A CHURCH THAT WALKS TOGETHER

September 27, 2026

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we look back on our experience as the Church in Akita: the Parishioners ' Gathering (信徒大会), the International Mass (国際ミサ), and the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (世界難民移住移動者の日).

The Church is not merely a building or an organization. The Church is a people who walk together.

On this journey, we learn to listen, to receive, and to accompany one another. Each person carries his or her own story, language, culture, and life experience. Yet we are called to walk in one direction: toward a more human life, in love and hope.

The gathering of parishioners and the International Mass remind us that differences are not a reason to move apart. Through our differences, we can discover the richness of life together.

On the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, we are also reminded of those who are on the road: migrants, refugees, and all who seek a place where they can live with dignity.

A Church that walks together does not first ask, " Where do you come from? " The Church asks, " How can we walk together? "

In the spirit of the thought of Kierkegaard, Gabriel Marcel, and Karl Rahner, the human person is called to become oneself in relationship with others, in hope, and in openness to the Mystery of God.

Therefore, to be Church means learning to be present, to remain, and to walk together.

Come. Stop. Listen. Flow.

This is the Church that walks together.