

the head of the Diocese and presides over the society and all other allied institutions under the jurisdiction of the Diocese.

5. I humbly submit that the petitioner Association is deeply involved in charitable and religious services through the following institutions and centres:

Educational Institutions:	- 261
Hospitals & Dispensaries	- 25
Orphanages & Charity Homes	- 50

Apart from these well established institutions, the petitioner society has committed itself for the development of the people, especially the poor. Not only the Christians, but all the marginalized, have benefitted out of the developmental schemes, undertaken by the petitioner. The petitioner society has earnestly involved in relief programmes, during natural disasters, floods, fires and diseases. The petitioner, being a Catholic Diocese, naturally has duties arising out of religious precepts. There are more than 111 parish Churches and thousands of other small Churches, Chapels, Kurusadies and Grottos, which are maintained by the Diocese. There are around 125 convents and religious houses, wherein more than 500 nuns and 230 priests are engaged full-time, in the multifarious religious and humanitarian activities. There is regular religious activity such as celebration of Holy Mass, Sacraments like Baptism, first Communion, Confession, Confirmation, Marriages, Last Anointments, Para-liturgical services, involving thousands of people. The petitioner diocese, epitomizing the Catholic Community, has drawn from the local and foreign resources, for maintaining its religious and social structures and its innumerable functions.