



DIOCESE OF ITANAGAR

**Bishop's House, P.B. No. 294
Naharlagun-791110
Arunachal Pradesh, INDIA**

DIOCESAN CIRCULAR NO. 04/24

September 1, 2024

Dear Rev. Fathers, Sisters, Brothers and Faithful of the Diocese.

In the ineffable grace of the Lord, I extend to you my heartfelt greetings and impart my episcopal blessing. May you continually be enfolded in the love, peace, and joy that stem only from our Saviour.

As the shepherd entrusted with the care of our vibrant diocese, I carry a deep sense of gratitude for the honour to serve alongside each of you. Our diocese, enlivened by its dynamic faith, treasured traditions, and noble culture of service, fills me with great pride and thankfulness.

Together, may we flourish in our collective journey with Christ, uphold each other, and extend the hand of fellowship to those in need. It is my prayer that our diocese will continue as a radiant beacon of hope, a refuge of serenity, and a living testament to God's perpetual presence among us. Hand in hand, may we progress in faith, hope, and charity, ever guided and fortified by the Spirit's wisdom.

In our passionate engagement with the Church's mission, we must remember the invaluable role afforded to the laity. The Second Vatican Council, in its Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity (*Apostolicam Actuositatem*), eloquently asserts that "the laity are called to participate in the Church's mission" (AA 2).

Holy Father Pope Francis, in his inspirational apostolic exhortation "*Christus Vivit*," notably emphasizes the need for young people and the laity's involvement in Church decision-making (CV 231). Let us embrace this guidance and embolden our laity through their baptismal calling. By integrating them into parish governance, ministries, and offering suitable formation and instruction, they are better prepared to actively engage in evangelization and mission efforts. United, we are dedicated to crafting a Church that mirrors the breadth and depth of our beloved community.

I wish also to express my deepest gratitude for the unique celebration of **Grandparents Day**. The various Youth Programs conducted for our youth across the parishes and centers are emblematic of our enduring commitment to nurturing the next generation. Let us continue to champion our young, acknowledging the distinctive gifts, vigor, and fresh perspectives they contribute to our faith family. Encourage their active involvement, as their input is vital to the Church's continuous evolution and rejuvenation. Heed their voices and ingenuity, create avenues for their development, commission them for leadership, and accompany them in their spiritual sojourn.

With blessings and in shared devotion,


+ **Benny Varghese Edathattel**



Itanagar, Bishop's House

01.09.2024

I. Faith and Community Enrichment

In the spirit of gratitude and joy, we reflect on recent milestones that mark significant moments in the life of our diocesan family. These events not only strengthen our faith but also reinforce the bonds of our community, as we witness God's hand at work among us.

1. THE NORTH EAST INDIA REGIONAL PASTORAL CONFERENCE

The North East India Regional Pastoral Conference held from August 26th to 29th, 2024, at the North East Diocesan Social Forum in Guwahati, marking an important event for the Church in our region. This year's conference, cantered on the theme "**Evangelization in North East by revisiting Ecclesia in Asia**," served as a crucial platform to discuss and enrich the ways of spreading the Gospel and addressed significant socio-political issues that impact our society and faith communities.

Representing our diocese were Rev. Fr. CD Mathai SDB, Secretary for Evangelization, and Rev. Fr. Thomas Lakra, President of the Diocese Fraternity of Itanagar, alongside myself. Keynote speaker Rev. Fr. Dr. Kuriakose Poovathumkudy reminded every baptized person of their calling to disseminate the essence of the Gospel, defining us all as the "aroma of Christ" in accordance with 2 Cor 2:14-15.

Mr. Manoj Sunny, Secretary for Evangelization of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC), briefly articulated the dual pillars of evangelization: Proclamation (*Kerygma*) and Community (*Koinonia*), which form the bedrock of our mission to preach and demonstrate Christ's salvific message and enduring love in unity.

The conference emphasized the need for continuous reflection on our dedication to the mission of evangelization. It urged us to transcend mere functionality and embody the true spirit of missionary discipleship.

