

PASTORAL LETTER TO THE SISTERS – IV

Dear Rev. Sisters,

Thy Kingdom Come!

In the first place I wish to express my gratitude to you for your presence, service, support and encouragement. Your motherly concern for the people and sisterly regard for co-missionaries including priests and religious brothers is laudable. I thank you for the same. Please continue your work with zeal and vigor. God bless you all.

Mary and Martha in the gospel (Lk 10: 38-42) are good examples of missionary integrity and service rendered in the name of Christ. St. Augustine interprets that both attitudes are important and the need for the Church. Marian and Marthayan ministries are two aspects of our mission in the name of Christ. Putting together their mission in right proportion is what we need to focus. Each one and in Congregation level you may discern it and do it for the glory of God is my exhortation.

I avail the opportunity to appreciate your patient approach in the ministry. Your availability, your prayer life, your sacrifices etc are great support to this mission. I am aware that you have inadequate facilities in some stations, yet you adjust with it happily with a missionary zeal. I am reminded the words of St. Paul: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Phil 4:6-7). You aptly apply it to your life!

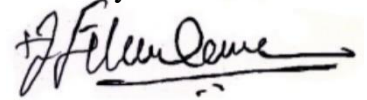
It is a great gesture that you take every means to co-operate with others even when some occasions are not that conducive. Your love for the mission assist you to condone it to commit your sarvices to the mission entrusted to your care. Your hard work, serviceability, initiatives are welcoming and great boost to our mission. In this context I wish to point out your service to the differently abled women and children as something very amazing. Some Congregations have done special ministry to the transgenders, rag pickers and abandoned. You served them with motherly love, sisterly concern and filial affection. In some occasions receive very ungrateful dealings from them. Yet you respond to such occasions with patience and with cheerful face. I am sure on each such occasion the words of Jesus reverberate through your mind: “When you did it to the least of my brothers, you did it unto me” (Mt. 25: 40).

Now we are in the Diamond Jubilee year. The service you have done in the diocese ever since your arrival here is grandeur. The chunk of work you have done is behind the screen. Be sure God sees everything that is done in the name of his Church. Certainly God will reward you. “Your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you” (Mt 6:6).

The service you rendered during Covid – 19 season and your sincere share of donation from your institutions during flood in the southern India are worthy of mention. Your readiness for home mission, village visit for *Ad gentes* mission, assistance in the diocesan departments, initiatives of village exposures to the farmers, different social apostolates to the needy and marginalized, upkeep in parish activities and boardings etc are clear signs of your missionary zeal and love for the Church. They are indeed invaluable and the diocese wishes to acknowledge with gratitude on record. The diocese is indebted to you for the same and wishes and congratulate you for the good work. The diocese wants to do still better for you but some limitations in the finance is restraining us to go ahead. I am sure we will be able to overcome such obstacles in the course of time.

In the Diamond Jubilee of our mission I greet you all with paternal regards and impart you my apostolic blessings. Join with me to thank God for our mission and for our people of God. Let us be united in our mission and do our best for the Lord. In the spirit of Synodality we shall walk together and work together for the greater glory of God. With good wishes and prayers.

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus



† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda

