

Circular 2003-017

**TO: All Parish Priests
All PPC Coordinators
All Catholic School Principals
All Local Superiors of Religious Houses**

RE: SAINT JOHN MARY VIENNEY SUNDAY

Monsignori/Fathers/Brothers and Sisters:

For the last four years now, the CBCP has declared the Sunday nearest to August 4 as St. John Mary Vianney Sunday. This saintly Pastor of Ars in France is the Patron Saint of all Pastors, especially of the Diocesan Clergy. Our Bishops have set collection on that Sunday to be submitted to the CBCP and earmarked for the updating of priests in crisis.

We, priests and bishops have been the target of accusing fingers everywhere due to sexual misconducts among our ranks. Admitting our *mea culpa*, we go through our passion for this stark reality in the way of the suffering Christ in the hope of rising to a lived chastity and purity of the Catholic Priesthood.

In view of all this, the forthcoming Saint John Mary Vianney Sunday and the next following years should not only be a diocesan collection for the said purpose but in spite of what is happening + the respect and esteem for our priests in the parishes throughout the diocese. Hence may I ask you all to organize "Parangal sa Cura/Pari" on that Sunday, getting the cooperation of all sectors and mandated organization and transparochial communities within the parish for a meaningful celebration of Saint John Mary Vianney Sunday from year to year.

In view of this annual Parangal, so that our faithful may not be unduly + in + no matter how unworthy, may I give the suggestion to my + that on birthdays and ordination

anniversaries be + individual yearly prayers and fasting in the service of our family +. As priest we minister to so many families but hardly ever to our own. Our birthday may be a good time for that. As priest we minister to so many BECs and communities but we are not close to our brother priests in our own presbyterium. Our ordination anniversary may be a good occasion for such team building of a presbyterium of this new diocese.

So help us God.

Most Rev. Atonio R. Tobias, DD
Apostolic Administrator