

VOX NOSTRA

Vol V

December 2017

No. 12

Dear Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters,

1. SEASON OF ADVENT

On Sunday, 03 December 2017, the Catholic Church all over the world begins the holy season of Advent which will culminate in the joyful celebration of the Solemnity of the birth of our Lord. The emphasis of this season remains on the coming of our Lord. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* stresses the two-fold meaning of this coming: “When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor’s birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: “He must increase, but I must decrease” (CCC, 524).

I earnestly appeal to you, dear Fathers, to make this holy season of Advent a period of grace and blessings to your parishioners by inviting each of them to reflect on the beauty of Advent and prepare themselves, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to experience the peace and joy of the Lord.

2. DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

The annual Diocesan Eucharistic Procession held on the solemnity of Christ the King, 26 November 2017, from Milagres Cathedral to Mount Rosary Church turned out to be a grand event of our devotion to our Eucharistic Lord and public manifestation of our faith in him. My profound thanks to Very Rev. Fr Stany B. Lobo, the Rector of Milagres Cathedral and the Dean of Kallianpur Deanery, and Rev. Fr Dr Leslie

D'Souza, Parish Priest of Mount Rosary Church, all priests and members of Deanery and Parish Pastoral Councils of Kallianpur Deanery for their leadership in the meticulous planning and execution of this event.

I have made a note of the presence and active participation of the laity in large numbers with great joy and happiness. I request you, dear Parish Priests, to convey my appreciation and thanks to your parishioners on my behalf. I pray to the Eucharistic Lord to bless us, all, abundantly to continue to proclaim Jesus as the King of Kings and the Bread of our Life.

3. THEME FOR THE YEAR 2018

The meeting of the Council of Priests held on 20 November 2017 proposed that we would continue with the theme of the Word of God for the calendar year 2018 too. Hence, the theme for the year 2018 would be: ದವಾಚ್ಯಾ ಉತ್ರಾಚ್ಯಾ ಬಲಾನ್ ಆವ್ಹಿಂ ಕ್ರಿಸ್ತಿ ಕುಟ್ಮಾಂ ಪೋಷಿತ್ ಕರ್ಯಾಂ (**Let's nourish our Christian Families by the Word of God**).

4. THE FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY – FAMILY DAY

The feast of Holy Family this year will be celebrated on Sunday, 31 December 2017. The Feast of the Holy Family is a liturgical celebration in honor of Jesus of Nazareth, his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and his foster father, Saint Joseph, as a family. The primary purpose of this feast is to present the **Holy Family as a model for Christian families**. Christ, Himself, was the first devotee of His family. He showed His devotion to His mother and foster father by submitting Himself, with infinite humility, to the duty of filial obedience towards them. Pope Francis says: "Every family should look to the icon of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Its daily life had its share of burdens and even nightmares, as when they met with Herod's implacable violence. This last was an experience that, sad to say, continues to afflict the many refugee families who in our day feel rejected and helpless. Like the Magi, our families are invited to contemplate the Child and his Mother, to bow down and

worship him” (AL 30) and he invites us to celebrate this feast as the **Day of Families**. Therefore, I exhort all parish priests to celebrate the feast emphasizing the role of families in the Church.

5. INCLUSION OF NAMES IN VOTERS’ LIST

The elections to the assembly of our State will be held in the next summer and, therefore, it is time for us to register our names in the Voters’ List, procure Voter ID cards and get our community ready for these elections. The KRCBC pastoral letter also reminds us of our responsibility in this regard. This responsibility has been assigned to the Catholic Sabha in our Diocese. I request all the Parish Priests to announce to your faithful about this and motivate them to register their names and get their Voters ID cards immediately.

6. BLESSING OF NEW PRESBYTERY AND BELFRY, AND DEDICATION OF NEW CHURCH AT PERAMPALLY

The newly constructed Our Lady of Fatima Church in Perampally was blessed and dedicated by me on 23 November 2017 in the presence of Most Rev. Francis Serrao, Bishop of Shimoga and Most Rev. Peter Machado, Bishop of Belgaum who blessed the newly built Belfry, in the presence of a large number of priests, religious and the lay faithful. Prior to this, the new presbytery had been inaugurated and blessed on 6 November 2017 by V. Rev. Fr Valerian Mendonca, our Chancellor. The completion of all the three projects was the result of the untiring efforts, perseverance and determination of the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr Romeo Lewis, and the wholehearted cooperation and collaboration of the present and the former Parish Finance and Pastoral Councils, supportive parishioners, generous benefactors, well-wishers and people of good will. I hereby express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Rev. Fr Romeo Lewis for making the dream of a new church, belfry and presbytery in Perampally a reality, and the parishioners and donors for their wholehearted support.

