

ひとつになろう日本！  
Japan, let us be one people together!

**20 March 2011**-Paul Tamano and I have arrived safely in Kumagaya. It was a wonderful feeling to see both Denis and Claver looking so well. Today we should also see Maxi and Alex at Hoan's Diaconate Ordination. The diocese has cancelled all events for the next few weeks except for the ordination.

There are very few cars on the road. At the airport and all the way to Kumagaya, the countryside was rather dark - even the big city of Omiya. Everyone is cooperating with using as little electricity as possible. The trains are running at about half their usual number. The food situation has improved but most of the 7-11 stores (family mart) etc. are either closed or have little food. However the big grocery stores have food but the essentials are being rationed (rice, milk, bread). Everyone has to wait in line but rationed essentials are available.

The biggest problem is car gas - it is available only some times and is rationed. After a six or seven hour wait you can get 10 liters. The government promises that this will improve in the next few weeks. Many people are out of work because of the roving blackouts. Factories cannot fully function until the blackout problem is solved. The aftershocks are also disconcerting. We had a small one last night - I woke up but Br. Tamano, God bless him, slept through it all.

Restaurants are beginning to open more as food becomes available. Their menus are very limited. Everywhere you go around the city, people are collecting money for the victims.

Vegetables in our area and water have been affected by radiation (Gunma, Ibaraki, and Tochigi Prefecture) but it is still too low to cause health problems.

The friars will all be here tonight. Tomorrow we will meet to make our plans for helping people. Later in the day, the Religious Council will meet to make further decisions. Love to all-**Wayne and Claver**



Communications from the brothers



**March 23, 2011**-Dear Brothers-Thank you so much for the wonderfully done, "Communication from the Brothers, United in Prayer. Also thank you for the continuing updates on the donations that you have raised for us. We are deeply grateful for the prayers, the concern and all that you have done for us.

Yesterday Br. Tamano and I meet with the four Brothers working in Saitama Diocese for prayer, reflection and planning. I would like to share some of what we discussed together, with you.

First I must say that seeing the four of them in person – Alex, Claver, Denis and Maxi – was very emotional for both Tamano and me. We were delighted to find that all were in good health.

We began our session with prayer. Then each person shared their experiences of the earthquake and its aftermath. We talked about our plans for the immediate future and an action plan to help the people that we serve. All four brothers repeatedly emphasized that whatever difficulties they are experiencing personally are nothing compared to the suffering of the people in Miyagi, Fukushima, Iwate, and Ibaraki Prefectures. The people's needs come first and every effort should be made to help those who have lost their loved ones, their homes and their possessions. However, it should be noted that our Brothers have been affected by what they have experienced and the fluid, changing conditions in Japan at present are challenging for them.

The biggest concern is the **radiation**. It has reached our area in low levels but is still not dangerous to human beings. However, vegetables have been declared to have excessive amounts of radiation in Gunma, Tochigi, Ibaraki, and Fukushima Prefectures. Four of those prefectures are part of where our brothers are ministering. The sea around Fukushima and Ibaraki Prefectures has radiation in excessive amounts. Constant fear of radiation and nuclear fallout is taxing the emotional strength of our brothers and the people that they serve.

The second concern is the **aftershocks**. There have been over 373 aftershocks – registering magnitude 5 or greater. Three have been magnitude 7. Our brothers find it difficult to sleep when these aftershocks occur as the trauma of the first earthquake is still very much with them. Some of the brothers are taking the precaution of sleeping on the first floor or near an exit to their home. Their cell phones and radios are set to warn them of impending aftershocks.

The third concern is the **lack of fuel**-gas for cars, heating oil etc. is all in short supply. Public transportation is available but on a vastly reduced schedule. Toll roads and highways leading from Tokyo north have all been closed, initially for repairs after the earthquake, but later for the exclusive use of military or rescue vehicles. This situation is now changing. Parts of the highway system have been opened to the public as of yesterday. This should help to ease the fuel problem. There is enough fuel in the country but not enough trucks etc. to get the fuel to the people. It is a distribution problem.

The fourth concern has been **food** – Food has been scarce – rice, butter, bread etc. This situation has vastly improved over the last few days. However, food is still rationed, so that food can be distributed in the disaster area. Our Brothers have food but on a limited basis.



The fifth concern is the scheduled daily **blackouts** that usually last about three hours at a time. They are scheduled for different times of the day. Since it is winter, the house can become cold. Factories etc. are closed or only operating on a part-time basis because of the blackouts. This problem will not go away soon. With the nuclear reactor off line, there is not enough energy for our area. Blackouts will be a part of life for the foreseeable future.

