



Bishop's House – Dibrugarh

PB No. 50, Dibrugarh – 786 001 – Assam

The Circular of the Bishop

JA16/02

24 May 2016

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

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

My Health: On 04 March 2016, I was at St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bangalore attending the CBCI meeting. During the Mass in the morning I was not feeling too well and collapsed. I was examined by the Doctors immediately and then taken to the CCU, where I remained for 6 days. The Doctors told me that my heart is not very strong and I am under medication for the heart since then. They discovered 2 blocks in the arteries. I thank all those who took care of me during those days and all others who have been constantly praying for my recovery.

Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy: Several groups of pilgrims have already visited the Sacred Heart Cathedral Church at Dibrugarh and other designated Churches, benefited from the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. I encourage as many faithful as possible to make use of this golden opportunity to experience the mercy of the heavenly Father. Let me remind all the Parish Priests to organise pilgrimages to any one of the designated Churches and make it possible for the faithful to make use of this opportunity to experience God's mercy in their lives.

CBCI Plenary Assembly 2016: The 32nd General Body Meeting of the CBCI was held from 02 to 09 March 2016 at St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bangalore. The assembly discussed several matters of importance relating to the Church in India. The Assembly also decided to invite the Holy Father to visit India.

Pope Francis on INSTAGRAM: Pope Francis launched "Franciscus" Instagram account on 20 March, 2016 with a tweet in which he said: "I am beginning a new journey, on Instagram, to walk with you along the path of the mercy and tenderness of God." Pope Francis personally inaugurated his account, called "Franciscus," from his residence at the Casa Santa Marta. He also posted his first image, a picture of himself in prayer. The decision to open an Instagram account arises from the Pope's conviction that pictures can reveal many things that words can't. The aim of this papal Instagram account is to tell the story of the Pontificate of Pope Francis through images. Instagram was founded in 2010 and has about 400 million users worldwide and shares photos and videos with a community of followers. The launch of the Pope's Instagram account will increase his substantial presence on social media platforms.

Bishop Stephen Ferrando declared Venerable: On 03 March 2016, Pope Francis authorized Cardinal Angelo Amato SDB, the Prefect of Congregation for the Cause of Saints, to promulgate the decree recognizing the heroic virtues of the Servant of God, Bishop Stephen Ferrando SDB (1895-1978), former Bishop of Krishnagar and

of Shillong and the founder of the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians. We thank God for this great recognition of the holiness of the Bishop and continue to pray that the process of beatification and canonization may move forward smoothly. On 30 March 2016, I was at MSMHC Provincial House, Tinsukia for the thanks giving Mass on the occasion of declaring Bishop Stephen Ferrando a venerable.

Relaunching of the Website of the Diocese of Dibrugarh: On 19 March, the feast of St. Joseph was celebrated at the Cathedral. At the end of the Eucharistic celebration there was a short felicitation programme wishing me Happy Feast. At the beginning of this function the modified web site of the Diocese of Dibrugarh was launched by me. The site address is the same as before: “dibrugarhdiocese.org”.

Blessing of SKD building: On 19 March 2016, I blessed the new SKD building situated in the Bishop’s House campus. The office and functioning of SKD is expected to be shifted to the new building as soon as possible.

Holy Week Celebrations 2016: I was at Philobari for the Holy Thursday celebrations. On Good Friday I was at Tongna. I celebrated the Easter Vigil and the Easter Day Holy Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Dibrugarh.

Visit of Rt. Rev. Vincent Aind, Bishop of Bagdogra: Bishop Vincent Aind celebrated Holy Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Dibrugarh on 02 April 2016. 12 Priests concelebrated the Holy Mass and it was attended by the Hostellers, Sisters and boarding children from the Parish, St. Mary’s and LFS. The seminarians from St. Joseph’s seminary also took part in the Mass. There was a short welcome and felicitation programme after the Mass.

Provincial Chapter of the Salesian Province of Dimapur: On the occasion of the inauguration of the Provincial Chapter of the Salesian Province of Dimapur which was held on 05 April 2016 at Provincial House, Dimapur, I celebrated the inaugural Holy Mass and was present at the inaugural session.

Regional Council of the Bishops of the North East: From 08 to 09 April 2016 the Regional Council of the Bishops of the North East was held at Nongstoin. All the 15 Bishops of the North East were present. It was also the decennial celebration of the Diocese of Nongstoin.

Ordination of Dn. Sanjiv Ekka: The Priestly Ordination of Dn. Sanjiv Ekka was on 16 April 2016 at St. Martin the Pores Parish Church, Dhuria. It was attended by about 50 priests, about 60 Sisters and a large crowd of faithful.

Singlijan Village Church Blessing: I blessed and inaugurated the village Church at Singlijan under Dibrugarh Parish on 17 April 2016. There were a few first communions and about 40 confirmations. The people of the village did all what was necessary to get the Church ready for blessing. They had organised a wonderful programme to celebrate the occasion.

Visit of the MSFS Regional: on 20 April 2016, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, the Regional of the MSFS visited Dibrugarh and we had a meeting. He was accompanied by the Provincial Superior and a few of the MSFS fathers.

