



## DIOCESE OF KOHIMA

BISHOP'S HOUSE  
Post Box. No. 519  
Kohima – 797 001  
Nagaland, India

December 15, 2013

**BPKOH/CIR/07/13**

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

Greetings from Bishop's House, Kohima!!

For us in Nagaland, this year's Christmas is something special. On the first day of the Advent, i.e. December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Nagaland celebrated 50 years of its statehood. The creation of Nagaland as the 16<sup>th</sup> State of the Indian Union was historical moment for many people of Nagaland, which they hoped will usher in an era of peace, and prosperity, development and growth. No doubt Nagaland has progressed. But the de facto reality and the actual contours of progress fall far short of the expectation and potential. The growth and development would have been better and greater if only the ideal on which the state attained the statehood were put into practice and the benefits of progress percolate into the villages. A survey conducted by the Morung Express shows that 81% of the respondents are not satisfied with the progress of the state. Many people are unhappy with the neo political and bureaucratic elite that controls and rules the state. They have made themselves rich at the expense of the vast majority. If only the traditional tribal values were well integrated and practiced, we would have had a better state and better standard of life. Today one can only mourn the loss of opportunity and lack of vision. There seems to be a tinge of negativism and desperation today among the vast majority of people. In this condition of exasperation and pessimism, Christmas can become relevant and meaningful.

God became incarnate so that God may assume the humanity to take it to divinity. According to St. Ephrem, "God has become man that man may become godly". Christmas is a story of hope, a time of optimism and dawning of a new and progressive era. The darkness of this world is necessary to keep the spark of divine light kindled and bright. The darkness cannot itself give light. The earth would be cold and damp without the light of the Sun. Without divine assistance in life, the human labor will not bear fruit rather it bring chaos. Human nature cannot transform the evil tainted

personalities without the assistance of that spark of our Divine.

Christmas, therefore, is a challenge that calls for a response. Most people in Nagaland are Christians. We are invited to acknowledge and accept the presence of the incarnate Light shining in the darkness of our lives. In the Gospel of John we read, “The light still shines in the darkness and the darkness has not comprehended. (Jn: 1:5)” Christmas is a feast of the interior light, a rekindling of the spiritual spark within us. In a world that is disintegrated as a result of sin, self-centeredness, envy, fundamentalism, terrorism, etc., Jesus is born to give back to mankind the true identity of the children of God.

Most people for the celebration of their birthdays make extra efforts to clean the house, decorate and light the house. It becomes an occasion for a new beginning. May this Christmas becomes an occasion for a new beginning for all people in Nagaland. Let us resolve to make this Christmas a new start for a better Nagaland. May the light of Christ the Lord shine upon everyone in Nagaland with all His gifts and graces and unite all with the joy of His Nativity, for He has been united with every person through His Incarnation. To us and to all people in this world, the proclamation of the heavens is renewed: “**To us is born a Savior**” (Luke 2:11). May the message of peace and hope be proclaimed and lived. **Wishing you all a joyful Christmas and a grace filled and prosperous new year 2014.**

## **Visit to Australia**

As you all know, I had gone to Australia during the month of October-November as an exploratory trip to find possibilities of partnership for our mission work. I visited seventeen dioceses, the National Office of the Catholic Mission and office of Caritas Australia, besides visiting and celebrating the Holy Mass for various Indian communities. Since in Australia the individual dioceses do not have the custom and resources to support mission work abroad, our chance of getting any help is very minimal. Besides, all the mission funds in Australia are channeled through the Propaganda Fide, and we are already the beneficiary of Propaganda Fide. In all the cities I stayed with my relations who provided me with all amenities for stay and travel. Of late there has been large migration of Indian population to Australia, and they are trying to establish themselves. I am grateful to them and all of you for the prayers.

## **2014 – Year of the Family**

We all know that Pope Francis called for an Extraordinary Synod of Bishops that will be held from October 5-18th, 2014 at the Vatican on the theme “**The Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of the Evangelization.**” The Pope through this synod wants to reflect together the role that the family should play in the society, in the Church and in the life of each and every individual. In spite of profound social and cultural changes family and culture are still the most important influence in human lives. Family remains the most complete and the richest school of humanity, in which we live the most enriching experience of unselfish love, fidelity, mutual respect and service.

It shapes who we are, how we interact with others and what we hold as important in our lives. Any degradation and deprivation in families bring about degradation and decay in the society.

We shall observe 2014 as the **Year of the Family**. It will be good to hold some specific program to enhance the value of family and its challenges in our contemporary secularistic and consumeristic culture. The details could be worked out at the Parish, Regional and diocesan level. If we are able to inculcate the values and practice of family prayer during the Year of the Family, it will be great achievement. As Fr. Payton would say, “the family that prays together stays together”.

### **Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium***

I have enclosed a short synthesis of the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* prepared by Fr. Thomas Manjaly. We hope to have the text soon. Kindly study the document and explain the same to our people.

### **General Calendar & Collection List for 2014**

I have enclosed the general Calendar for the year 2014 along with the annual collection list. Kindly plan all our activities accordingly, which will help us organize our work better.

### **Annual Priests Meeting**

As announced earlier, this year our annual Priests Meeting will be an occasion to finalise the Diocesan Pastoral Plan with the Therefore, this year the program for the annual priests meeting will be as follows.