Let us carry forward the insights and commitments from this conference as we passionately live out our call to evangelize, and may we be ever renewed in faith, inspired by the brotherhood and youth care discussions, and the living examples of small Christian communities.

2. JOURNEYING TOGETHER IN THE 2025 ORDINARY JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

The Universal Church is preparing to step into the holy season of grace, the Ordinary Jubilee Year of 2025, themed "Pilgrims of Hope." Beginning in Advent 2024 and culminating on January 6, 2026, the Jubilee Year presents an opportunity for the Church worldwide to foster hope amidst global challenges such as war, the COVID-19 pandemic, and climate change.

The Jubilee Year celebrations will be inaugurated by His Holiness Pope Francis, with the ceremonial opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024. Signifying a portal of mercy and redemption, the Holy Doors, which open exclusively during a Jubilee Year, invite the faithful to pass through in a spirit of repentance and renewal.

In the Catholic Church, an indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment due to sin, granted by the Church through the authority of the Pope and bishops. It is not a forgiveness of the sin itself, but rather a reduction or elimination of the penalty associated with the sin.

There are two types of indulgences:

1. Partial indulgence: Reduces the temporal punishment due to sin.
2. Plenary indulgence: Completely eliminates the temporal punishment due to sin.

To receive an indulgence, certain conditions must be met:

1. Sacramental confession
2. Eucharistic communion
3. Prayer for the Pope's intentions
4. Freedom from attachment to sin

Indulgences can be obtained through various means, such as:

1. Prayer
2. Pilgrimages
3. Charitable works
4. Participation in certain liturgical events
5. Devotions

The faithful of our diocese, as pilgrims of hope, will be able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence granted by the Holy Father by visiting anyone of the following designated churches in the Diocese of Itanagar:

- a) St. Joseph Cathedral, Nyokum Lapang
- b) Holy Trinity Church, Banderdewa
- c) St. Joseph Church, Kaying

I am also happy to announce that Rev. Fr. Boniface, our Catechetical Commission Secretary, has attended an important meeting regarding the Jubilee Year. He will visit your parishes or deaneries to enlighten and encourage you about the significance of the Jubilee.

May this Jubilee Year unite us as we step forward in faith, hope, and the shared purpose of our Christian calling.

3. VIANNEY DAY: HONOURING THE PATRON SAINT OF PRIESTS

On the joyful occasion of the feast of Saint Jean-Marie Vianney, we, the diocesan priests, came together at St. Patrick's Seminary for a day filled with reflection, recollection, and spiritual celebration. United in prayer, we lifted up the intentions of all the dedicated priests and religious sisters serving across our diocese.

Saint Jean-Marie Vianney, known for his exemplary virtues of dedication, humility, and devotion, remains a beacon for all clergy. Let us draw inspiration from his life and ministry, which were marked by:

- Unwavering commitment to his flock
- Tireless service and sacrifice
- Deep love for the Eucharist and Reconciliation
- Simple, yet profound, preaching of the Gospel

4. SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

During the Sundays of July—7th, 14th, and 28th—I was blessed with the opportunity to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation in Mengio, Nirjuli, and Naharlagun. This sacrament is an important moment in our faithful's spiritual lives, affirming their commitment to Christ and the Church. The preparation for this sacrament involved comprehensive catechesis, encouraging personal faith commitment, fostering a sense of parish community, and enhancing their relationship with Christ.

5. BLESSING OF THE NEW PARISH CHURCH AT MECHUKA

In 1994, St. Thomas Church community in Mechuka was established with the presence of just two people, with the intervention of Bro. Prem Bhai. I wish to thank the MSFS Fathers for evangelizing this area and providing pastoral care to the people from 1994 to 2018. On September 25, 2018, St. Thomas Catholic Church

in Mechuka was raised to the status of a full-fledged parish by my predecessor, Bishop Emeritus John Thomas, who appointed Fr. Sabu Joseph as the first parish priest.

Today, Mechuka has grown with 127 Catholic families in Mechuka town and another 28 Catholic families in four surrounding villages. The collective efforts of the community and well-wishers have resulted in the creation of a breathtakingly beautiful church, a true sanctuary of worship and devotion.

