



# DIOCESE OF HIROSHIMA

ALEXIS MITSURU SHIRAHAMA  
DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA EPISCOPUS HIROSHIMAENSIS

BISHOP'S OFFICE  
4-42 NOBORI-CHO  
NAKA-KU HIROSHIMA  
〒730-0016 JAPAN

PROT.N.

Hiroshima, February 11, 2026

Committee for the Civilization of Love (Civiltà dell'Amore)  
President Giuseppe Rotunno  
Dear Seminar Participants,

On February 5 of this year, the New START Treaty between the United States and Russia expired, and momentum toward nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is waning. Therefore, at the 11th Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), to be held in New York from April 27 to May 22 this year, the crucial issue will be how the obligations under Article VI of the NPT will be fulfilled going forward. For lasting world peace, it is essential to establish a new nuclear disarmament program to achieve abolishment of Nuclear Weapons peacefully.

Amidst this international situation, I am deeply pleased that a seminar will be held in Assisi on February 24th this year, under the auspices of the Civiltà dell'Amore Committee, continuing from the seminars held on September 15th and November 8th (Assisi) and December 11th (Rome) last year. The theme will be "Unarmed and Disarming Peace: Religion and the Conversion of Nuclear Weapons into Energy for Development." I earnestly hope that this ongoing research effort will lead to the development of a new nuclear disarmament program to restart and strengthen nuclear energy conversion for sustainable development.

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi. Displaying the relics of St. Francis for this seminar, praying for the intercession of this saint who loved peace, is deeply meaningful and symbolic.

With united hearts from Hiroshima, we pray for the rich blessings of God, invoking the intercession of Saint Francis and the Blessed Virgin Mary, that this seminar held during the special Year of Saint Francis may bear abundant fruit for disarmament peacefully.



+ Alexis Mitsuru Shirahama

Alexis Mitsuru Shirahama  
Bishop of Hiroshima Catholic Diocese