

VOX NOSTRA

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Dear Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters,

1. SEASON OF LENT

Ash Wednesday, this year, will be on 06 March 2019, which will mark the beginning of the holy season of Lent. “Lent is a sacred time of spiritual preparation for the celebration of Easter. The Lenten liturgy disposes both the catechumens and the faithful to celebrate the Paschal Mystery: catechumens, through the various stages of Christian initiation; the faithful, through reminders of their own baptism through penitential practices” (LY, 27). I take this occasion to wish all of you, dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters, a holy and prayerful season of Lent.

Our faithful do enter this season with great devotion, reverence and faith which is very heartening to note. I exhort Parish Priests to continue to organize the usual para-liturgical devotions in vogue during Lent and promote daily *Way of the Cross* and reading of the Passion Narrative, its reflection and meditation in families uniting themselves to the suffering, passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Do go through the liturgical norms pertinent to the Lenten season and to the celebration of Ash Wednesday given in pages 73-75 of *ORDO* 2019. Please see annexure 1 on page 8 for the message of Pope Francis for Lent 2019. While the days of fast, **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** must be observed by the faithful as usual, I recommend that the faithful are motivated to observe the days of abstinence by choosing one of the following forms of prayer/penance/works of Charity:

1. Attending Mass or making a 15-minute visit to the Blessed Sacrament or 15 minutes of Lectio Divina or a 15-minute meditation on the Passion of Our Lord or making the Way of the Cross
2. Missing breakfast or any one meal
3. Taking vegetarian meals (avoiding meat, fish and eggs as well)
4. Abstaining from alcohol

5. Abstaining from smoking
6. Abstaining from beverages like tea/coffee between meals
7. Giving 10% of one's daily earnings in charity.

2. LENTEN CAMPAIGN

The **Lenten Campaign 2019** is to be conducted in aid of the project for the houses for the poor. The Council of Priests, in its meeting held on 24 October 2018, has recommended this project and Rev. Fr Reginald Pinto, Director, Sampada, will organize this Lenten Campaign. I thank you, dear Rev. Fathers and the Religious Communities, for your support during the past years towards the Lenten Campaign and look forward to the same this year with greater zeal and enthusiasm.

3. YOUCAT IN KONKANI

YOUCAT is the short form for *Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Developed with the help of young Catholics and written for high-school age people and young adults, YOUCAT is an accessible, contemporary expression of the Catholic Faith. The appealing graphic format includes Questions-and-Answers, highly-readable commentary, summary definitions of key terms, Bible citations and inspiring and thought-provoking quotes from Saints and others in the margins. What's more, YOUCAT is keyed to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, so people can go deeper. It explains:

- 1) What Catholics believe and why (doctrine)
- 2) How Catholics celebrate the mysteries of the faith (sacraments)
- 3) How Catholics are to live (moral life)
- 4) How Catholics should pray (prayer and spirituality).

The questions are direct and honest, even at times tough; the answers straightforward, relevant, and compelling. YOUCAT will likely become the "go-to" place for young people to learn the truth about the Catholic faith.

We had taken initiative to translate and get it published in Konkani and are now very happy to announce that it is available at a subsidized rate of Rs 160 per copy. I wholeheartedly thank and appreciate the efforts of Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza, Director, Divya Jyothi, for making this project a reality through his perseverance and hard work in overseeing the translation, proof reading and getting it printed in ATC,

Bengaluru. I exhort all parish priests to promote it among the youth and also organize study sessions for youth in your parish.

4. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The International Women's Day (IWD) will be celebrated on 08 March 2019. The campaign theme for IWD 2019, '**Balance for Better**', is a call-to-action for driving gender balance across the world and invites us to consider the 'present time' as a great and important time in history to do everything possible to help forge a more gender-balanced world. While I appreciate the contribution of women in pastoral work in the parishes of our Diocese, I offer my warm greetings to all women of our Diocese and wish them divine blessings on the occasion. May this day be an occasion for us to recognize the contribution of women in the Church and to offer them due opportunities to grow and express themselves freely in the mission of the Church.

5. BALLET BY SANGEET ABHINAY ACADEMY, MUMBAI

The **Udupi Communications Centre**, in association with **Big J TV**, will host an *ecumenical and religious musical ballet* '**PREM RAGINI**' in the Basel Mission Memorial Hall on **Monday, 18.03.2019, at 6.00 p.m.** The ballet is a professional presentation by the Sangeet Abhinay Academy, Mumbai, directed by **Rev. Dr Fr Charles Vas, SVD**. The programme presents, in music and dance form, our salvation history from creation to resurrection. Sponsorship/ Donation to the programme is welcome. **The entry to the programme will be free.** I request you to encourage the lovers of music and dance, and the members of the Commission for Ecumenism, in particular, to be present.

