

**Houses of Formation
Circular 2004-30**

To: All Local Superiors of Men and Women Religious in the Diocese

In my visit to religious communities within the Diocese, I have appealed for your active participation in the life of our very young Local Church. May I now cite areas where I believe you can make an invaluable contribution.

Our Clergy renewal held last June 1-3 at Tagaytay identified an urgent need for priests to have a personal spiritual director/confessor and a conducive place for individual or a small group recollection. Thus, may I know if your community and physical facilities can be made available for such use of our clergy with least or no cost on their part since most of them are assigned in very poor parishes.

In the case of willing and available directors/confessors, please send us lists of names, age, nationality, contact number and place of residence. We will also provide you a directory of the diocese for your reference as soon as we finish publication.

As I have repeatedly said to the Novaliches Clergy, one of the treasures of this Diocese is the presence of religious congregations. It is, therefore, in the spirit of communion of resources that I appeal to your generosity.

Another concern is the many sprouting Houses of Formation in the Diocese, especially of Religious of recent foundation. These can either do good or become high risks for the Church of the future. There are Houses of Formation without a formator or, if they have, he/she has either not the least experience or is altogether not qualified.

Because of this, there is need for every House of Formation in the Diocese to get a clearance for its establishment from the Bishop. No such clearance can be issued without the go-signal of the Episcopal Commission on Seminaries and from the Mixed Commission of Bishops and Major Religious Superiors to prevent, as much as human efforts can, possible harm to the Church in the future.

For this, there is need for some psychological testing but validated by close observation for every candidate to the Priesthood or to the Religious Life. Guidance Centers and psycho-metricians, along with psychotherapists and psychologists, should be ready and available for this kind of service, so necessary for the Church nowadays!

For this reason, I am calling a meeting of all the Local Religious Superiors in the Diocese to discuss this and other matters. The date of the meeting is August 13, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. at the PREX Hall of the Cathedral.

Just for your information, do you know that the SVD and their sister-counterpart, The S.Sp.S., regularly offer a Mission Orientation Course for incoming foreign missionaries? One such -- already the 15th -- will be given on August 16-26, 2004 at Arnold Janssen Spirit Center in Holy Spirit School of Quezon City at F. Sotto St., BF Homes, Quezon City. Those interested may call or inquire at 722-7212.

Finally, the Vincentians are now building The Santuario de San Vicente de Paul along Tandang Sora. The Project Director, Fr. Nonong Fajardo, CM, would like to share its vision to you during our next meeting.

Given in the Chancery in Fairview, Quezon City, this 29th day of July in the Year of Our Lord, 2004.

Most Rev. Antonio R. Tobias, DD
Bishop

Attested to by:

Rev. Fr. Jaime Z. Lara
Chancellor