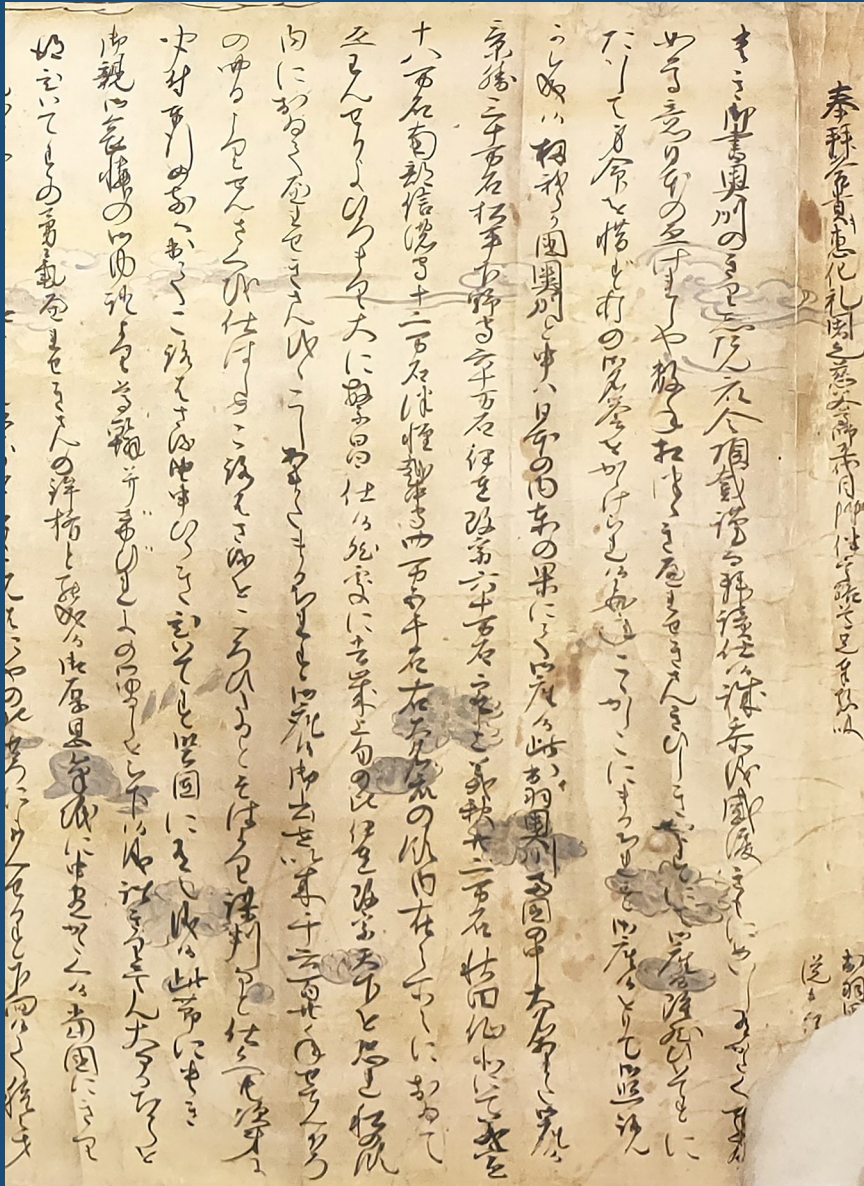


FIDES ET SPES

«ERRANDO PER LE STRADE ONDOSE»

Pilgrimages between Japan and Europe





DICASTERO PER L'EVANGELIZZAZIONE



日本カトリック司教協議会
CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF JAPAN



HISTORICAL STUDIES

17

HISTORICAL STUDIES

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FIDES ET SPES
«ERRANDO PER LE STRADE ONDOSE»
Pilgrimages between Japan and Europe

edited by
PAOLO GIULIETTI – OLIMPIA NIGLIO



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On the cover:

ARCHIVI TOSCANI E FIORENTINI DELLA PROVINCIA ROMANA DI SANTA CATERINA DA SIENA DELL'ORDINE DEI FRATI PREDICATORI (DOMINICANI) presso la BIBLIOTECA DOMINICANA DI SANTA MARIA NOVELLA "JACOPO PASSAVANTI", *Fondo dell'Ex Provincia di San Marco e Sardegna*, Letter from a group of Japanese Christians to Pope Paul V, 7^o year Genna (Japanese calendar), 1621, September 29th (Gregorian calendar)

