practical support for those most in need.

Reiterating the expression of my prayerful solidarity, I remain

Fraternally in Christ,

(Most Reverend) Timothy P. Broglio
Archbishop for the Military Services