



Circular No. 35/2015

December 19, 2015

Priests' Providence Fund (PPF)

Dear Reverend Fathers and Parishioners,

"Glory to God in the highest", Amen.

Christmas is at hand. May the Lord, born for us, bless every one of us and keep our families healthy and joyful all through the New Year.

I am sending this message to invite your attention to a particular cause and to request your support for this important mission. In all our parishes and missions, we have dedicated priests to minister our people. The dedicated service of our priests and generous support of our people are the reasons for the growth of our diocese. Only with the love and co-operation of the faithful the priests can function fruitfully in parishes and missions. I, as your bishop, appreciate the generosity of our faithful towards our priests.

The parishes and missions show their support to the priests through the payment of due remunerations recommended by the diocese. Canon Law also recommends due honorarium to the ordained ministers of the Church. "Clerics have the right to suitable sustenance and to receive a just remuneration for carrying out the office or function committed to them" (CCEO 390 #1). I am grateful to all parishes and missions for their generous support to our priests through due payment of recommended allowances.

Now there is another area of priestly life which demands more care and attention. It is when the priests reach the age of retirement or when they are in long term disability. It is our duty to take care of our priests in their old age or time of disability. Canon Law also demands this: "They also have the right

that there be provided for themselves suitable pension funds, social security as well as health benefits" (CCEO 390 #2).

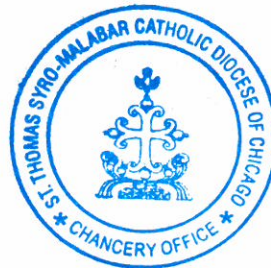
In every diocese provisions are made for this purpose. Since we haven't initiated anything in this respect, after consultation in Presbyteral meeting and Pastoral Council meeting, we are starting a Pension Fund for our Priests' retirement. Priests, incardinated to this diocese and priests who serve this diocese from other dioceses or religious congregations, need to be supported in their retirement or long term disability.

To raise fund for this retirement scheme, I would like to propose that the amount of one month's allowance given to the priest from the parish or mission every month, is to be given to the diocese to set up a separate bank account solely for this purpose. We start with the year 2015, so every parish or mission should provide this amount to the diocese before the end of the financial year. Priests' Provident Fund (PPF) will be handled by a separate Board consisting of our priests and guided by the guidelines of the registered society.

Parish Priest or Mission Director should see that this payment is forwarded to the diocese before closing the accounts for this year. I am thankful to all our faithful for their generous support to our diocese through the Diocesan Appeal and other means. Your generosity is the only source of our income. So let us begin this PPF this year. Let us pray for, love and support our priests in their ministry and retirement. May I wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

+ *Jacob Angadiath*

Mar Jacob Angadiath
Bishop



NB: Please read this circular or convey its message to our people at every Holy Qurbana on December 20, 2015, Sunday, in all our churches and missions.