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«FIDES ET SPES»
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM EXPO 2025 OSAKA

Paolo Giulietti – Olimpia Niglio

Archdiocese of Lucca – University of Pavia

The International Symposium *FIDES ET SPES «errando per le strade ondose». Pilgrimages between Japan and Europe* at the Italy Pavilion (Expo 2025 Osaka) aimed to approach the international community to the topics of the cultural meeting between Japan and Europe from XVI century until today. In particular, the activities of the missionaries and “hidden Christians” in Japan continue to be lifeblood for the life of the Church, and thanks to their faith and courage to «errare per strade ondose»¹ in every place, they are an irreplaceable and fundamental guide for establishing peaceful dialogues. Faith, Hope, Life, Beauty, Salvation, Courage, constitute the key words on which we are invited to question ourselves by analysing the long pilgrimages of those who, for the good of the world, have faced the unknown and known how to look “beyond”. The project aimed to organize a cultural pilgrimage from Italy to Japan to celebrate the first intercultural exchange among these countries after 440 years. The first diplomatic meeting is documented in Rome in 1585 and so after 440 years together, Japanese and Italian scholars met at the Universal Exhibition to remember this important historical memory, a sign of brotherhood and a bridge of peace.

The international Symposium took place in Osaka on September 3 at the Auditorium, Italy Pavilion with the participation of the special guests from different countries around the world.

1 The quote is taken from the literary text by Angelo Grillo, a Benedictine, composed on the occasion of the pilgrimage of the Japanese Christians at the monastery of Polirone in Mantua in 1585. *TENSHŌ 天正. Diario di un pellegrinaggio giapponese alla Curia Romana (1585). Fonti manoscritte e a stampa*, a cura di PAOLO GIULIETTI – OLIMPIA NIGLIO – CARLO PELLICCIA, Todi, Tau Editore, 2025, pp. 424-434.

The Symposium has been introduced by H.E. Ambassador Mario Andrea Vattani, Commissioner General for Italy at Expo 2025 Osaka and by Dr. Stefano Riccardi, Dicastery for Evangelization Section for Fundamental Questions of Evangelization., Holy See.

With the participation of the distinguished guests, the Symposium opened with the presentations of H.E.R. Card. Jean-Claude Hollerich S.J., Archbishop of Luxembourg; H.E.R. Card. Thomas Aquinas Manyo Maeda, Archbishop Osaka-Takamatsu, Japan; H.E.R. Card. Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi, S.V.D., Archbishop of Tokyo, Japan; H.E.R. Mgr. Paolo Giulet-ti, Archbishop of Lucca, Italy; H.E.R. Mgr. Rino Fisichella pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, Vatican City; H.E.R. Mons. Andrea Lembo, PIME, Auxiliary Bishop of Tokyo, Japan.

The professor Olimpia Niglio, University of Pavia and Archdiocese of Lucca, coordinated the proceedings of the Symposium, which extended throughout the day in the presence of all the members of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Japan: M.R. Bernard Taiji Katsuya, Bishop of Sapporo; M.R. Edgar Gacutan, C.I.C.M., Bishop of Sendai; M. R. Paul Daisuke Narui, S.V.D., Bishop of Niigata; M. R. Mario Michiaki Yamanouchi, S.D.B., Bishop of Saitama; M. R. Raphael Masahiro Umemura, Bishop of Yokohama.; M. R. Michael Goro Matsuura, Bishop of Nagoya; M. R. Paul Yoshinao Otsuka, Bishop of Kyoto; M. R. Paulus Toshihiro Sakai, Aux. Bishop of Osaka-Takamatsu.; M. R. Alexis Mitsuru Shirahama, S.S., Bishop of Hiroshima; M. R. Josep Maria Abella, Bishop of Fukuoka; M. R. Peter Michiaki Nakamura, Archbishop of Nagasaki; M. R. Sulpice Shinzo Moriyama, Bishop of Oita; M. R. Francis Xavier Hiroaki Nakano, Bishop of Kagoshima; M. R. Wayne Francis Berndt, O.F.M. cap., Bishop of Naha.

