

June 18, 2012

BPKOH/CIR/05/12

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

Greetings from Bishop's House, Kohima! I am happy to be back after my tour of Italy and Germany and share with you some of my experiences and also give you some information and news.

1. Tour to Italy and Germany

I left Kolkata on 5th May 2012 and reached Rome on the same day evening. I celebrated Mass on the next day (Sunday) in one of the parishes in the outskirts of Rome (the Parish where Fr. Sojan Xavier remained for some time during his studies in Rome). On Monday, 7th May I had an appointment with the Monsignor at the Italian Bishop's Conference. I met the Cardinal Prefect and the Secretary of the Congregation for Propagation of Faith on 8th May. On Wednesday, 9th May, I met the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI after the general audience and conveyed him our wishes and assured him of our prayers. It was my first meeting with him as a bishop after he became the Pope, although I had met him as Cardinal many times during my studies in Rome. The weather in Rome was hot and rainy at times.

Soon after the audience I proceeded for Livorno, Genova, Turin and Milan. In all these places I enjoyed the hospitality of various Congregations of Sisters who are also working in our diocese. I reached Germany on 16th May. Fr. Isaac Padinjarekutt, who is on Sabbatical break came to Munchen and we travelled together from Munchen to Munster (South to North of Germany), sometimes travelling the whole day, meeting agencies and dioceses that help us in our mission work. I am grateful to Fr. Isaac for meticulously planning and making all the arrangements to meet with different agencies and others. The weather in Germany too was warm, cold and rainy. I returned to Rome on 7th June and flew back to India on 8th June and reached Dimapur on 9th June.

I should say that my visit was very informative, useful and also a learning experience. People were very understanding and sympathetic towards the mission in Northeast. Let us hope and pray that the visit would bring the desired result in the times to come. I thank you for your prayers. Kindly continue to pray for me as I undertake the next leg of my visit to USA. I will be back to the diocese on 2nd August 2012.

2. Budget Making

I thank all the parish priests, Centre In-charges and the Heads of Institutions for making the annual budget and getting it approved. In a special way I thank the finance committee who went through them the whole day and approved them. Let us hope and plan that financial discipline and strict monitoring of our expenses will help us utilize our resources in an optimal and the best way possible. **It was decided in our last Consulters meeting that when submitting the accounts of each parish and institution in the office of the Finance Administrator, the signature of the Assistant priests shall also be obtained and thus making the account mutually transparent.**

3. Prayer for Peace and Reconciliation

We all know that efforts are being doubled by people and organizations to bring about peace and prosperity to Nagaland, by finding solutions to different problems facing us. Peace is first and foremost a gift of God and the fruit of the Spirit of God working in us.

The Catholic Church has been very silently supporting the efforts of all by its silent and yet very effective means such as prayer and quiet involvement wherever possible both as a community and as individuals. In our last Priests' Council and Consulters meeting it was suggested that it is time that the Catholic Church come out more openly and overtly and make our stand and suggestions known to the public and in our one to one relationship. It is agreed that we shall continue and intensify our support for peace and prosperity in Nagaland by intensifying our prayer both at the personal and community level. For this we have decided that **Sunday, August 12, 2012** be observed as a day of special prayer and fast for peace in Nagaland in all our parishes, villages and institutions. From this day onwards we shall also pray the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, "Make me a Channel of Your Peace" in our churches, hostels and schools as often as possible, preferably every day after the Holy Mass and during school assembly. For this the diocese will print and distribute the Prayer of St. Francis and kindly pray it daily. I also request all to give wide publicity to our prayer campaign and request as many as to join it so that together and with God's blessings we may experience peace, reconciliation and joy in our days.

4. Visit of Mrs. & Mr. Steve Ray

Mr. Steve Ray and his wife Mrs. Janet are expected to arrive in Dimapur on 19th November and would be with us in our diocese from 20 – 23 November. They are a couple who were brought up in the Baptist faith and while doing research for their Doctoral programme came to know about Catholic Church and embraced it against all odds. They have written a book entitled, "Rome Sweet Home" and many other articles about Faith, Church, Sacraments, Tradition, Scripture, Church Fathers, Mary, etc. They also go around the world preaching the Catholic Faith. They are called Apologists of our times. The details of their visit are being planned at the diocesan level. Kindly keep those days free to come and listen to a personal and passionate defense of our Catholic faith.

5. Book Keeping and Accounting Course

As announced earlier, the diocese will conduct a course on computerized accounting from Friday (arrival) 29th June to Thursday, 5th July (Departure) for priests and others who are designated to write the parish and school accounts. The course will be conducted at Carmel School, 4th Mile. Those who are intending to take part in it or send someone, kindly inform Fr. Arokiadoss for Registration (free) and Fr. Sebastian Ousepparampil for accommodation (Rs. 350 per day). The cost will be borne by each parish/centre.

Please note that the last day to register for the course is Monday, 25th June 2012.

