



Bishop's House – Dibrugarh

PB No. 50, Dibrugarh – 786 001 – Assam

The Circular of the Bishop

JA16/01

10 February 2016

Dear and Rev. Fathers, Sisters, Brothers and Lay Faithful,

Cordial greetings to all from Bishop's House, Dibrugarh!

Margherita Divine Retreat Centre: On 08 December 2015, I was present for the celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at Margherita Divine Retreat Centre. It was marked by the blessing of the foundation stone for the Retreat House as well as the Divine Ashram which will be the residence for the Vincentian Fathers who will take care of the Divine Retreat Centre. It was done in the presence of the Vincentian Provincial, Fr. Bobby the Director and many other Fathers, Sisters, Lay leaders and faithful.

Opening of the Holy Door of Mercy: 13 December 2015, was a very important day. There was the solemn Eucharistic celebration at the Sacred Heart Cathedral Church at Dibrugarh. There was a procession before the Mass and all the celebrants and the faithful gathered in front of the Cathedral. There was the solemn inaugural ceremony of the Opening of the Holy Door according to the instruction of our Holy Father, Pope Francis. After the opening of the Holy Door of Mercy, all the celebrants entered the Church in procession and the Solemn Eucharist was celebrated. It was attended by the Fathers, Sisters and faithful from in and around Dibrugarh.

Blessing of Foundation Stone for New Hall and class rooms at Sonari: On 14 December 2015, I blessed the foundation stone for the new hall and class rooms at Sonari. Since there was a felt need to expand the school it was considered necessary to construct more class rooms. The construction will begin soon.

Blessing of the Hostel for Girls at Jagun: On 22 January 2016, I blessed the new Hostel building for Girls at Jagun. There was a Eucharistic celebration which I presided over. There were several Fathers, Sisters, Girls and faithful who took part in the celebration. After the blessing and inauguration the Holy Mass was offered.

Visit of the Abbot of the Benedictines: On 21 January 2016, we had the visit of the Abbot of the Benedictines. We had lunch together. We had some discussion on some pastoral matters. The Benedictines are working in Teok in our Diocese. They

are expanding the school building as there is a pressing need to increase the admissions in the school.

Visit of the Pilar General: On 01 February 2016, the new General of the Pilar Fathers visited Dibrugarh. He arrived in the afternoon. We had tea together and in the evening we visited the new site for a rehabilitation centre and hostel for boys that they are beginning in our Diocese. Later in the evening we had a meeting in which we discussed about some pastoral works.

Recollection and Chrism Mass on 22 March 2016: All the Fathers, Sisters and Brothers who are working in the Diocese of Dibrugarh, are cordially invited to attend the full day recollection on the day of Chrism Mass which is scheduled for 22 March 2016, Tuesday. Recollection will begin at 9 am and will conclude at 4 pm. There will be opportunity for approaching the Sacrament of Confession. In this Extra-ordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, I exhort all to make it a point to attend the same without fail and experience the Mercy of God in your personal life.

The Chrism Mass will be on 22 March 2016 at Cathedral Church at 5 pm. The Chrism Mass which the Bishop celebrates with his *Presbyterium* manifests the communion of the priests with their Bishop. I invite all Fathers, Sisters and Brothers who are working in the Diocese of Dibrugarh to take part in the Chrism Mass.

The usual monthly recollection on Tuesday before first Friday will be held as usual on 01 March 2016.

CBCI Plenary Assembly 2016: The 32nd General Body Meeting of the CBCI will be held from 02 to 09 March 2016 at St. John's Medical College, Bangalore. I am requesting your valuable prayers for the success of this meeting. I will be leaving for the CBCI meeting on 29 February and return by 17 March 2016 after some check up and treatment. Please keep me in your prayers.

Jubilee for Priests: Pope Francis has announced a "**Jubilee for Priests**" which will be held in Rome from 01 to 03 June 2016. It is an international event during which one day will be dedicated as a retreat and the Pope will offer three meditations on the theme of the priest as a minister of mercy. The Jubilee for Priests will conclude with a concelebrated Holy Mass presided over by the Holy Father on the 160th Anniversary of the institution of the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Vocation Camp 2016: This is to remind you that the Vocation Camp for the Matric appeared boys of our Diocese, who want to join the Seminary, will be held from 13th to 16th March 2016 at St. Joseph's Minor Seminary, Dibrugarh. I would request the parish priests especially, to select promising candidates and encourage them to

attend the vocation camp. I take this opportunity to thank Fr. Albert Hemrom, the Rector of the Seminary for organizing this Vocation Camp.

Diaconate Ordination: Bro. John Minj was ordained a Deacon by me on 20th December 2015 at the Sacred Heart Cathedral Church at 9 am. He will return to St. Albert's College, Ranchi after his Diaconate ministry in the Diocese to resume his Theological studies.

Priestly Ordination: Dn. Blasius Tete sdb was ordained a priest at St. Joseph's Parish Church, Doom Dooma on the 17th January 2016. It was well organised and it was attended by over 22,000 people from Doom Dooma parish as well as from neighbouring parishes. I congratulate Fr. Blasius and wish him all the best for his priestly ministry.

Dn. Sanjiv Ekka will be ordained a priest on 03 April 2016 at 9.30 am at St. Martin the Pores Parish Church, Dhuria. I extend my prayers and blessings on Dn. Sanjiv Ekka as he prepares himself for the priestly ordination.

Feast of Don Bosco: On 31 January 2016, I was at Lakwa for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the morning on the feast of St. John Bosco. As we know the Patron saint of Lakwa is St. John Bosco. In the evening I presided over the Holy Eucharist at Don Bosco School, Dibrugarh. At the end of the Eucharist, there was the blessing of the ground floor of the new school building. It was a great moment to thank God for all the work done by the Salesians in the world and in a special way in the Diocese of Dibrugarh.

Ash Wednesday: With celebration of Ash Wednesday on 10 February 2016, we enter into this holy season of Lent. Let us welcome this God given season with our prayers and sacrifices that we may experience God's abundance of mercy and forgiveness.

Season of Lent: The Resurrection of Jesus is the focus at the celebration of Easter. It is Jesus Rising from the dead. Nothing could ever hold him prisoner anymore! Nothing could hold Him prisoner; the Cross, Suffering, Death or the Tomb.

When Jesus was crucified, two men were also crucified with Him, one on his left and the other on his right. These are two thieves. One of them joined the others to ridicule Jesus while the other was repentant. One of them prayed, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise" (Lk 23: 42-43). Here, we see the human meets Jesus, the human is humbled by Jesus, Jesus loves the human and Jesus saves the human. We need to realize that the crucifixion of Jesus is the single most important event in the relationship between God and humanity. The crucifixion of Jesus is the

ultimate moment of blood, sacrifice and salvation, a moment when the Son of God is put to death so that we may have life in its fullness, freed from all corruption and sin.

God is sharing the saving moment with the thief and once we realize who the thief is, it actually makes perfect sense. So the question is, 'who is the thief on the cross next to Jesus?' The thief on the cross is every one of us whom you don't like, for whatever reason. He is the person who cut you off in traffic and you cursed them out, he is the family member who ruins family love and peace. He might be the parent who beat you up and deserted you. The thief on the cross is the politician you don't agree with, the host you despise, the real estate agent who ripped you off, the preacher you say is wrong, the bully at school, the down trodden on the street, and all the people who go astray. The thief on the cross is all of your least favourite people in the world, everyone you argue with, everyone you judge, everyone you judge worthy of death. The thief on the cross is everyone you hate.

We must realise that God's love is greater than our sins. God demonstrates His own love for us in this, "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8). Forgiveness in Jesus Christ is a gracious gift from an all-loving God. Each of us needs to accept that forgiveness. Believe in Jesus and trust what Christ did on the cross. Surrender to Him, Follow Him and Accept Him.

I want to conclude this Easter message with a couple of thoughts about Easter. First of all, we should never have any doubts as to who Jesus is because when He rose from the grave He has proved to the world that He is the one and Only Son of God. And our faith is and always will be justified; we serve a Risen Saviour who has promised us eternity in Heaven if we accept the Love and Sacrifice that only He offers. Secondly, when we look at the empty tomb, always let it be a reminder that all things are possible through Jesus, that the impossible is always possible with Him. Praise God for those who have given their lives to Him today. Praise God for those of us who have re-kindled our relationship with Him today and praise God for Jesus Christ. This should be our motivation to stay strong, focused and diligent in serving Jesus today, tomorrow and always.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Easter. May the risen Lord fill your hearts and minds with His Love, Peace and Joy.

Yours affectionately in Christ,



+ Joseph Aind sdb
Bishop of Dibrugarh