

**Clergy Seminar/Retreat
Circular 2005-16**

To: All the Parish Priests, Parochial Vicar of the Diocese

We have already agreed upon in our previous clergy meetings that we are holding our annual seminar and retreat for 2005 as follows:

- Sept 05-09 Seminar on EPPS facilitated by Emmaus (Ms. Eva Galvey)
at Sacred Heart Novitiate (SHN), Lagro, Novaliches-QC
- Sept 12-16 Spiritual Retreat on the theme "St. Therese & the Priests"
facilitated by Fr. Domingo M. Salonga
at Mirador Jesuit Villa, Baguio City

EPPS stands for Edwards Personal Preference Schedule. It surveys our preferences and reflects our psycho-emotional needs. Knowledge of our needs helps us understand what motivates or drives us. The seminar consists of responses to EPPS questionnaires, reflections & sharing, Eucharistic Celebrations and Prayers. It will start on Sept 6 (Tuesday) morning. However, **we are all expected to be at SHN by lunchtime of Sept 5 (Monday)** for the BEC discussion and sharing. Please check up on each other for carpooling. **We leave SHN after lunch of Sept 9 (Friday).**

The 2nd week hopes to bring to prayer what we have discovered about ourselves in the seminar of the previous week, begging the Lord for healing and integration. The life of St. Therese, patroness of mission and of priests, will be used to aid our reflection. **Fr. Salonga requests that each of us secures a copy of Therese's autobiography, *Story of A Soul*.** For those who already read the book, it is always profitable to revisit her. **Please bring your copy to the retreat.**

Since bus rental is quite expensive and some prefer to bring their cars anyway, I urge you to arrange carpooling per vicariate. **Please make certain that all of us are in Mirador Retreat House by 4pm of Sept 12 (Monday).** Mirador Jesuit Villa is just above the Grotto (in case some of you do not know). **Retreat ends lunchtime of Sept 16 (Friday).**

We cannot undermine the significance of this 2-week live-in seminar/retreat not just for our personal growth but for our continued bonding. I therefore expect no less than your total participation. Please clear off your schedule. Let no one excuse himself from the seminar, or in the middle of it, to attend to other matters. Accommodations are arranged for the first week so we do not have to leave the premises regardless of how near our parish may be. Let us please waste time with each other.

While the 2 weeks cost Php 6,000 per participant, you are not obliged to give the full amount if your parish cannot afford to do so. To take money out of the way, just donate any amount according to your capacity. Better still, gather your resources per vicariate "*and divide them among all according to each one's need*" so that none may fall short. For those who can give more, please do not hesitate to give more. No amount is too big a cost to pay for our continued formation. We spend much more at times for a lesser cause. Please write check payable to RCBN.

Thank you so much for your usual generous response.

Given in the Chancery in Fairview, Quezon City, this 25th day of August in the Year of Our Lord, 2005.

Most Rev. Antonio R. Tobias, DD
Bishop

Attested to by,

Rev. Fr. Jaime Z. Lara
Chancellor