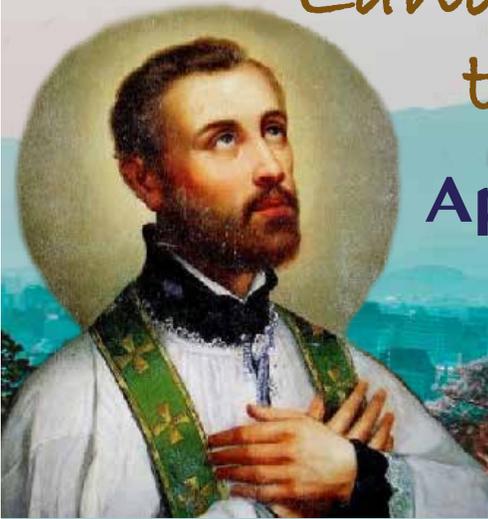


# JAPAN

## Land of Mysteries to Discover

April 12-22, 2021



Jesus said "I have set thee to be the light of the Gentiles; that thou mayest be for salvation unto the utmost part of the earth." From Tokyo to Nagasaki, Osaka to Kyoto, travel to holy places sanctified by holy missionaries, like St. Francis Xavier and St. Maximilian Kolbe. You will discover the realization of the words of Christ in the midst of the Land of Rising Sun; Japan. To pray the Holy Mass in these sacred places is an unparalleled privilege and will give you a new impulse to live out your Catholic faith and to experience the universality of the church!



traveling with

### Rev. Canon Raphael Katsuyuki Ueda

Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

Rector of Immaculate Heart of Mary Oratory, San José, CA

#### • Pilgrimage Highlights

- St. Francis Xavier Church in Tokyo with an authentic relic of its patron saint and the National Museum of Tokyo, Japan's oldest art museum
- Discovering the Hidden Christians of Nagasaki who persevered in their faith for over two-hundred years despite being sacramentally deprived
- The 26 Martyrs Museum in Nagasaki with historical artifacts and relics including original "fumie", images of Our Lord and the Blessed Mother that the faithful refused to trample on, even when the penalty for not doing so was death
- Museum of Takashi Nagai, local physician, radiologist and survivor of the atomic bombings of WWII
- Unzen Hot Springs martyrdom site (featured in the film, Silence)
- The Palaces, Shrines and imperial gardens of Japan's cultural capital - Kyoto, including a rock garden forming the shape of a cross created by a Samurai warrior and his valient convert wife

## Daily Itinerary

### MONDAY – April 12 Departure from Los Angeles

Mid-day flight departure from Los Angeles to Tokyo Japan.

### TUESDAY – April 13 Arrival in Tokyo

Evening arrival in Tokyo, situated on the main island of Japan off the eastern coast of Asia in the Pacific Ocean. Transfer to our hotel to check-in and rest for the evening.

### WEDNESDAY – April 14 A day in Tokyo

A day in Tokyo, the capital of Japan! We begin with a visit to St. Francis Xavier Church, one of the oldest Catholic churches in the city and one which was amazingly spared from the air raids of WWII. Here we will have the honor of venerating an authentic relic of St. Francis Xavier, who was among the first Jesuit missionaries to bring Catholicism to the country in the 16th century and whom our pilgrimage is dedicated to. Visit the Tokyo National Museum, Japan's oldest art museum for a window into the country's storied Imperial history. Learn of the Salesian missionary, Ven. Fr. Vincenzo Cimatti, Japan's very own Don Bosco, who worked in Japan for over forty years until his death in 1965. He founded "Boys Town" in Tokyo in 1935 and provided over 260 orphans with a Catholic home and primary, secondary and technical schooling. Early this evening we will take a short flight south to Nagasaki on the island of Kyushu, on the western coast of the East China Sea, an area that has long been a bastion of Catholicism in the Far East. Upon arrival, transfer into the city and take in your first glimpse of Mount Inasa overlooking Nagasaki Bay. Check-in to our hotel for the next five nights.

