

CIRCULAR No. 138 (SUPPLEMENT)

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

Peace of Christ!

1. On the eve of my departure to Rome to participate in the Pontifical Council for Healthcare Annual General Body Meeting, I am sending you this Circular to inform you about the proposals *vis-à-vis* the forthcoming Jubilee Year of Mercy that would begin on December 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and conclude on November 20, 2016, the Solemnity of Christ the King. While announcing the Year of Mercy on 13th March this year, Pope Francis states, “the time has come for the Church to take up the joyful call to mercy once more. It is time to return to the basics and to bear the weaknesses and struggles of our brothers and sisters. Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope.” (*Misericordiae Vultus No.10*)

The Celebration of God’s Mercy is not only our privilege, but it is also a Christian prerogative for his/her sanctification and salvation. Hence, celebrating such an important Jubilee year calls for serious reflection and due preparation on our part. With this in mind, a Jubilee Committee has been formed to plan out well for this yearlong celebration in the Archdiocese.

At the meeting held on 10th November, the Members of the Jubilee Committee concurred with the proposal made by the Priests’ Council and the College of Consultors that a two-day preparatory liturgies have to be conducted on 6th and 7th December for our faithful in the parishes, prior to the commencement of the Jubilee Year of Mercy on 8th December in all our parishes, and also for the Opening of the Door of St. Francis Xavier’s Cathedral on 13th December, and Opening of the Shrine Doors of St. Mary’s Shrine Basilica and the Infant Jesus Shrine on 1st January and 4th January, 2016 respectively. It was also decided at the meeting that announcements are to be made on 22nd and 29th November at all the Sunday Masses to make the faithful aware of the above mentioned programmes and to invite them to actively participation in them.

A booklet is being prepared for the Jubilee Year of Mercy by the Committee, which will be distributed to all the parishes by the end of this month, along with the Banner and the

Jubilee Prayer Cards. The Liturgical Committee is also preparing special Reflections and Prayers of the faithful for these occasions that will be published in “Hosanna.”

As regards the Opening of the Jubilee Year of Mercy in the Parishes, you may either organize a special Mass for a common celebration or can do it just before each Mass that can be decided in consultation with the Pastoral Council and the Liturgical Committee of your Parish. My only suggestion is that it has to be done very meaningfully and solemnly by ensuring the active participation of the Parish Community.

It was decided at the meeting that, in order to facilitate the participation of the faithful of the Archdiocese at the Solemn Opening of the Door of the Cathedral at 4.30 p.m., the evening Mass on 13th December is either cancelled or anticipated. Please encourage the faithful to participate at this ceremony in large numbers, especially the faithful residing within the city limits. The Deans are requested to bring at least ten representatives from their deaneries.

I have convened a Meeting of the Jubilee Committee along with the Deans and Members of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission on 18th November 2015 at 3 p.m. at Archbishop’s House. May I request all the Deans and the Liturgical Commission Members to attend this meeting without fail. Msgr. Jayanathan and Msgr. C. Francis will animate the meeting in my absence.

More information about the Jubilee Year of Mercy will be published in my December Circular.

2. During my stay in Rome, I will have the opportunity to meet His Holiness, and I will surely convey our filial love and respects to him, and I will also request His Holiness to impart his apostolic blessings upon all of us.

In my absence, you may contact the Vicar General in charge of your deanery for any pastoral need.

With every good wish and God’s blessings,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Archbishop Bernard Moras