Let us continue to come together to pray, worship, and serve. May this church be a catalyst for spiritual growth, community building, and outreach to those in need. Congratulations once again on this remarkable accomplishment! May God bless and prosper us as we continue to build His kingdom together.

6. CHURCH BLESSING AT SOPUNG—PALIZI PARISH

On July 27th, I had the privilege of blessing St. Mary's Church, New Sopung, inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Valerian Castelino SJ. The event was a joyous occasion, with the presence of many from far and wide. As Sopung—one of the villages under Palizi Parish—continues in faith, we pray for God's protection and blessing. May this church be a source of peace, warmth, and continued faith growth. Once again congratulation dear fathers, sisters and community of Palizi Parish. May the priestly blessing be a tangible reminder of God's presence in our lives, and may we carry its peace and joy with us always.

7. TITHING FOR CATHOLICS

It is with great enthusiasm that we present a valuable resource for our community—a comprehensive booklet on the practice of tithing within the Catholic Church. This informative booklet has been meticulously prepared and has now been distributed across all parishes. Within its pages, parishioners will find enlightened guidance about the Biblical origins of tithing, its profound importance in our spiritual journey, and the practical application of this act of faith in our daily lives. I respectfully urge all parish priests to ensure that these booklets are made readily accessible to every family in our parish community.

II. Leadership and Service Within Our Church

In the spirit of gratitude and joy, we acknowledge and embrace the integral role of leadership and servitude in the heart of our Church. As we commit to nurturing the soul of our community, we witness the unfolding of God's nurturing hands among us.

1. A HEARTWARMING VISIT TO MIAO DIOCESE

From August 10th to 12th, Rev. Fr. Jacob Mattathilany and I had the honour of visiting the Miao Diocese. We were welcomed with extraordinary warmth and generosity, which touched us deeply. Heartfelt thanks are due to Bishop P.K. George, Auxiliary Bishop Dennis Panipichai, and the diocesan community for their hospitality that made our visit so memorable and heartwarming.

During our stay, we had the opportunity to witness firsthand the remarkable work being done in the diocese, particularly under Bishop P.K. George's visionary leadership. There is a palpable commitment to evangelization, care for the underserved, and supporting a strong, inclusive community, all of which stand as a testament to the diocese's faith-based commitment and dedication.

The clergy's earnest approach to pastorship and their unwavering commitment to their vocation are truly commendable, while the laity's sincerity, warmth, and passionate faith exemplify the vibrancy of the Christian community here in Miao. It is a profound joy and blessing to witness such an active and devout faith in practice.

Our visit has been a cherished experience that has not only created lasting memories but also strengthened the bonds of brotherhood between our dioceses. We pray for God's continued guidance for the Miao Diocese as they strive to build a loving, compassionate, and dedicated Church community.

2. SPIRITUAL RENEWAL: SISTERS' RETREAT AT GUMTO

We express our profound appreciation to Rev. Fr. Joseph Eluvathingal VC for organizing the spiritual retreat for our diocesan sisters, facilitated by Rev. Fr. George Arackal VC. This retreat was a time for **Renewal**, **Reflection**, and **Reconnection** with God's presence in our mission.

May the experiences from this retreat inspire our sisters to continue their pastoral works with renewed zeal, listening to the Holy Spirit, sharing in the fellowship of faith, and embracing the harmony of our diverse yet united mission. We aspire to nurture a space where growth, healing, and transformation can flourish.

May the fruits of this retreat enrich the lives of our sisters and radiate through our community, bringing blessings to all whom we are called to serve.

3. APCA GENERAL CONFERENCE: NEW LEADERSHIP

From July 19th to 21st, 2024, the 5th General Conference of the Arunachal Pradesh Catholic Association (APCA) convened in Itanagar with more than 250 delegates from the dioceses of Miao and Itanagar. The gathering was a testament to the vibrant life and unity of our Church in Arunachal Pradesh.

I extend earnest gratitude to the outgoing executive members and office bearers for their dedication and service. Special thanks go to Most Rev. Dennis Panipichai, the Auxiliary Bishop of Miao, for gracing us with his presence and encouraging words, and to Rev. Fr. Sebastian Thuruthilyil SDB, the ecclesiastical advisor to APCA, for his steadfast guidance.

