Year of Holy Eucharist/ Adoration Year 2018

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and my dear people,

Thy Kingdom Come!

It is a great blessing for the diocese that the *Fellowship*

*Ministry*missionaries have volunteered to take up a mission

of perennial adoration in the diocese in the year 2018.

Availing this opportunity we have decided to declare the

year 2018 as the Year of Holy Eucharist or the Adoration Year

(*Aaradhana Varsh).*In the current political situation of our

country the Church in India needs more blessings from the

Lord to face the challenges and to bear true witness to Christ's

message. So we have to pray inevitably more intensely. I

invite everyone in the diocese to take this observation of

Eucharistic Year knowing its importance and grow in

Eucharistic devotion.

Customary understanding of prayer is communication

with God - to speak to God and listen to him. Prayer is a God

experience. Thanksgiving, invocation, petition, adoration,

etc. are different forms of prayer. Ultimately it is being with

God away from all our other concerns of the world. The

disciples on the way to Emmaus make a great prayer of

petition “stay with us Lord” (Luke 24:29). Indeed a genuine

prayer is being with the Lord, in particular being in the

sacramental presence of the Lord is something beautiful and

ineffable. “Any time spent before the Eucharistic presence, be

it long or short, it is the best-spent time of our lives” says

Catherine of Genoa. It is the golden opportunity for us, let us

avail it to the maximum.

By the observation of the *Year of Holy Eucharist*or

*Aaradhana Varsh 2018*we aim at the following: i) *To deepen our*

*Eucharistic devotion:*The Vatican II document on the Church

*Lumen Gentium*teaches that the Holy Eucharist is the source

and summit of the Christian life (#11). In *Ecclesia de*

*Eucharistia*(Encyclical on Holy Eucharist) St. Pope John Paul

II says: “Eucharist builds the Church and the Church makes

the Eucharist” (#26). Availing this opportunity let us more

and more focus our Christian life on Holy Eucharist, both in

devotion and participation of the Holy Qurbana, particularly

on Sundays. ii) *To pray for the Church in India and for the diocese*:

In the present political context the Church in India needs

more support of prayers. As we know the communal forces

are taking grip in the Indian politics. Church respects every

religion (*Ad Gentes*) and pray for everyone. Church stands for

religious harmony and universal fellowship. Let us pray for

everyone in our country, for genuine patriotism against

ghetto nationalism, for prosperity of our country against

regional or religious sentimentalism, peace among people

against selfish motives and hidden agendas, and for

propagation of faith (religious freedom) as against religious

fundamentalism. iii) *To fortify our faith*: Faith is nourished

when faith is lived. We have to live our faith, genuinely

witnessing Christ's teachings and Christian values. A

Christian must become a true witness of Kingdom values

such as truth, love, justice and peace. As St. James

admonishes: "Faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead" (2:17).

iv) *To work for the unity of the Church in India*: Disharmony

among Churches is counter witness is an evident fact.

Catholic Church is a communion of 23 Sui Iuris individual

Churches. of which we have three in our country Latin, Syro-

Malabar and Syro- Malankara. There are hundreds of other

Churches, who are not in communion with Catholic Church.

Let us pray for unity among ritual Churches and among all

the Churches, who believe in the Lord Jesus, as the sole savior

of the world, for there is only one Lord, one faith and one

baptism (Ephesians 4:5).

The different activities/practices connected with the

observation the Year of Holy Eucharist or *Aaradhana Varsh*

2018 are: i) 365 days 12 hours adoration in the diocese. We

will have 12 hours adoration every day in the year 2018 in

different parishes/mission centres/institutions of our

diocese. Please check the schedule given in the*Chanda*

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*Samachar*. Try to participate in any one place depending on

each one's convenience. Make sure that everyone in the

diocese participate in this adoration at least in one place

individually or as family. ii) Our 40 hours adoration in the

cathedral, BPQ (February 12-14) in the year 2018 will be like a

Eucharistic convention. Details are to be worked out. iii) An

exhibition on Holy Eucharist highlighting the importance of

the Eucharist, Church's teachings on Holy Eucharist and

Eucharistic miracles in the world. iv) Popularizing litany to

Holy Eucharist will be another activity of the year. Recitation

of the litany will increase our devotion to Eucharist - doing it

after Holy Qurbana, or along with family prayer or any time

once a day will be a good habit to develop. v) First Friday

devotion to Blessed Sacrament and daily one hour adoration

may be encouraged. Our customary chain adoration in

connection with Chanda Family Day will be continued as

usual. I am sure these few devotional practices will help us to

receive more blessings from the Eucharistic Lord.

I earnestly request everyone to be faithful in our

observance of the Year of the Holy Eucharist or *Aaradhana*

*Varsh*2018 so as to make it a success and fruitful. Let us try

our best to make sure the participation of everyone in the

diocese in one way or other. I invite your suggestions for a

meaningful, faithful and fruitful *Aaradhana Varsh*2018.

Please give them in a couple of weeks so that we can

incorporate them in the year plan 2018. Invoking blessings of

the Eucharistic Lord to everyone and expecting your genuine

cooperation.

Your shepherd in the Lord,

† Ephrem Nariculam

Bishop, Diocese of Chanda