

Pastoral Letter on *Aaradhana Varsh 2018 -II*

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and my dear people,

Thy Kingdom come!

2018 is declared in our diocese as *Aaradhana Varsh* or Year of Holy Eucharist. We are just completed the observance of the Year of the Family Prayer. We are switching from the Year of Family Prayer the Year of Holy Eucharist or *Aaradhana Varsh*. The year of Family Prayer was focused on the family – daily habit of family prayer, unity in the family, harmony in the neighbourhood etc. While the *Aaradhana Varsh* is focussed on parish – daily habit of attending/celebrating Holy Eucharist, unity of the parish, harmony and witness of local community, the parish unity among missionaries etc. Expect everyone's co-operation to make *Aaradhana Varsh*, a success. The primary purpose of observing *Aaradhana Varsh* is to deepen our love for Eucharist. The sum and substance of Christian worship is celebration of Holy Eucharist, declared Vatican Council II. A Christian life is Eucharist-centred in Holy Eucharist, a Christian experiences the real presence of Christ. The whole redemption mystery of Christ is communicated in the Holy Eucharist. Thus Holy Eucharist becomes pivot of all sacraments and all the liturgical celebrations in the Church. Naturally we must have a special devotion to Holy Eucharist. This has to be tested and verified by each Christian, so we have this year as *Aaradhana Varsh*. Let us make our devotion to Holy Eucharist sincere and sensible.

A few practices that we can develop in this year to substantiate and increase our devotion to Holy Eucharist are: i) Attendance of daily Qurbana, if possible, but never miss Sunday celebration of Holy Qurbana. ii) Frequent reception of the sacrament of confession and Holy Communion. iii) Visit to the Blessed Sacrament and adoration of Holy Eucharist whenever and wherever possible. iv) Live out Eucharistic sense in daily life, such as sharing, sacrificing, loving etc. v) The first Friday observation need to be observed more faithfully and meaningfully. vi) It is highly recommended to popularise the litany to Holy Eucharist. These are but a few practices that will help us to increase our devotion to and commitment to Holy Eucharist.

One thing is very special in the observance of *Aaradhana Varsh* is Eucharistic Adoration. We have daily 12 hours adoration in our diocese for the whole year starting from 1 January to 19 January 2019. In one parish or in an institution in the diocese, there will be adoration on daily basis. It is very amazing that we have adoration daily in the diocese. Once again I request you to please check the schedule of adoration and do needful. I am grateful to Fellowship Ministry missionaries who are volunteered to animate adoration in the diocese for the whole year. They are in the adoration centres in the diocese for

adoration. Once again I exhort you to avail the opportunity to experience the real presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist by our genuine participation in adoration.

The CLC and AVD has prepared some materials – Holy Eucharist litany card, video presentation on Eucharistic miracles in the world, wall banner for *Aaradhana Varsh* etc. – for our use. I earnestly exhort every station or institution to make each one's turn of adoration creative, meaningful and devotional. Eucharistic convention, Eucharistic procession, praise and worship, sermons, healing sessions, preparation for the sacrament of penance in common etc. needs to be conducted as part of celebration of *Aaradhana Varsh*. As we have done in the Year of Mercy, doing some charity to the poor in cash, kind and service is also highly appreciated.

The diocesan calendar of the year is about the *Aaradhana Varsh*. If possible, I suggest that we do our recollections, retreats etc. with the different themes of Holy Eucharist. Fr. Kurian Panayalil is co-ordinating of the *Aaradhana Varsh* programmes. Please contact him for any further details or clarifications. Kindly give him also any suggestions to make it better. Once again I exhort everyone to take active participation in the observation of *Aaradhana Varsh*. Eucharistic Lord bless everyone of you

Yours In the Lord Jesus

Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, diocese of Chanda