

**Extraordinary Missionary Month – October 2019**  
**Circular 2019- 15**

**To: All Parish Priests, Religious Superiors and Catechists**

On 22 October 2017 Pope Francis declared October 2019 as “**Extraordinary Missionary Month**” (EMM) on the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of the promulgation of Pope Benedict XV’s Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*. The Theme for this celebration is “**Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World.**”

For that reason, Pope Francis asked us to recognize that “there must be no lessening of the impetus to preach the Gospel” to those who are far from Christ, “because this is the first task of the Church”. Indeed, “today missionary activity still represents the greatest challenge for the Church” and “the missionary task must remain foremost”. What would happen if we were to take these words seriously? We would realize that missionary outreach is *paradigmatic for all the Church’s activity*. Along these lines the Latin American bishops stated that we “cannot passively and calmly wait in our church buildings”; we need to move “from a pastoral ministry of mere conservation to a decidedly missionary pastoral ministry”. (EG 15)

**There are four dimensions**, specified by the Pope, to live more intensely the journey of preparation for and implementation of the Extraordinary Missionary Month - October 2019:

1. **A personal encounter with Jesus Christ living in his Church:** in the Eucharist, in the Word of God, and in personal and communal prayer.
2. **Testimony:** missionary saints, martyrs, and confessors of the faith as an expression of the Church scattered throughout the world.
3. **Missionary formation:** biblical, catechetical, spiritual, and theological.
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 this regard, I ask your collaboration and support for the **Mission Animation Ministry** in our Diocese under the Chairmanship of Rev. Fr. Cesar Da Silva, SX, which I place as the lead group for the Extraordinary Missionary Month Celebration in our Diocese to saturate the BECs in parishes, schools, Mandated Organizations, and Transparochial Communities.

In the same line may I remind all Parishes to have a Special Collection in all Masses on the World Mission Sunday, October 20, including those celebrated in the afternoon and evenings of the preceding Saturday and remit the collection to the Chancery as soon as possible. We know that this special collection will form part of our country`s contribution to the Solidarity Fund of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Given in the Chancery in Fairview, Quezon City, 17 July 2019.

**Most Rev. Antonio R. Tobias, DD**  
Apostolic Administrator

Attested by:

**Rev. Fr. Reynaldo Percival S. Flores**  
Chancellor