

**Kura Katekista: A Parish Sunday Catechetical Program
Circular 2013-14**

**To: All Parish Priests, Diocesan and Religious; All Guest Priests;
All Consecrated Women Religious, and Lay Leaders of the
Diocese**

The recent National and Local Elections in May and the general reshuffle of parish assignments in June might have somewhat taken our focus away from the solemn observance and joyful celebration of the Year of Faith and perhaps even dampen our pursuits of the pastoral recommendations made by the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith in view of the same. Still, as your Bishop, I believe that the deep and concrete pastoral commitment that many of you have shown in ensuring an orderly, peaceful and honest elections, and in embracing even the more difficult and tricky path of developing among our people greater political consciousness, more particularly in choosing and endorsing candidates supportive of the Gospel values and the witness of the Church, on the one hand, and the joyful obedience and faithful cooperation that again many of you have shown with regard to the general parish reshuffle and change of assignments, on the other, speak more eloquently of our unwavering commitment to the very thrust and purpose of the Year of Faith, namely, a profound conversion and renewal of faith in Christ as well as a stronger commitment to God and one another. What better way to witness to our faith than to act on its demands in our concrete circumstances, reading courageously “the signs of the times” and pursuing with even greater courage, faith and confidence what these circumstances require of us, believers in Christ!

In the same spirit of unwavering commitment to our faith in Christ and of our love and service of Him, and responding more concretely to the call for us pastors to “rediscover our faith” and so help us and all our parishioners become “credible and joy-filled witnesses to the risen Lord in the world today,” may I ask you to once again give your hearts to the Sunday Catechetical program which we are launching. This program will involve you directly, my dear parish priests, as you would lead and take charge of it with the help and cooperation of your assistants and/or guest priests.

Dubbed Kura Katekista (Pastor-Catechist), the program features you as pastors giving catechesis to your parishioners on Sundays, that is, during your

Mass. With the Sunday Gospel and other Scriptural readings permitting, you may incorporate the catechetical lesson in your homily, if not, you may just simply give it after the Post-Communion Prayer. For our purpose, given its brevity and simple question-and-answer form, we have chosen as our common material aid and tool the Compendium Catechism of the Catholic Church which copies will be distributed to you.

The Compendium consists of 598 Questions and Answers, beginning with the question (Q1) What is the plan of God for man? and ending with (Q598) What is the meaning of the final Amen? If we deal with only one catechetical question and answer one after another on each and every Sunday we obviously would not finish the whole Compendium series of questions within the Year of Faith, but the purpose is also to make the catechetical instructions part of our Sunday Worship service in the long term. Thus, we simply continue with the Program even beyond the Year of Faith using the same Compendium. We wish however to begin at the same time, launching the Kura Katekista Program in all our parishes on the same Sunday, namely, the first Sunday of August, that is August 4, which by happy coincidence, is the Feast of St. John Marie Vianney, Patron Saint of Parish Priests.


As I have indicated, the Program, though called Kura Katekista, is not just for parish priests however. It is also for all priests presiding at Mass in your parish, that is, in your stead as pastor of your flock. Taking the lead role, therefore, and making sure that they too give the catechetical instruction in your behalf, i.e., giving them a copy of the Compendium and making sure that you are both on the same page, the systematic development of the Parish Sunday Catechetical Program is ensured and help us all thereby to progress steadily and simultaneously together.

For any further question or inquiries, may I direct you to Msgr. Jesus-Romulo C. Rañada, Parish Priest of Mary the Queen Parish and Chair of our Diocesan Faith and Formation Commission.

Given in the Chancery in Fairview, Quezon City, 12 July 2013.


Most Rev. Antonio R. Tobias, DD
Bishop

Attested to by:


Rev. Fr. Reynaldo Percival S. Flores
Chancellor