

VOX NOSTRA

Vol IV

August 2016

No. 08

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. ST LAWRENCE BASILICA AT ATTUR-KARKALA: THANKS AND GOD BLESS

Curtains are finally drawn over the much media covered, talked about, awaited, and meticulously planned and organized ceremony and the celebration of the Proclamation of the Decree of the elevation of the Sanctuary of St Lawrence to the status of a Minor Basilica and its Dedication on 01 August 2016 as we all witnessed to this rarest of the rare privilege of a sacred historical and memorable event held during the thanksgiving Eucharistic Sacrifice in which 3 Cardinals belonging to three “*Sui Juris*” Churches, 3 Archbishops, 17 Bishops and over 25 thousand devotees took part with unction and devotion.

With a heart filled with joy for God’s marvels, benevolence and providence, I hasten to express my sincere thanks to each and every one of you my dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters for not only your presence and participation on 01 August 2016, but for your unceasing prayers for its success, sacrifices, generosity, cooperation and every assistance and whenever you were approached either by me in person or by various Committee leaders and in charge of the celebration, there was wholehearted support, goodwill, positive and encouraging response and collaboration. Truly there was a feeling of oneness that this historical and memorable event which got into the annals of the Diocese of Udupi was: “*Our Shrine, Now our Basilica*”.

What is proper and unique to St Lawrence Shrine now a Basilica is that it stands tall among all among many other holy places for constant and sure spiritual experience, unending blessings and favours and a source of everlasting joy, peace and forgiveness to and among all the devotees and pilgrims who flock to it in season and out of season and

to top it all, it is a Centre for communal harmony. These are the legitimate reasons I am sure attracted the attention of the Holy See in speedily and readily granting us the much coveted Decree of the status of Minor Basilica to the Sanctuary of St Lawrence.

It's true that the application dossier took nearly two years to complete. I place on record the services of all those who worked tirelessly and generously in contributing to the compilation of documentation and responses to the questionnaire. I also acknowledge with immense gratitude and appreciation of the noble role, leadership and selfless service played and given by the Rector of the Shrine now Basilica, Convener of the celebrations, various Committee Leaders and so many others: priests, Religious men and women and Lay faithful while planning for the Proclamation and Dedication Ceremony and its meticulous execution to perfection.

I request you dear Rev. Fathers to convey your dear parishioners my sentiments of appreciation and sincere thanks to them for their prayers, presence, support and generosity.

The entire Diocese of Udipi rose to the occasion and that's why we can sing a song of thanksgiving like our Heavenly Mother Mary's "*Magnificat*" that God in His goodness has done wonders to and in the new Diocese of Udipi and lifted up the Holy Shrine of St Lawrence to be *the light of the world* and *salt of the earth*.

May St Lawrence who is revered, admired, appreciated and sought after for his intercessory powers of obtaining favours, blessings, mercies and graces, continue to do wonders for all flocking to his Basilica and obtain for all the much needed health, strength and grace in the common mission of the Proclamation and Evangelization is my wish and prayer for you now and always.

For your information and reference, the English translation of the Decree granting the status of Minor Basilica to the Sanctuary of St Lawrence at Attur–Karkal is given in page 3. The messages sent by the Holy Father Pope Francis, Prefects of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments and the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and the Apostolic Nuncio to India are printed as annexure 1.

Thank you once again and God bless us all.

**CONGREGATION FOR DIVINE WORSHIP AND THE
DISCIPLINE OF THE SACRAMENTS**

Prot. N. 94/16

REGARDING UDUPI

With respect to the letter of Most Rev. Gerald Isaac Lobo, Bishop of Udupi, dated 4th February 2016, expressing the prayers and petitions of the clergy and the Christian faithful, the Congregation for Divine Worship and Disciplines of Sacraments, with the power of the special faculties granted to it by the Supreme Pontiff, FRANCIS, willingly adorns the holy church in the town of Attur-Karkal, dedicated to the honour of St Lawrence, Martyr, with the title and dignity of MINOR BASILICA, with all the rites and competent liturgical concessions, restricting, however, those which are to be restricted according to the Decree ‘De Titulo Basilicae Minoris’ (Of the Title of the Minor Basilica) promulgated on the 9th day of November 1989.

Any contraries notwithstanding.

From the Chambers of Divine Worship and Discipline of Sacraments
on the 26th day of April 2016.

(Sd).....

+Arthur Roche

Archbishop from the Secretariat

(Sd).....