7. MIGRANT WORKERS

The CRI of the Diocese of Udupi has taken up the cause of Migrant Workers as one of their apostolates to be focused during the year 2018. While I express to them my appreciation for this kind gesture, I request all Parish Priests to cooperate with them in working for the welfare of the migrant workers in our Diocese. Since this apostolate is also being carried out by the Commission for Labour in our Diocese, I wish that the CRI coordinates this apostolate along with the members of the Commission for Labour in all parishes of our Diocese.

8. CONGRATULATIONSTO REV. FR DR JOHN MENDONCA

We have received the joyful news that Rev. Fr Dr John Mendonca, Parish Priest of Tallur, has been elected the President of Canon Law Society of India (CLSI). He had been serving as the Vice President of CLSI for the last term. We congratulate him on his election and convey our best wishes to him in his new responsibility.

9. BEATIFICATION OF SR RANI MARIA

The Diocese of Udupi rejoices on the occasion of the Beatification of Sr Rani Maria and gives thanks to God for giving the people of India another Blessed as a model to imitate and as an intercessor in heaven. Sr Rani Maria was beatified on Saturday, November 04, 2017, at Indore. Sr Mariam Vattalil, a member of the Franciscan Clarist Congregation, was assassinated on 25 February, 1995. According to the Police, she was stabbed 54 times in front of more than 50 bus passengers in a jungle area near Udainagar (Madhya Pradesh), allegedly at the behest of money-lenders affected by the nun's social work among village women, who were organizing self-help groups. The Beatification of Sr Rani Maria is a declaration by the Pope, as head of the Church, that the deceased Sister had died a martyr's death and is now dwelling in heaven. As a process, the beatification consisted of a long examination of the life, virtues, writings and her reputation for holiness. Sr Rani Maria will now be called 'Blessed' and may be venerated by the faithful in India and some other specific places. May the **Blessed Mariam Vattalil (Rani Maria)** intercede for us in our work for the deprived and

marginalized sections of our society.

10. CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS WITH THE POOR

Heeding to the call of Pope Francis, we celebrated the World Day of the Poor on 19 November 2017. In continuation of the spirit of this day, I invite you all to celebrate the feast of Christmas this year with the poor. The manger, swaddling clothes and the poor shepherds are reminders of today's poor- homeless, abandoned and neglected in the society. I recommend to you all, especially the members of our Youth Associations (ICYM, YCS) that at Christmas, while other festivities and programmes are being planned, a special organized gesture be thought of. to include the poorest of the poor at Christmas, irrespective of religion and caste. Special activities like a meal for the poor on Christmas day, clothes or provisions for the poor would be very meaningful gestures!

11. CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Christmas is a mystery of **joy**. The Angels sang: "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased*" (Lk 2:14). The shepherds described the event as "*a great joy for all the people*" (Lk 2:10) - joy, despite distance from home, the poverty of the manger, people's indifference, the hostility of power.

Christmas is a mystery of **love**. The love of the Father who has sent into the world His only-begotten Son to bestow on us the gift of his own life (1 Jn 4:8-9). The love of '*God-with-us*', Emmanuel, who came to give us life through the Cross.

Christmas is a mystery of **peace**. From the crib of Bethlehem there rises today an urgent appeal to the world not to yield to mistrust, suspicion and discouragement, even though the tragic realities of indifference, communalism and terrorism feed uncertainties and fears. Believers of all religions, together with men and women of good will, by outlawing all forms of intolerance and discrimination, are called to build peace. May humanity accept the Christmas message of peace.

May the celebration of Christmas be a source of encouragement to

all who work to bring joy, love and peace. Jesus is born for us! Come, let us adore him!

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ **Gerald I. Lobo**
Bishop of Udupi

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

1. DIVYAJYOTHI

03/12/2017 Liturgical Seminar - Palimar
09/12/2017 Sacred Choral Music Concert, Brahmavar- 3 pm
10/12/2017 Liturgical Seminar - Pangla
10/12/2017 Sacred Choral Music Concert, Udupi- 3 pm

REV. FR STEPHEN D'SOUZA
DIRECTOR

2. FAMILY COMMISSION

03 Dec Marriage Enrichment Basrur Parish 9,10
Dec Marriage Preparation Course 22,23
Dec Marriage Preparation Course
24 Dec Diocesan level Saireek Sangam

MR LESLIE AROUZA
DIRECTOR



Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year 2018



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