**Action Plan to Meet the Brothers Health and Security Needs**

- Maxi and Alex will try as gas is available etc. to come to Kumagaya as much as possible. Wayne insists that he does not want brothers to be alone when there are so many aftershocks and a crisis situation.
- The brothers are encouraged to conduct a weekly meeting to assess the changing situation and make whatever decisions are necessary.
- Baring a large discharge of radiation, simple precautions should be sufficient: Covering the body when going out. Not eating banned foods and following updates and warnings from civil authorities etc.
- Each Brother has been given emergency cash to be used in the event of a break down in communications. If evacuation should become necessary, we will all meet in Fukuoka where Edwin is living.
- In the event of a crisis, Claver will act as my representative. He can make decisions as needed in consultation with the others. On a day to day basis Denis will keep Wayne informed about the health needs etc. of the Brothers.
- At present, no Brother is asking to be transferred to another location. All are dedicated to helping the people as best they can. However, depending on the health of the brothers, and the situation at the nuclear power plant, temporary relocation could become a possibility. Wayne will make an assessment on a weekly basis.
- When or if food is needed, more will be sent from Okinawa. For the present time, there is sufficient food for everyone.
- We encourage the brothers to take advantage of any health check-ups offered by the civil authorities.

**Action Plan to Minister to the People most in need.**

- Each brother has been given money to be used for the people in need in his immediate area and for his personal security should evacuation become necessary.
- The four brothers felt that additional monies for the needs of the local area can at present be raised locally.





- Internally displaced refugees from Fukushima Prefecture (Nuclear Reactor Problem) have arrived in Saitama Prefecture. Claver as Director of Caritas Saitama has started a Support Center in Urawa City, Saitama for the internally displaced refugees from Fukushima. Eventually this Support Center will be moved to Ibaraki Prefecture where there were many victims of the tsunami.
  - **Alex**–Oyama and Kaminokawa Churches were damaged from the earthquake and not available for refugees;
  - **Denis**–Kumagaya, Fukaya and Gyoda Churches—all are old buildings not suitable for residence. The people of Kumagaya parish will welcome refugees into their homes.
  - **Claver**–Honjo Church–will welcome refugees as needed
  - **Maxim**–Higashimatsuyama and Chichibu Churches–Chichibu church is available for refugees. The issue is under discussion at Higashimatsuyama. Funds for these internally displaced refugees should be sent to Saitama Caritas for which Claver is the director. We would like to use some of the Province donations to fund this program.
- Some funds provided by the province should be sent to Caritas-Japan which will go directly to the most badly affected regions of Sendai Diocese (Fukushima, Miyagi and Iwate Prefectures).
- Some funds should go directly to Sendai Diocese.
- Funds can be sent directly to these entities or they can be directed to needed areas from Okinawa through the Custody Secretary, Roland Daigle.
- Most of the brothers have plans to conduct sessions in their parishes to care for the psychological needs of their people. Talking about their experiences is very important for those who are suffering.
- The brothers and people of Okinawa will continue to raise funds and provide food as needed for the brothers and people in the Saitama region.

**Closing Remarks**-Prior to the earthquake and tsunami, our Custody hosted visits by our New York Provincial, Br. John and our Mission Director Br. Tino, followed by our Minister General, Br. Mauro and the General Definitior for our Conference, Br. John Antony. Each of these visits was a grace in itself for us, but it should be said that all of these visits taken together, helped to prepare us for what we never expected to happen – a historic earthquake and a devastating tsunami and nuclear reactor meltdown. Being cared for and lead by these brothers strengthened us as a community and was a gift of the Holy Spirit to us. These gifts freely received from our brothers have helped us to be able to live the Gospel in a time of crisis. Our deepest gratitude to all of you and to God – for He has given us Brothers!

God Bless you all, **Wayne, Claver, Tamano**



# HOPE

24 March 2011  
**Open Letter**

To: Br. Vincent Furtado, O.F.M. Cap., Provincial Minister  
Our brothers of Karnataka Province  
The Parents, Family, Relatives and Friends of our Missionary Friars from  
India

Greetings of Peace to you from Japan! My name is Fr. **Wayne Berndt**, and I am the Custody Minister, responsible for the Capuchin Friars in Japan. Because of the recent earthquake, tsunami and the nuclear reactor problem, I am sure that you are deeply worried about your dear family member working for the church and the Capuchin Order in Japan. Your worry is very understandable and your love for your cherished family member is a great support for them. In this time of crisis I want to share with you some information.

Your son or family member is also precious to us. We will do everything possible not to put him in a situation where his health is in danger or where his life is at undue risk.

Frs. **Johnson, Ajit** and **Praveen** are in Okinawa. This is an island far to the south near to Taiwan. They only knew about the earthquake from what they saw on the T.V. They are very safe there and there is no radiation.

Fr. **Edwin** is in Fukuoka. This is not as far to the south as Okinawa but it is an hour and a half plane flight from Tokyo. Edwin is very safe from radiation or from the effects of the earthquake.