6. ANNIVERSARY OF THE INSTALLATION OF POPE FRANCIS

On 19 March 2019 we celebrate the anniversary of the installation of Pope Francis. He is known for his simplicity, approachability, continuity and fidelity to the Magisterium, tenderness, exemplary leadership and service of the poor. We pray that God may bless him with good health and the necessary graces to shepherd the Church for many more years. I request all priests to remember and pray for the intentions of our Pope during mass on the day.

7. VOCATION CAMP

The Commission for Seminary and Religious Formation has organized the second residential Vocation Camp for our boys, X Std and above, from 5 to 7 April 2019 at St Lawrence Basilica, Attur, Karkal. Please send all the boys who participated in the December 2018 -Vocation Camp, and in addition, please identify suitable boys, with a good and devout family background from your respective parishes and motivate them to attend this Vocation Camp. Kindly send their names to Rev. Fr Baptist Menezes by 2nd April for facilitating effective organization of the same.

8. BUDGET FOR 2018-19 AND REPORT OF 18 COMMISSIONS

As we communicated to you earlier, according to the Constitution of PFC (2.12.10), all parish priests had to prepare the Budget for 2019-20 as per the Diocesan Finance Manual in the prescribed forms supplied by us, and having placed it before the PFC for its approval, send it over to my office by 28 February 2018 for approval. In addition, the annual report of 18 commissions for the year 2018 should have been sent along by the Coordinator of the Pastoral Commissions in the parish as per no. 3.9.4.5 of the Constitution of PPC. While I appreciate those parishes, which have complied by these requirements, I urge the remaining parishes to do it at the earliest. The Coordinators should follow the format given to them while submitting this report.

9. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

As you know, the financial year 2018-19 will come to a close on 31 March 2019. The accounts of every parish/institution are required to be completed and get 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. After the audit, please follow the guidelines as given in Nos. 2.12.6 to 2.12.9 of Constitution of PFC and send the audited accounts to my office.

10. FAITH FORMATION CAMPS

Although we had organized *Jeevan Amrith*, *Jeevan Disha* and *Jeevan Jyothi* camps during October holidays for students of 8th, 9th and 10th Standards respectively, Faith Formation Camps need to be planned and organized for all children for a week during the summer holidays in every parish. There may be some resistance 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 children, preferably, as soon as they get their summer vacation.

11. DIACONATE

Br Rolwin Fernandes, s/o Mr Reginald Fernandes and Mrs Ledwin Fernandes of Thottam parish, was ordained a Deacon by me for the Diocese of Udupi on Sunday, 24 February 2019, at St Joseph Church, Belman. On behalf of our presbyterium, I congratulate Deacon Rolwin Fernandes and convey my best wishes as he starts his Diaconal ministry in Belman and prepares himself for the ordination to the Priesthood.

Yours Sincerely in Christ

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+ Gerald I. L. obo

COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

1. DIVYA JYOTHI

02.03.19 - Felicitation of Schoolwise Toppers in Catechism in X Std

03.03.19 - CATECHISM DAY

Note:

Dear Fathers,

As you know Divya Jyothi is responsible for implementing the aims and objectives of the Commissions for Bible, Catechetics and Liturgy in the Diocese. As for the action plan for 2019, in addition to the regular programmes, the following programmes should be organised/ promoted at parish level in 2019:

Biblical Commission

i. Bible Camp for Children in Summer Vacations

- If you have not done it in 2018, I desire that you should conduct it for 2/3 days in 2019.
- It can be conducted by a team. The modalities and the material will be supplied by us.

ii. Bible Seminar for Adults

- The required time is 1.30 hrs – 2 hrs
- Please fix up a day and time, preferably on a Sunday, in advance with the Director.

iii. Bible Study at Home

- The posters and application forms are already supplied to you.
- Kindly promote it in your parish for the target group: Catechism Teachers, Conveners of Commissions, SCC Preraks, etc.

Catechetical Commission

i. YOUCAT Seminar

- The required time is 1.30 hrs – 2 hrs
- Target group: ICYM members and the other youth of the parish
- Please fix up a timing with the director in advance.

ii. YOUCAT in Konkani

-YOUCAT is now available in Konkani at a subsidized rate of Rs 160 per copy.

-Kindly promote it among youth in your parish.

Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza
Director

2. YOUTH COMMISSION

YCS Animators , ICYM Animators , Members, YC Coordinators

Evaluation & Training, Udupi

31/03/19 Youth Retreat & Way of the Cross, Belman

Rev. Fr Edwin D'Souza
Director

3. COMMISSION FOR SCC's

17/03/2019 - Miyar from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm 24/03/2019 -

Brahmavar from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

Rev. Fr Harold Pereira
Director

4. SAMPADA- LENTEN CAMPAIGN

This year's Lenten Campaign is for 'Housing Fund'. 'Donation Coupon' books will be sent to the parishes/institutions before Ash Wednesday, i.e. 06th March 2019. Please aware the faithful regarding 'Lenten Campaign' of our Diocese.

Rev. Fr Reginald Pinto
Director

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