The speakers of the International Symposium arrived from many different countries: Argentina, Canada, China, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Portugal, Vatican City State and United States: Nuno Alexandre Henriques de Lima (Portugal), Tamatsukuri Catholic Church, St. Mary's Cathedral di Osaka and Deputy Commissioner Expo Osaka 2025; Professor Shinzo Kawamura S.J. (Japan), Sophia University, Tokyo and Director of the Sophia University Kirishitan Bunko Library; Renzo De Luca S.J. (Argentina), Director Twenty-Six Martyrs Museum, Nagasaki; M. Antoni J. Ucerler S.J. (United States) Boston College, Director of the Ricci Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History; Professor Takayoshi Kisaki (Japan), The University of Tokyo; Dr. Susumu Akune (Japan), The Oriental Library (Toyo Bunko), Tokyo; Professor Mamoru Fujisaki (Japan), The University of Tokyo; Professor Hisashi YAKOU (Japan), Hokkaido

University; Maria De Giorgi, M.M.X. (Italy) Shinmeizan, Center Inter-religious dialogue, Nagomi machi, Kumamoto ken, Japan; Dr. Marco Maovaz (Italy), University of Perugia; Professor Koji Kuwakino (Japan), University of Osaka; Dr. Chen Yuting (China), University of Osaka; Rev. don Flavio Belluomini (Italy/Vatican City), Director, Archive Propaganda Fide; Kan Takahama (Japan) writer, Tsukuba University, Ambassador Pavilion Holy See Expo 2025 Osaka. It was a pleasure to involve Éliane Roux in this book, an independent Canadian scholar who has been studying Christian missions in the East for many years and has carried out important studies at the Vatican Apostolic Library.

The International Symposium of Osaka marked an important milestone in the *Thesaurum Fidei* project, which in 2025, to celebrate the 440th anniversary of the Tenshō Embassy (1585-2025) and thus the first relations between Japan and the Holy See, promoted preparatory events in Italy between March and May. In particular, the Tenshō Embassy was the first Japanese diplomatic mission sent to Europe, departing for the Old Continent at the behest of the Jesuit missionary Alessandro Valignano and the Christian daimyō Ōtomo Sōrin, Ōmura Sumitada, and Arima Harunobu. At the time, it also represented a fruitful opportunity to discover other Italian cities thanks to the hospitality of prelates, religious orders, and local noble families. The arrival in Rome is documented on March 22. However, in 2025 the date of March 17 was also commemorated, marking 160 years since the discovery of the hidden Christian faithful in Japan (March 17, 1865-March 17, 2025).

Thus, to celebrate this first encounter in March 1585 between young Japanese seminarians and Pope Gregory XIII (Boncompagni), founder and protector of the Pontifical Gregorian University, and also in the context of the Jubilee Year (2025), the Archdiocese of Lucca, at the Pontifical Gregorian University together with the Embassy of Japan to the Holy See and in collaboration with the Vatican Apostolic Library and the Dicastery for Evangelization, Section for Fundamental Questions of Evangelization in the World, promoted an international seminar entitled “The Japanese Pilgrimage to the Holy See: The Hope of a Dialogue (March 1585).” This study day made it possible to anticipate the themes of the events that took place starting in August 2025 within the framework of the *Thesaurum Fidei* project, an integral part of the program of the Holy See Pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka.

The seminar was designed and coordinated by Professor Olimpia Niglio, University of Pavia and Archdiocese of Lucca, together with Professor Don Roberto Regoli of the Pontifical Gregorian University, and

was introduced by institutional greetings from Mark Lewis SJ, Rector of the Pontifical Gregorian University; Atsutoshi Hagino, Chargé d’Affaires a.i., Embassy of Japan to the Holy See; H.E. Mons. Angelo Vincenzo Zani, former Archivist and Librarian of the Holy Roman Church; H.E. Mons. Paolo Giulietti, Archbishop of Lucca; and H.E. Mons. Rino Fisichella, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, Section for Fundamental Questions of Evangelization in the World.

