

**Most Rev. John Moolachira**  
Archbishop of Guwahati



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**April 26, 2021**

**Dear Fathers/Brothers/Sisters,**

**Covid 19:** We are again faced with covid -19 pandemic and it looks more threatening than before. I wish you all good health. You are all well aware that it can be fatal and priests and religious have succumbed to it. It should be a reminder for us to be very careful. I urge you to follow the instructions of the Govt (SOP) which are issued not only for our own health but for the running of our institutions. Keep contact with other institutions nearby so that our decisions do not prove to be arbitrary.

**Fasting and Prayer:** Catholic Bishops Conference of India has issued a circular asking every diocese/ institution/parish to observe **Friday, May 7, 2021** as a day of prayer and fasting so that God may have mercy on us and take away this curse from our midst. I recommend that we follow the advisory of the Bishops. Please gather the parish community as best possible for a prayer and encourage them also to observe fast that day. If it is not possible that day, arrange it on the following Sunday. Institutions can easily arrange the fast and have an hour of prayer. Let us warn our communities that the pandemic can bring lot of suffering to us and our people and be ready for any eventual lockdown. Please go out to help those who are hungry and helpless.

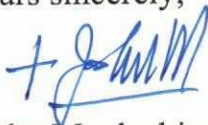
**Payment to the Sisters and Catechists:** The sisters working in our schools are paid at par with the school teachers. The touring sisters will be paid Rs.8000/ per month for 12 months with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021. The sisters who are teaching in the school should get a minimum of Rs.8000.00 p.m. The catechists are to be paid a minimum of Rs.6500.00 p.m. Principal/Parish Priest should strive to give a decent salary to the teachers and staff.

**Ordination and Vestition:** God has been good to our archdiocese this year; we had four ordinations and seven brothers are going to be vested with clerical habit on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. The new priests are Fr. Milton George from

Kerala, Fr. Edmund Helly Marak from Damra Parish, Fr. Gorsen Marak from Matia Parish, and Fr. Philipson Marak from Goalpara parish. We congratulate them and thank the parish priests and parish community for arranging the ordination programme very well in spite of covid 19 restrictions. We wish the new priests abundant blessings from God and a fruitful ministry.

Seven brothers for the archdiocese of Guwahati are completing their philosophical studies from St. Clement College. They will be vested with clerical habit on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and will be proceeding for their regency. They are one step closer to priesthood. May God help them to discern their vocations and the grace to resolutely follow God's call!

Yours sincerely,



+John Moolachira

Archbishop of Guwahati