### THURSDAY – April 15 A day in Nagasaki

To understand the history of Catholicism in Japan we have to go back to 16th century with the arrival of Portuguese explorers and missionaries on their way to China, who developed the small but strategically positioned harbor of Nagasaki into a prominent trading post. By the end of that decade, the great missionary, St. Francis Xavier, co-founder of the Jesuits, stopped over in Nagasaki on his way from India to China. He ended up staying two years and wrote to his superiors that the Japanese were the "best people yet discovered" who were attracted by reasoning and a desire for conviction. He baptized nearly one thousand souls and established the most important Christian community in the Far East at that time. In his footsteps, a steady stream of Jesuits continued to arrive in the country through 1570, baptizing nearly over 300,000 souls. As Christianity thrived, the Tokugawa Shogunate soon issued a proclamation against it outlawing it to the point of death for those who persevered in it. For the next two hundred years until the Meiji Era, its adherents were persecuted and martyred by the tens of thousands. All churches and missionary centers were destroyed and catechists were

martyred. New missionaries arriving from Europe were easily discovered by their accents and few escaped martyrdom. The Christian community in Nagasaki fled to offshore islands and inland into the Urakami Valley becoming mostly farmers and fisherman. They devised ways of nurturing their faith without priests and cultivated an underground church. This historical fact was proclaimed a miracle by Pope Pius IX. The first of these 26 martyrs were canonized in 1862 and have been commemorated in the church calendar on February 6 ever since. Today we will ascend Nishizaka Hill in Nagasaki where they were crucified in 1597. Amongst them were Jesuit & Franciscan missionaries and lay Christians alike. Preceding their martyrdom, they were forced to walk 600 miles from Kyoto to Nagasaki. They responded heroically, in prayer and hymns, including the Te Deum, to encouraging one another. Visit the 26 Martyrs Museum with historical artifacts and relics including original "fumie", images of Our Lord and the Blessed Mother that the faithful refused to trample upon when authorities demanded them to, even though refusal to do so meant death. Mother Teresa visited here in 1982. Next, visit the O'ura Church, a basilica and co-cathedral dedicated to the martyrs. Completed by French missionaries in Gothic style in 1864, at the end of the Edo Period, it was allowed to be built to serve exclusively the growing community of foreign merchants in the city only. However, one year later, Fr. Bernard Petitjean, discovered 15 Japanese men and women from the village of Urukami at the door of the cathedral who revealed of this faith they kept hidden in their hearts and camouflaged. This was the first evidence revealed to foreigners that the faith planted by the missionaries in the 16th century, had truly blossomed and lived on through generations of individuals. In gratitude to God, Fr. Petitjean led them to a statue of the Virgin Mary in the church, one which today is known as the "Statue of the Virgin Mary of the discovery of hidden Christians". When he found out that there were more of them, up to 30,000 altogether, living in small villages and remote islands without priests or formal religious instruction, he appointed a brother missionary, Fr. de Rotz, to be the parish priest of the Shitsu and Kurosaki districts to serve them. Enjoy lunch at the Nagasaki Wharf before visiting Hongochi Monastery and Church, founded by St. Maximilian Kolbe during his year in Japan. See the Lourdes grotto he built.

### FRIDAY – April 16 Excursion to Hirado

Today enjoy an excursion to Hirado, the fourth largest island of Kyushu, and former castle town and Dutch trading post. The highlight of our day will be a visit to St. Francis Xavier Memorial Church, built to commemorate the arrival of St. Francis Xavier in 1550, introducing Christianity to Japan for the first time. Near the church is a traditional Japanese temple surrounded by bamboo groves, an interesting setting that reflects the harmony of Japanese and western culture that Nagasaki is known for. Also visit Tabira Church, built in 1917 by the French missionaries, for the newly discovered Christians. Overnight in Nagasaki.

**SATURDAY – April 17 Unzen Hot Springs martyrdom site –**  
Today we will visit the Hot Springs Resort in Unzen, featured in the film, *Silence*, based on the acclaimed novel by the Japanese Catholic novelist, Endō Shūsaku, who drew from the oral tradition passed down through generations telling of the suppression of Catholicism in Japan, the persecution of its faithful and the Jesuits who worked amongst them. The natural phenomenon of the hot springs was the backdrop of a chilling scene of martyrdom for the Christian peasants who took part in the Shimabara Rebellion against the local rulers (Dec. 1637 to April 1638). Visit the Unzen Church in the Unzen National Park, followed by the sights of the Shimabara Rebellion. An important spot connected to the rebellion was the Hara Castle, whose ruins we will visit before returning to Nagasaki.

