

VOX NOSTRA

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Dear Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters,

DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE

In 1997, Pope St John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, February 2nd. The feast is also known as Candlemas, the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. The celebration of the World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred to the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church.

Although the Day for Consecrated Life is celebrated on February 2nd, it is observed in parishes on the Sunday after February 2nd. In 2019, this day is 3rd February. I request you to pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

MISSIONARY HOLY CHILDHOOD DAY

The second Sunday of February, this year the 10th, is celebrated as the Missionary Holy Childhood Day. The universal Church asks all the ecclesial Institutions and Movements to collaborate with Missionary Childhood Association in its life and service to the children of the whole world by animating and forming children (up to 14 years) from a missionary viewpoint and their educators so that they will live in ecclesial missionary communion and carry out their local mission and their missionary cooperation with universal evangelization, especially of children. I am happy that several parishes have established Missionary

Childhood Associations in their parishes. I hereby appeal to all of you to make this day meaningful for children who are enthusiastic members of this association, motivating them further to be effective signs of the Church's mission by organizing activities and celebrations that will suit their age and enthusiasm.

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK : 11 FEBRUARY

February 11 is the World Day of the Sick, an observation started by Pope St John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses. The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes. People around the world take time to pray for the sick and those who work hard to alleviate the sufferings of the sick on this day. Faith-organizations mark this day especially, to provide the sick with medicines, food, and spiritual guidance. Let us all be solicitous to the plight of our sick and suffering brethren in our parishes and, above all, in our own families and make it a point to care for them and alleviate their pain and suffering as much as we can. I urge all of you to offer special prayers for the sick on this day of the sick. The message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 27th World Day of the Sick 2019 is given as annexure 1.

NEW OFFICE BEARERS OF CCBI

Most Rev. Dr. Filipe Neri Ferrão, Archbishop of Goa and Daman, has been elected the new President of the CCBI during its 31st Plenary Assembly. He replaces His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias, the Archbishop of Bombay, who served the Conference as its President for three terms of two years each from 2013 to 2019. Most Rev. Dr George Antonysamy, Archbishop of Chennai- Mylapore, and Most Rev. Dr Anil Joseph Thomas Couto, Archbishop of Delhi, were re- elected Vice president and Secretary General of the CCBI respectively. We offer our best wishes to them as they shoulder this great responsibility.

OFFICE BEARERS OF COUNCIL OF PRIESTS

The first meeting of the new Council of Priests took place on 24 January 2019 in the Conference Hall of the Bishop's House in Udupi in which 22 members were present. The following were elected the Office Bearers:

Secretary: Rev. Fr Prakash Anil Castelino

Joint Secretary: Rev. Fr Ferdinand Gonsalves

DIOCESAN BUILDING COMMITTEE

Since the present Diocesan Building Committee completed its term of three years, new members were elected to the Diocesan Building Committee for a term of three years (2019-2021) during the first meeting of the new Council of Priests. The members are:

Very Rev. Fr Stany B. Lobo (Convener)

Very Rev. Fr Stany Tauro – Member

Very Rev. Fr George Thomas D'Souza – Member

Mr Sundeep Leo Almeida, A.M.I.E, B.E (CIVIL),

PGDACM (NICMAR) - Member

Mr Deepak L. A. D'Souza, D. Arch –Member

WILSON OLIVERA NITE – 3rd MARCH

As announced earlier, **Wilson Olivera Nite**, organized by SMKC Dubai in collaboration with the ICYM, Udupi Diocese, will take place on 03 March 2019 on Christian PU College grounds, Udupi, in aid of the Udupi Diocesan project of the Pastoral cum Laity Animation Center which is already under construction. In 2017, SMKC had organized **Wilfy Nite** in collaboration with the Catholic Sabha of our Diocese which you supported wholeheartedly. I look forward to the same from all of you once again. Our diocese does not have enough funds to complete our several projects; neither has it any source of regular income as you are aware of. ***I request you to announce to your parishioners without fail about Wilson Olivera Nite and its details; motivate your parishioners to attend the show in large numbers and, if possible, organize to bring them together so that they are able to return to the parish after the show (05.30 pm to 09.30 pm) – entry free; patronize the ICYM members of your parish who have come forward to mobilize funds for the project parish-wise,***

permitting them to visit families by informing your parishioners of their visit to them and the purpose of it during Sunday announcements.

