Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters

I like to inform you of some of the important events that are going to take place in the Archdiocese for your information and necessary cooperation where required.

1. **Silver Jubilee of the Archdiocese**: The Year 2017 marks the Silver Jubilee of the Canonical erection of our Archdiocese and it calls us for a befitting celebration. On July 11, 2016, a meeting was convened in the Archbishop’s House to constitute a core committee and other committees and to chalk out programmes for the celebration. The meeting decided to celebrate the Silver Jubilee on 21 & 22 January 2017 at Resurrection Parish and St. Jerome Minor Seminary Sonaighuli. The meeting also constituted a core committee and various other committees and appointed chairpersons to ensure an orderly and meaningful celebration.

**Other Major Decisions/information taken during the meeting:**

- **The chief guest** at the jubilee celebration will be Cardinal Baselios Cleemis Catholicos, the head of the Syro-Malankara Church and the president of the CBCI.
- **Fund Raising**: the assembly suggested that the fund required for the jubilee celebrations be collected from the Institutions, Parishes, and parishioners of our Archdiocese.
- The Chairpersons of the various committees are to select their team members and further discuss and plan out their respective areas and prepare a budget in consultation with the Archbishop and the core committee.
- The meeting decided to convene another meeting of the chairpersons of various committees with a few more other members on September 6, 2016, at 2.00 p.m in the Archbishop’s House.
- **An animation programme** for the delegates of our parishes will be conducted both in Assamese and in Garo Language simultaneously on January 21, 2017.
- **A Prayer** in preparation for the Jubilee Year has been printed and is made available. I request you collect the prayer from the Archbishop’s House and pray it daily that God’s blessings may be upon the Jubilee celebrations and the Archdiocese.
- **Inauguration of the Silver Jubilee Year** will be on August 7, 2016, a Sunday most feasible and close the date of the Canonical erection of the diocese of Guwahati (August 16, 1992). On that day, the Archbishop will hoist the specially designed jubilee flag and celebrate the Holy Eucharist at Christ the Bearer of Good News Cathedral, Dispur. All the Parish Priests of the Archdiocese are requested to do the same on that day in your own parishes. You may contact Fr. Sojan Pulickal (9435198070) for the flags.
**Tentative schedule of the Silver Jubilee Celebration:**

**January 21, 2017**
- 10.00 AM: Animation for the Delegates
- 05.00 PM: Eucharistic Procession
- 06.30 PM: Cultural Programme

**January 22, 2017**
- 09.30 AM.: Reception to the dignitaries
- 10.00 AM: Holy Eucharist
- 11.30 AM: Felicitation, Distribution of Prizes/ Certificates etc
- 12.30 PM: Lunch

**Various Committees for the Silver Jubilee Celebration:**

**Core Committee**
- Fr. Varghese Kizhakevely
- Fr. Alex Kalayathinal
- Mr. Allen Brooks
- Mr. Romanus Horo

Liturgy: Fr. Joshy K. & PDDM Sisters
Choir: CFMSS Sisters & St. Jerome Minor Seminarians
Reception and Accommodation: Fr. Philip Pazhambasseril & Fr. Maya Martin
Food Committee: Fr. John Mulamgothra and Sonaighuli Parish
Cultural Programme: Fr. Varghese Kizhakevely
Transportation, Media & Public Relations: Fr. Jose Chettaniyil MSFS, Mr. Allen Brooks, Mr. Andreas Hajwary, Mr. Mahesh Deuri and Mr. Willy Mathews

Light & Sound, Pandal, and Venue: Fr. Alex Kalayathinal
First Aid: St. John’s Hospital
Finance: Fr. Mathew Anchukandam
Animation: Fr. Crosper Sangma, Fr. Maria Soosai
Quiz & Competitions: Fr. Anna Amala Christian
Souvenir: Fr. Sojan Pulickal, Fr. Jobins Vengathadathil MSFS & Sr. Shiji James

2. **Reminder for the Annual Archdiocesan Retreat:** The annual retreat of the Archdiocese will commence on 24-29 July 2016 at Bethel, Barapani and all the diocesan priests should reach the place before 6.00 p.m. Besides the diocesan clergy, I invite interested religious clergy to attend the retreat. You may give your names to Archbishop’s Secretary and reach the venue as notified above.

3. **Next Monthly Recollection:** I would like to inform you that there would be no monthly recollection in the month of August as the annual retreat ends at the end of July. The next recollection will be on September 6, 2016. On that day morning there will be the Annual Governing Body meeting of GGSS beginning at 10.00 a.m and the meeting of the Chairpersons of the silver jubilee committee and in the afternoon at 2 p.m.
4. **Catechists Training cum Retreat:** The Annual catechists training cum retreat will be held at St. Paul’s Catechetical Centre, Rangia. Unlike the previous years, the Centre will organize the programme in two phases for the Garo and Assamese speaking groups. First, the training programme will be for the Garo speaking catechists from 11-25 September 2016 and secondly, for the Assamese-speaking group from 2-16 October 2016. May I remind the parish priests to send the catechists to the training and ensure their full participation.

5. **Ongoing Formation:** Bishop John Thomas of Itanagar has informed that he is organizing an ongoing formation programme for the diocesan clergy. I personally recommend to all the diocesan clergy to attend this programme as it will enhance your views and will better equip you for your pastoral ministry. You may contact Fr. Maria Soosai for further details who will keep in touch with the Bishop for new updates.

6. **Annual Eucharistic Procession:** like the previous years, the annual Eucharistic procession of the Archdiocese will be on November 20, 2016 on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe. This year’s annual Eucharistic procession is important as it marks the conclusion of the Year of Mercy. Therefore, may I remind all of you to inform your people in advance and make sure of a larger participation from your parish. The details of the programme shall be sent to you later.

7. **Houses for the Head Catechists:** I am happy to inform you that the Archdiocese in her jubilee year has decided to help the Head Catechists of the parishes served the Archdiocese for more than fifteen years with finance for an extension of their house or build a new house. Seven Head Catechists of the Archdiocese have already been given Rs. 200000/ each for the same. I remind the parish priests of these Head Catechists to ensure that the money they have collected from the Archbishop’s House is utilised for the same purpose and submit a photo of the completed building to the Archbishop’s House.

8. **Avail the Service of Village Touring Sisters:** In the recent past, a few touring sisters have told me that parish priests rarely make village tour programmes. This is surprising. It is the prerogative of the priests, sisters, and catechists to visit families and instruct them in faith. Therefore, I remind the parish priests to make village programmes in consultation with the sisters and visit the families so that they are instructed well in faith and morals.

9. **Awareness Programmes Against Cancer:** It is alarming to note that cancer disease is spreading fast. Perhaps, one of the ways to stop its rapid spread is to organize awareness programmes. Many doctors and NGOs are willing to go to different places to give such awareness programmes. Those of you who are interested in organizing an awareness programme in your place may contact St. John’s hospital.

10. **Awarding the Catholic Toppers:** On August 7, 2016, the Archdiocese will honour the top five catholic students who passed HSLC Examination conducted by SEBA(Board of Secondary Education, Assam) in 2016 by awarding 10000/ each at Dispur Cathedral after the Eucharistic Celebration. The students selected this year are: Ronald Boro (Boko, 86%), Johneswar Sangma (Goalpara, 85.33%), Rupam Boro (Boko, 83.6%), Theophil Basumatary (Nagrijuli, 82.16%) and Burdith Ann Pereira (St. Mary’s Ghy. 77%). I remind the Parish priests concerned to send the students with your letter to the venue and collect the award. I addition, I would like to inform you that the Archdiocese will continue to give the same amount to the
same students in following year if they pass the examination with 60 % marks. We plan to introduce scholarship gradually to graduation level. I also invite all of you to contribute to this venture.

11. **Canonization Bl. Mother Teresa:** It will be held in Rome on September 4, 2016 and the Archdiocese will join the universal Church in thanking God for this great saint. The CRI unit of Guwahati has willingly taken up a series of public events in the name of the Catholic Church of Guwahati to present to the people St. Theresa of Kolkata as the icon of the Church. CRI wants to involve the students and teachers of the schools, Civil, Political, Literary, and Cultural Personalities to make the event memorable. It has constituted various committees to execute the programmes. I request your whole hearted cooperation to make this event a grand success. Each parish and institution should arrange events like quiz, rallies, drawing competitions, exhibitions, cultural programmes, etc in their own. Let us make use of this occasion as a means to evangelize people with Christian ideals through the medium of St. Theresa of Kolkata. The highlight of the programme at Guwahati will be the Holy Mass on September 12 to be concelebrated at Dispur Cathedral at 4. p.m and a Public Function at GMC Auditorium at 06. 30 p.m. For the Holy Mass all the Archbishops, Bishops, Vicar Generals, Provincials, Major Superiors, Representatives, of diocesan priests form all the Archdioceses and dioceses of Northeast will be present as it is the opening day of the Regional Pastoral Conference. For the public function we expect the Chief Minister and other civil and political authorities and the participants from the pastoral conference. I invite all of you to this mega event.

Wish you all a happy feast of Assumption and Indian Independence. May God keep us all in his love and protection!

+John Moolachira
Archbishop of Guwahati