**Place:** Pastoral Centre Hall, Dimapur

**Date:** Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013 (**not on Tuesday**, 17<sup>th</sup> December as announced earlier)

**Time:** 9.00 am

Schedule:	09.00 am – 10.30 am	First Session
	10.30 am – 11.00 am	Coffee Break
	11.00 am – 12.30 noon	Second Session
		Lunch
	02.30 pm - 04.00 pm	Final Session
		Coffee
	04.30 pm – 06.00 pm	Recollection
	06.15 pm - 07-30 pm	DF Meeting
		Supper

### **Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

09.00 am – Senate Meeting (Bishop’s House, Dimapur)

02.00 pm – Council Meeting (Bishop’s House, Dimapur)

**Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

10.00 am - Governing Body Meeting of DAN  
04.00 pm - Governing Body Meeting of HRHC

## **Courses and Programs**

I have enclosed the brochures from different national institutions about the courses and programs they conduct. It is good to do some updating programs for better effectiveness in our ministry. If anyone is interested in attending short / long courses please let me know.

## **Thank you to one and all**

As we come to the end of the calendar year 2013, I would like to thank one and all for everything that we were able to do as a team and ask apology for things we failed to do. In spite of all our failures, God has been faithful. We have experienced His presence in different ways – some very tangible ways and others not so. We have many Jubilee celebrations, a sign of growth for the Church. We have had some families and individuals accepting the Catholic Faith in the different parishes and centres in our diocese during this Year of Faith. I am grateful to all our catechists and teachers who collaborate closely in our apostolate. I thank our lay leaders who are at the forefront in living the Catholic faith. I remember with gratitude all our Sisters and Fathers, who despite many difficulties and deprivations continue faithfully serving the Church. Let us forge ahead trusting in the Lord, who has promised His Spirit to be with us until the end of the age.

## **Transfer List : SABS Provincial House**

<b>Convent</b>	<b>Appointments</b>	<b>Transfers</b>
<b>SABS Provincial House Chumukedima</b>	Sr. Mercy Edasseril Sr. Rose Mary Kochutharayil Sr. Elsy Kaniparampil	Sr. Tessy Kuzhiyanitharayil Sr. Elsint Koippuram
<b>St. Xavier's Convent Tuensang</b>	Sr. Elsint Koippuram Sr. Priscila Kichu Sr. Angela Magh	Sr. Bridget Kattakkayam Sr. Genevieve Tangkhul Sr. Jane Mary Puthiyaparampil
<b>St. Theresa's Convent Tobu</b>	Sr. Nirmala Muthirakalayil	Sr. Stella Rose
<b>St. Paul's Convent Kiphire</b>	Sr. Annie Jose Sr. Bridget Kattakkayam Sr. Stella Rose	Sr. Tresa Kochumuriyil Sr. Elizabeth Lemei
<b>St. Mary's Convent Mokokchung</b>	Sr. Helen Cherianmackal	Sr. Gracebella

**St. Joseph Convent  
Jakhama**

Sr. Rose Maria

**Little Flower Convent  
Pungro**

Sr. Bridget Nellivelil  
Sr. Josephine Chipang

Sr. Helen Cherianmackal  
Sr. Lilly Rabha

**Sanjo Novitiate House  
Medziphema**

Sr. Angelina  
Sr. Little Mary

Sr. Annie Jose

## **May their Souls Rest in Peace**

**Mr. Eugene M.UFS** (Former Headmistress of Assisi Evening School) Passed away on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2013

**Mr. Amrit Toppo** (46) eldest brother of Sr. Bimla MMS (Chumukedima) died of Massive heart attack on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2013.

**Mr. Chacko** Father of Fr. K.C. James (Carmel) Passed away on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2013.

**Mr. Thomas** (88) Father of Sr. Tresa K. SABS (Kiphire) died of heart attack on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2013.

**Mr. Francis** (26) Brother of Bro. Dominic Kwietranging (First Year Theology, Orien's, Shillong) passed away on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2013.

**Mr. Philip Thuniampral** (75) uncle of Fr. Mathew Thuniampral (Shalom) passed away on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2013

**Mr. Baptist Lobo**, brother in-law of Sr. Patronila SCCG (HRHC) died on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2013

**Ms Pezalhoukhonuo Angela** (46) mother of Bro. Mhasiekholie Martin (Longsa) passed away on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2013.

## **Bishop's Program**

<b>December 2013</b>	01	Kohima
	02	Longsa – Blessing of the Foundation for the new school
	03-07	Kohima
	08	GSS & Chavara Home, Dimapur
	09-13	Chennai
	14	Kohima, Christmas Program organized by CAN
	15	Longsa Jubilee
	16-17	Kohima
	18-19	Priests' Meeting / Diocesan Pastoral Plan and other meetings
	20	Dimapur; Governing Board Meeting of DAN, HRHC
	21	Dimapur - Jubilee – Burma Camp
	22	Kidima: Jubilee CYA

23 Zunheboto  
24 Dimapur  
25 Kohima  
27 Khonoma  
28-31 Priestly Ordination of Dea. Emmanuel & Lotha Youth Convention

**January 2014**

01-03 Kohima  
04-05 Khonoma: Angami Catholic Women Conference  
06-08 Kohima  
09-11 Tunjoy Parish – Poumei Conference & Jubilee  
12 Holy Cross, Dimapur – Sema Catholic Association Convention  
13-17 Dimapur / Kohima  
18-20 Pughoboto – Silver Jubilee  
21-31 Kottayam - Centenary celebration of Bl. Mathew Makil

**February 2014**

01-17 Palai - CBCI & CCBI Meetings  
20-21 Kohima  
22 Governing Body Meeting, Jalukie College  
27 Consulters Meeting and Priests Recollection  
28 **Diocesan Pastoral Council – Mt. Tabor**

Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil  
Bishop of Kohima, Nagaland