We heartily welcome the newly appointed officers of the Arunachal Pradesh Catholic Association for the 2024-2029 term:

NAME	POST	NAME	POST
1. Shri Nabam Pekhi	: President	16. Smti Nangbia Anju	: Astt.Secy.Women Affairs
2. Shri Taling Yaying	: Vice President (Senior)	17. Smti Tai Rupi Lingdom	: Secy Cultural affairs
3. Shri Tatung Tania	: Vice President, HQ	18. Shri Nani Rajen	: Astt. Secy. Cultural affairs
4. Shri Michi Chalho	: Secretary General	19. Shri Kago Tangung James	: Secy Social service
5. Shri Godak Nehru	: Asstt. Secretary General	20. Shri Taw Ram John	: Astt. Secy. Social Service
6. Adv. Takam Tayam	: Secretary (Law &Litigation)	21. Shri Pitam Jomoh	: Secretary Games &Sports
7. Adv. Lingdom Sanjay	: Secretary (Publicity)	22. Shri Mathew Tabang	: Secretary, Training
8. Shri Dabo Loda	: Asstt. Secy. (Publicity)	23. Smti M.K.Goyi	: Secretary, Liturgy
9. Er. Takam Majeng	: Secretary Finance	24. Shri Taba Gagung	: Convenor
10. Er. Tassar James	: Asstt. Secy. Finance	25. Shri Takang Diging Sebastian	: Co-Convenor
11. Dr. Nabam Gama	: Secretary Health	26. Shri Bengia Taniang	: Chief Auditor
12. Smti Donik Iyum Riba	: Astt. Secy. Health	27. ShriTanaTopu	: Executive Member
13. Shri Tagit Sorang Abraham	: Secy Youth Affairs	28. Smti Techi Yana	: Executive Member
14. Shri Dagge Riram	: Secretary Women Affairs	29. Shri Debia Mayung Nabam	: Executive Member
15. Smti Bani Taku	: Secretary Women Affairs		

4. AICU—GENERAL CONFERENCE

The All India Catholic Union (AICU) celebrated its 70th General Conference with a theme resonating with unity and democracy's preservation. From August 23rd to 25th, 2024, at Coonoor, Tamil Nadu, the conference convened Catholic leaders from across the nation, including those from our own diocese. I commend our dedicated laity: Shri Nabam Pekhi, Shri Michi Chalho, Shri Tatung Tania, Shri Takam Majeng, Shri Taw Tebin, and the honourable former Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Nabam Tuki, for their proactive participation.

The conference emphasized the Catholic community's responsibility toward critical national concerns, with a powerful message by Shri Tuki advocating unity to address communal challenges such as the Manipur riots.

The event underlined the Church's role in safeguarding democracy and fostering the nation's all-around development.

Highlighting the recognition of our efforts, the Arunachal Pradesh Catholic Association (APCA) proudly received recognition as one of India's outstanding Catholic associations—an honour that speaks to the unwavering commitment of our community.

Significant leadership shifts marked this assembly with the election of new AICU officials: Elias Vaz of Goa as President and A. Chinnapan of Delhi as Vice President. Adv. Raphael D'suza of Mumbai stepped into the role of Secretary General, and our own Taw Tebin, former President of APCA, was appointed as National Secretary for the North East Region.

Our gratitude goes out to the Tamil Nadu organizing committee for their exceptional hospitality, as they welcomed our delegation, including Shri John Shilshi, retired IPS, as the Special Invitee. Together we celebrate these monumental days and move forward with renewed determination to serve our Church and nation.

5. LABOUR AND MIGRANT COMMISSION MEETING

The annual General Body meeting of the Labour and Migrant Commission (NEIRBC) was jointly organized by the CBCI office for Labour and the CCBI office for Migrants at NEDSSS, Guwahati, on July 26th and 27th. Fr. Deepak Oswald D'Souza, along with three members of our laity, participated in the workshop.

