



Translated from the original Bahasa Indonesia document

**PASTORAL MESSAGE  
THE YEAR OF SOCIAL JUSTICE 2020  
PRACTICE PANCASILA  
WE ARE JUST, OUR NATION PROSPERS**

*(To be read in lieu of homily during  
Eucharistic Celebrations for the Epiphany of the Lord on  
Saturday/Sunday 4/5 January 2020)*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,  
Religious Sisters and Brothers, Seminarians and Priests,  
Youths, Teens, and beloved children in Jesus Christ

1. We have just left behind the year 2019 and entered the New Year of 2020, full of hope as provided in the Christmas Message together with the Council of Churches in Indonesia and the Indonesian Bishops' Conference. That message encourages us to live as friends for everyone. As with this provision, we as Catholics of the Jakarta Archdiocese will also be entering the Year of Social Justice, with the motto: Practice Pancasila: We are Just, our Nation Prospers.
2. We deliberately begin this Year of Social Justice on the Day of the Epiphany of the Lord. The hope is that when we become to be a more just individual and when our nation becomes more prosperous, then the face of God of Love will become more apparent. To explore the meaning of the Epiphany of the Lord, we are invited to ponder upon the story of the wise men from the east (Mat. 2: 1-12). This story ends with these words, "... they went back to their country by another way". According to the story, they went home another way to avoid Herod. But symbolically, these words could be interpreted differently: anyone who truly experiences the appearance of God - meaning experiencing His love and mercy -, he or she will no longer be just walking the same way of life. The experience of meeting with God always changes and renews and brings joy (Mt 2:10). This applies to each of us either as individuals, families, parishes and dioceses, even the universal Church. That is why the universal Church, and of course the Archdiocese of Jakarta, is trying to continually renew itself.

3. The awareness that the Church must continually purify and renew itself is expressed very clearly in the official teachings of the Church: "The Church is sacred, and at the same time must always be cleansed, and continually carry out repentance and renewal." (*Dogmatic Constitution of the Church No 8*). The direction of repentance and renewal of the Church is also very clearly expressed in other official Church teachings: "The joy and hope, sorrow and anxiety of people today, especially the poor and anyone who suffers, is also the joy and hope, sorrow and anxiety of Christ's disciples." (*Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the World No 1*).
4. The basis and direction of this renewal are more clearly emphasized by Pope Francis. Creative renewal will emerge when we live on the basis of Evangelical values. Pope Francis stated, "Whenever we make the effort to return to the source and recover the original freshness of the Gospel, new avenues arise, new paths of creativity open up, with different forms of expressions, more eloquent signs and words with new meaning for the today's world... " (*Apostolic Exhortation Joy of the Gospel no. 11*). On that basis the Pope declared: "I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church that which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security." (*Idem, no.49*). Earlier the Pope stated, "Its joy in communicating Jesus Christ is expressed both by a concern to preach him to areas in greater need and in constantly going forth to the periphery of its own territory or towards new socio-cultural settings." (*Idem, no. 30*).
5. In the Jakarta Archdiocese, since a few years ago we have formulated the dynamics of repentance and renewal that are expected to continue in these three coined words: *more faithful, more brother-sisterhood, more compassionate*. We want to develop to become individuals of more faith. The sign that a person has true faith - not just religion - is if that faith results in brother-sisterhood. If someone claims to be a person of faith but his/her life does not bear true brother-sisterhood, that faith can be given a big question mark. Furthermore, if someone claims to have the spirit of brother-sisterhood, but his/her life does not produce a spirit of compassion, the quality of brother-sisterhood can also be given a big question mark. Dynamics like that will lead us to the conviction, that as God's people we are all sent to engage ourselves with all our effort to bring the common good into reality, by paying more attention to our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

*My beloved Brothers and Sisters,*

6. As mentioned at the beginning of this Pastoral Message, this year we, as parishioners of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Jakarta, would like to deepen, appreciate and realize the values of Pancasila as contained in the fifth principle: *Social Justice for All Indonesians*, with the slogan *Practice Pancasila: We are Just, Our Nation Prospers*. We must also set this endeavor in our own efforts to renew ourselves in the dynamics of *More Faithful, More Brother-Sisterhood, More Compassionate*.
7. In order to develop our spirit of compassion, Pope Francis encourages us to dare to go to the *periphery*, to our brothers and sisters who are marginalized in our present time. These are for example our brothers and sisters who do not have Birth Certificates or Identification Cards, so as not able to obtain their rights as citizens; or more visibly, our brothers and sisters, our children who live on the streets, under the overpasses or on garbage carts; they are our brothers and sisters who are victims of human trafficking, and those who can generally be called small, weak, poor and marginalized; they are our sisters and brothers, our children who have not yet enjoyed social justice. To our brothers and sisters, Pope Francis urges us to "go forth ... take the first step and get involved ... standing by people ... with patient expectation and apostolic endurance." (*Joy of the Gospel* no. 24).
8. We can be grateful because in our diocese our mission to go to the "periphery" is increasingly creatively developed in various kinds of compassionate initiatives. We believe, no matter how small, what we do is part of our involvement in renewing our diocese and our response to God's call to grow toward the perfection of love and the fullness of Christian life. The Archdiocese of Jakarta's Organizing Committee for the Year of Social Justice has prepared guidelines and various inspirations to assist us in appreciating and realizing the Year of Social Justice.
9. One very important thing that we must never forget is our duty to care for and develop the awareness of justice environment. Justice should not be just directed towards our fellow human beings, but also for the universe, for our environment. Climate change, according to many experts, has reached an emergency level that could have a worse impact on human life. We are required to continue renewing our care for our environment. Without this concern, our brothers and sisters who are socially and economically marginalized will be even more marginalized and suffer more. A prosperous nation depends on land and air that are well-maintained and clean. The Holy Father Francis explicitly expressed this concern in the *Encyclical Laudato Si*, which is very rich in ideas and messages. Therefore the environmental care

movement, which of course relates to the problem of global warming, needs to be tirelessly pursued.

10. Finally, let us pray for one another, so that each of us, our families and communities as well as all members of the Jakarta Archdiocese will continue to grow in the dynamics of becoming more faithful, more brother-sisterhood, more compassionate. Thank you for your various roles as Sister / Brother / Religious Sister / Religious Brother / Seminarians and fellow priests, young people, youth and children in the life of our beloved Archdiocese of Jakarta. A special gratitude for the involvement of all people who responded to the invitation to be compassionate towards the Diocese of Agats, Asmat, Papua. Our support means a lot to the Diocese of Agats. May God's blessing always accompany all of us, our families and our communities.

Jakarta, December 2019

† Ignatius Cardinal Suharyo  
Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Jakarta