St. Xavier's School, Mancotta Silver Jubilee: On 23 April 2016, I was present at the Silver Jubilee celebration of St. Xavier's School, Mancotta. There was the Eucharistic celebration followed by the beautiful cultural programme put up by the staff and the children.

Vestition: On 12 May 2016, 3 of our brothers, Bro. Christopher Sandi Guria, Bro. Nichodim Budding and Bro. Ruben Bara had their vestition. It was held at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dibrugarh. They were given their clerical habit during the solemn Eucharist.

Woka 11. No Village Church Blessing: On 24 April 2016, I was at Woka Parish for the blessing and inauguration of the Woka 11 No. Village Church. The villages had done their best to get the Church ready for the blessing. They had prepared a nice programme.

Carmel School, Jorhat Golden Jubilee: On 30 April 2016, there was the Golden Jubilee celebration of the Carmel School. There was the Eucharistic celebration presided over by me and then there was the cultural programme prepared by the staff and the students.

Religious Profession at CST Chabua: On 17 May 2016 there was the first religious profession of their brothers at CST, Chabua. I celebrated the Holy Mass during which 3 of their brothers made their first religious profession.

Naharkatia, "Purus Diwas": On 01 May 2016, I was at Naharkatia Parish for the "Purus Diwas". The Holy Eucharist was attended by a large number of faithful. They had organised a very nice programme.

Vikasika "Sabha": On 08 May 2016, I celebrated the Holy Mass and confirmed about 80 youths at Vikasika. They were having the "Sabha" which was attended by the parishners.

Visit of Visiting Councillor of the FMAs: Rev. Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil FMA, the visiting Councillor arrived here at the Bishop's House in the afternoon. After a cup of Tea I had a short meeting with her.

Blessing of the Residence and Hostel for Girls at LFS Dibrugarh: On the 13 May 2016 on the Feast of Mary Domenica Mazarello, the residence cum Hostel for the girls was blessed at LFS Dibrugarh in the presence of the Visiting Councillor, Rev. Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil who inaugurated the building, Sr. Provincial and several Fathers, Sisters, Teachers and Hostellers. It was followed by the solemn Eucharistic celebration of the feast of Mary Domenica Mazarello.

Parish Feast at Tongna: On 15 May 2016, there was the Parish Feast celebrated at Tongna. I celebrated the Holy Mass which was attended by a large number of faithful of the parish. There were also more than 100 confirmations.

Workshop on "Education for Transformation Through Mentoring": A three days workshop was organised by the Education Board of the Diocese of Dibrugarh was held at the Pastoral Centre, Dibrugarh from 19 to 21 May 2016. The main resource person was Rev. Fr. Varghese Alengaden from Indore. It was meant for the heads of Schools and mostly Fathers and Sisters attended the workshop. There were also some teachers who attended the workshop. There were about 50 participants.

Transfers: I am giving below the list of transfers that have been made in the Diocese. All those who are transferred are expected to take up the new assignment by 06 June 2016. If there is any exception, it can be granted with an understanding with me. I take this opportunity to thank each of them for having accepted the transfer in a spirit of obedience and I wish them all the best in the new assignment and pray that God will continue to bless them most abundantly.

No	Place	Name	Assignment
1	Holy Cross Church, Naojan	Fr. Bartholomew Tete	Assistant Parish Priest
2	St. Patrick, Philobari	Fr. Gegory Dungdung	Assistant Parish Priest
3	St. Paul's, Jengraimukh (Majuli)	Fr. Hemanto Pegu	Assistant Parish Priest
4	St. Joseph, Clergy Home, Dibrugarh	Fr. Peter Bara	Assistant Director
5	St. Joseph, Sonari	Fr. Sanjiv Ekka	Assistant Parish Priest
6	St. Peter the Apostle, Woka	Fr. Thomas Surin	Assistant Parish Priest
7	Boniface Apostolic Home	Fr. Tintus Sanga	Counsellor
8	Divine Renewal Retreat Centre, Margherita	Fr. Victor Toppo	Serving Pilgrims
9	Borhat (New Centre)	Fr. Boniface Samad	Pioneer
10	Binoygutia Gaon (New Centre)	Fr. Savio Remedios	Pioneer

Priest's Retreat 2016: As in other years the priest's retreat will be held from 24 to 29 July 2016 at Pastoral Centre, Mancotta, Dibrugarh. You may give your name directly to Fr. Timothy Saldanha or to the Vicar General. I earnestly request all the Priests of the Diocese as well as all the men religious working in the Diocese to make use of this opportunity to make their annual retreat in this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Feast of Mary Help of Christians: on 24 May every year, we celebrate the feast of our Blessed Mother under the title, "Mary Help of Christians". I wish a very happy feast to all of you and entrust you to the care of our heavenly mother. The month of May is very dear to all of us. Usually we have the custom of a Marian Procession on this feast day or on the 31st of May to conclude the month of Marian devotion. I pray that we grow in our filial love for our Blessed Mother.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy feast of Mary Help of Christians!

Yours affectionately in Christ,



+ Joseph Aind sdb
Bishop of Dibrugarh