



Archbishop Elias Gonsalves

ARCHDIOCESE OF NAGPUR

OFFICIAL NO: VI

EXTRA ORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH- OCTOBER 2019

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and our Lay faithful,

I am sure, you are all aware of the call of Pope Francis to celebrate the coming month of October as the **Extra Ordinary Missionary Month** with a theme. **“Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World”** on the occasion of the centenary celebration of the promulgation of the Apostolic Exhortation, *Maximus Illud* by Pope Benedict XV in 1919. This document emphasizes the missionary mandate and calls for the renewal of missionary life of every Christian.

In order to respond to the call of our Holy Father on the importance of renewing the Church's missionary commitment and giving fresh evangelical impulse to her work of preaching and bringing to the world the salvation of Jesus Christ, I held a meeting of the members of the Commission for Evangelization and proclamation. I am happy to attach herewith a few of the programmes to be organized at the Parish, Deanery and Diocesan Level to mark the celebration of the missionary month in the month of October 2019. At the same time, each Parish, Deanery and the diocesan team is free to organize more Programmes at your level to make it more meaningful to the people.

I hope, these planned programmes would help all of us to celebrate missionary life in our Archdiocese. The Commission for Proclamation and Evangelization of Nagpur Archdiocese would aid you in providing posters and literature for catechesis on missionary month. Providing special mission candles and Rosaries is also taken care by the Commission. They would also contact you to form a team at your parish who would help in the planning and execution of programmes.

Reminding you all the words of our Holy Father that **“Each of us is a mission to the world, for each of us is the fruit of God's love”**, I wish you all a grace-filled Extra Ordinary missionary month – October 2019. May our Blessed Mother, the mother of all of us Missionaries intercede to her Son.

Yours in Christ,

✠ Elias Gonsalves

Archbishop of Nagpur

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Events at the Parish Level

1. Kindly inaugurate the Extra ordinary Missionary month- October 2019 with a lighting of a candle in your Parish on October 6, 2019 during the Mass. On that day kindly request the parishioners to bring a candle which could be lit during the prayer for the missionary month.
2. This prayer could be recited daily after Post- Communion Prayer in your Parish as well at homes of the faithful during the whole month of October and till the end of this year 2019
3. Month of October is celebrated as the month of the Rosary. Kindly recite the Rosary with scriptural and missionary perspective in your Parish for various intentions of the universal and Local missionary church. Your faithful could also be encouraged to join in large numbers for the Holy Mass as well as for the Holy Rosary
4. Celebrate four Sundays of October with four themes of the missionary the month making every one aware of the call to be missionary. The Commission for Proclamation and Evangelization will send you the Liturgy through posts or through emails.
5. Kindly organize SCC Prayers in the localities of your parish and catechize the people about the importance of Church's mission (making Christ known) and their role as Prophet, Priest and King. This also will help you for the selection of missionary movement collaborators in your Parish.
6. Organize Mission Sunday (20th October, 2019) in a solemn way with focus on missionary thrust through various activities.
7. Short movies on various missionary Saints could be shown to the people and children (Sunday School) in your parishes and forward to the people through Social Media for bringing greater awareness about missionary life.

Events at the Deanery Level

1. There could be Mission Rallies organized at the deanery level on 3rd November 2019. Deans could take initiative in collaboration with Priests and associates of Parishes coming under them.

Events at the Diocesan Level

1. A Solemn Concelebrated Holy Eucharist presided over by His Grace Most. Rev. Elias Gonsalves, the Archbishop of Nagpur to mark the Inauguration of the Extra Ordinary Missionary Month- October 2019 at the Diocesan Level is planned on 2nd October (holiday) at St. Francis de sales Cathedral, Nagpur at 6 pm. The Priests, Religious and lay faithful from various city Parishes are exhorted to attend the same in large numbers.
2. There will be also celebration of the Mission Sunday at the Diocesan Level on 20th October 2019 at St. Francis de sales Cathedral, Nagpur at 6 pm. The Priests, Religious and lay faithful from various city Parishes are invited to participate in the mission Sunday Celebrations.

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