



Simla Chandigarh Diocese

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Ref. DSC/Cir. 06/2024

24.07.2024

To all the Priests, Religious and Laity in the Diocese of Simla-Chandigarh

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

"The Pilgrim Church is missionary by her very nature" (AG.#2). Thus, the Church is the pilgrim people of God, whose members are actively participating and continuing in this world the mission entrusted by the Risen Lord. The three years of our Synodal Journey was a process of extensive consultation, serious reflection and prayerful discernment that which enabled us to walk together with everyone in fostering Communion, Participation and embracing our Mission.

Now, the time begins to bring to its fulfillment all that we had listened, shared, discussed and deliberated for a betterment and fruitful ministry in our missionary journey. Hence, may I earnestly appeal to all of you to embrace the Plans that we have drawn from the Diocesan Consultation for our Pastoral Plan in the Diocese together with the CCBI Pastoral Plan titled, "Journeying towards a Synodal Church: Mission 2033" (cf. CCBI/CIR-60, dated July 09, 2024).

As we are preparing ourselves for the Holy Year of 2025, the Year of Hope, it is our time to implement the plans at the Parish, Deanery and Diocesan level during the Jubilee Year. Our participation and contribution in implementing the plans will make our 'Diocese a Participatory and Dialogical Church.'

The recent Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting that held on July 17, 2024, had a theme on, "Church's Mission in the Digital Age." The input session by Fr. Julien Pradeep SDB highlighted the importance of the Digital Age and our commitment towards our Mission in the Modern Age. The Group Discussions on this theme have come up with the suggestions to educate our Parents, Youth and Children in the Faith Formation using the tools of Media Technology. Hence, our action plan for the coming months will be based on the Media Education and Evangelization under the theme titled, "Digital Age: Training of Parents, Youth and Children Towards Faith Formation."

The Directors of Media Commission and the Proclamation and Evangelization will organize Seminars, Training Programs, and Creative Methods involving activities, events, plays, etc to foster Faith Formation in our Families. At the same time, may I also appeal to all the Deans and the Directors/Directress of various Commissions to implement a Concrete Plan at the Parish, Deanery and Diocesan level in the coming months as per our discussion held on July 09, 2024 at Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Chandigarh.



I request the Directors/Directress of the Commissions to maintain a record of the implementation of the Plans and also kindly share some of your Commission Reports along with the write-ups, photos, videos, etc. to the Editor, SHARING (Fr. John Maria Vianney, 9779623636, Email Id: maryjohn1978@gmail.com).

I also appreciate all those participants who came in a great number (231) to attend the Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting on July 17, 2024, DPC, Chandigarh, which was in fact the highest recorded attendance ever in the Diocese.

I take this opportunity to thank every one of you for your passion for the Mission of the Lord and entrust you into the loving hands of God as we embark on this journey together.

Given on July 24, 2024 at Bishop's House, Chandigarh.

With all my good wishes,

+Ignatius L. Mascarenhas
Bishop of Simla-Chandigarh

