



Luca Hasegawa, *Ceiling of the Church of the Holy Japanese Martyrs*, Civitavecchia, Italy. (Fresco) 1954. On the sides of the Madonna in Kimono costume are represented Saint Francis Xavier, the first Jesuit who brought the Christianity into Japan in 1548 and San Francis of Assisi, the founder of the Order. On the sides of the apse are painted Santa Fermina, the patroness of Civitavecchia and Tsunenaga Rokuyemon Hasekura\*, the first Japanese who visited the city in 1615. (\*) Written in my Xmas card 2009.



Luca Hasegawa, *Hosokawa Gracia* (Japanese painting) 1949. The 10th Catholic Art Exhibition. This piece is probably held by Pontifical Urbaniana University or some other institution of Vatican, according to a private letter from Mr. Takashi Kazamaki, Kawasaki City.

## *Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year*

December 2016

Dear friends,

At this season of exchanging greetings, I wish it has been a peaceful year for you and your family.

This year I spent much time to improve my homepage that I had launched last year. Specifically, articles of “Guardians of Temples and Shrines” in the [History of Java section](#) have been revised, adding new paragraphs about monster masks and architectural support figures that I observed in temples and shrines in Japan. In the [Journeys to Java \(transl.\) section](#), the Indonesian edition of Marquis Tokugawa’s essay, *Perjalanan Menoedjoe Jawa*, retranslated by my Indonesian friends and published from ITB Press, 2006, has been uploaded by permission of The Tokugawa Reimeikai Foundation.

A special event was that my old English friends, Prof. & Mrs. Simon Ross-Murphy, visited Tokyo in November to complete their great seven-week world tour. We had an enjoyable week together walking around the city and going far to Nikko and the skirts of Mt. Fuji.

For this Christmas card, I have duplicated some pictures painted by Luca Hasegawa, a Catholic artist, and written a brief story about his life and work.

Hoping that 2017 will be another peaceful year for you and everyone,

Yours sincerely,

*Toshi*

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