

Thank You!
Circular 2006-18

**To: All Priests and Religious of the Diocese,
Those who Prayed for, Greeted, or Remembered me in any way on my
last Birthday,**

When I arrived from my U.S. vacation last June 28, I found on my table at the Chancery a pile of mails. Among those mails were birthday cards greeting me on my birthday last June 13. You were one of those! Thank you!

Sorry for the late reply! While I prioritized the official communications needing action or response, my appointments following my arrival included some out-of-town meetings with Bishops in Tagaytay and the CBCP Retreat and Assembly at Pope Pius XII Catholic Center. Not very long after our latest CBCP Pastoral Letter of July 9 which itself became very controversial in its acceptance, the Bishops, including myself, were thrown at the center stage of current events that further elicited conflicting reactions from our flocks. While I regret the bishops' involvement in those issues, the controversies that spawned just show how divided to the very core we have become as a Nation that even asking forgiveness or doing an act of charity to soldiers would get its moral overtone depending on which side of the fence one belongs. This is the sorry state of the Country! I just hope we all pass soon this phase of our history and get our moorings from our rich religious and cultural heritage as Filipinos.

Anyway, I just want to thank all of you who one way or other remembered me on my birthday by your prayers, greetings, and gifts in cash or in kind. May God reward you for your kindness to me! God bless you and your family.

Given in the Chancery in Fairview, Quezon City, this 27th day of July in the Year of Our Lord, 2006.

Most Rev. Antonio R. Tobias, DD
Bishop

Attested to by:

Rev. Fr. Jaime Z. Lara
Chancellor