

**Basic Formation Seminar
Circular 2020-04**

To: All Parish Priests

May I make a follow up with you on our expressed intention to launch our Basic Formation Seminar in all our parishes and vicariates this year. This launching begins with a Diocesan-wide Basic Formation Seminar at the *RCBN Tahanang Pari* this coming Tuesday, 25 February 2020.

As your Bishop, I believe that the Basic Formation Seminar that we wish to give our people in our parishes and vicariates must begin with us—with me, with you. Formation, especially Basic *Christian* Formation is not something we can simply entrust to others. As pastors of our communities, we are primarily tasked to shepherd our people, to form and educate them in Christ Jesus. Lest we forget, it was he who has called us to discipleship first and foremost, i.e., to follow him and so to learn from him the way of making disciples of others in turn.

I know that you will also agree with me that formation in Christ is the only way to really form, build up and sustain our communities. If they are to be alive, vibrant and dynamic, if they are to become the glory of God in Christ, if they are to be truly Church, formation is key. Good community relationships, worship, social action flow and feed on it. That is why the Basic Christian Formation Seminar that is before us is not something we can simply pass on to our lay leaders, for them to take and eventually assume to give to others. No, rather it is something that we ourselves should happily assume, undergo and soon undertake in our respective communities. In short, it has to start with us and it us who have to lead it.

Please make time and join me therefore in attending the Basic Formation Seminar that is being offered to us by the Diocesan Formation Commission beginning Tuesday, February 25, and Saturday, February 29. Let us take this in the spirit of Lent that calls us to genuine and yet concrete self-giving, selflessness and renewal. Let us faithfully attend the ensuing eight (8) sessions thereafter, till the very end in May 19 and May 22, 2020. And having attended this first series of seminars you can then begin with your own Basic Formation Seminar under your own leadership in your respective communities.

Given in the Chancery in Fairview, Quezon City, 19 February 2020.

Most Rev. Roberto O. Gaa, DD
Bishop of Novaliches

Attested by:

Rev. Fr. Reynaldo Percival S. Flores
Chancellor