The Migrant Commission plays a vital role in:

- Advocating for the rights and dignity of migrants
- Providing support and resources for their integration and well-being
- Raising awareness about migrant issues and promoting inclusivity
- Facilitating dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders

I am grateful for the dedication of the commission to this cause and look forward to continuing our work together to serve the migrant community.

III. Gratitude and Recognition

As we honour and express our deep gratitude for the endeavours and spiritual leadership within our Church, let us celebrate the milestones and recognitions that remind us of God's providential care and the unity of purpose in our ministry brothers and sisters in their time of need.

1. SUPPORT FOR THE SUFFERING BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF WAYANAD LANDSLIDES

With heartfelt gratitude, I wish to acknowledge the APCA, the *Apathani* Community, and all our parishes for their magnanimous contributions totalling Rs. 5,86,090 towards the relief efforts for the victims of the Wayanad landslides. Your generosity exemplifies the spirit of Christian solidarity and love in action. It is with appreciation that I inform you that the collected funds have been duly transferred to the Diocese of Kozhikode to aid our brothers and sisters in their time of need.

2. 175th FOUNDATION DAY OF CLARETIAN FATHERS CELEBRATED

On July 16th, it was with great joy that I presided over the Holy Eucharist to commemorate the conclusion of the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Congregation of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart (CMF) at St. Claret Seminary, Umsning.

This historic day was celebrated in the gracious company of Rev. Fr. Joseph Mappilaparambil, the Provincial Superior, along with Fathers, Brothers, and Sisters of the congregation.

With heartfelt congratulations, I commend all the members for their unwavering commitment and contributions to the growth of the Church, especially in North East India and within the Itanagar Diocese. It is evident that the cultivation of a strong community life and a deep commitment to Christ are the hallmarks of true missionary work. Congratulations to each and every one of you, dear Fathers and Brothers, for your service and witness.

3. ARCHBISHOP MOST REV. DR. LINUS NELI D.D, ARCHBISHOP OF IMPHAL RECEIVES PALLIUM

On the auspicious day of July 31st, 2024, His Excellency Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli, Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal, conferred the pallium upon His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Linus Neli D.D, Archbishop of Imphal.

The solemn ceremony, held at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Mantripukhri, Imphal, marks a joyous occasion for the Church. The pallium, a distinctive ecclesiastical vestment, symbolizes the Archbishop's authority as well as the special bond of ecclesiastical communion with the See of Peter.

This honour manifests the unity of our Church and the shepherding mission entrusted to our bishops. We join in congratulating Archbishop Linus Neli, wishing him God's abundant blessings as he continues to guide the faithful with pastoral care and love.

Here are some key points about the Pallium and its importance:

- **Origin:** The origin of the Pallium is uncertain, but it has been used since the 4th century.
- **Design:** The Pallium is a white band of wool, worn around the neck, featuring two pendants and six black crosses.
- **Bestowal:** The Pallium is bestowed by the pope on metropolitan archbishops, symbolizing their jurisdictional authority.
- **Significance:** The Pallium represents the archbishop's unity with the pope and their role as a pastor and shepherd.
- **Wearers:** Only the pope, metropolitan archbishops within their archdiocese, and the Latin Rite Patriarch of Jerusalem are allowed to wear the Pallium.
- **Symbolism:** The Pallium symbolizes the Good Shepherd shouldering a lamb, representing the archbishop's role as a shepherd and pastor.

IV. Pastoral Leadership and Diocesan Updates

In this time of change and renewal, we embrace the leadership and service offered by our brother priests and sisters in Christ. Their commitment to our diocesan family and the wider Church exemplifies the self-giving love that Jesus calls us to embody.

1. TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS

The diocese delights in the recent movements and appointments that have taken place within our clergy:

- **Rev. Fr. Joseph (Prince) Puthenchira MCBS** as Parish Priest, Mengio
- **Rev. Fr. Kampan Chinnam** as Secretary to the Commission for Social Communication NESCOM of NEIRBC, Guwahati.
- **Rev. Dn. Krupa Kumar Molugumati** at Sacred Heart Church, Naharlagun, and assisting at the Bishop's House
- **Rev.Dn. Jobin Johnson Thachetukudy** at St. Thomas Church, Parsi Parlo
- **Rev. Dn. Joison Edakkalathur** at Ane Moriem Church, Sangram

Every appointment and transfer is a testament to our dynamic Church's life and the individuals' readiness to respond to God's call wherever it may lead. Let us support them with our prayers and encouragement as they undertake their new responsibilities.

2. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTION

In a spirit of harmonious celebration, we look towards the future with great anticipation, as our Salesian and FMA communities welcome new leadership. The mantle of responsibility passes to those who have shown commitment, humility, and a zest for serving the Lord's mission:

a) Salesian Province of St. Francis De Sales, Dimapur

Let us extend our heartfelt congratulations to those appointed within the Salesian Province of Dimapur as they take on their sacred roles:

Rev. Fr. Joseph Pampackal SDB	- Provincial
Rev. Fr. Kapani Deli David SDB	- Vice Provincial
Rev. Fr. Rajeesh Devasia SDB	- Economer
Rev. Fr. Thuruthel Joseph SDB	- Councillor
Rev. Fr. John Paul Vemo SDB	- Secretary
Rev. Fr. Lakra Theotimus SDB	- „
Rev. Fr. Elow Samuel SDB	- „
Rev. Fr. Jiangmlung Philip SDB	- „
Rev. Fr. Hans Igness SDB	- „

Their readiness to step forward in these leadership positions reflects their dedication to our faith and their unwavering commitment to guiding our community with wisdom and love.

b) FMA Mater Ecclesiae Province of Guwahati

Let us also extend our hearty congratulations to the newly appointed Provincial and her team in the FMA Province of Mater Ecclesiae (ING), Guwahati – India, as they take on their sacred roles:

Rev. Sr. Gothorp Mabel FMA	- Provincial
Rev. Sr. Dilbung Maria FMA	- Vice Provincial
Rev. Sr. Anithothil Mary FMA	- Province Economer
Rev. Sr. Thalu Kula Philomena FMA	- Province Secretary
Rev. Sr. Kannampuzha Catherine FMA	- Councillor
Rev. Sr. Kaniyampady Molly Elizabeth FMA	- „
Rev. Sr. Pfoyemei Lolia Annie FMA	- „
Rev. Sr. Muchahary Chiary FMA	- „
Rev. Sr. Kazhiiia Rose Mary FMA	- „
Rev. Sr. Gangmei Lucy FMA	- „

May the grace of God accompany them in their new offices, guiding them to lead with integrity, compassion, and a deep sense of service to our Lord's work.

3. INAUGURATION OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR AT ST. PATRICK SEMINARY

This year, we are blessed with 17 seminarians at St. Patrick Seminary. I had the joy of being with the staff and seminarians on July 13th for the inauguration of the academic year. I thank the superiors for their commendable accompaniment in the all-around development of our seminarians. I also express my gratitude to all the parishes and centres for their contributions toward the maintenance of the future priests of our diocese.

As our brothers embark on their journey of seminary formation, let us remember that they are responding to God's call to become messengers of Christ's love and truth. Let us accompany them with our prayers and support.

The Church teaches that "the seminary is a school of formation for the ministers of the Church" (*Pastores Dabo Vobis*, 62), where they will be formed in the four pillars of formation:

- Human Formation: Becoming a well-rounded, mature individual
- Spiritual Formation: Deepening their relationship with Christ
- Intellectual Formation: Studying the rich teachings of the Church
- Pastoral Formation: Learning to serve the People of God

May our seminary provide a transformative experience that prepares our young people to become zealous, compassionate, and holy priests.

4. INSTALLATION OF PARISH PRIESTS

In the past weeks, we have experienced the installation of new parish priests across several parishes. To these shepherds entrusted with the care of our communities, we extend a warm and hopeful welcome. We pray for God's guidance in your ministry, that you may lead with wisdom, love, and an ever-joyful heart.

We are equally grateful to our outgoing parish priests, whose service has profoundly touched the lives of their parishioners. Your devotion has been a living testimony to God's grace. As you begin new chapters, may your paths be graced with abundant blessings.

5. BISHOPS' RENEWAL PROGRAM IN ROME

I wish to inform you that I will be absent from the diocese from the 6th of September to the 16th of October 2024, to participate in the renewal program for newly consecrated bishops scheduled to take place in Rome. This period of renewal will also provide the honour of an audience with His Holiness Pope Francis. Following the program, I intend to visit some benefactors who have graciously supported our diocesan endeavours. I humbly request your prayers for the success and fruitfulness of this journey to Europe. During my time away, Rev. Fr. Jacob Mattathilany, VG, will assume responsibility for the ordinary administrative duties of the diocese. Your prayers for my mission are deeply cherished.

V. **Special Intentions and Remembrance**

In response to the Holy Father's exhortation, let us unite in spirit and prayer, focusing our shared intentions on the themes proposed by Pope Francis for thoughtful reflection and committed action.

1. PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

For **September**, we are called to echo the **Cry of the Earth**. Let us be attentive and responsive to the cry of our planet and to those affected by natural calamities and climate change. It is incumbent upon each of us to nurture a personal commitment to the environment, adopting a role of caretakers and advocates for the only home we share.

For **October**, our focus shifts to our **Shared Mission** as a Church. We are invited to pray for the Church's journey toward a more Synodal way of being, where collaboration and co-responsibility are paramount. It is our hope that this will enable deeper unity and shared purpose amongst priests, the religious, and the lay faithful, thus invigorating our collective dedication to the Gospel and our role within the wider community.

As we hold these intentions in our hearts and minds, let us contemplate and act on ways we can significantly impact these important concerns within our local diocese and the global Church.

2. NECROLOGY

Our diocesan family grieves the passing of beloved individuals who have touched the lives of many. We extend our deepest condolences to their grieving families and commit to remembering them in our prayers.

Mrs. Mary Thomas (Age 85), beloved mother of Rev. Sr. Rita Thomas, CMC, of Bomdila, has been called to her eternal rest. We invite the faithful to pray for her soul's repose and celebrate the lasting impact of her life.

Mr. K.O. Joseph (Age 85), esteemed father of Rev. Fr. Sajan Joseph, MCBS, Parish Priest of Raga, has gone to his heavenly abode. We surround Fr. Sajan and his family with our prayers and heartfelt support in this time of sorrow.

Mr. P.T. Varkey Pattarakalayil (Age 87), respected father of Rev. Fr. James Pattarakalayil, MSFS, Parish Priest of Basar, has departed from this life. His memory will be honored within our community as we extend our sympathies to Fr. James and his bereaved family.

Let us keep the souls of the departed and their loved ones in our prayers, entrusting them to the Lord's compassionate care and seeking comfort and consolation for those who mourn.

MY PROGRAMME for the Months of SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER

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|-------------------------|--|
| 01.09.2024 | - Recollection and Mass at St. Clement College, Naogaon |
| 02.09.2024 | - Meeting with APCA Executives and Itanagar APCA Office bearers |
| 06.09.2024- 16.10.2024 | - Renewal Course for the New Bishops in Rome |
| 18.10.2024 – 19.10.2024 | - Zonal Convention at Khonoma |
| 20.10.2024 | - Parish Feast of Holy Cross, Dimapur |
| 21.10.2024 | - |
| 22.10.2024 | - |
| 23.10.2024 | - |
| 24.10.2024 | - 150 Years of SVD Fathers in NE India celebration at Dobam
- Golden Jubilee Mass commemorating the arrival of MSFS in North East India at Silapathar |
| 25.10.2024 | - Mass at Kamba under Aalo Parish |
| 26.10.2024 | - Pastoral Visit to Tato |
| 27.10.2024 | - Pastoral Visit to Tato |
| 28.10.2024 | - Pastoral Visit to Tato |
| 29.10.2024 | - 9 am Blessing of the Theo Bhavan Friary at Monigong
-3pm Mass at Papikrung under Monigong Parish |
| 30.10.2024 | - 10 am Mass at Desang under Monigong Parish |
| 31.10.2024 | - Mass at Village church under Tato Parish |

