

**Ash Wednesday Fasting for *Hapag-Asa*
Circular 2009-02**

To: All Parish Priests

The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, cited the spiritual dimension of providing aid to others by quoting his own Encyclical "Those who are in a position to help others will realize that, in doing so, they themselves receive help; being able to help others is no merit or achievement of their own" (*Deus Caritas Est* # 35). It is in this spirit that we should welcome the season of Lent as an opportunity for all lay faithful to work together to share with joy the boundless mercy, forgiveness, and grace that God continuously gives to us.

On February 25, Ash Wednesday, as we begin the observance of Lent, let us make a special appeal to our community to do their fasting and to make a love offering from their fasting and sacrifices to *HAPAG-ASA* Integrated Nutrition Program for the benefit of hundreds of thousands of malnourished children in Metro Manila.

In this connection, please facilitate the following in your respective parishes during Ash Wednesday Masses:

1. Read the Pastoral Letter in all masses.
2. Distribute and collect *HAPAG-ASA* donation envelopes. Parishioners are requested to give their envelopes during Ash Wednesday offertory or to the parish office.
3. Count the collections and remit same to *Pondo ng Pinoy* or deposit to *Pondo ng Pinoy-HAPG-ASA* bank accounts.
4. Actively promote *HAPAG-ASA* in your respective parishes.
5. It is highly suggested that pictures, if any, of *Hapag-Asa* kids in your parish be shown while reading the pastoral letter to create more awareness on the program and provide more details for the Fast... Feed fund raising campaign.

Enclosed are the Pastoral Letter and donation envelopes. For questions, you may get in touch with *HAPAG-ASA* Secretariat at 632-1001 to 03 or our own *HAPAG-ASA* Diocesan Coordinator.

Given in the Chancery in Fairview, Quezon City, this 6th day of February in the Year of Our Lord, 2009.

Most Rev. Antonio R. Tobias, DD
Bishop

Attested by:

Rev. Fr. Jerome U. Rosalinda
Chancellor