

Third anniversary of the Japanese academic center at the USJ

The Japanese Academic Center (CAJAP) of the Saint Joseph University (USJ) held, on the eve of the natural disaster which hit Japan, a series of activities to mark the third anniversary of its foundation, as a center specialized in the promotion of the culture of the country and giving instruction in its language.

On hand were Fathers René Chamussy, rector of the USJ, Salim Daccache, dean of the Religious Sciences Faculty, Dr. Yollande Badr, president of the Alumni Association of Saint Joseph University; Mikihiro Aracao, first counselor of the Japanese ambassador, Koichi Kawakami, and Yasuhiro Mitsué, cultural counselor.

Dr. Khalil Karam, president of the center, who was the first one to take the podium, gave a general survey of the different activities, of which the first was the presentation of a collection of traditional handicraft dolls (*kokesbi*) made in the north of Japan and notable for their harmonious form and which, as Souad el-Fady, owner of the collection, explained, are very popular artistic pieces.

Acclaimed by the audience, Caline Kazandjian, for her part, demonstrated the Japanese floral art known as *ikebana*. Jonko



Yasuhiro Mitsué, cultural counselor at the Japanese embassy, Saër Karam, general manager of Monday Morning; Mrs. Sano, director of the CAJAP; and Dr. Khalil Karam, president of the Center



Pr. Atsushi Okuda giving his lecture



Ambassador Samir Khoury, Dr. Khalil Karam, Father Salim Daccache and Dr. Yollande Badr



Caline Kazandjian presenting the Japanese floral art of ikebana

Hocky, for her part, underlined the importance of green tea, evoking its relation with the daily life of

the Japanese and their culture.

Finally, Pr. Atsushi Okuda, from Keio University, gave a lecture in

Arabic on the theme of "the Japanese imperial regime from the religious point of view". ■