+ Robert Card. Sarah

Prefect

**2. SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF BLESSED
VIRGIN MARY AND INDEPENDENCE DAY**

August 15 is not only a historical day for our motherland but also is dear to us as Catholics. While we rejoice over the singular privilege granted to our heavenly Mother to be assumed into heaven body and soul, we, the citizens of India, joyfully celebrate our political

independence, granting to ourselves a sacred Constitution and a democratically elected government. On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII proclaimed the dogma that the Virgin Mary “having ended the course of earthly life, was assumed into heavenly glory in soul and body.” Let us entrust ourselves to her maternal care and seek her blessing on our motherland so that all of us may enjoy the freedom of the Children of God as enshrined in our Constitution and live in harmony and peace as brothers and sisters.

The Solemnity of the Assumption is one of the days of obligation for the Church in India. I urge all parish priests to exhort the faithful about this day of obligation and to arrange masses so that all the faithful are able to participate in the Holy Eucharist. In addition, I exhort you, as responsible and patriotic citizens of our nation to organize meaningful Independence Day celebrations in the church campus and in all our institutions by hoisting and saluting the National Flag. Kindly attend to the norms set out for the same.

3. PRISON MINISTRY SUNDAY-AUGUST 14

Once the judgment of a prisoner has been made, many a time, the matter remains closed for the general public and the judiciary but we cannot forget them. God hails the profound dignity of every human person, despite his or her cruelties, even those condemned to death. Prison Ministry India, a national voluntary organization attempts to bear witness to the Truth that the worth of a human person is not measured by usefulness or talents, health or sickness, age or creed. Prison Ministry of India of UdupiDiocese, under the direction of Rev. Fr Francis Cornelio, is actively involved in this ministry.

The second Sunday of August every year is celebrated as *Prison Ministry Day* throughout India. The Prison Ministry India, recognized under CBCI, has issued a Pastoral Letter with the theme ‘Prisoners no more but brothers and sisters’. In this regard, I invite you, Rev. Fathers, to offer special prayers for the success of this ministry and for those prisoners and under-trials who are victims of circumstances, hatred and injustice. Our prayers will certainly bring solace to those who suffer being innocent, and those who deserve punishments will be able to realize their mistakes, repent and change their ways of life for the better.

4. ST JOHN MARIA VIANNEY

St John Maria Vianney was a great priest, convinced of his mission. His life was filled with prayer, penance and self denial. He wanted to become a priest. But his failure to comprehend Latin lectures forced him to seek private tutoring. After being ordained a priest, situations calling for 'impossible' deeds followed him everywhere. As pastor of the parish at Ars, Vianney worked miracles in the lives of many 'lost sheep'. His work as a confessor is his most remarkable accomplishment! Most of his time was spent at the Confessional reconciling people with God and imparting His mercy. As we celebrate the feast of St John Maria Vianney on August 4, I wish you dear Rev. Fathers, retired and active in service, a very happy Patronal Feast. I invite you to celebrate the day with great devotion so that our pastoral ministry becomes truly rewarding both for ourselves and for the people entrusted to our pastoral care. May St John Maria Vianney, intercede for us all.

5. PASTORAL CONSULTATION 2016

During the Council of Priests' Meeting held on 24 May 2016 it was proposed to hold the Diocesan Level Consultation for two days on 17 and 18 August 2016. Accordingly, I hereby approve these days and convoke the same so that the Committee appointed by the CP may go ahead with necessary preparations. The details of the same are already provided to you in the report of the CP. The first day (17th) is reserved for the **National Catechetical Directory** (NCD) and the pastoral issues suggested by three deaneries and approved by the Agenda Committee will be dealt with on the second day (18th). I expect your wholehearted support and active participation in this Consultation which definitely would help us streamline and update our Catechetical ministry. Please go through the introductory write up on NCD given on page 7 before arriving for the Consultation.

6. WORLD YOUTH DAY (WYD) - 2016

World Youth Day (WYD) 2016, an international Catholic event, focused on faith and youth, held from July 25 to 31 in Krakow, Poland is just concluded with the theme: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will

receive mercy” (Mt 5:7). WYD 2016 was particularly significant as a tribute to Saint Pope John Paul II, founder of the World Youth Day, as Kraków was his home. We are happy that six youth, Mr Loyal D’Souza, Pamboor, Ms Valida Rolin Mendonca, Miyar, Mr Loyn Dominic Pereira, Miyar, Ms Vivin Steffy D’Souza, Kundapur, Mr Melroy D’Almeida, Milagres Cathedral and Ms Rosalia Cardoza, Udyavar and animator, Mr Walter D’Souza, Udupi participated in WYD 2016. Hope their experience in WYD 2016 will motivate them to carry on the youth ministry in our Diocese with new vigour.

7. NEW DEACONS

Br Jencil Alva from Pangla Parish and Br Melwil Roy Lobo from Moodubelle Parish were ordained deacons for our Diocese by Most Rev. Dr Francis Serrao, Bishop of Shimoga, on 16 June 2016 at St Joseph Seminary, Mangalore. They will continue their pastoral courses in the Seminary till October 2016 after which will be available for ministry in the Diocese. I congratulate both Jencil and Melwil on this happy occasion and wish them well as they prepare for their B.Th. exams.