Frs. **Alex, Denis, Maxim** and **Claver** are in Saitama Diocese. This area has been affected by the earthquake and the radiation. I too am here with them to make sure that they are safe and have everything that they need. I would not leave them here if I felt that they would be at undue risk. We will take every reasonable precaution to care for them.

As priest-brothers of the Capuchin Order in Japan, your family member is here to represent Jesus and St. Francis of Assisi to the people of Japan. Unlike people who come to Japan to work in the computer industry or to advance their careers, your family member came to Japan to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We do not have a business relationship with the people of Japan; rather, we are members of their family and they are members of our family. There are many people who have left Japan by plane to fly home – Americans, Indians and others. A priest-brother could never be the first one on a life-boat leaving a crisis area. We have to be the last—after we have cared for the suffering, the lonely, the homeless and they are safe—only then can we get in a life-boat to escape a crisis. I expect that every brother of our Custody, young or old, from India, America or Japan, will act like Jesus and with compassion walk with the suffering people of Japan during this crisis.

## 日本のために祈りなさい

Frs. **Alex, Denis, Maxim** and **Claver** are great men and I am very proud of them. You raised them well and taught them the Gospel, as well as the values of Indian culture. Our people are now turning to them for spiritual support, for compassion and for help with their suffering. Their words will comfort our people, their hands will act to relieve suffering, and their hearts will open wide to heal those who have been traumatized by earthquake and tsunami.

Every day the food, fuel and situation in regard to the nuclear reactor is getting better. I promise you that I will do all that is humanly possible to care for and cherish your family member. All of the brothers who have come from India to Japan to minister to our people are irreplaceably precious to us, and we love them. While life and death issues are in the hands of God, I will endeavor to make clear, logical and appropriate decisions to protect the lives and the good health of those whom you hold so dear. I take this responsibility very seriously and I will do the very best that I can with the help of God.

I will also make sure that this crisis will become the opportunity for them to use all their God-given gifts, where they will gain confidence in their abilities, and where they can develop into fine Capuchin missionaries and representatives of Indian culture. A crisis is an opportunity to move from being cared for, to taking care of others, from being worried about being loved, to loving others unconditionally, and from waiting to be led to becoming leaders themselves. Your sons, who are our brothers, have the capacity to do all this and more, because you have loved them and God has gifted them. To expect any less from them is to insult them, and not appreciate what a gift they are to you, to us and to the people of Japan whom they serve.

Please remember to continue to pray for us and the people of Japan.

Your brother,  
**Wayne Berndt O.F.M. Cap.**-Japan Custody Minister

## 25 March 2011-Kumagaya Update #2

**Claver** will leave with 12 volunteers (Sisters, lay people, seminarians) on Monday, 28 March 2011 for three Support Stations in earthquake and tsunami damaged Ibaraki Prefecture. At all three stations the team plans to provide food and counseling services (volunteers speak a number of languages).

- Kashima Station - earthquake and tsunami damage;
- Mito Station (Oarai Port) extensive damage and deaths at the port from the tsunami (many foreign residents);
- Hitachi Station, suffering from earthquake damage. From this station volunteers hope to enter tsunami damaged Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture. Fukushima Prefecture has many refugees from the nuclear reactor problem. The team is taking some food and essential items. The volunteers are prepared to listen to people, hoping to continue the healing process. **Claver** plans to visit the area for a week and determine the amount of aid etc. that is needed before returning to main headquarters for relief operations in Urawa.

Our Mission Secretary, **Br. Celestino Arias**, has begun the transfer of donations from the Capuchin Web Site to Okinawa. On Monday or Tuesday Custody Secretary, **Roland Daigle** will transfer this money to Caritas Saitama, which is coordinating the program ministered by **Claver**.

**Food** has become more plentiful. Major stores now have bread, butter, milk, etc. for everyone. Rice is still rationed to one five-kilo bag per person. The only negative note is panic buying of bottled water due to radiation concerns. Water supplies in all the cities in the area show some traces of radiation. Vegetables from four prefectures are banned for consumption for the time being.

**Car gas/ Fuel** - the situation has also improved. While there are still some lines in places, more and more stations are open and people are allowed to fill their tanks. Home heating oil is also available. Major highways have been opened to the public even in the earthquake zone. This has greatly helped the distribution problem.

**Trains** - many lines are back to full operation with only a few offering limited service.

**Scheduled Blackouts** - government says that blackouts will be necessary until the summer. This past week the scheduled blackouts in the Kumagaya area have been canceled four times due to adequate supplies of electricity.

**Aftershock Concerns** - there are aftershocks every day. Some are small but others are still shaking the houses. No one knows when the earth will settle down. At times, these aftershocks really scare the people, especially those who had experienced the initial earthquake.

**Radiation**- it is still unknown how the many problems at the nuclear reactor in Fukushima will be solved. Radiation levels around the reactor continue to be high. This condition, as you probably surmised, is the major concern of the people.

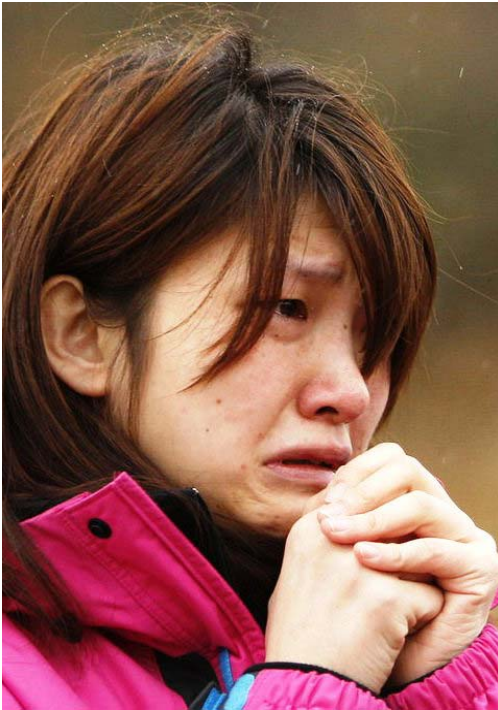
**Refugees**- in the areas where we live, the churches and religious houses have been prepared to receive refugees from the Fukushima Prefecture, should the situation deteriorate. **Claver** is assisting to coordinate this program.

**Claver, Alex, Maxi and Denis** are all doing well. These brothers are of course worried about the radiation levels and the aftershocks but are continuing to minister to their people despite the difficulties of the present situation. On Monday, 28 March, the brothers will once again gather at the Kumagaya residence to discuss the on-going crisis.

Your prayers and your support for us are greatly appreciated-**Wayne**







**Facts about the Situation in Japan—Earthquake, Tsunami, and Radiation-26 March 2011**

<b>Official Death Count</b>	<b>10,066 persons</b>
<b>Official Count of the Missing</b>	<b>17,400 persons</b>
<b>People Living in Shelters</b>	<b>250,000 persons</b>

Most of the victims of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami were seniors who were unable to move with the agility needed to escape the twin disasters. Quake and tsunami victims whose ages have been confirmed: 80 or older 23.2%

70 or older	22.9%	30 or older	6.0%
60 or older	19.0%	20 or older	3.2%
50 or older	11.6%	10 or older	3.2%
40 or older	6.9%	9 or younger	4.1%

**Fukushima Nuclear Plant**

Tokyo is about 220 kilometers away from Fukushima Nuclear Reactor. Kumagaya (Capuchin Friary) is about 199 kilometers away from Fukushima Nuclear Reactor. At present the government has declared a 20 kilometer exclusion zone with mandatory evacuations from around the nuclear reactor site. From 20 to 30 kilometers away, people are encouraged to leave or to at least stay indoors. Current estimates are that it will take months, and possibly a year to stabilize the situation at the reactor. Fukushima Prefecture is part of Sendai Diocese. Miyagi and Iwate Prefectures also parts of the same diocese and were at the epicenter of the earthquake and tsunami. We do not have friars ministering in Sendai Diocese.

**Capuchin Custody Approach to Helping Those in Distress**

The hardest hit area of Saitama Diocese, which abuts Sendai Diocese, is Ibaraki Prefecture located on the sea. It suffered both earthquake and tsunami damage. Radiation is also a problem as this prefecture borders on Fukushima Prefecture where the reactor is located. Our mainland Japan friars, except for **Peter Von Essen** in Tokyo, are all ministering in this diocese. Therefore, we will work with **Claver** by offering aid for the three Support Stations in Ibaraki Prefecture through Caritas Saitama. We will also support the team volunteers for hands-on ministry with victims, using donations given to Caritas Saitama from the Capuchin Mission Office.

**Saitama Diocesan Urawa Support Center (Claver)**

The Saitama Diocese is also preparing Refugee Centers and other Support Centers at churches and religious institutions in case the situation at the reactor worsens. The Capuchins will cooperate with all these programs. Our four friars in Saitama will give aid and counseling to those most in need in their parishes: shut-ins, those with psychological problems from the quake and tsunami etc. Where possible they will make their churches available for refugees. Again, all these programs are being supported by our generous benefactors from our Mission Office.

We will continue to offer prayer and material support for the victims from the friars and people of Okinawa. Food from Oroku has already been made available and additional campaigns are now underway.