**SUNDAY – April 18 Nyoko-do and the Dr. Takashi Memorial**  
Today we will visit the Takashi Memorial Museum. Takashi Nagai was a local physician, radiologist and survivor of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki (WWII). Raised in the Shinto religion, Dr. Takashi converted to Catholic Christianity, was baptized in 1934, and became a lay member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Though seriously injured in the atomic bombing in August 1945, in which his wife was killed, he dedicated himself in treating the atomic bomb victims of the city. In October the same year he built a hut for himself and his children of what was left of his home in the city center. Later the Society of St. Vincent de Paul built a tea house-like structure for him, which he called “Nyokodo” (from Jesus’ words “Love your neighbor as yourself”). He made this small house a hermitage where he spent the rest of his life in prayer and contemplation. Dr. Takashi died in 1951 at the age of 43 and has been named “Hero of the Faith” by the Catholic Church, as the first step in his canonization process. Next, we will visit the Nagasaki Hypocenter Park and the Atomic Bomb museum, where we will learn more about the atomic bombing which struck Nagasaki on August 9th, 1945, three days after the bombing of Hiroshima. The bombing not only led to the end of the Second World War and the defeat of Japan, but also to terrible suffering for the people of Nagasaki with almost 74,000 fatalities. Only 1640 ft from the spot where the atomic bomb hit the ground, stands the Urakami Immaculate Conception Cathedral, which was completely destroyed by the detonation, but rebuilt in 1959. Statues and artifacts damaged in the bombing are displayed outside the cathedral; the most famous being the head of a statue of the Virgin Mary that survived the bombing, which is displayed in a special chapel in the cathedral. Finally enjoy a boat-ride on Nagasaki Bay taking in beautiful views of the city from the sea. Overnight in Nagasaki.

**MONDAY – April 19 Osaka Castle and Grand Cathedral**  
This morning we will depart for Osaka by private coach (or bullet train), in the Kansai region, home to many cultural landmarks. Upon an afternoon arrival in Osaka (near Kobe, hometown of our chaplain, Canon Ueda) enjoy a panoramic tour of the city passing by one of the most famous landmarks of Japan: the Osaka Castle. The Castle was built between 1583 and 1597 by the 16th century Samurai warrior, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, and its castle grounds cover 15 acres. Also visit the

Grand Cathedral of the Virgin Mary. Constructed in 1963, the cathedral replaced the earlier St Agnes Church that was built in 1894 but destroyed in the bombings during the WWII. Early evening check-in at our hotel in the Kansai region for overnight.

