



BISHOP OF SHAMSHABAD
RAPHAEL THATTIL

EPARCHIAL CURIA

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Circular

Year of Evangelization (2022)

Dear Rev. Fathers, Sisters, Parents, Beloved Youth and my dear Children,

The Eparchy of Shamshabad is entering into the fifth year of its foundation. We celebrated last year as the year of Word and Eucharist. I thank each one of you for your active and alive participation for the success of various programs organized during the Year. My thanks go to the parishes, apostolates, departments and associations of our diocese for your whole hearted cooperation in this regard.

2022 marks the 1950th year of the martyrdom of St. Thomas our beloved Apostle. 'Let us go and die with him' (Jn. 11:16) was the promise he had given to Jesus. He, by his martyrdom fulfilled this promise and became the Father of Faith of our Church. He became a powerful instrument in the hands of God to show us 'the way, the truth, and the life' (Jn., 14:06). In the context of the Jubilee of the martyrdom of St. Thomas, the year 2022 is celebrated in our Eparchy as **The Year of Evangelization**. As our Father, let us also become missionaries to show people in and around us 'the way, the truth, and the life'.

The letter of Pope Francis to the Bishops of India and the decree of the erection of our Eparchy both dated 9th October, 2017 clearly said that we have the right and duty to show everyone the way to salvation. "Go into the whole world and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mk 16:15) is the most supreme commandment of Jesus. St. Paul emphatically said: 'Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel'. (1 Cor. 9: 16), He continued saying that 'how beautiful are the feet of the one who preaches the gospel' (Rom: 10:14). Pope Francis in one of his homilies said that the Church without evangelization has no right to exist that is why Jesus cursed the 'fig tree with full of leaves but without fruits' (Mt: 21: 18-22). Pope emphatically says that every catholic by baptism is called to be a missionary.

While erecting the Eparchy of Shamshabad Pope Francis reminded that migration is a providential means of expansion of the Church. Every migration opens the way to mission. Migrants are to be conscious of their duty to the mission and evangelization. Migrants know the land, language, and culture; therefore, they could be effective missionaries.

Within the short span of time, Diocese of Shamshabad has directly initiated seven *ad gentes* missions namely 1. St. Mother Theresa Mission, Kollapur, 2. St. Alphonsa Mission Vizianagaram, 3. St. Thomas Mission, Parvathipuram, 4. Infant Jesus Mission Malkangiri, 5. Corpus Christi Mission Gudari, 6. Holy Cross Mission Gumma Gajapati.

Besides we have entered into mission contracts with different Dioceses and Syro-Malabar Religious Congregations entrusting portions of territories for missionary endeavors namely; 1. Ettawah - Jaipur Mission (Changanacherry), 2. Subarmati Mission (Pala), 3. Silchar Mission (Irinjalakuda), 4. Santa Maria Mission (Idukki), 5. Orissa Mission (MST Generalate), 6.



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Andhra Pradesh Mission (MST Mandya Region), 7. Madhya Pradesh Mission (MST Ujjain Region), 8. Goa Mission (MST Sangli Region), 9. Calcutta Mission (CMI Thiruvananthapuram), 10. Bihar - Jharkhand Mission (CST Gorakhpur)

In order to coordinate the various ministries for Mission and the Year of Evangelization, Diocese has started a new department called Department of Evangelization and Rev. Father Mathew Kallinkel is appointed as its first Director. The Diocese level inauguration of The Year of Evangelization has been done on 21st November 2021 during the time of the blessing of the new Bishop's House. I request every parish priest to organize the parish level inauguration of the Year of Evangelization on 05th December 2021. The Department of Evangelization has made an action plan for the year and I request you to make sincere attempt to execute them on parish and association level.

I hope that the following practical suggestions may help you to be more missionary convinced and committed.

1. Help the mission with your prayer 'Harvest is plentiful, but labours are few; pray earnestly to the Lord to send out the labours into his harvest' (Mt. 9:37).

2. Pope Francis says that Evangelization is done by life witness, witnessing life will be fragrance of the word of God; He calls it 'Evangelization by attraction'; profession shall become a means of professing of faith.

3. Every family, parish, institutions and associations shall accompany the missions by adoption.

I conclude this circular by praying to our Blessed Mother to give all of us 'Her haste' to travel through hill regions to minister the mission entrusted to us by Her Son.

Invoking God's Abundant Blessings on all of you,

Yours in Jesus Christ

Mar Raphael Thattil
Bishop of Shamshabad

