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SOCIETY OF JESUS

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To all the members of the Province

+ The Peace of Christ

I pray that with the beginning of Lent your daily prayer and work will contribute more and more to the coming of God's kingdom.

One of the tasks of Lent is reconciliation. During the Province Congregation at the end of last year, the environmental issue was discussed as pertaining to our reconciliation with creation.

Environmental issues are clearly a significant challenge for the world and the church today. In recent General Congregations of the Society of Jesus, too, the environment has been dealt with as a peremptory theme (GC33 no.35, GC34 no.58, GC35 nos.31-36). In this way we have become more aware that reconciliation with nature and creation is part of our reconciliation with humanity and with God. The Social Justice Secretariat of the Roman Curia was restructured to include environmental issues, and Fr General has urged strongly that we should reflect on the documents "WE LIVE IN A BROKEN WORLD—Reflections on Ecology" (*Promotio Iustitiae* no.70, 1999) and the "Special Report on Ecology: HEALING A BROKEN WORLD" (*Promotio Iustitiae* no.106, 2011) which were drawn up mainly by the Secretariat. The latter document is now being translated into Japanese and, hopefully, will be in your hands by May of this year. It enumerates concrete tasks which the Society should engage in.

Subsequent to the nuclear disaster at the Fukushima No.1 Power Station resulting from the Great Eastern Earthquake of March 11, 2011, Japanese society as a whole has been forced to reconsider completely its attitude toward promoting nuclear power plants, and the Japanese Bishops have issued a message urging abolishment of nuclear plants.

In view of all this, I have decided to adopt as province policy the two points contained in the postulate that the Province Congregation decided to send to Fr General.

① In response to Fr General's recommendation, the Japan Province will discern how to implement the Recommendations and Concrete Suggestions concerning environmental issues contained in the "Special Report on Ecology: HEALING A BROKEN WORLD."

② In particular, as the only country to have experienced nuclear bombing and with our present experience of the disaster at the Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Station, we will as a Province, and bearing in mind the Japanese Bishops' message urging immediate abolishment of nuclear plants, engage in research, study, and discernment regarding the issues of extricating ourselves from dependence on nuclear energy and developing natural energy (by appealing to those involved, by searching for theological and ethical solutions, by deepening our understanding of the issue as a challenge to our own faith, etc) and will make our position publicly known.