

# PASTORAL LETTER I

## On *Susamachar Ghoshana Varsh* 2020

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and my dear people,

### **Thy kingdom come!**

In preparation for the diamond jubilee year of the eparchy, we have decided to dedicate 2020 as the year of the Proclamation of the Divine Word, '*Susamachar Ghoshna Varsh*'. We are switching over to the *Susamachar Ghoshna Varsh* from *Bible Vaachan Varsh*. I am sure, 2019 as *Bible Vaachan Varsh*, many have taken interest in reading the Word of God on regular basis. Indeed it was one of the target of observing *Bible Vaachan Varsh* to create a habit of reading Bible daily. It is God's words and when we read it God speaks to us, we listen to God's voice and we are filled with his message. In the sense *Susamachar Ghoshna Varsh* is the fruit of *Bible Vaachan Varsh*. What is read, what is understood and what is assimilated has to be proclaimed and to be shared (Mk 3:13-15, Mt 28:19-20). So *Susamachar Goshna Varsh* is the year of sharing the message of God's love unfurled in the Holy Bible (1 Cor 9:16).

Mk 3:13-15, the evangelists categorically states that, Jesus called the disciples "to be with him," "to send out" and "to drive away the evil spirits." Every disciple of Christ for that matter any baptized Christian is called to be with him (Jn 15:4) to learn from him, to be sent out (Mt 10:16) to share with others, the message of love and to drive out evil spirit (Mt 12: 28) to give a healing touch to the sick (Mt 4, Mk 5&7). One who does not share and cannot share with others is not a Christian at all. "In reply he said to them, whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise" (Lk 3:11). Sharing material benefits with others is good, all the more great is sharing love and message of compassion with others (Jn 13:34). Sharing love in words and deeds is our primary responsibility. "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:35).

Sharing is a basic trait of a follower/disciple of Christ (Acts 4:32-35). The great command of Christ is that: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Mt 28:19-20). Church by her very nature is missionary, exclaims the Vat. II document *Ad Gentes*. Proclamation of the good news is the primary duty of a Christian (1 Cor 1:17). A Christian bears his name as CHRISTIAN only when he is aware of his duty to proclaim and thus do it with utmost commitment to it. The theme of *Susamachar Ghoshana Varsh* is **To be sent, To Proclaim and To Heal** (Mk 3:13-15). Proclamation is not an option of a Christian but a command. It is an "essential task" (AG 7) entrusted to every Christian by the Sacrament of holy baptism. The Church is to remain faithful to herself and to preach Jesus crucified and resurrected for all. The living and merciful saviour then prompted by the Holy Spirit she must walk the same path Christ walked; a path of poverty and obedience, of service and self-sacrifice" (AG 5).

As Christians we have to grow in missionary and evangelical zeal. May the love for the Church's mission which is a passion for Jesus and passion for his people grow even stronger in our missionary endeavours (*Evangelii Gaudium* 15). A zeal for the word has to engulf us to burn in flames to witness Gospel values. May the celebration of the *Susamachar Goshna Varsh* enkindle us to be valorous and vigorous preachers and teachers of the Divine Word. Please read the 15 itemized Pastoral Action Plan for the *Susamachar Goshna Varsh* (cf. CS Nov-Dec. 2019, pg. 9 ). It will be great if you are able to follow the proposals.

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Your Shepherd in the Lord

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ephrem Nariculam".

† Ephrem Nariculam  
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda