

(To Parish Priests, Superiors of Religious Congregations, Heads of Ministries, Mandated Organizations, Donors).

## UPDATES ON KRISTONG HARI CHURCH CONSTRUCTION

I just turned 76 years old last June 13, 2017. Thank you for your heartwarming greeting and for remembering me in your prayers. As I always say, I am living on borrowed time. In the Church's tradition, when a bishop turns 75 years old, he is mandated to tender his courtesy resignation to the Holy Father. But, for the time being, it is my joy to continue serving you as Bishop for as long as Holy Mother Church needs me.

As I thank God for the gift of a meaningful life and a fulfilling ministry, allow me to take this opportunity to once again thank you for graciously helping me build Kristong Hari Church in Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City. I have shared with you in one of my earlier circulars that this particular church project is personal to me even if I envisioned it to be the future shrine of the youth in our Diocese.

Please be informed that we are more than a year now into our actual construction works. If you have time, please feel free to drop by Kristong Hari and see for yourself the inspiring development of our church project. Everyday, I try my best to visit our construction site as like many of you. I am more than excited to see this project done well and efficiently.

It is consoling to see the retaining walls coming up. Twenty-three (23) of the forty-four (44) foundational columns are appearing from the ground like shoots from the seeds of cooperation that we have sown on our common mission. We are now starting our concreting works on the first basement. Please feel free to see enclosed photos and Accomplishment Report prepared by our Construction Team.

You know, every time I visit our parishes along major highways of our Diocese, I honestly cringe for we have consistently caused major traffic congestions due to lack of parking spaces. Hopefully, this is not going to be a problem in Kristong Hari as we have allotted two basements for parking. Admittedly though, putting up basements for parking is expensive and time-consuming. But, as I have always reminded the Clergy and the rest of the stakeholders of our project, it is always prudent to be a responsible church builder.

On the crucial area of fund raising, as of date we have raised: Php 168,663,002.61 Million, broken down as follows:

My special thanks to majority of our parishes, the parish priests and the pastoral councils, for consistently implementing our Sunday Second Collections for Kristong Hari. Please see attached pertinent Financial Report.

It is important to note that our contract with our General Contractor (RR Encabo Contractors) amounts to Php 249 Million. And if we factor in the other items not included in the General Contract such as mechanical, electrical, sanitary, fire protection and yes, the more intricate finishing works in the future, we are encouraged to double our efforts at fund raising.

So far, individual solicitation is still the most efficient form of resource mobilization. But, various other strategies such as coin bank and signature campaigns, auctioning off of my personal memorabilia and dinner causes to name a few, have been proven very helpful. Of

course, we see ourselves putting up major fund raising such as concerts, raffle draws and the like. Again, thank you for always being there to lend support.

This year, as we continue to tap individuals and groups to help us with fund raising efforts, we are also working out on holding mission appeals abroad even as we are launching Balik Biyaya Program to mobilize families to commit a particular amount for the construction on a monthly basis. There is also an upcoming concert by Ms. Emmy Cayabyab (wife of Mr. Ryan Cayabyab) and Friends in February 2018.

Please be informed that an important component of our church project is a Columbarium with 5000 vaults. Anytime soon, our Columbarium Team together with Fr. Marlou Lemaire, our Diocesan Treasurer, and myself included, will go around our parishes for pre-selling activities.

Again, allow me to beg for your continued support to our common mission, the construction of Kristong Hari Shrine of the Youth. If you have persons or groups in mind whom you think can help us with fund raising, please feel free to contact me or the Parish Priest of Kristong Hari, Fr. Roland P. Jaluag (09178322630). And for any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact us as well.

Rest assured of my prayers. I remain,

MOST REV. ANTONIO R. TOBIAS, D.D.  
Bishop

Enclosed:

1. Construction Accomplishment Report and Photo Update
2. Second Collections Financial Report per Parish
3. Tarpaulin on Kristong Hari Church Project