### Current Facts about Radiation in Tokyo

In areas as far away as Tokyo, [220 km.], residents and workers from other countries have been evacuating. Recently, countries including USA, France, Britain and Australia were instructing people to leave Japan. Is this need to evacuate Tokyo based on radiation from Fukushima warranted? Radiation decreases with the square of distance, so the amount of radiation in Tokyo will be an order of magnitude less than the 20 km evacuation zone. Recent news articles have indicated that radiation in Tokyo is twice the normal background radiation for the city. At first, this may seem significant. Normal background radiation levels in Tokyo were 0.00004 mSv/h. As of 18 March, radiation levels due to Fukushima have been recorded as high as 0.00012 mSv/h, or three times background.

However, background radiation in certain cities in Iran, India, China and Brazil are recorded at 0.006 mSv/h, which is fifty times higher than the radiation recorded in Tokyo due to Fukushima. Thus, if one is evacuating from Tokyo to any of these places, exposure will increase because of where one is evacuating. Considered another way, smoking cigarettes produces greater radiation exposure than that produced by the effects of Fukushima in Tokyo. Of greater concern is the possibility of individual radioactive particles themselves being relocated to Tokyo by importing them in clothing or hair from people inside the Fukushima evacuation zone. Hopefully, measures are being taken to screen residents coming from areas closer to the nuclear plant.

### Web Sites for Information in English and Japanese

#### Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan

<http://www.cbj.catholic.jp/jpn/feature/2011shinsai/index.htm>

#### Caritas Japan

<http://www.caritas.jp/>

#### Caritas Internationalis

<http://www.caritas.org/>

#### Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan

[http://www.jcarm.com/jpn/topic/info\\*\\*\\*.html](http://www.jcarm.com/jpn/topic/info***.html)

#### Diocese of Sendai

<http://www.sendai.catholic.jp/>

#### Diocese of Saitama

<http://saitama-kyoku.net/>

#### Archdiocese of Tokyo

<http://www.tokyo.catholic.jp/>

#### Catholic Tokyo International Center

<http://www.ctic.jp/>

#### UCANews.com

<http://www.ucanews.com/>

#### Catholic News Service

<http://www.catholicnews.com/>







**28 March 2011-Kumagaya Update #3**

Dear brothers-Greetings from Kumagaya. I said that the next update would be in a week but there have been developments.

Today, the Bishop is sending Saitama Caritas Director **Claver** not to Ibaraki Prefecture but to Sendai Diocese for a week. He will be going to the Shiogama Church in Shiogama City. This city is in Miyagi Prefecture near Sendai City and was destroyed by the tsunami and earthquake. He is going with three other volunteers to help at the church for a week. Please keep **Claver** and the other volunteers in your prayers.

Tomorrow, **Roland Daigle**, Custody Secretary will forward funds from the donations provided by Mission Director **Celestino Arias** through the Capuchin Internet donation drive, to support Claver's program.

In addition to the donations sent by Tino, we have received donations from Switzerland, Okinawa and we also expect that through the Province's Web Site, some donations from Arizona as well. We thank all for their generous help.

Our aim is to be able to forward donations to Sendai Diocese for the victims and the Saitama Diocese to finance volunteer programs to assist those most in need.

Okinawa has continued to send food and now water to those in need in the Kanto area. They will also send food and other items like baby powder, clothes etc. to Akatsuki no Mura in Gunma Prefecture. From there these items will be sent to those most in need.

Supplies of food, fuel and transportation have improved in our area. Aftershocks have lessened but blackouts and radiation fears are major concerns.

Please continue to keep us all in your prayers. God bless- **Wayne**

**29 March 2011-Kumagaya Community Meeting Report**

The Brothers stationed in Saitama Diocese have decided that they will meet every week on Monday or Tuesday for prayer, sharing, assessing the situation, and for planning their responses to the on-going crisis. I met with them this morning for two hours and offer this summary of our meeting. This our second meeting since the crisis began.

We prayed first of all for the many victims of the earthquake, tsunami and radiation. We also remembered in prayer the many people living in Japan who do not have a place to live, good food, electricity or water due to the current crisis. We prayed for those who have lost family members and friends. We also prayed for the many benefactors around the world who have responded to this crisis with encouragement, prayer and financial aid. We especially prayed for our Capuchin Brothers and our families throughout the world who are praying for us daily. And we prayed for Claver who as Director of Caritas Saitama, is on his way to Sendai Diocese to assist those most in need in Shiogama City. We asked the Lord to bring him back to us in safety after his week-long visit.

We next took turns sharing about how we were doing and how we were handling the stress inherent in a crisis situation. All of the brothers acknowledged that it is stressful to have aftershocks continually reminding them of the initial terror they experienced during the first earthquake.



