

**Better Networking among Diocesan Priests and Religious  
Circular 2008-11**

**To: All Parish Priests and Religious Institutions of Men and Women:**

In order to bridge whatever vestiges there is of our past history and to enhance the growing coordination between the Clergy and the Religious in not a few of our parishes, allow me to express a dream of your Bishop that should be a hallmark of Novaliches: that the Lay, the Religious and the Priests in every parish community work together in harmony empowering each other to the mission of Jesus.

In view of this, I encourage the different Religious Congregations in the Diocese to insert themselves actively in the ministry of the parish where their house is located. For most of these Religious Institutes whether of pontifical or diocesan right, or of merely Pious Union of men and/or women, their active insertion in the Parish is their only link to this Local Church.

Our Diocese will be nearer to realize this ideal if:

1. The Association of Consecrated Life In Novaliches Diocese (ACLIND) hopes to group together all Religious Congregations of women and men for mutual information of their various services so that those in the same or allied ministry like vocation promotion, campus ministry, social service or pastoral care for a specific sector of society, can network better with the proper diocesan commission or ministry and so reach out more to the parishes.
2. In every Parish, a member of the Religious Community residing within its territorial jurisdiction sits in its Parish Pastoral Council so that knowing the goings-on in the Parish, the Religious may find it easier to participate in the Parish Community.
3. Similarly in every school that is diocesan or congregational within the territorial jurisdiction of the Parish, the local Parish Priest sits in the BOT of the school so he may contribute in his capacity as Pastor to the betterment of the school.
4. If this set-up is not possible, at least some sort of liaison must exist between the Religious Institute and the Parish Community. The Bishop is always keen to feel this harmony existing.

5. A regular weekday Mass of the Parish may be held in chapels and oratories of Religious but they join the Sunday Eucharist in the Parish Church. There should be no Sunday Masses for the public in those chapels, even in public oratories, which are not erected into a parish.
6. The Parish is the center of communication to the various Religious Congregations where the Chancery sends letters and which in turn either sends them to the addressee or where it is picked up on time by those concerned.

Given in the Chancery in Fairview, Quezon City, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July in the Year of Our Lord, 2008.

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

Attested by:

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