

VOX NOSTRA

Vol V

April 2017

No. 4

Dear Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters,

1. CHRISM MASS

The Chrism mass will be celebrated in Milagres Cathedral, Kallianpur, on Thursday, 6 April 2017 at 4.30 pm. I invite all Priests, diocesan and religious, to concelebrate with me as a sign of our priestly unity, solidarity and *unum presbyterium*. It is also the Day of Priests. I request all Parish Priests to announce to your parishioners about the Chrism Mass and its importance, and invite them to participate in it in large numbers, and also to pray for all priests rendering their priestly ministry for God's people in the Diocese of Udupi.

2. SEMINAR ON LITURGY FOR WOMEN RELIGIOUS AND PRIESTS

In order to make the liturgical celebrations more meaningful, active and participatory, the CCBI published *Directives for the Celebration of the Liturgy* which was released on 20 September 2016 during the 75th Executive Committee Meeting of the CCBI. In order to introduce these *Directives* to our diocese, two training programmes have been organized. The training for Women Religious will be held on **Wednesday, 5 April 2017 from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm at Udupi Church Hall** and the training for priests, both diocesan and religious, will be held on **Thursday, 6 April 2017 (Chrism Mass day) from 9.30 am to 3.00 pm at Tri Centenary Hall, Milagres Cathedral**. Rev. Fr Ayres Fernandes, Executive Secretary, CCBI Commission for Liturgy, will conduct the training sessions on both days. I urge all priests and religious of our diocese to participate and benefit from these training programmes and implement these directives in your respective parishes and institutions in the celebration of the liturgy in all earnestness.

3. VOCATION CAMP

The Commission for Seminary and Religious Formation has organized a Vocation Camp for our boys of X Std and above from 17 to 19 April 2017 at our Diocesan Minor Seminary, Naalku Beedi, Kattingeri, Moodubelle, under the leadership of Rev. Fr Anil Cornelio, Director of the Commission and the Parish Priest of Hiran, the host being Rev. Fr Alphonso D' Lima, Rector of the Minor Seminary. Promotion of Vocations is an urgent need of our diocese and all priests have the inevitable responsibility to prepare committed priests for the service of the Lord and the faithful in our diocese for the future. I earnestly appeal to you to identify suitable boys, with good and devout family background from your respective parishes, and motivate them to attend this Vocation Camp. Kindly send their names to Rev. Fr Anil Cornelio by 10 April for facilitating effective organization of the Camp.

4. ADMISSION TO MINOR SEMINARY

The month of April and May provide opportunity for dioceses and religious congregations to search new 'workers in the vineyard of the Lord' and identify prospective candidates to priesthood/religious life. All of us are aware of the acute shortage of priests for our diocese. Hence, I urge all priests, especially the Parish Priests, to identify the boys and motivate them to join the Seminary as candidates for our diocese. Let us take this as our core responsibility to help our children to discern their vocation by motivating them to join as candidates to the priesthood. Please forward the names of the prospective candidates to Rev. Fr Anil Cornelio.

5. FAITH FORMATION CAMPS

Jeevan Amrith, Jeevan Disha and Jeevan Jyothi camps were held during October holidays for the students of 8th, 9th and 10th Std respectively. Faith Formation Camps need to be planned and organized for the other children for a week during the summer holidays in every parish. Being in the Year of *Lectio Divina*, I wish that the camp is organized on the theme of the Holy Bible and the importance of the

Word of God in the life of children. There may be some reluctance from parents and children when spiritual exercises like these are organized. But this should not deter us from doing the right and most important ministry of building the faith of our children. I earnestly appeal to all of you to organize these camps for the children from I to VII Std, preferably as soon as their summer vacation commences.

6. DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

The Church celebrates the II Sunday of Easter as the Divine Mercy Sunday which will be on 23 April this year. This feast is based on the Catholic devotion to the Divine Mercy that Saint Faustina Kowalska reported as per her encounter with Jesus and is associated with special promises to her from Jesus. The feast is preceded by the Divine Mercy Novena which would begin on Good Friday. I wish that all parishes celebrate this day with the devotion associated with the day, such as Divine Mercy Chaplet (Rosary), Prayers to St Faustina, Litany of Divine Mercy, and encourage the devotion to Divine Mercy among the faithful.

7. CARDINAL OSWALD GRACIAS APPOINTED TO ROMAN ROTA

Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Metropolitan Archbishop of Bombay and President of CCBI, has been appointed to the Roman Rota by the Holy Father. The Sacred Roman Rota is a part of the system of government established in Rome by which the Pope discharges the duties which devolve on him as head of the Catholic Church. The government is covered by three sections: the administrative, the executive and the judicial. The Rota belongs to the judicial section: it is one of the tribunals through which the Pope exercises his sovereign power of administering justice in ecclesiastical matters. Its sole function is to hear and decide according to the law, cases duly submitted to it. The Rota consists ordinarily of ten judges whose official title is *Auditores*. They are of equal status and authority, and the senior, or Dean, obtains precedence, but no jurisdiction, over the other judges. The appointment

of a judge is made by the Pope in person. We congratulate His Eminence on his prestigious appointment to the Roman Rota by the Holy Father.

