

Global

Special Lecture "Geopolitics of Mercy of Pope Francis" by Fr. Antonio Spadaro, S.J.

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Sophia University in Tokyo hosted three special events to commemorate the visit of Pope Francis who had been a member of the Jesuit Society, our founding institution, from September to November 2019, before Pope Francis visited Japan 38 years after the last visit of the Pope to Japan.



Fr. Antonio Spadaro, S.J., Editor in Chief of the Jesuit Journal "La Civiltà Cattolica" and Papal Advisor to Pope Francis

On 19 September 2019, the special lecture "Geopolitics of Mercy of Pope Francis" by Fr. Antonio Spadaro was organized as an opening of the series, and more than 170 people attended.

Born in 1966, after studying philosophy and communications, Fr. Spadaro earned Doctorate in Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in 2000. He is Editor in Chief of "La Civiltà Cattolica", a journal published by the Society of Jesus since 1850 being among the oldest Catholic Italian periodicals. Serving as Papal advisor to the Pope, he is known to work very closely to Pope Francis.

In his lecture citing the word "mercy" mentioned in numerous occasions by Pope Francis, Fr. Spadaro spoke of the Pope's thoughts.

About the Pope's repeated visits to war regions and conflict areas worldwide, Fr. Spadaro claimed that it is promised by the Holy See always to take a neutral standing with understanding of viewpoints by both conflicted parties. Regarding the provisional agreement with China, he thinks that it is not a conclusion but only a starting point, believing further understanding can be reached despite many remaining issues.



Fr. Spadaro also told that although the Pope permits no justification for committing to any terrorism, he calls those terrorists "saddened sinner" or "prodigal son" refereed in the Bible. The Pope thinks they are not evils themselves to start with rather they are calling to be stopped from committing anymore sins. Such a way of the Pope, "to love all even enemies" means true victory of "mercy" Fr. Spadaro said, in order to realize the peace and the justice we must commit to believing in "mercy" to bringing common good to all places in the world, he emphasized.

Fr. Spadaro also extended to the Pope's intentions upon his visit to Japan. He claimed the Pope plans to give prayers for victims for Great East Japan Earthquake and he will also make some statements for abolition of nuclear weapons.

In the end of his lecture Fr. Spadaro expressed his respect for the former Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Fr. Pedro Arrupe, S.J. for his great contribution while staying in Japan for many years of his life and Fr. Adolfo Nicolas, S.J. who served as a professor at Faculty of Theology of Sophia University as well as shared his memoirs with Archbishop Joseph Pittau who had been the former President of Sophia University. He cannot forget the word by Archbishop Pittau that "as the God walks in the speed of 3 miles/hour just like us humans, the God always stays with us." In the end Fr. Spadaro concluded with the statement that Pope Francis serves to healing our wounded world by building the hopes and our future.

At last for the farewell, the flower bouquet was presented by Sayaka Kojima, 2nd year at Ph.D. Program in Theology at our Graduate School of Theology Studies to Fr. Spadaro.

[← Three special events that Sophia University hosted, prior to the visit of Pope Francis to Japan in 2019](#)

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