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BAKDIL ANNUAL REPORT



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Dear Brothers and Sisters.

I am happy to write this brief message on the occasion of the publication of the 7^{th} Annual Report of Bakdil. This year has been a great year for our Social Service Society as we are about to reach our Goal of self reliance. The Board meetings of Bakdil which I preside give me a sense confidence that we have actually moved towards self reliance focusing on the lives of our people.

I have this particular sense at this point of time because after being at the service of the people with meager infrastructure we have established ourselves extremely well given the socio-economic condition of the Garo Hills. We have been able to try in small but important ways to ensure better Quality of Life for our people.

It is in this context that certain decisions we have taken in the last Governing Board Meeting of Bakdil has far reaching consequences for the future of our people. The first of this relates to making compulsory contribution of five per cent of the salary of the staff with the objective of making the Higher Education Fund larger so that more children can benefit. This decision serves our people in two ways. While we will be able to assist those who need to be supported, the staff who contribute to the fund for a minimum period of three years can receive assistance of Rs. 100000 for higher education of their children. The rules framed for this fund will also be applicable for the staff as well.

The second decision was to form a Parish Social Animation Team in every parish of the Diocese. The need to have such a team in every parish is the result of realization that every Christian is called to love his/ her neighbor like himself or herself. Parish being the Visible Sign of organized Witness to our Life in Christ, it is supremely important that every Parish has a Social Animation Team to coordinate the Witnessing Mission of Jesus. With this aim and to facilitate this programme we have decided to appoint a more permanent staff. I am sure all who believe in such decisions will whole-heartedly collaborate to move forward.

Therefore let us move forward with more confidence and willingness to accept the challenge of being a Church committed to the Prophetic Witness to Jesus for "the Commandment that Christ has given us is this: whoever loves God must love his brother also" (1 Jn:4:21").

+Andrew R. Marak

Bishop of Tura

Date: 18th May, 2013

- A-R. Maras.