Since the food, fuel and transportation problems are gradually easing, the Brothers mentioned that these factors were no longer so stressful. The scheduled blackouts have also become a part of life. It's the aftershocks and the fear of the radiation which wears them down. Fear of the unknown and fear of what is beyond their control at the nuclear power plant is what is so stressful. They took their fears to prayer and asked the Lord to be with them and the people of Japan.

Their assessment of the current situation is that in Saitama Diocese they are fairly safe from radiation at the present time. Other than their nerves, the brothers felt fairly healthy and well. The aftershocks are still occurring but seem to be lessening in frequency. They all agreed to eat well, get plenty of rest and to talk together often about the current situation so as to strengthen one another.

They then shared what they were each doing to help with the crisis.

- **Maxim** – He has been listening to the many people that come to the church to talk about their fears and worries. He has also gone to a clinic in his area that is housing 20 people who escaped from the tsunami and radiation. Although they are being housed, they are still in need of food and basic necessities. Maxi is using money we have received to feed these people. He is also coordinating with Okinawa to see that more food is delivered to those in need.
- **Alex** – He too has been listening to people talk about their pain and their fear. He used some of the donated money to assist a Filipina migrant who even before the current crisis was having a difficult time. His sense is that many people are angry at the Japanese government for not creating a safer environment around the reactors. He has been encouraging people to express their anger and talk together. He has distributed food from Okinawa to many people in need. He is also covering three parishes at present, so he is very busy. Many people are out of work and he tries to encourage and support them.
- **Denis** – He is also pastor of three parishes and very busy. He says everyone wants to talk and have someone to listen to them. He does this as best that he can. He too mentioned that people feel tense after the earthquake and worried about the radiation. He tries to reach out to them, to give them some comfort in community. He also encourages people to express their anger and other feelings.
- **Claver** – Claver takes his role as Director of Caritas Saitama very seriously. He and some volunteers are currently in Sendai Diocese at Shiogama Church. This church, which is on a high rise over the city, was spared the tsunami but the rest of the city was not. Claver and the volunteers will assess the situation and do hands-on work by cleaning people's homes and offering some necessities. There is some electricity in the city but no water. On this trip Claver will also visit Iwaki City, which is outside the exclusion zone but within the same prefecture, Fukushima, as the troubled nuclear reactor. He says that people are lacking everything: clothing, blankets, food etc. No deliveries are being made in the city because drivers are afraid of the radiation. Claver will try to get us an address where we can send supplies – if there are deliveries being made. He will base himself in the Anglican Church in the city. Only volunteers above the age of 40 are being allowed into the city.

Claver reported that in Saitama Diocese, Mito Church and the surrounding buildings were badly damaged and may have to be replaced. In the port of Oarai there is a need for volunteers who speak Tagalog and Indonesian. In the city of Kashima, Ibaraki Prefecture, there are no toilets or water. Also in Tochigi Prefecture the home for children and the home for the aged will need repairs after the earthquake.

I was not too happy with Claver going so close to the Nuclear Reactor by entering Iwaki City but after discussing the matter with him, I realized that these are the people most in need of help and Claver wants to be there. Please keep him in your prayers. Claver also reported that there is a shortage of volunteers at present because all the high school and college age children will be going back to school shortly. Claver reports that Bishop Tani of Saitama will send all his newly ordained deacons to Sendai to help with the ministry.

My assessment of the four brothers ministering in Saitama Diocese is that despite the stress and difficulties of the current situation they are holding up very well. There is a need for them to meet often and pray together; a need for them to put into words what they are experiencing; and there may also be a need for them to get away from the situation to rest. Right now that is not practical but it will be kept under active consideration after I return to Okinawa. They are remarkable men who are very dedicated missionaries. My assessment is that at present they can maintain their health and continue to do the ministry that they are doing. They are very clearly showing us the compassion of Christ and loving gentleness of St. Francis.

Mention was made of a letter from Br. Vincent which notified us that India has also taken up collections for the people of Japan and has sent the donations to Caritas Japan. We are deeply grateful that India has not only sent us their sons to work among us but has also given us further assistance. Thank you so much.

Because our General Minister, Br. Mauro, General Definitor, John Antony, and our Provincials, Br. Vincent and Br. John, as well as all the Brothers of the Custody have expressed such concern for us, I have decided to send you this report in addition to the regular updates that I have been sending to you.

God Bless-**Wayne**

**30 March, 2011- Brothers and dear Friends**-Numbers of people have written asking for accurate information about the radiation in our area. Others have inquired about the earthquake or the tsunami. I will forward you the latest information as of March 30 2011 that I have compiled from a number of sources: Japanese newspapers, government releases etc.

Over the past week we have released financial aid from the gifts that you have sent to us for Sendai Diocese and Saitama Diocese to help both the victims and to fund recovery operations. Additional funds will be forwarded to both dioceses next week.

