

PASTORAL LETTER TO THE YOUTH – III

My Beloved Young Friends,

Thy Kingdom Come!

I am happy to address this pastoral letter to you, my beloved youth of the diocese. Holy Mother Church looks at you with great expectations. You are the future of the Church. The Holy Fathers have at many occasions spoke of youth as good, great and effective witness of the Church. Your witness is invaluable and vibrant because it is vigorous and creative. You can do great things for the Church by your active participation in the Church activities. I exhort you to be participative and active in the parish programmes. Together with our Fathers and Sisters you can do a great lot for the Church.

As you know ‘Church is the people of God’. We work together and walk together for the glory of God. Pope Francis has convened a Synod in Rome in the year 2023. Its theme is **“Synodality of the Church: Mission, Participation and Communion”**. Pope Francis greatly desires to walk together with a spirit of team work respecting one another, listening to one another, giving chance to everyone to speak and doing things together after discussion and discernment. He wishes to present a united face of the Church from within and Church as a whole. A process of discussion, discernment and decision making should become the style of the Church. No voice should be unheard and no one should be adamant in holding on to one’s own view. Synodal process requires everyone to get a chance to voice his/her view but decision should be with a consensus among all.

To be a Christian means to be a disciple of Christ. “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples” (Jn.13: 35). A simple definition of love is to seek the welfare of others. Jesus offered his own life for us as an ultimate expression of love for others. “Greater love has no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends” (Jn 15:13). Every Christian is called to serve others even at our inconvenience. Our Fathers and Sisters have left everything behind to follow Christ. It is a radical following of Christ. “Then he said to them all, If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me” (Lk 9:23). God does not demand such great sacrifice from you. But God expect you to be generous with the Church. Use your talents to serve for the growth of the Church. Receive sacraments and grow in holiness. Take initiative for family prayer and active participation in ward prayers. Offer your assistance for different Church activities such as feast celebrations, parish day, village visits etc. Do your best to study or develop in a profession. A self-discipline with regard to the use of social media is of great importance. Avail all what is good in social media and avoid what is misleading and inclined to sin. It will be great if you can use social media for evangelization in collaboration with Fathers and Sisters in the parish.

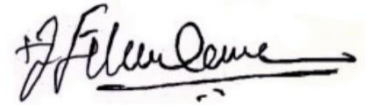
The diocese is doing the best for your well-being. The talent club started for Children, career guidance programe, post metric hostel system, Kalabhavan etc are but a few ventures in this

direction. At least forty youth are doing BSC Nursing or under graduation in this scheme. We have now one Salesian priest from Mumbai - Fr. Nelson Mudaliar SDB who is coordinating free training and job opportunity for our youth under Salesian professional training center at Ahmednagar. If anyone is interested please contact Fr. Nelson through your priests in-charge. A few have already benefitted from this scheme. The diocese is ready to do any help for you within its frame work. May I also request you to cooperate with the diocese and all diocesan activities.

As you all know the Chanda mission is celebrating Diamond Jubilee (60 years) this year. With the help of pioneering CMI missionaries, we could do a great missionary of works in the diocese. Ever since its inception the Kerala Churches has assisted this mission in different ways - Cash, kind and personnel. It shall be continued. Gradually we have to become self-supporting. Please co- operate.

As you know evangelization is the mission of every Christian. Fathers and Sisters are doing direct evangelization through their ministry in our institutions. You are invited to the witness ministry. You must enter into different jobs in Government and private sector and become witness of Christ's kingdom values by your life, words and deeds. You must be employed in different sections of the society and do needful to witness Christ in public. It will have greater impact as it comes from youth. It is a great lay apostolate. If God invites you to be a missionary as priests or religious, you are always welcome. So dear youth, be resolved to be great missionaries in the way God wishes. I convey you my apostolic blessings.

With good wishes.
Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus



† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda

