

## **Election Tips and Instructions**

### **Circular 2010-03**

(To be read on all Sunday Masses of January 2010 in all churches and chapels)

**To: All Priests, Religious, and Laity of the Diocese of Novaliches**

The Bishops have encouraged our good Catholic Leaders to enter into politics to reform the playing fields of this important aspect of civil society. As your Bishop, I have encouraged and asked individuals who have best track records of public service to run.

In the wake of our CBCP meetings scheduled in a few days, I await further guidelines in solidarity with the Conference of my Brother Bishops.

In the meantime, allow me to make practical tips to help our people in their choice of good leaders in our Land. Filipinos have been used in the past 100 years to choose from old political families that have now become dynasties and who come mostly from the Elite and the Rich. Now our politics is infested with Traditional Politicians (Trapos) in the Senate and in Congress and in Local Government Units. If our people want to change this trend, why not choose candidates this time from **the new (*bagong salta*)** and **not well known (*di masyadong kilala sa lipunan*)** who have a **good track record of service** in their respective fields? If one be ever in a situation to choose from the old and the well known, then **choose those who can discuss issues intelligently with the Church, not those who cater to interest groups for money or other benefits**. Unfortunately, even many party lists have degraded themselves to the same brand as the Trapos or have become lackeys of interest groups.

After these practical tips in choosing candidates, all parishes are hereby instructed to **organize Candidates' Fora** in churches and even in chapels to raise people's knowledge of the candidates vying for positions in all levels: Presidential and Vice-Presidential, Senatorial and Congressional, Provincial and Municipal/Urban, including Board and Council Members. These Candidates' Fora are to be organized actively by the iVote as well as by the Circle of Discernment Novaliches in cooperation with the PPCRV. These Fora are intended to give opportunity to candidates to present to the people their Programs of Action when elected into office and are to avoid any semblance of discussions and debates among Candidates themselves who entertain questions only from the audience.

I also propose starting January 15 to June 30, 2010 a **moratorium from mentioning Mass Intentions publicly before, during, or after Mass or flashing these over Power Point** to avoid abuse of Mass Intentions for political propaganda. This moratorium includes holding *Binyagang Bayan, Kumpilang Bayan, or Kasalang Bayan* being organized by politicians.

By this moratorium, I would have wanted the **suspension of all diocesan arancel fees for Mass, and all sacraments during the same period and accept only donations** for these services in time for the Year for Priests to witness and experience Divine Providence of God's care for our priests. **However, I leave this to the discretion of every Parish Priest.**

I commend to your prayers our Elections on 10 May 2010 and entrust this political exercise to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary that our Country come out of it a stronger and more stable Nation.

Given in the Chancery in Fairview, Quezon City, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January, in the Year of Our Lord, 2010.

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

Attested by:

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