**Claver** is currently in Miyagi Prefecture, the epicenter of the earthquake and tsunami. We are awaiting a report from him. He is leading a group of volunteers who will gather information as well as hands-on recovery work by cleaning houses etc. God bless-**Wayne**





### 30 March 2011-Great Tohoku-Kanto Earthquake Disaster

<b>Official Death Count</b>	11,082 persons
<b>Official Count of the Missing</b>	16,717 persons
<b>Injured</b>	2,778 persons
<b>People Living in Shelters</b>	250,000 persons
<b>Building damaged or destroyed</b>	148,710 buildings

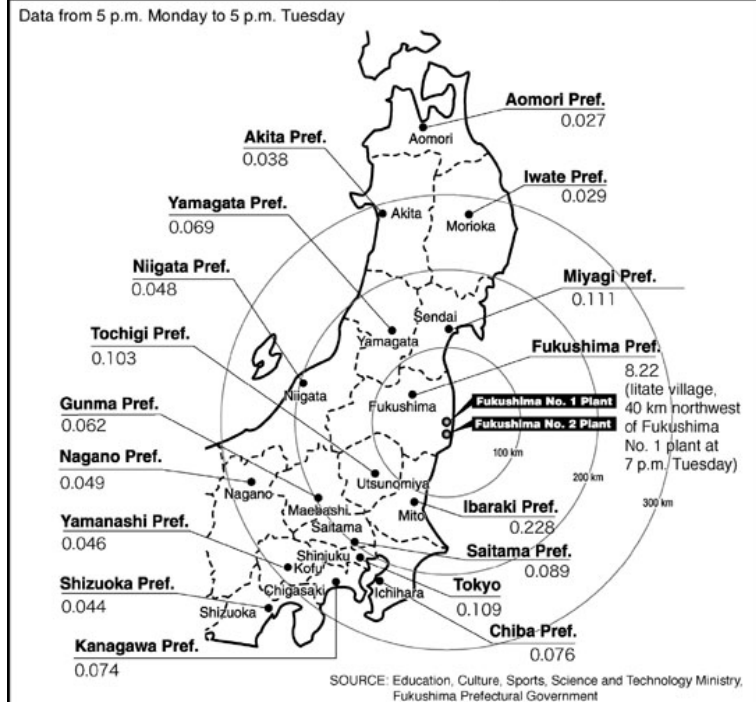
**Earthquake:** 11 March 2011- 2:45 p.m. - Magnitude 9  
 The epicenter was approximately 72 kilometers east of the Oshika Peninsula of Tōhoku, with the hypocenter at an underwater depth of approximately 32 kilometers. The strong ground motion registered at the maximum of 7 on the Japan Meteorological Agency seismic intensity scale in Kurihara, Miyagi Prefecture. Three other prefectures—Fukushima, Ibaraki and Tochigi (**Alex**)—recorded an upper 6 on the JMA scale. Seismic stations in Iwate, Gunma, Saitama (**Maxi, Denis, and Claver**) and Chiba Prefecture measured a lower 6, recording an upper 5 in Tokyo (**Peter**).

**Tsunami:** Depending on location, the tsunami followed from a few minutes to 30 minutes later. Major damage occurred from Iwate to Ibaraki Prefectures along the 670 kilometers of coastline. Tsunami heights ranged up to 23.6 meters and reached as far as 10 kilometers inland in some places. Most of the deaths and the extensive damage were caused by the tsunami and not the earthquake itself.

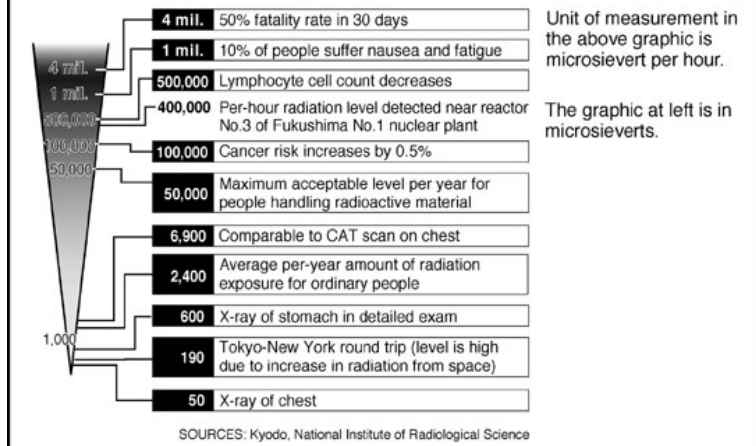
**Aftershocks:** (as of 12:00 JST, 29 March 2011)  
 Largest Aftershock: Magnitude 7.7 on 11 March 2011  
 Continuing Aftershocks: **03** with a magnitude of 7 or greater  
**63** with a magnitude of 6 or greater  
**372** with a magnitude of 5 or greater

**Radiation:** In the graph below, Saitama is the place where our friars (**Maxi, Denis and Claver**) are living (bottom right). You can notice that the radiation level does not even reach a 1 on the scale, whereas with a single X-ray you would get a 50. A single trip on a plane from Tokyo to New York would be 190. **Alex** is living in Tochigi which is a separate reading; same goes for **Peter** in Tokyo. **Edwin** is in Fukuoka which is too far away to be affected, as are all the friars stationed in Okinawa. I have been monitoring these air radiation readings over the past week and they have been declining for the most part. I have not included it here but water readings are also listed every day in the paper and our readings in Saitama have returned to almost normal at the present time.

