

**Year of Priests  
Circular 2009-12**

**To: All Parishes and All Religious Houses in the Diocese:**

Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, last 16 March 2009 announced A Year of Priests to run from 19 June 2009 to 19 June 2010. I urge our Diocese to observe this Year of Priests. The observance of this Year of Priests will be under the Diocesan Commission on the Clergy under our Vicar for the Clergy in cooperation with the Vicar for Religious in the Diocese.

In view of our closing of the Pauline Jubilee last 12-13 June 2009, *salva reverentia* to our Holy Father, for our Diocese, the Year of Priests will run from 4 August 2009 to 4 August 2010, Feast of St. John Marie Vianney, Patron of Parish Priests.

I urge the two Vicars of the Clergy and the Religious along with their counterparts in the ten (10) Vicariates of the Diocese to start planning for this Year of Priests taking into consideration the suggestions of the Clergy during our recently concluded Meeting today.

In that meeting the Clergy also have given me the mandate to institute every Thursday or Friday starting August 2009 a one hour silent adoration before the Blessed Sacrament before or after the scheduled Mass of the day in all parishes where their priests, all the religious residing within the Parish including those in formation, the Youth and the Lay Faithful are in adoration. The silent adoration may be interspersed every quarter or every half hour only with short biblical passages on the Eucharist and/or Eucharistic songs and/or Lauds or Vespers. The rest of the time must be silence to allow the Lord to talk to everyone in the Church. At the beginning of the Hour the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and at the end, the Blessed Sacrament is reposed. I am inspired to claim this early that the one Hour Eucharistic Adoration every week with the Eucharist before or after will benefit our entire Diocese. I cannot ask for more from our Parish Priests.

The Commission in charge of this celebration should also take into consideration in its planning the wish of the CBCP in its Permanent Council meeting of 3 March 2009 declaring the second half of 2009 until the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2010 as a Special Year of The Two Hearts for Peace Building and Lay Participation in Social Change as our Bishops have declared in their Pastoral Exhortation of 19 April 2009, Easter Sunday.

May Jesus, Our Good Shepherd, and His Mother Mary accompany us in our work of peace-building and social/moral rejuvenation in our Land.

Given in the Chancery in Fairview, Quezon City, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June in the Year of Our Lord, 2009.

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

Attested by:

**Rev. Fr. Jerome U. Rosalinda**  
Chancellor