

Circular from Archdiocese of Tokyo dated September 16, 2023

(Below is the English translation of the original Japanese text.)

September 16, 2023

Appointment of Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese of Tokyo

Pope Francis appointed Fr. Andrea Lembo as the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Tokyo at 7 p.m. (noon Roman time) today, September 16. The long-awaited Auxiliary Bishop, who has been vacant for five years since the retirement of then-Auxiliary Bishop Kazuo Koda on June 23, 2018, was newly appointed. Let us offer our prayers of thanks to God, our Father, for this great blessing of a new auxiliary bishop.

Bishop-elect Andrea Lembo, aged 49, was born in Bergamo, Lombardy, Italy on May 23, 1974. He is a member of Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (PIME), and currently serves as the East Asia Regional Superior of PIME and as the Cooperative Priest of Fuchu Catholic Church in Japan.

The episcopal ordination is scheduled for Saturday, December 16, 2023, but the details such as start time will be announced later. Congratulations to Bishop-elect Andrea Lembo!

* According to the rubrics, in addition to "Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi, our Archbishop", we can mention "Andrea Lembo, our Auxiliary Bishop" in the Eucharistic Prayer of Mass.

Biography of Bishop-elect Andrea Lembo

May 23, 1974	Born in Treviglio, Bergamo, Lombardy, Italy
Nov 24, 1974	Baptized at St. Peter the Apostle Church in Treviglio
Jun 7, 2003	Ordained a deacon in the Philippines
Jun 12, 2004	Ordained a priest at Milan Cathedral
Apr 2009	Came to Japan
Apr 2011 - Mar 2012	Associate Parish Priest, Itabashi Catholic Church
Apr 2012 - Mar 2017	Associate Parish Priest, Narashino Catholic Church
Apr 2014 - Feb 2021	Vice Chairman, Catholic Funabashi Learning Center "Galilea"
Apr 2017 - Mar 2023	Parish Priest, Fuchu Catholic Church
May 2017 - Present	Regional Superior, Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (PIME)
Feb 2021 - Present	Chairman, Catholic Funabashi Learning Center "Galilea"
Jun 2021 - Present	Chairman, Shinsei-kaikan
Sep 16, 2023	Appointed as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Tokyo

Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi
Archbishop of Tokyo