

Guidelines for reporting on events of the Catholic Church during papal visit to Japan

This document describes the necessary procedures for journalists who wish to report on events of the Catholic Church during the visit of His Holiness Francis to Japan during the period of 23 November to 26 November 2019.

Please note that the following are not regarded as events of the Catholic Church as defined above: the welcome and farewell ceremonies at Tokyo-Haneda Airport; the private visit to Emperor Naruhito; and the meetings with the Prime Minister and authorities and the diplomatic corps at Kantei.

1 Journalist registration

(1) In order to receive permission to report on events of the Catholic Church, journalists must possess press credentials that are recognized in Japan (e.g., an employee ID card from a news agency, etc.).

(2) Journalists are not required to register if they meet any of the following conditions:

- They are affiliated with a media organization which is registered in Japan with one of the following: the Japan Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association, the Japan Commercial Broadcasters Association, the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan (regular membership), or the Japan Magazine Publishers Association.
- They hold a valid Foreign Press Registration Card issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.
- They are affiliated with a media organization which is recognized by the Holy See or the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan.

(3) Journalists who do not meet the above criteria are required to register according to the following procedure. The deadline is Friday, 25 October (JST).

- Journalists who wish to register should send the following information to press@popeinjapan2019.jp
 - Name (must match name as written on a piece of photo ID such as a passport, etc.)
 - Birthdate (month/date/year)
 - Current address
 - Phone number
(If the applicant has a phone number at which they can be reached in Japan, this must be written in the application email.)
 - Email address (must be an address at which emails can be received and viewed in Japan)
 - Name of affiliated media organization and information on publication(s)
 - Document written by a person of authority at the applicant's media organization

instructing the applicant regarding their reporting assignment (or certificate of affiliation)

- If the applicant is a freelance journalist: At least two published articles as proof of published work

Application period:

Wed. 16 Oct.- Fri.25 Oct. 2019 at 22:00 (JST)

- (4) Please note that applications for registration undergo a review process and may not always be accepted.
- (5) Please note: Even when an application for registration has been approved, journalists are still required to register separately for permission to report on specific events of the Catholic Church. Guidelines on registering will be announced separately as soon as preparations are complete.

2 Japanese entry visas

- (1) With the exception of Vatican Accredited Media Personnel, journalists who plan to report on events during the papal visit to Japan should contact their nearest Japanese embassy or consulate to find out whether they need a Japanese entry visa and how to apply for one.
- (2) Contact information for Japanese embassies and consulates is available at:
https://www.mofa.go.jp/about/emb_cons/over/index.html

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