

**Diocesan Level Consultation on the Current National Crisis  
Circular 2005-10**

**To: The Clergy, Religious and Lay Leaders of the Diocese:**

During the last clergy meeting, the Clergy of Novaliches decided not to come up with an official statement as this would be misconstrued as speaking for or against those who are interested only to maintain or grab power at the expense of the good of the people. What all of us shared as a clergy, however, is our concern for the poor since they are the ones most affected by the present crisis. Furthermore, we have agreed that instead of issuing a statement we provide a guide for reflection and action to our parishioners.

However, the curia felt that instead of teaching the people what to do and what to think, we first reach out and listen to them. Only that way can we be a true voice of the people. In the end, we refuse to be used by any sector other than that which we have sworn to serve. But first, we have to listen, especially to the poor who now make up 70% of our population, before we claim to speak as church.

As your Bishop, I am calling for a Diocesan Consultation on **July 9, 2005, from 8:00 in the morning to 12:00 noon**. The venue will be the **Good Shepherd Cathedral**. **Each parish will send 10 representatives, three of whom come from your PPC while the rest from the urban poor sector in your parish. Religious communities of men and women are also asked to send one or two representatives each.** The consultation might reach noon so may I ask participants to bring their own *baon*.

I ask all parish priests to attend this consultation because your presence manifests your sincerity and resolve to be with and for the poor in these difficult times.

Given in the Chancery in Fairview, Quezon City, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of July in the Year of Our Lord, 2005.

**Most Rev. Antonio R. Tobias, DD**  
Bishop

Attested to by;

**Rev. Fr. Jaime Z. Lara**  
Chancellor