

**Pastoral Care of Migrants
Circular 2006-06**

To: Rectors of Theological Schools and Houses of Formation

After our recently concluded celebration of Migrant Sunday last March 5, 2006 (First Sunday of Lent), I want to call the attention of the Rectors of Seminaries and those in charge of Religious Houses of Formation – whether of men or women in the Diocese of Novaliches to two Pontifical Documents from the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People:

1. Circular Letter: Pastoral Care of People on the Move in the Formation of Future Priests (January 1986)

The Circular indicates the phenomenon of migration as being a challenge of modern times. The text offers guidelines so that seminarians would receive a suitable formation that would “stimulate the pastoral concern of future priests, helping them to acquire, under the competent guidance of their superiors, the necessary dispositions for a fruitful apostolate in this important field.”

2. The Instruction: *Erga Migrantes Caritas Christi* (May 1, 2004)

This Instruction offers a detailed reflection on migration, as well as on the rights of the various categories of migrants to specific pastoral care. Moreover, in line with the norms contained in the Code of Canon Law of the Latin Church and the Code of Canons of the Oriental Churches, the Instruction gives new precepts that envisage the setting up of appropriate structures in this area. In continuity with prior Church law, the Instruction underlines the need for seminaries to provide their students with specific preparation for the pastoral care of migrants, wherever the latter are found.

I am now sending you a copy of the above Circular Letter signed by His Eminence William Card. Baum. An Appendix is attached of the above instruction. I do hope this will elicit an interest on this apostolate both in our formators and *formandi* among the Religious in the Diocese. Thank you so much for the kind attention.

Given in the Chancery in Fairview, Quezon City, this 10th day of March, in the Year of Our Lord, 2006.

Most Rev. Antonio R. Tobias, DD
Bishop

Attested by:

Rev. Fr. Jaime Z. Lara
Chancellor