

Circular - 05/2022
(12/12/2022)

PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE YEAR OF THE SACRAMENTS 2023

To,
All Fathers, Brothers, Sisters, and the Faithful
of the Diocese of Chanda

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and the Faithful,

Thy Kingdom Come!
Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

As indicated in the Pastoral Letter (Pastoral Letter on Sacraments I, Chanda Samachar Vol XLVI No. 1&2, Jan-Apr 2023), the Year of Sacraments (2023) is meant to know the sacraments well and live by it effectively. I propose the following action plan to make the celebration meaningful and fruitful:

1. Conduct at least one seminar to highlight the importance of the sacraments on the life of a Christian (parish level). It may be conducted for different groups like adults, youth, children etc.
2. Bring to the knowledge of the people the teachings of the Church on Sacraments in reference to Vatican II documents and encyclicals of the Popes (*Sacramentum Caritatis, Mysterium Fidei, Ecclesia de Eucharisti, Sacrosanctum Concilium* etc).
3. Arrange videos, exhibition etc. in parish level or ward level to highlight the different aspects of sacraments.
4. Prepare twelve special homilies one each for a Sunday in a month explaining each sacraments and their different aspects, effects etc. It may include the definition of sacraments, effects of sacraments, its biblical foundation, the theological significance, its symbolism etc. (Pastoral Year Plan calendar 2023 and the Flex Banner are useful for homilies)

January - Sacraments in general (CCC # 1135 - 1144)

February - Symbolism of Sacraments (CCC # 1145 - 1155)

March - Biblical foundation of the sacraments (CCC # 1210 - 1212)

April - Baptism (CCC # 1213 - 1284)

May - Confirmation (CCC # 1285 - 1321)

June - Holy Eucharist (CCC # 1322 - 1419)

July - Penance (CCC # 1420 - 1498)

August - Anointing of the Sick (CCC # 1499 - 1532)

September - Holy Orders (CCC # 1536 - 1600)

October - Holy Matrimony (CCC # 1601 - 1666)

November - Holy Qurbana (In Syro- Malabar Tradition)

December - Ends of Holy Matrimony (Spousal Communion & Procreation)

5. Quiz competition on sacraments for children is highly desirable.
6. Try to keep the sacraments of baptism this year incorporated with Sunday Holy Qurbana.

7. Distribute leaf-lets on sacraments to the families in the parish.
8. Take sacraments as theme for discussion in the youth groups, ward prayers, *Mathruvedi*, *Pithruvedi* etc.
9. A special focus on sacraments during our annual retreat in the parishes.
10. Celebrate a Parish Holy Communion Day with all receiving holy communion after due preparation.
11. Prepare posters of quotes on sacraments by saints and exhibit in the Church Campus.
12. Give focus on the Sacraments in the catechism classes and in the meetings of Holy Childhood Association.

These are just a few suggestions. Please do whatever is feasible and needful to create deeper awareness among our people about the importance of the sacraments in Christian life. May God Bless you.

With warm regards
Yours devotedly in Our Lord



† Ephrem Nariculam,
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda

NB:

- i. Please note that lots of materials are available in *youtube* and other social media links.
- ii. Pastoral letter gives some points about Sacraments (Cf. *Chanda Samachar* – January- April 2023)
- iii. Our Pastoral Plan Calendar and the Year of Sacraments Flex Banner also gives some information about Sacraments.
- iv. CCC = Catechism of the Catholic Church
- v. The Bible reference of each sacraments are given in Appendix II in the Syro-Malabar Liturgical Calendar 2022 -2023, pp. 77-79.
- vi. The inauguration of the Year of Sacraments may be done by releasing or unveiling the Flex Banner on 31st December at Midnight Holy Qurbana or on 1st January 2023 at the New Year Holy Qurbana.