

## *“PROTECT ALL LIFE”*

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## *“PROTECT ALL LIFE MONTH”: September 1 – October 4*

In order to respond to the message of Pope Francis when he visited Japan in November 2019, the Catholic Bishops Conference of Japan has introduced *“Protect all life month”*: *September 1 ~ October 4*, every year starting from 2020.

Needless to say, that changing lifestyles and daily behaviors are important to protect life. In order to deepen awareness on the importance of life, the entire Japanese church would work with local people, especially with the youth to take concrete actions to protect all life.

As Pope Francis has stated in his encyclical "Laudat Si" (2015) that we must relate environmental issues to social, economic and human rights issues and understand them from a comprehensive ecological perspective. The natural environment of the earth has become more serious since the mid 20th century. Today various problems such as global warming, climate change, water resource crisis, food problem, population problem, poverty, deforestation, the energy problem, garbage problem and biodiversity crisis are faced by humanity. Moreover, it has been pointed out that most of these problems are the result of various industries and human activities. Therefore, we

must restore the deteriorated environment by our own hands. Experts warn that it will be irreversible if you do not take appropriate measures right now.

Therefore, as Pope Francis emphasizes, first of all, an “ecological conversion” is needed for both individuals and communities. We must acknowledge that we have damaged God's creation by actions and negligence and dare to consider environmental problems as our own personal suffering. We need to figure out what we can do about it and work together to build a better future for everyone.

**PROTECT ALL LIFE: BECOME MISSIONARIES OF LOVE**

*Pope Francis@ Apostolic Visit in Japan*

23-26 November 2019



**教皇フランシスコ来日決定**  
**東京・広島・長崎**  
**2019年11月23日(土)~26日(火)**

**来日テーマ**  
**「すべてのいのちを守るために」**  
**PROTECT ALL LIFE**

*United with the red flame representing martyrs as the foundation of the Church in Japan and the light blue flame representing the Blessed Mother embracing all humanity as her children, the green flame in the likeness of Japan abundant with nature expresses the mission to proclaim the Gospel of hope. The red circle as the image of the sun embraces all life equally with love. -CBCJ*