

“Ordinated as a deacon”

Deacon Joshua Seiwa UEHARA

On March 21, the worship for the day of the Okinawa diocese took place. In this worship, the ordination for a new deacon was held and I, Joshua Seiwa Uehara, got officially ordained as a deacon. In this ceremony, the former bishop of the Kobe diocese, Yutaka Nakamura preached upon what kind of meaning the work of a deacon has. I appreciate many brothers and sisters in Christ came all over Japan and East Asia and attended this ceremony, including the former bishop Shoji Tani, Pastor. Kouichi Mesaki, Senior Pastor. Joo Sung Sick from the Anglican Church of Korea. Especially, I would like to thank Pastor. Joo who offered me the 3-day-long retreat guidance in the Sacred Monastery of the Anglican Church of Korea before the ordination. Pastor. Joo gave me words such as “A priest shall be the one who obey Jesus who is a good shepherd. A good shepherds die for the sheep and a priest must become this figure of Christ.” which remained in my heart deeply.

I myself still have a lot of personal lacks as a priest, a deacon or a human being. In my heart, there are still many fields that needs more spiritual growth. I see in me, there are lots of weak and ugly tendency and behaviors trying to protect my life, not a life of sheep. However, God has called me just as I am now and lots of prayers and supports from people in Okinawa diocese really have encouraged me. I have received many messages from people both inside and outside of the Okinawa diocese. I very much appreciate for all kind consideration. I would be very grateful, if I could serve God and people more through listening to the Word, praying to Him, meeting a lot of people and listening to the voice of those people.

From this April, I am assigned as a curate of Oroku St. Matthew’s Church and a chaplain of St. Matthew’s kindergarten. With people in St Matthew’s church and children at kindergarten, I would like to do my best to spend a time together pleasantly, receiving love and joy from the above. Once again, lots and lots of special thanks to those who prayed for this ordination ceremony. I thank you from my heart. From now on, please let us continue to pray together for may the Gospel of the Kingdom be conveyed to more and more people and may we see abundant harvest through dedicated work.