

VOX NOSTRA

Vol IV

April 2016

No. 04

Editoril

Vox Nostra, the news bulletin of our Diocese which is looked forward to at the beginning of every month has a new editor! I deem it my privilege to take up this noble task of editing *Vox Nostra* every month. I remain grateful to the members of the Council of Priests for proposing my name for this important responsibility and sincerely thank our Bishop Most Rev. Gerald Isaac Lobo for approving it and appointing me for this task. In the name of all of you and my own, I express our sincere thanks to Msgr Bapist Menezes, our Vicar General for christening this news bulletin as *Vox Nostra* and efficiently editing it since its inception in October 2013. Let us place on record his noble services to the Diocese of Udupi as the first Editor of *Vox Nostra*.

Vox Nostra is *Our Voice*. It's the voice of our Bishop who speaks to us month after month through his exhortations, circulars and communications on different aspects of pastoral life and ministry in the diocese, administrative matters, guidelines and directives towards implementing the Pastoral Plan - Mission 2025. It is also *Our Voice* and I would like it to be so in the sense that if there are articles and impressions for better governance of pastoral mission and ministry to be shared, lived and experienced, it can find a place on the pages of this monthly news bulletin. If you have any such message, information of common interest to priests and religious in this diocese, you may send it to the new Email ID voxnostraeditor@gmail.com by 25th of every month in order to avoid the delay. Information pertaining to jubilees, obituary as informed already may please be mailed to the id provided here. Thank you.

As I embark on this new responsibility, I look forward for your wholehearted support, encouragement and cooperation.

Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza
Editor

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. CBCI MEETING AND OFFICE BEARERS

The 32nd Plenary Assembly of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) was held from 2nd to 9th March 2016 at St John's Medical College Campus, Bengaluru, and deliberated on the theme, 'The Response of the Church in India to the Present Day Challenges'. It has been both a learning and refreshing experience to be with the members of the Church hierarchy in India. His Eminence Cardinal Baselios Cleemis, the Major Archbishop of the Syro Malankara Catholic Church, has been re-elected the President of the CBCI. Most Rev. Andrews Thazath, Archbishop of Trichur, and Most Rev. Filipe Neri Ferrao, Archbishop of Goa, were also re-elected as CBCI Vice President I and Vice President II respectively. Most Rev. Theodore Mascarenhas, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Ranchi, was elected the Secretary General in the place of Most Rev. Albert D'Souza, Archbishop of Agra, who had served as the CBCI Secretary General for the past six years. We congratulate the entire team and pray God's grace to steer the Church in India on the right path.

2. DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

The Church celebrates the II Sunday of Easter as the *Divine Mercy Sunday* which falls on 3rd April this year. It is based on the Catholic devotion to the Divine Mercy that Saint Faustina Kowalska reported as a part of her encounter with Jesus, and is associated with special promises from Jesus. During the Year of Mercy, we have a special reason to celebrate this day highlighting the significance of mercy in our Christian life, reflecting on the *Misericordiae Vultus* of God who is "rich in mercy" (Eph 2:4) towards sinners. The feast is preceded by a Divine Mercy Novena which would begin on Good Friday. While some parishes have already begun this Novena, I wish that all our 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, etc. and also encourage the faithful's devotion to Divine Mercy.

3. WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS (VOCATION SUNDAY)

The Church celebrates the IV Sunday of Easter, which falls on 17th April this year, as Vocation Sunday, and invites us to offer special prayers for priestly and religious vocations. The purpose of this day is to fulfil the Lord's instruction to "pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into His harvest" (Mt 9:38, Lk 10:2). While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its special attention on vocations to the *Ordained Ministries* (Priesthood and Diaconate), to the Religious life in all its forms (male and female, contemplative and apostolic), to societies of apostolic life, in the particular sense of mission "ad gentes." This year marks the 53rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations. In his message, Pope Francis has invited us to reflect on three essential aspects of vocations, namely, vocations "born within the Church," "grow within the Church" and "sustained by the Church." I request you to explain these aspects, during the homily, on the day and also include intercessions for vocations to our diocese, in particular, and the Church during the prayers of the faithful.

4. VOCATION CAMP FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE DIOCESE

The Diocesan Commission for Seminary and Religious Formation has organised a Vocation Camp for our boys: X Std and above from 25 to 27 April at Mount Rosary Church, Santhekatte, Kallianpur under the leadership of Rev. Fr Anil Cornelio, Director of the Commission for Seminary and Religious Formation in our diocese and Parish Priest of Hirgan Parish, the host being Rev. Fr Philip Neri Aranha, the Parish Priest of Mount Rosary Church. Promoting vocations is an urgent need of our diocese. We have the inevitable responsibility

to prepare committed priests for the service of 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 before 20 April 2016.