Speakers included Professor Silvano Giordano OCD, Pontifical Theological Faculty Teresianum and Pontifical Gregorian University; Professor Carlo Pelliccia, Institute of Computational Linguistics of the National Research Council and University of International Studies of Rome; and Kan Takahama, Japanese writer and ambassador of the Holy See Pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka.

Meanwhile, the stay in Rome of the young Japanese envoys is documented from March 22, 1585 until June 3, when they began their pilgrimage through various cities of central and northern Italy. The beginning of the pilgrimage was anticipated by letters dated May 29, 1585, in which Cardinal Michele Bonelli, Dominican, better known as “Alessandrino,” informed the governors of the territories of the Papal States of the imminent passage of the young ambassadors, inviting them to offer hospitality and thus to provide food, lodging, and the necessary means to ensure the successful continuation of their journey across the Italian peninsula, prior to their re-embarkation in Genoa on August 6, 1585. All this was in accordance with the will of Sixtus V, who ascended to the papal throne on May 1, 1585 following the death of Gregory XIII on April 10. It was indeed Sixtus V who appointed Cardinal Michele Bonelli as General Superintendent of the Ecclesiastical State, thereby involving him in the organization of the pilgrimage of the young Japanese envoys.

Thus, to celebrate this important anniversary, also in the context of the Jubilee Year (2025), the Pontifical Urbaniana University, together with the Archdiocese of Lucca, the Embassy of Japan to the Holy See, and in collaboration with the Dicastery for Evangelization, the Directorate General of Archives of the Ministry of Culture, and the Italy-Japan Foundation, promoted the presentation of the book *TENSHŌ 天正. Diary of a Japanese Pilgrimage to the Roman Curia (1585). Manuscript and Printed Sources.*

The Diary, which forms part of the celebrations marking 440 years since the arrival of the Japanese delegation at the Roman Curia, invites us to become pilgrims, just like the four Japanese ambassadors, animated by the hope of being renewed through an encounter that may become a

source of richness and exchange, and instill within us “the light of hope” (Francis, *Spes non confundit*, 2024). The Diary thus seeks to commemorate one of the most particular and significant events in the history of the Catholic Church in Japan at the end of the sixteenth century.

The book, published by TAU Editrice (Todi) and supported by Banca Generali Private, was edited by H.E. Mons. Paolo Giulietti, Professor Olimpia Niglio, and Professor Carlo Pelliccia of the Institute of Computational Linguistics, CNR, University of International Studies of Rome, with the close collaboration of diocesan historical archives, state archives, state libraries, civic libraries, and research centers of the cities involved in the historic pilgrimage of 1585.

The volume is the result of an important collective effort that saw the constructive participation of thirty-seven authors, including archivists, art historians, librarians, and professors. It was introduced by H.E. Jean-Claude Cardinal Hollerich S.J., Archbishop of Luxembourg; H.E. Mons. Angelo Vincenzo Zani, former Archivist and Librarian Emeritus of the Holy Roman Church; H.E. Mons. Rino Fisichella, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, Section for Fundamental Questions of Evangelization in the World; and H.E. Akira Chiba, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Holy See.

The following pages, together with the many studies carried out in recent years – including the International Symposium *THESAURUM FIDEI: Missionary Martyrs and Hidden Christians in Japan. Three Hundred Years of Heroic Fidelity to Christ* (Lucca, May 6-7, 2023)² – bear witness that the dialogue with the Japanese community, begun in 1585, has never been interrupted despite the historical difficulties of Christianity in Japan³. On the contrary, it has generated remarkable tangible and intangible heritage, whose knowledge deserves to be further explored. Thus, we continue to «wander along undulating paths», guided by faith, strengthening this important Christian cultural bridge between Japan and Italy.

2 *Thesaurum Fidei. Missionari martiri e cristiani nascosti in Giappone. Trecento anni di eroica fedeltà a Cristo*, a cura di PAOLO GIULIETTI – OLIMPIA NIGLIO, Viareggio, Edizioni La Villa, 2023.

3 OLIMPIA NIGLIO, *Paesaggio sacro e architettura cristiana nella prefettura di Nagasaki*, Roma, Aracne Editrice, 2018; GABRIELE DI COMITE, *Santi, Martiri e Samurai. Storia del Giappone Cristiano*, Milano, Edizioni San Paolo, 2025.