6. Arrival of the Vincentian Fathers to Begin a Prayer Centre

We were feeling the need to begin a prayer centre in our diocese where people can come and spend time in quiet prayer and also experience praying as a community. The diocese had been looking for and requesting various Congregations to take up this spiritual ministry in the diocese. Now I am glad that the Marymatha Province of the Vincentian Fathers have agreed to come to the diocese and begin this ministry. The Provincial has appointed Fr. Sony Puthiyadam to begin the work in our diocese. He is expected to come to the diocese at the end of June 2012. For the time being, he will stay at Mt Tabor Retreat House, Kohima and try to organize and begin the ministry. Later they would build up a centre for prayer. I, in the name of all, welcome Fr. Sony to the diocese whole heartedly and wish him success and God's blessing upon his ministry. I request all the Fathers, Sisters, Leaders and people to give all possible help to initiate the ministry in our diocese, which is a felt need by all. Fr. Sony would be available to conduct prayer sessions in the parishes and also for various groups and associations and thus to initiate the prayer movement.

7. Congratulations to Rev. Fr. Guria Nestor, the New Provincial of Dimapur Province

Rev. Fr. Guria Nestor has been appointed as the sixth Provincial of St. Francis De Sales Province, Dimapur by Very Rev. Fr. Paschal Chavez, the Rector Major of the Society of the Salesians of Don Bosco. The new provincial was the Vice Provincial of the Salesian Province of Dimapur. The announcement was made on 17th June, 2012. I extend, on behalf of the diocese of Kohima, hearty congratulations to him and his team and extend all support and cooperation, and implore God's blessing upon him and his work.

8. Prison Ministry Sunday

Sunday, August 12, 2012 is observed as a Prison Ministry Sunday. The Prison Ministry India has brought out a Pastoral letter (please see the attached paper), with the hope that a simple gesture can make a difference in the life of prisoners. It is the duty of every Christian following the example of Jesus, to love all, including prisoners and take the responsibility to participate in the rehabilitation of prisoners. Therefore, kindly read the Pastoral letter (if possible translating it in the local language) on 12th August in all our Churches.

9. Transfers

Ursuline Franciscan Congregation

Incoming

Outgoing

Tabor UFC Provincialate, Purana Bazaar

Sr. Rosely Sangtam

Sr. Mary Urang

Sr. Anita Periera

Sr. Mary C. J

Sr. Anju Kindo

Sr. Pramila Lobo

Sr. Rose Rhozusa

Assisi Convent, Dimapur

Sr. Sunitha Miranda

Sr. Salomi Rongmei

Sr. Rosily Tikhir

Sr. Rana Rosalia

Sacred Heart Convent, Chizami

Sr. Nancy Sequeira

Sr. Matilda Cutinha

Sr. Selila Ranita

Sr. Rosely Sangtam

St. Xavier's Convent, Meluri

Sr. Agathi Lalduhzuali

Sr. Rekha Lopez

Sr. Sanmathl Kujur

Sr. Bernadette Humtsoe

Franciscan Sisters of St. Mary of the Angels

FSMA Convent, Kidima

Sr. M. Riya

Sr. M. Sophie

Sr. M. Salomy

Sr. M. Avila

Sr. M. Rakhi

Sr. M. Alet

FSMA Convent, Atoizu

Sr. M. Angela Pao

Sr. M. Ignesia

Sr. M. Kumudini

Sr. M. Martha

Lisha (Novice)

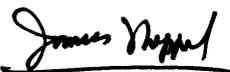
10. Corrigendum

It has been brought to my notice that there was some anomaly in my last circular on page 7. I apologize for the mistake. Please find below the corrected version:

Name	Assignment	House
Fr. Kalappurayil George	Rector, Director & Administrator	Dimapur, DBVTC 3 rd Mile
Fr. Minj Christopher	Assistant Priest	Mon, Don Bosco
Fr. Ashuli Lonuo Linus	Vice Principal, Assistant Priest & In-Charge of Youth Centre	Wokha, Don Bosco
Br. Ekka Ranjan	Counsellor	Zubza, Savio Home

Bishop's Programme – (19th June to October 2012)

June 2012	19-21	Shillong, Diaconate
	22-30	USA
July 2012	1-31	USA
August 2012	2	Returns from US: UFC Post Centenary jubilee (5.30 pm)
	3	St. John Mary Vianney Celebrations (Anticipated)
	4	Kohima
	5	Profession LFS (7.00am), Malayalam Mass – CPC (12.00 noon)
	6-9	Kohima
	10-22	Holidays
	23	Kohima
	24-28	Pastoral visit to Wokha
	29	Kohima
	30	Leaves for Rome – course for New Bishops
September 2012	1-31	Course for the New Bishops
October 2012	2	Returns from Europe, Senate meeting at 4.00 pm (B.H Dimapur)
	3	Consulters meeting at Bishop's House, Dimapur (9.00 am) Regional Animators meeting (2.00 pm) Recollection for Priests at Holy Cross Church, Dimapur (5.00 pm)
	4-5	Kohima
	6	Longsa
	7	Cathedral, Silver Jubilee of Fr. John Kavas
	8-10	Kohima
	11	Inauguration of the ' Year of Faith '
	11-16	Visit to Mokokchung - Jubilee of Kensa & Fr. James Mlakuzhiyil
	17-20	DFNEI Convention in Guwahati
	21	Parish Feast of Bhandari
	22-26	Retreat for Priests and Sisters
	23	Conclusion of Vocation Camp
	27	Khuzama
	28	Zhadima Village
	29-31	Montfort School Jubilee at Baghty

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Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil
Bishop of Kohima