ANNUAL FEAST OF ST LAWRENCE BASILICA

The five days of festivities of St Lawrence Basilica which began with traditional gaiety, prayer and solemnity on 27 January 2019 were concluded on 31 January 2019 with great joy and gratitude, thanks to the continuous protection of St Lawrence, the wonder-worker, and incessant mercy and blessings of God, our Heavenly Father. While the five days' celebrations which were meticulously planned by the Shrine Basilica Management Committee, the flow of devotees and pilgrims was so peaceful, devotional and reverential that St Lawrence truly does wonders in Attur attracting year after year pilgrims to himself whose number has been on steady increase. I thank Very Rev. Fr George D'Souza, Rector of the Basilica, Assistant PP, Rev. Fr Jencil Alva, Rev. Fr Lawrence Martis, members of the Basilica Parish Pastoral Council for their all-out efforts and dedication before, during as well as after the celebrations; the five Deans of our deaneries and their deanery priests – diocesan and religious for their presence, support and, above all, assistance at the confessional; the clergy of the diocese of Mangalore and from our neighbouring dioceses and the religious priests from various congregations for helping us at the confessional; Rev. Deacons (diocesan and religious) for helping at the liturgical celebrations; seminarians and post novices for their continuous presence and assistance at the shrine. May God bless you, all, and may St Lawrence intercede for you always.

THE YEAR OF THE YOUTH – DECREE

The year 2019 has been declared as the **Year of Youth** in our diocese. The Synod Fathers who deliberated in depth and detail of the role of Youth in the Church have rightly said: *“You are the present; be a bright future.”* The youth is our future, the future of the Church, the future of our diocese and all of us must make it a point to bring the best out of our youth not only to promote leadership qualities in them but, more than that, that they are able to lead and guide others in and through the faith they are baptized with, brought up and as youngsters are able to witness to it as missionaries of

evangelization and ambassadors of proclamation. Hence the *Year of Youth* is indeed a God-given opportunity to all of us to walk along with all the youth of our diocese by supporting their year-long activities and promoting them. I appeal to you, dear Rev. Fathers, to implement the Action Plan for the Year of the Youth for our Diocese in your parishes and institutions so that we, in this Diocese, appreciate their contribution and gifts, listen to them and motivate them in the service of the Church and society, as per the desire of our beloved Holy Father Pope Francis. The text of the Decree is given on as annexure 3.

BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2019-2020

While the financial year will end on 31 March 2019, the Budget for 2019-20 needs to be finalized as per statutes no. 2.12.10 (page 17) and submitted in duplicate to my office for approval on or before 28 February 2019. In order to facilitate its preparation, a printed format has been enclosed herewith. Please do the needful accordingly and as per statutes.

GENERAL ELECTIONS

As you are aware of, the General Elections are around the corner. Efforts must be made at every level to enlist new voters and check the status of previously registered ones so that every citizen gets an opportunity to vote for value-based worthy candidates who respect all religions, promote unity of our nation and serve the interest of our nation wholeheartedly and selflessly. Casting one's vote is not only a right but also a duty. The Voters' List is already out and is available for checking. So, please do so before 14 February 2019 and ensure that the names of your parishioners are in the voters' list. The Catholic Sabha Unit of every parish could take up leadership in this regard.

PASSPORT: KONKANI FILM

Under the banner 'Christa Jyothi Cine Creations', a Konkani Film titled PASSPORT was released by me on 26 January 2019 at the St John the Evangelist Church Hall, Shankerpura. The film has been produced by Rev. Fr Royson Fernandes, Assistant PP at Pangala church and directed by Mr Vinod Gangolli is about the story of life's journey. I congratulate Fr Royson and his team, appreciate their efforts, and recommend its promotion by screening it in your parishes and institutions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FR ROLWIN JOY ARANHA

We are glad to learn that Fr Rolwin Aranha, Asst PP at St Francis Xavier Church, Udyavar, has secured 7th rank in B.Ed. in 2018 in the Mangalore University. We congratulate him and offer our best wishes as he pursues his post-graduation at Barkur PG Centre.

ST ALOYSIUS INSTITUTE OF CIVIL SERVICES

St Aloysius College (Autonomous) has started a new and significant venture, St Aloysius Institute of Civil Services. The Institute aims at providing quality education to Civil Service aspirants, making it affordable to the youth. The admission process has already begun. The courses will be based on the syllabus provided by the UPSC for the civil service exam. I earnestly request the parish priests to make an announcement in this regard and motivate and guide the youth to join these courses.

Yours Sincerely in Christ

+ 

+ Gerald I. Lobo

OBITUARY

Mrs Theresa Lewis (aged 83) - mother of Rev. Fr Francis Lewis, on 6 January 2019.

Mrs Diana Mascarenhas (aged 45) – sister-in-law of Rev. Fr Henry Mascarenhas & Rev. Fr Roman Mascarenhas, on 12 January 2019.

Mrs Lucy Tauro (aged 93) - mother of V. Rev. Fr Stany Tauro, on 15 January 2019.

May God grant them eternal rest

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