5. ORDINATION OF DEACON CANUTE NORONHA

Deacon Canute Noronha, son of Mr Casmir and Mrs Agnes Noronha, hailing from Pangala parish will be ordained by me as a Priest for our Diocese on Wednesday, 20 April 2016 at 10.00 a. m. in St John the Evangelist Church, Pangala. He has been serving as a Deacon in Basrur Church for the past five months. We rejoice and thank our Lord for blessing us with a new priest for the diocese this year. On behalf of the diocese, I extend a cordial invitation to all of you to his Ordination. Let us welcome him to the Presbyterium.

6. PARISH LEVEL FAITH FORMATION CAMPS


While *Jeevan Amrith*, *Jeevan Disha* and *Jeevan Jyothi* camps were held during October holidays for students of 8th, 9th and 10th Std respectively, Faith Formation Camps need to be planned and organised for other 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 organised. But this should not deter us from doing the right and most important ministry of building the faith of our children. These camps must provide our children with ample opportunities to understand our faith in the context of their families and schools. I earnestly appeal to you to organise these camps for the children from I to VII Std, preferably as soon as they get their summer holidays.

7. UZVAAD

Our Diocesan fortnightly newspaper *Uzvaad* has been well appreciated by its readers for its contents, i.e. articles, news, stories, printing, paper quality and format thanks to the tireless efforts and relentless enthusiasm of the Editor Rev. Fr Chetan Lobo, OFM Cap. However, I wish to inform you that number of subscriptions as compared to the year it was launched has now come down within our Diocese.

It is my earnest appeal to you dear Parish Priests to please promote our newspaper *Uzvaad* by giving due publicity through your Sunday announcement and entrusting the responsibility to the *Sthree Sanghatan* of your parish to collect subscriptions so that every family in your parish receives a copy of *Uzvaad* without fail. There is even a 20% commission over number of subscriptions collected. Even if there are reliable individuals from your parish, you may please recommend their names to the Editor who could be officially instructed to work for *Uzvaad* in the subscription collection drive.

Yours sincerely in Christ

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Gerald I. Lobo
Bishop of Udupi

Notice

- A meeting of
- (1) all the Correspondents of Educational Institutions under CESU
 - (2) all the Headmasters of High Schools under CESU
 - (3) all the Principals of P.U. Colleges and Degree Colleges under CESU

The meeting will take place at 10.00 am on 22.04.2016 at the Conference Hall, Bishop's House.

Agenda : To get our Educational Institutions accredited to CBCI Commission for Education and Culture in accordance with the All India Catholic Education Policy 2007.

Rev Fr Eugene Lobo S.J. Secretary, Karnataka Regional Commission for Education, Bangalore has agreed to enlighten us on the Catholic Education Policy 2007 and to help us to fill in the application forms with relevant information.

Each Institutions is expected to get a copy of the handbook prepared by the CBCI Commission for Education and Culture. I have already secured sufficient number of copies of this handbook. The handbook contains necessary questionnaire and details of applications of policy to be filled by each school. The copies of the handbook will be distributed to you at the meeting on 22.04.2016.

Please attend the meeting without fail.

Rev. Fr Lawrence D'Souza
Secretary CESU

DIVYA JYOTHI (DBCLC)

Divya Jyothi conducted the diocesan exam in Catechism and Value Education for VII and X on 16 January 2016 and the results were announced on 13 February 2016. 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	174	99.43%	Kannada	823	98.66%
X	Konkani	220	99.55%	Kannada	713	100.00%
VII	English	188	98.40%	English	729	98.63%
X	English	247	99.00%	English	587	100.00%
	Total	850		Total	2852	

Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza
Director

COMMISSION FOR SCCs

SCC TRAINING PROGRAMS IN APRIL 2016

03.04.2016	Kelmbet Parish. Ward Samithi Training –Ajekar Parish
08.04.2016	DAT meeting at Udupi
10.04.2016	SCC Day at Basrur Parish.
14.04.2016	VAT meeting of Udupi Deanery
17.04.2016	Ward Samithi Training at Pangla Parish
19.04.2016	SCC Conveners meeting of Kallianpur Deanery
24.04.2016	SCC visit at Pamboor Parish

Rev. Fr Harold Pereira
Director

GOLDEN BIRTHDAY

Rev. Fr Henry Mascarenhas, Estate Manager
Ad Multos Annos

25/4

FAMILY COMMISSION PROGRAMS IN APRIL 2016

- 03 9 - 4 Proximate Preparation - Kanajar and Nakre Parish
 Youth
9 & 10 Marriage Preparation Course
10 9 - 10 Media and Family - Talk at Byndoor Parish
23 & 24 Marriage Preparation Course

Mr Leslie Arouza
Director

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