

Extraordinary Missionary Month
Circular 2019-06

To: All Parish Priests and Local Religious Superiors,

The Episcopal Commission on Mission of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) acting on the declaration of Pope Francis on the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of the promulgation of Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* had declared **October 2019** as "**Extraordinary Missionary Month**" (EMM). The Theme for this celebration is "**Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World.**"

That same day the Holy Father entrusted to His Eminence Fernando Cardinal Filoni, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples – the responsibility to promote and prepare for the implementation of the celebration throughout the Church. **Rev. Fr. Cesar Da Silva, SX our Mission Director** in the Diocese, **helped by the Xaverian Seminarians and Community, will spearhead the month-long celebration of October 2019 as Extraordinary Missionary Month (EMM) in the Diocese.**

Please take note of the objective and the four dimensions the Holy Father has indicated in preparation for and in living out EMM "in order to overcome divisions and opposing views between the challenges of evangelizations in previously Christian areas that are now secularized and indifferent to religion and the *missio ad gentes* among cultures and religions to which the Gospel is still foreign (EG 14)." These four dimensions are:

1. A personal encounter with Jesus Christ alive in His Church: Eucharist, Word of God, personal and communal prayer.
2. The witness of the Saints, the Missionary Martyrs, and the Confessors of the Faith, who are unique expressions of the Churches throughout the world.
3. Biblical, catechetical, spiritual, and theological formation regarding the *mission ad gentes*
4. Missionary charity as a material support for the immense work of evangelization, especially the *missio ad gentes* and Christian formation in Churches that are most in need.

In connection with this declaration, I suggest all Priests and Religious Congregations, through this Circular, to implement the following possible activities to spread awareness of EMM:

- a. Launching of EMM in the Diocese,
- b. Celebration of Missionary Vigil reflection on the EMM theme,
- c. Encourage families to pray the Rosary for World Mission,
- d. Pilgrimage to a Mission Shrine or that of a Missionary Saint or Martyr,

- e. Intensify collection for *mission ad gentes* and missionary formation,
- f. Involve young people in proclaiming the Gospel, and
- g. Close the EMM celebration in the Diocese.

Thank you very much for your continued support to this Extraordinary Missionary Month on October 2019.

Given in the Chancery in Fairview, Quezon City, 27 March 2019.

Most Rev. Antonio R. Tobias, DD
Bishop

Attested by:

Rev. Fr. Reynaldo Percival S. Flores
Chancellor