Address on Club Ten Scripture Study *by Archbishop Gabriel Ganaka*
Delivered to the Missionary Servants of Holy Love
October 5, 1999

Good Afternoon, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to speak to you briefly about the Holy Bible. The Holy Bible is our most precious book. It is the word of the Living God. It should be a lamp unto our feet. It is our handbook. But, unfortunately, many people boast of having several translations of the Bible but they have never read the Bible completely from Genesis to Revelations, word for word. But there are people on the other hand who have read the Bible very many times. I read of a gentleman, a Protestant pastor, who in his 75 years of existence read the Bible 126 times. Another one read the Bible 60 times in the Chinese language. Now some people regard the Bible as a magic book. When they are confused they want to open it and find a quick solution and they say to themselves, "Any verse that I read is God's directive for my life."

A little humor: So there was this gentleman who was confused about something and wanted clarification from the Lord so he said, "I am going to do my lucky deed today in the Bible." So he opened the Bible. What did he see? "Judas, going out, hanged himself." He closed the book and said this couldn't be right. He opened again and looked. The sentence that hit his eyes was, "Go and

do likewise." He closed the book. Said this couldn't be right. He opened it a third time and read again and he saw, "What you must do, you must do quickly."

So we will not consider the Bible as a lucky fortune book, because it will not solve our problems. It must be read prayerfully, meditatively, and we must be fond of it and when we are in trouble, we ask those who are experts in Sacred Scripture.

So I want to talk to you this afternoon briefly about Club 10. You must be wondering what Club 10 has to do with the Holy Bible. It is just a method of reading the Bible in such a way that you read ten portions every day, and if you promise yourself to read these 10 portions every day you are automatically a member of Club 10. No admission fees. No registration forms. No meetings to attend. So if you are serious about knowing the Word of God and reading it, then take the following steps.

- Two chapters from the Old Testament proper beginning from Genesis.
- Two from the New Testament. So if you are beginning tomorrow, two from Genesis, two from Matthew, and keep going until you finish the New Testament and you finish the Old Testament with this exception.
- Then you add a fifth chapter from the Book of Proverbs. The Book of Proverbs has 31 chapters, one for every day of the month, and it is full of wisdom for personal living. So as you read, highlight those verses that you

think have a special meaning to you and those you think you would commit to memory, because when you memorize God's words, they change your attitude and mentality gradually without you realizing it. So two from the Old Testament, one from Proverbs, two from the New Testament making five chapters.

- Then you now go to the Book of Psalms, which is the prayer book proper of the Bible so you resolve to read five psalms every day, and there are 150 psalms. You read five today, five tomorrow, five the day after until you reach 150 - start again.

And in a short while you will finish the Bible.

A young girl was assigned to our diocese for National Youth Service year. Young graduates from universities must do some voluntary service for one year. So she was assigned. She had drifted away from Church once, joined the Pentecostals but came back. So I said "You should now remain in the Catholic Church and this is my little gift to you." I gave her a Bible and I said, "Make sure you read the whole of this book before you finish your service here." Within five months, this girl had finished the Bible. She read it consistently and she finished the Bible and I lost touch with her. She tracked me down recently and said that Bible is now in tatters. Could I get another one? So I got her another one and I sent it, and she was thrilled and she has dived into it again.

Now there are many Catholics who do not know the Bible and the mere presence of a Jehovah in front of their doorsteps frightens them. We are not suggesting you should enter into an argument with anyone about religion. It is not worth it because you do not convince people through arguments. When you convince somebody, that way you kind of lose a friend. But what I am trying to say is, it is our priorities that are upside down. You might say, "Oh that is too much reading a day, ten chapters of the Bible." How many hours do you invest watching television? And what spiritual benefit do you derive from watching television? (Maybe EWTN would be an exception.) But the junk some people watch! Some people are addicted to wrestling so they will sit down and watch this wrestling combat, come back, some to football, some to something else - baseball, some to something else and they will sit down there and spend hours and hours and hours. One of the apparition sites is in Medjugorje. Our Lady said we should switch off the television, put the Bible in the center of the home and read from it constantly. Are we listening? Are we listening?

The other day one of the traditional rulers from my country was visiting New York and he asked to come and see me, so he came. He is a Protestant. So as we spoke he said this morning during his scripture reading this was what the Lord said to him, and he quoted from a certain psalm. I said "I wish a Catholic would be telling me this - that this is what he read in his Bible study this morning."

So if you are not reading the Bible on a daily basis, start now. Join Club 10. It will do you a world of good because the word of God is alive and active. It goes out and achieves something before it goes back to the Lord. It achieves this change in attitude and mentality and so on.

Yesterday we spoke at length about forgiveness. If you look at the whole of Sacred Scriptures, there are so many references to forgiveness; yet this is one issue many of you find it difficult to cope with. But if you read it repeatedly you see God's dealings with his people. How he forgives - not once, not twice but very many times. And if He had done so, who are we to refuse to forgive?

So brother and sisters, join Club 10. It is free. It will cost you nothing. Thank you for your attention.

SUMMARY OF THE CLUB 10 METHOD FOR STUDYING SCRIPTURE, AS PROMOTED BY HIS GRACE, ARCHBISHOP GABRIEL GANAKA.

EACH DAY READ:

2 Chapters from the Old Testament
2 Chapters from the New Testament
1 Chapter from Proverbs
5 Chapters from Psalms

Continue in a repetitious fashion until the entire Bible is read. It will take 446 days.