### Maximum radiation levels in eastern Japan

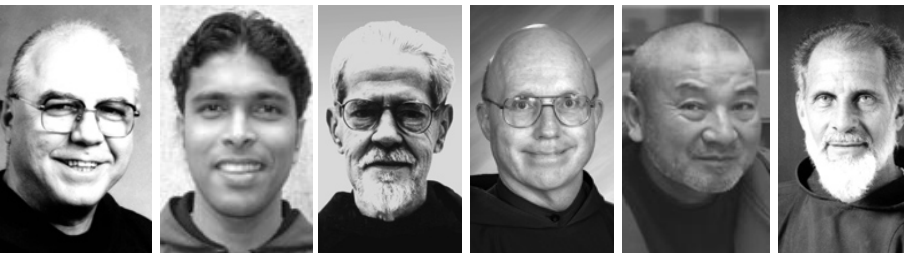


### Effects of radiation exposure over time





[Top Row] Wayne Berndt, Louis Chiusano, Roland Daigle, Alexander Daniel, Peter A. Claver & Johnson D'Souza; [2<sup>nd</sup> Row] Maxim D'Souza, Denis Fernandes, Francis Hashiya, Peter Baptist Ishigami, Vincent P. Kumar, Edwin Monis; [below] LaSalle Parsons, Ajitkumar Rodrigues, Martin De Porres Schmidt, Patrick Sullivan, Paul Tamano & Peter Von Essen.



**31 March 2011-Kumagaya Update #4**

Yesterday I spent time with **Alex [Daniel]** at his parishes in Tochigi inspecting the damage from the earthquake. Most of the damage is repairable. However, around his area many houses have been damaged by the earthquake. The three story building next to Oyama church lost a complete side of the building when the outer wall collapsed. Many other buildings are unusable and some buildings have had their roofs very badly damaged.

**Claver** called from Sendai. Yesterday, the weather was very rainy and they were not able to work outside. Caritas Japan representative Fr. Narui and Caritas Saitama representative Claver, plan to move around further north in Miyagi Prefecture today to check out the areas that have been most badly damaged. Claver says that there is no way he can describe the devastation. Pictures and T.V. coverage cannot convey the vastness of the misery. He plans to survey more of the damage and then return to Kumagaya on Monday.

Yesterday I also spoke with former friar **John Szamreta** on the phone for an extended period of time. John is well and sends his greetings to all the friars. His school has reopened and 80% of the students have returned. John keeps in contact with the American Embassy and so far reports that conditions in Tokyo are fairly good. The American Embassy has brought in a number of experts in radiation etc. because of the large number of Americans in Japan. These experts have spread around the area and are taking readings etc. on their own. They report that outside the 80 mile exclusion zone that they have set in Fukushima Prefecture for Americans working or living there, there is no danger to anyone from radiation of the food or water in our area.

Food, fuel and transportation problems in our area have not completely been overcome but are much better than before. Aftershocks are also fewer and of lower intensity. The Japanese are amazing people, on their own they are cutting down on electricity, and by so doing many areas have had scheduled blackouts canceled. If the total electrical use in a certain area remains below set targets, then there are no blackouts. The ability of the Japanese to accept responsibility and do what is in the national interest is inspiring.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not tell you that India defeated Pakistan in cricket during their semi-final match on Thursday. India will play Sri Lanka on Saturday. Congratulations to Bros. **John Antony, Vincent, Claver, Alex, Edwin, Denis, Maxi, Johnson, Ajit and Praveen!** May India also prevail at the Saturday match. God bless **Wayne**

**Dear brothers-**We are happy to do our voluntary work in Shiogama. There are still many people living in shelters. Most of them are just too scared to go elsewhere. The tsunami has destroyed everything they had: fathers, mothers, sisters, and friends; all that were dear to them. It looks like Shiogama is limping back to normal. There are still little gas reserves in Sendai. Lines are at least 8 hours of waiting. In my opinion the northern part of Miyagi is suffering the worst. Rescue teams are still looking for the missing people and more help is desperately needed.

I'm sending this message in a hurry because I did get access to a public computer. See you soon-**Claver**