

DIOCESE OF NIIGATA

Higashi Ohatadori
Niigata-shi Japan

カトリック
新潟司教館
〒951 新潟市東大畑通り

February 28, 1989

INGEKOMEN - 8 MAART 1989

Most Rev. H. Bomers
Bishop of Haarlem
Nieuwe Gracht 80

Your Excellency,

Thank you for your letter dated January 31, 1989. I am sorry for a delay in sending this reply to you.

Let me explain links between the 'Lady of all peoples' and the wooden statue of the Blessed Mother in Akita, a northern Japanese city.

More than 25 years ago, Sr. Kotake, a member of a pious union named "The Institute of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist," fell physically sick and was later healed after drinking water sent from Lourdes.

The Japanese sister felt like offering a new statue of the Blessed Mother Mary in order to express her gratitude for her healing.

Another nun at the same pious union recommended that Sr. Kotake have the statue of the 'Lady of all peoples' carved, as the nun had read about "apparitions" of the Blessed Mother in Amsterdam.

Sr. Kotake agreed to the proposal and asked a Japanese artist to sculpture a wooden statue by handing over a drawing of the "Lady of all peoples" to him as a model for reference.

Now, I will answer your question on the presence of an official ecclesiastical recognition of the supernatural character of Marian apparitions in Akita.

I recognized and declared the supernatural character of the Marian apparitions at Akita after 10 years of investigations and careful considerations as the Ordinarius Loci of the diocese of Niigata before I retired as the Ordinary.

I established an ecclesiastical commission in Japan on the basis of an advice of the Holy See to the effect.

The commission also investigated the mysterious events and recognized the supernatural authenticity of the apparitions of

DIOCESE OF NIIGATA

Higashi Ohatadori
Niigata-shi Japan

カトリック
新潟司教館
〒951 新潟市東大畑通り一

the Blessed Mother in Akita.

In April, 1984, I announced the supernatural character of the Marian apparitions in Akita on the basis of "Normae S. Congregationis D. F. de Modo Procedendi in diudicandis Praesumptis apparitionibus ac Revelationibus" by issuing a pastoral letter for Catholic faithfuls.

Please read my pastoral letter whose French translation is included at the end of the book "Notre-Dame D' Akita" which I send by separate post.

Another link between Marian apparitions in Akita and the "Lady of all peoples" is as follows:

When Sr. Agnes Katsuko Sasagawa received the first of Mary's three messages through the wooden statue of the Blessed Mother of Akita on July 6, 1973, an angel also appeared to her and recited the prayer of the "Lady of all peoples" with Sr. Sasagawa. Please read the Page 45 of "Notre-Dame D' Akita" in order to obtain more detailed information on this point.

I did not know that it is forbidden to visit the chapel of "Lady of all peoples" and celebrate Holy Mass at the chapel. So, I visited there and celebrated Mass in my private capacity. If my visit had caused you some annoyances, please forgive me.

Respectfully yours,



John Shojiro Ito
Bishop Emeritus of Niigata