



# **LAY CANOSSIANs in JAPAN**

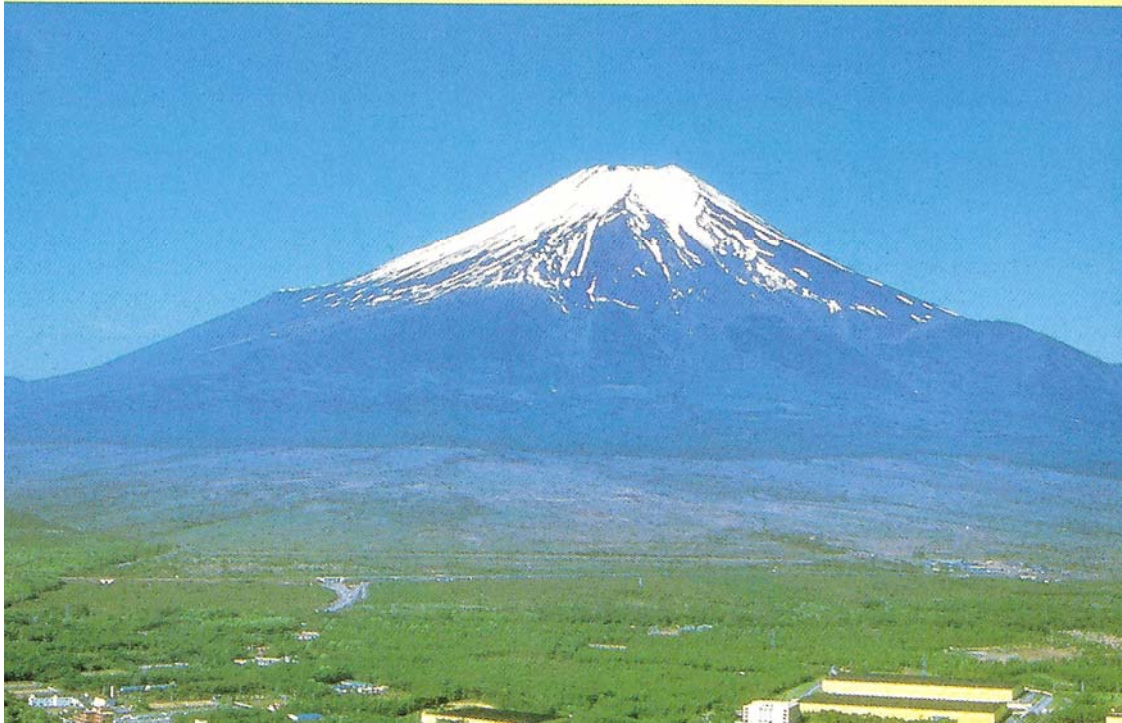
**Prayer and Community Witness  
August/2006**

**Ayako Ishiguro, Hiromichi Ayabe**

# Introducing Japan

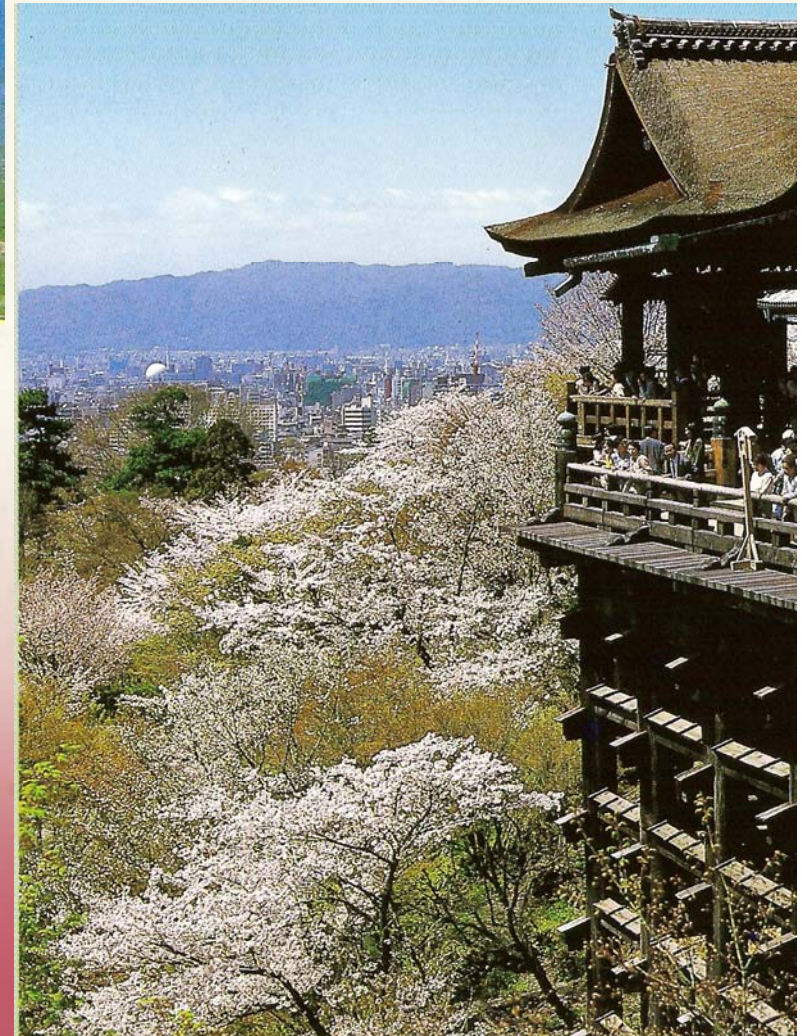


- Population : 127.5million. 9<sup>th</sup> in the World
- Size : 377,880 k m<sup>2</sup>. Slightly larger than Italy
- Climate : 4 seasons
- Prone to natural disasters : earthquakes, typhoons, volcanic activity
- Language: Japanese  
We use Chinese characters and two phonic alphabets, ( hiragana and katakana)



**Mount Fuji is  
Japan's highest  
mountain**

**Kiyomizu Temple,  
Kyoto a favorite spot  
for viewing spring  
cherry blossoms**

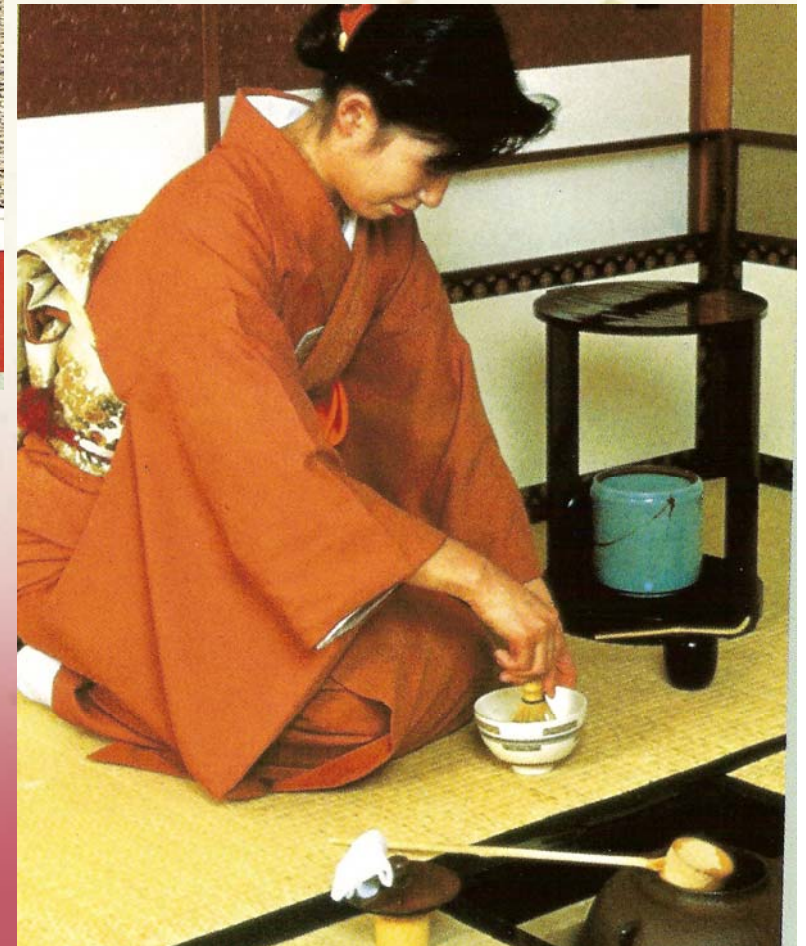




**A Shinto wedding procession**



**The tea ceremony**



# Religion In Japan

- ❁ **Shintoists : 49.2%**
- ❁ **Buddhists : 44.1%**
- ❁ **Christians : 1.5%**  
**(Catholic 0.3%)**
- ❁ **Other religions : 5.2%**

- ❁ *Lay Canossians in Japan :*  
*40 members (in 4 area groups)*





# Our Activities

- ◆ **Helping in the parishes**
- ◆ **Education**
- ◆ **Evangelization**
- ◆ **Care of the Sick**
- ◆ **Formation of the Laity**
- ◆ **Neighborhood support**
- ◆ **Helping the poor**
- ◆ **Prayer and Self Offering**



# Helping in the Parishes

- ◆ **Organizing & taking parting in parish events**
- ◆ **Advertising local & diocesan events & taking an active part in them**
- ◆ **Mass preparation (Church cleaning and flowers)**
- ◆ **Reader Ministry**
- ◆ **Welcoming Ministry**
- ◆ **Church Cleaning & Maintenance**
- ◆ **Driving for the priest**

**A. says:**

- \* Lonely people look for support in the church**
- \* The parish community ....an enjoyable place where we are united in God's love. I feel the call to take special care of the children**



**Flower Arranging**



**Welcoming Ministry**





# Education

- ◆ **Activities at Kindergarten**
- ◆ **Child-rearing support**
- ◆ **Tutoring for school –phobia sufferers**
- ◆ **Language tutoring & counseling for non- Japanese parishioners**

**B.**

## **The importance of kindergarten education**





# Evangelization

- ◆ **Talking with young people who come to Mass**
- ◆ **Being Baptism sponsors, guiding the new Christians**
- ◆ **Diocesan newspaper • Parish newsletter**
- ◆ **“Peace 9” Group**
- ◆ **Catholic Mutual Aid Society (Credit Union)**


**C's experience:**

**From Old Friend to Godfather !**



**Evangelization through  
parish newsletter**





# Care of the Sick (Elderly People)

- ◆ **Volunteering at day care centers**
- ◆ **Listening**
- ◆ **Home helpers**
- ◆ **Dining with an elderly neighbor**
- ◆ **Activities with senile dementia sufferers  
(using picture books & card theatre shows)**

# D. Visits lonely, housebound parishioners & shares the Sunday liturgy with them





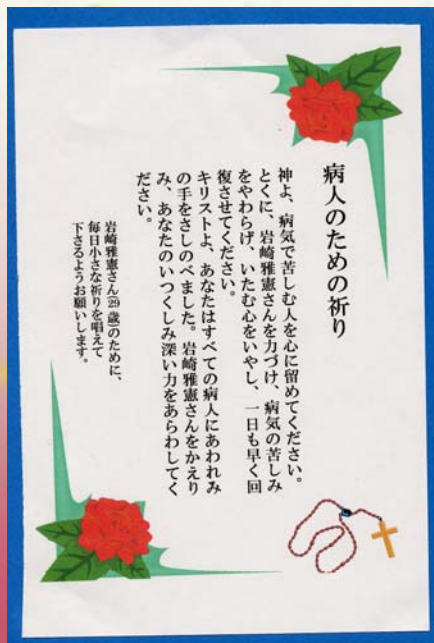
# Care of the Sick & Handicapped

- ◆ **Audio recordings for the visually impaired. Escorting them**
- ◆ **Visiting a so-called “voluntary shut-in”**
- ◆ **Befriending people with depression or eating disorders**
- ◆ **Counseling families of people with mental health problems**
- ◆ **Visiting and helping a friend with cancer**
- ◆ **Helping alcohol or drug -dependant suffers**

E.

- \* To serve Jesus present in all who suffer
- \* Receiving light from those who suffer

## Prayer card



On the road to recovery!  
Helping in his family's bakery





# Formation of the Laity

- ◆ **Reading the document "The Vocation and Mission of the Faithful"**
- ◆ **Hymn practice /Choir directing**
- ◆ **Leader for parish Rosary**

F.

# Praying the Rosary before Sunday Mass



# **Supporting Neighborhood Projects 1**

- ◆ **Volunteer Information Committee**
- ◆ **Local government committee member**
- ◆ **Local Government leader, local Health Committee member**
- ◆ **Trash recycling activities**
- ◆ **Communication through greeting.**
- ◆ **Shogi Club Leader**
- ◆ **Handicraft group for elderly women**

**G.**

**A group for elderly women. They recycle old kimono to make useful gifts...as well as enjoying each others' company.**





# **Supporting Neighborhood Projects 2**

- ◆ **Women's Group: Education, Peace & Health-related activities**
- ◆ **Local Mutual Aid Group**
- ◆ **After-school classes for children**
- ◆ **Interaction with people of other religions**
- ◆ **Asian Health Organization newsletter  
“ Asia's Children” editing**

**H. found Christ through illness and suffering. Now she cannot but share the joy of being saved .**





# Helping the poor

- ◆ **Supporting homeless people**  
**Preparing and distributing food & clothing**
- ◆ **Fostering children in developing countries**
- ◆ **Donating to charitable institutions**

J.

My friends.... the homeless, the people that St.Magdalen called “My beloved poor”





# Prayer and Self Offering

- ◆ **Daily Mass for conversion & world peace**
- ◆ **Obtaining indulgences for the souls in Purgatory**
- ◆ **Joy, ceaseless prayer and gratitude.**
- ◆ **Improving human relationships through prayer**
- ◆ **Working for the family and society**
- ◆ **To spread God's love**

- \* **National Convention (every 3 years)**
- \* **Annual Seminar for Formation Team & Regional Coordinators**

*Learning to live in gratuitous love, from Mary at the foot of the Cross.*



**National Convention**



**Seminar**

**We really value our monthly meeting.  
It is like a family gathering for us**

***To strive to live the Word of God as perfectly  
as possible and to offer myself daily in prayer  
as a holy sacrifice to God***



The background features a light yellow to white gradient with falling yellow and white petals. In the top right corner, there are horizontal decorative bands with floral patterns. In the top left, two orange cranes are flying. In the bottom right, a white crane is standing on a red, rounded shape.

**Thank you for your attention**

**The Japanese Lay Canossians**