8. COMMUNICATION THROUGH *VOX NOSTRA*

It has been decided during the meeting of the diocesan Directors of the Pastoral Commissions of our diocese that all communications to Parish Priests regarding programmes/meetings of various Commissions at parish/deanery/diocesan levels would be intimated to you through the *Vox Nostra* every month. **Please do consider it as official communication from the respective Diocesan Directors.** As per this decision, you will find the programmes of all Commissions for the month of April in this issue of *Vox Nostra*. The communication through invitation/letter will be sent by the Commission to particular persons who are going to participate in the programme/meeting. **Hereafter, a copy of such letter/invitation will not be sent to parish priests!** I am sure this will be economically beneficial by saving the cost of paper, printing and stamps and also will render uniformity in the communication by Commissions of their meetings and programmes.

9. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

As you know, the financial year 2016-17 has come to a close on 31 March 2016. The accounts of every parish/institution are required to be completed and audited well in time so that the necessary returns are filed in time with the competent authorities. I request all Parish Priests and heads of institutions to get their accounts completed, complying with the guidelines given in the financial manual of our diocese and submit them for auditing without delay.

10. KANNADA MISSAL

By a decree dated 25 October 2016, the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of Sacraments, Rome, has given its *recognitio* to the Kannada Missal prepared by the Karnataka Regional Commission for Liturgy. The missal was officially released by Most Rev. Dr Bernard Moras, Archbishop of Bangalore and president of KRCBC, on 27 February 2017 at Mysore, at the end of the mass of the episcopal ordination of the new Bishop of Mysore. **It has been decided that the new missal will be officially introduced throughout the region of Karnataka from 16 April 2017, the solemnity of Easter.**

11. ORDINATION

Deacon Jencil Alva, s/o Mr John Baptist and Mrs Eliza Mable Alva from Pangala Parish and Deacon Roy Lobo, s/o Mr Mark and Mrs Lavina Alva of Moodubelle parish, will be ordained by me as Priests for our diocese on **Thursday, 4 May 2017 at 3.30 pm** at St Francis Xavier Church, Udyavar. They have been serving as Deacons in Udyavar and Pangala parish respectively for the past five months. We rejoice and thank our Lord Jesus Christ for blessing us with two new priests for the diocese this year. On behalf of the diocese, I extend a cordial invitation to all of you to their ordination. Let us join together and welcome them to the Presbyterium.

12. HAPPY EASTER

After 40 days of Lenten prayer, fasting, penance and almsgiving, the Holy Mother Church invites us to rejoice at the solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The feast of Easter is the culmination of the season of Lent and particularly the Holy Week. I urge all Parish Priests to plan and prepare well for the Holy Week with due attention to the liturgical guidelines given for the week as found in

ORDO and celebrate the Holy Week with devotion associated with it so that the faithful may be able to conclude their Lenten exercises with the experience of the peace and joy of the Risen Lord.

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters, I extend to all of you my best wishes for a joyful and blessings-filled Easter. Please extend my Easter wishes to your dear parishioners and members of your religious communities.

Alleluia! Let's rise to give glory to the living God
That the King of kings and the Lord of lords died to set me free
Now He is risen! Now he is more than alive!
I wish you all the best this season unfolds.
Happy Easter!

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ Gerald I. Lobo
Bishop of Udupi

COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

1. DIVYA JYOTHI(DBCLC)

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| 01/4/2017 | Bible Commission Conveners' Meeting at Udupi from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm |
| 02/4/2017 | Lectio Divina Training at Brahmavar |
| 05/4/2017 | Liturgical Seminar for Women Religious at Udupi from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm |
| 06/4/2017 | Liturgical Seminar for Priests at Milagres Cathedral from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm |
| 18-22/4/2017 | Director – Out of station |

30/4/2017 Lectio Divina Training at Kuntalnagar

Divya Jyothi conducted the diocesan exam in Catechism and Value Education for VII and X on 7 January 2017 and the results were announced on 13 February 2017. We thank the correspondents, headmaster/headmistress, school Catechism and Value Education coordinators, and all the teachers for their wholehearted cooperation.

Std	Catechism			Value Education		
	Medium	No. of Students	Percentage	Medium	No. of Students	Percentage
VII	Konkani	150	90%	Kannada	720	99%
X	Konkani	175	100%	Kannada	529	100%
VII	English	215	95%	English	745	96%
X	English	254	98%	English	609	98%
	Total	794		Total	2603	

2 YOUTH

01/4/2017 Unit Youth Coordinators 3rd Training Programme, Udupi

18 – 21/4/2017 YCS Halli Jeevan Camp, Palimar - Kopla

22 – 23/4/2017 YCS Central Council Evaluation

24/4/2017 2nd YCS/YSM National Convention Udupi Delegates Meeting, Udupi

24/4–01/05/2017 SUPATHA Ongoing Training Programme (OTP)

3 FAMILY

02/4/2017 Family Commission Diocesan Committee meet 3-5pm

7-8/4/2017 Marriage Preparation course

22-23/4/2017 Marriage Preparation course

27/4/2017 Family orientation seminar at Kolalgi 9-4pm

4 LAITY

04/4/2017 Central Committee Meeting at Bishop's House at 3.00pm.

5. WOMEN

28/4/2017 Women's Convention at St Mary's School, Kannarady, Udupi

6. PROCLAMATION AND EVANGELIZATION

10/4/2017 Ongoing formation for Lay Evangelizers at Trasi
from 9.30 am to 4 pm.

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