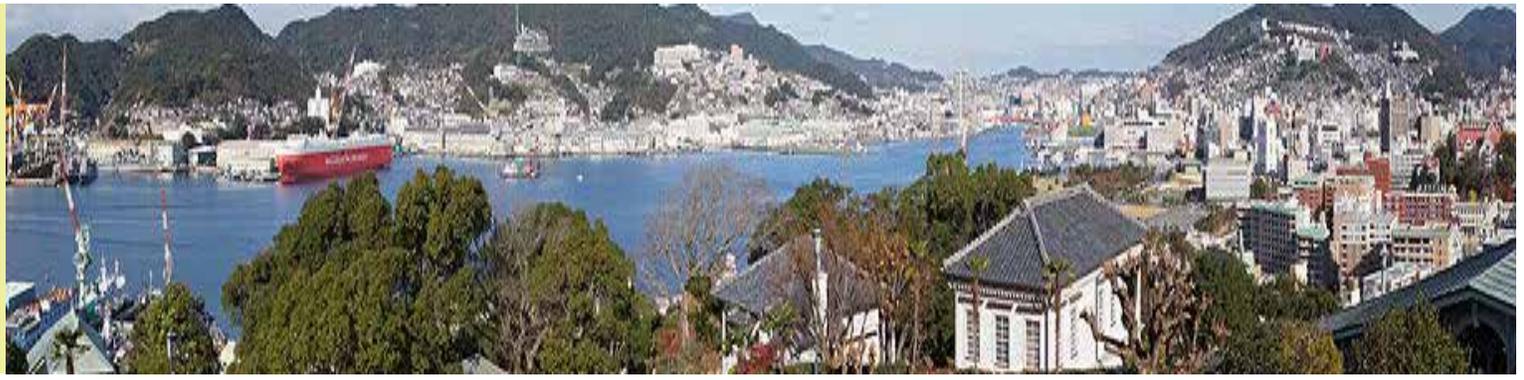
**TUESDAY – April 20 Kyoto –**

Today we depart for Kyoto, once the imperial capital of Japan and today regarded as the country’s cultural capital. The city’s many temples, Shinto shrines, palaces and gardens are collectively listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Upon arrival and check-in at our city hotel we will visit a fascinating Zen Garden at the Zuiho-in Temple wherein is a “Garden of the Cross” with rocks forming the shape of a cross, created by a the same Samurai warrior who built the Osaka Castle, and his wife, Gracia Hosokawa, a Christian convert who was deeply influenced by Thomas a Kempis’ *Imitation of Christ*. It is believed that there is also a statue of the Blessed Mother buried in this garden to remember the ‘hidden Christians’. Afterwards we will go to another famous Kyoto sight, the Arashiyama Bamboo Grove, a beautiful bamboo forest. We will end our day in Kyoto by having a look at the Nanban Dera marker stone, marking the spot where a Chapel was built by Spanish and Portuguese missionaries in 1561. The Chapel, which was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, was locally referred to as “Nanban Dera”, Japanese for “Barbarian Temple”. The Chapel was torn down after the Jesuit mission was banned in 1587.

**WEDNESDAY – April 21 KYOTO –**

On our last full day in Kyoto we will begin with a visit to St. Joseph’s Church (from 1907), a traditional style church in the city center with a small Japanese garden inside. The Imperial Palace is next. Kyoto was the imperial capital of Japan for over thousand years, and this palace is a reminder of the city’s royal past. The Emperor and his family resided here until the Meiji Restoration of 1869, when the Imperial Family moved to Tokyo, where they still reside. The palace grounds are located in the city center and have the form of a large rectangle containing palaces, ceremonial buildings and large gardens. Along with being a part of Japan’s cultural capital, Kyoto is also the capital of Japan’s Geisha culture. The geishas are famous symbols of Japanese culture. Our next stop is to walk along the Kamo River to the Gion district where several hundreds of geishas are working as professional entertainers attending guests during meals, banquets and tea ceremonies. The last stop on our Kyoto tour will be the Monument to the 52 Martyrs, which marks the spot where the precious lives of fifty-two Christians, including women and children, were martyred at the order of the Shogun. One historian of the religious history of Japan wrote that a “comet and supernatural fires marked this martyrdom. Fact or not, no-one of faith can doubt that Christ Himself was there among the martyrs, the Conqueror of Death, claiming victory amidst those hellish earthly flames.” Tonight we will have our Farewell Dinner.

**THURSDAY – April 22 Kyoto - Tokyo Airport for flight home**  
Morning check-out and departure by private coach (or bullet train) for Tokyo Airport for our late afternoon flight home, arriving to the US on the same day.



Nagasaki Bay



Tokyo



Hirado



Oura Church, Nagasaki



Kyoto

To make a reservation visit our website or fill out the form on the next page and send it to St. Olav Travel via e-mail or regular mail.

**Cost:**

\$3795.00 with a departure from Los Angeles, CA in double room occupancy

Additional cost for a single room: \$595.00

Good add-on fares from other cities of departure

**Cost includes:**

R/T air from Los Angeles to Tokyo - Transportation within Japan by air, train and private coach - Breakfast & Dinner daily - Guided touring as indicated on itinerary - Entrance fees where required - Daily Traditional Latin Mass

**Deposit:**

\$500.00 to be paid by check or online (PayPal with a 3.6% surcharge)



**Contact info:**

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Bridgeport, CT 06605  
**Phone:** 1-845-594-2222  
For more info, go to:  
[www.stolavtravel.com](http://www.stolavtravel.com)

# St. Olav Travel : Reservation Agreement

Event: A Pilgrimage to Discover Japan Travel Dates: April 12 - 22, 2021

Contact info: Please print name(s) as it appears on your valid passport

## Traveler 1

First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## Traveler 2\*

First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## Home Address

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

## Emergency contact

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodation: Please check one

Single \_\_\_\_\_ Single (willing to share room if a roommate is available) \_\_\_\_\_ Double (1 bed) \_\_\_\_\_ Double (2 beds) \_\_\_\_\_

Name preference on name tag \_\_\_\_\_

Traveler 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Traveler 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Travel Insurance Interested in Travel Insurance? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

## Deposit

Confirming this reservation requires a \$500 deposit per person. St. Olav Travel accepts payments by credit card or check. Make checks payable to: St. Olav Travel, P.O. Box 38123, Bridgeport, CT 06605. To make a credit card payment fill out the form below, or call us: (845) 594-2222. Credit card payments are subject to a 3,5% processing fee. You can also pay online on our website via paypal: [www.stolavtravel.com](http://www.stolavtravel.com). Enrollment & payment for your pilgrimage constitutes your acceptance of the terms of service of this agreement.

