

August 15, 2013

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

## Peace Message on August 15

Peace of the Lord be with you!

We are celebrating the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the defeat of Imperial Japan in World War II. Believing in our Lord Jesus Christ, the king of peace, we have to realize anew on this day the errors of Japan in the past wars and seek the reconciliation and peace with those nations which were invaded and harmed by Japan. Let us pray for the earliest possible peace the world over.

Last April, the NSKK and the Anglican Church of Korea jointly convened the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anglican Peace Conference in Okinawa, to think and learn about peace. The reality of Okinawa told us that the Okinawans are agonized and discriminated against due to the presence of U.S. military bases and troops. The participants unanimously agreed to seek peace. The Communique of the Peace Conference pointed out, "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks." We must seriously think what to do for this.

In the "Let us walk together! Project" which the NSKK launched right after the East-Japan Great Earthquake and Tsunami, we gathered all our strength to abide by and support those suffering from the disaster by praying for them. The last May saw the intermission of the project, but the Tohoku Diocese decided to continue the support to the people in an effort called "Daijini (Take Care) Tohoku". As the province, the NSKK set up the "NSKK No-Nuke Project" to study and survey on the nuclear power plants and radiation, as well as to provide support for the people suffering from the results of the nuclear disaster at the Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant.

The Japanese people are very aware of the horror of the exposure to radiation as they experienced the two Atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. But the Japanese government is trying to resume the operation at nuclear power plants though there is no prospect of putting an end to the nuclear disaster. The 59<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the NSKK issued a statement, "For a World without Nuclear Power Plants," in order to pray and work for a nuclear-free world. We must strongly oppose the resumption of operation at nuclear power plants.

The Japanese Constitution is very important in maintaining peace. The Peace Conference reconfirmed the significance of the Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution. For an effective world peace, all the military powers should be ultimately abolished. The Japanese Constitution provides a good example for this. At a time when we hear some voices for the revision (for the worse) of the Constitution, we should reaffirm the importance of defending the peace constitution of Japan.

May the prayer of the people of NSKK for peace soon come true.

In Christ.

The Most Rev. Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu, Primate of NSKK

The Rt. Rev. Peter Ichiro Shibusawa, Chairperson of Peace and Justice Committee of NSKK