*I have read and agree to the terms and conditions on the following page and look forward to my pilgrimage with St. Olav Travel.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Credit Card Details

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Card (VISA, MasterCard, other) \_\_\_\_\_

Card No \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Card Security Code (CCV) \_\_\_\_\_

\*To add one or more travelers just print more copies of this form or make your reservation on our website: [www.stolavtravel.com](http://www.stolavtravel.com)

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

**PAYMENT, CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY:** A non-refundable deposit of \$500 is required to hold your reservation. Balance of payment is due 50 days prior to departure. Make check payable to St. Olav Travel. If cancellation in writing is received more than 45 days prior to departure, a full refund less the \$500 deposit will apply. If cancellation in writing is received within 45 days of departure the deposit plus any amount that the airline, hotel & ground operator withhold are non-refundable.

**ITINERARIES:** Itineraries are prepared in advance and are subject to change. Activities are planned and scheduled according to the best information available at the time.

**BAGGAGE:** Each tour participant is permitted 1 large suitcase (maximum of 50 pounds) and 1 carry-on, plus a personal item (such as a purse or camera bag) due to the airline restrictions and the limited baggage area on the motor coach.

**DOCUMENTATION:** All passengers must have passport that is valid at least three months from the return date. U.S. citizens do not need visas or vaccinations: However, visa and health requirements are subject to change. For citizens of other countries check with the consulate of Japan for entry documents and requirements.

**SINGLE OCCUPANCY:** Tour costs are based on double occupancy. Accommodation in a single room is available at an additional cost as specified on the tour application.

**TRAVELERS INSURANCE:** Insurance is highly recommended. We cannot accept any responsibility for loss or damage to property as a result of handling and/or accidents.

**MEALS:** As the meals offered during the tour are pre-arranged, we normally are not able to accommodate special dietary needs or restrictions, but will do what we can to work with you.

**AIR CARRIER RESPONSIBILITY:** The airlines cannot be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their aircraft. The airlines, as Int'l. carriers are subject to Int'l. conventions limiting their liability; the limitations of liability contained on the passengers airline ticket shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the passenger under the conditions stated on the ticket. The airlines are not responsible for any negligent acts and/or omissions of independent contractors, their agents, employees or representatives. Tour participants will fly transatlantic by jet service in economy class.

**FORM OF PAYMENT:** Personal checks, Cashiers Checks and Credit Cards (w/ a 3.5% surcharge).

**RESPONSIBILITY:** St. Olav Enterprises LLC (dba St. Olav Travel) acts only as an agent for the hotels, airlines and bus company or owners or contractors providing accommodations, transportation or other services, and all coupons, exchange orders, receipts, contracts and tickets issued by the company are issued subject to any and all tariffs, terms and conditions under which any accommodations, transportation or any other services whatsoever are provided by such hotels, airlines or bus companies or owners or contractors, and by the acceptance of such coupons, exchange orders, receipts, contracts and tickets, the tour member agrees to the following and also agrees that neither St. Olav Travel nor any of its affiliates or subsidiary companies shall be or become liable or responsible for any loss, injury or damage to any person, property or otherwise in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services resulting, directly or indirectly, from acts of God, dangers incident to the sea, fire, breakdown, in machinery or equipment, acts of governments, or other authorities, de jure or de facto, wars (whether declared or undeclared), hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, pilferage, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, cancellations or delays, of or changes in itinerary or schedule, or from any causes beyond the control of St. Olav Travel or for any loss or damage resulting from improper or insufficient passports, visa's or any documents, and that neither St. Olav Travel nor any of its affiliated or subsidiary companies shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expense or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of any of the foregoing causes. If illness or other imperative reason compels a member to withdraw after a tour begins, St. Olav Travel will refund all savings possible. There will be no refund for an absence of less than 2 days for missing occasional sightseeing or meals. St. Olav Travel reserves the right to require any individual to withdraw from any tour at any time if his conduct is deemed detrimental to or not compatible with the interest, harmony, comfort, welfare of the tour as a whole. The airlines, bus company or other transportation company whose services are featured on this tour is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on-board their conveyance. The passage contract in use by these companies when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the companies & the tour purchaser.