8. GRATITUDE


Our annual retreat, held from July 17 to 22 was a joyful spiritual experience to all of us. I am delighted by your active participation in all common spiritual exercises. I thank the preacher, Rev. Fr Augustine Mullur, OCD, for his inspiring sessions deeply rooted in the Word of God. A special word of thanks to our Deans and all Priests who shouldered the various responsibilities, such as liturgy, singing and other arrangements. I remain grateful to the Director and his team of the Pastoral Institute, Mangalore, for making our stay comfortable and our retreat a pleasant spiritual experience.

9. CATHOLIC SABHA AND GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Catholic Sabha Udupi Pradesh has come forward to help our faithful in a more organized way to avail various government schemes by appointing a representative to carry out this responsibility in each parish. They are already trained by me, in association with Sampada. While I thank them for this kind gesture, I request all Parish Priests to cooperate with them by providing them a convenient place where the needy can

approach them. Kindly inform and motivate the needy parishioners to avail their services and tap the available government resources.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 
Gerald I. Lobo

FAMILY COMMISSION PROGRAMS IN AUGUST 2016

Date	Description
03 Aug	Single Parents' Day (one of the spouse is working in abroad)– Udupi Deanery 10 – 1pm
07 Aug	Proximate Preparation for Belman Parish Youth 9 – 4pm
08 Aug	Talk at Don Bosco English Medium School, Shirva
14 Aug	Remote Preparation Thottam Parish (YCS)
19 Aug	Single Parents' Day (one of the spouse is working in abroad)– Karkal Deanery 10 – 1pm
25 Aug	Single Parents' Day (one of the spouse is working in abroad)– Shriya Deanery 10 – 1pm
28 Aug	Proximate Preparation for Piusnagar & Koteswar Parish Youth 9 – 4pm

Mr Leslie Arouza

Director

COMMISSION FOR SCCs SCC PROGRAMS IN AUGUST 2016

04.08.2016	SCC DAT meeting at SCC office
07.08.2016	Kallianpur deanery Preraks gathering at Milagres.

- 22.08.2016 Karkal deanery Parish Conveners meeting.
28.08. 2016 Udupi deanery Preraks gathering at Udupi.



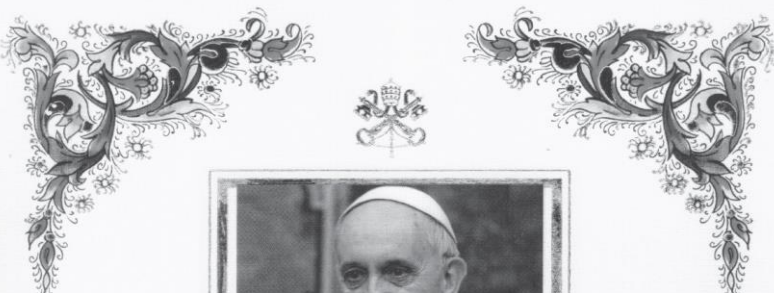
Fr Harold Pereira
Director

DIOCESAN COMMISSIONS' COORDINATOR
PROGRAMS IN AUGUST 2016

- 03.08.2016 Kallianpur Deanery Ecumenism Committee meeting at
Brahmavar at 4:00pm.
05.08.2016 Shirva Deanery Labour and Peace & Justice Committee
meeting at Shirva parish.
09.08.2016 Karkal Deanery Labour and Peace & Justice Committee
meeting at Karkal Townparish.
13.08.2016 Kundapur Denary Inter Religious Deanery Committee
Meeting.
14.08.2016 Youth Program of Karkal Deanery
21.08.2016 Youth Program of Kundapur Deanery
23.08.2016 Labour Commission Parish Conveners' Training at
Udupi.

Fr Harold Pereira

Annexure 1




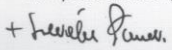
HIS HOLINESS
POPE FRANCIS

Invokes the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ
on the happy occasion of the elevation of the Sanctuary of

***St. Lawrence Church to the title of Minor Basilica
Attur, Karkala, Karnataka***

1 August 2016
Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy

He willingly gives
the assurance of his prayers
and imparts to the Bishop, Priests,
Religious and Laity
his Apostolic Blessing



Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio
Apostolic Nuncio to India



CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

[Prot. n. 94/16]
Vatican City, 8 July 2016

MESSAGE

Your Excellency,

On the joyous day of the proclamation of the shrine of St Lawrence in Attur-Karkala as a Minor Basilica, I join in your happiness and I manifest my spiritual closeness to the clergy, religious and all People of God.

This day makes plain how your diocese takes great care to have the glory of God at its heart, striving every day to make the worship of the one true God by the faithful more convenient and fruitful.

This Minor Basilica must now show how "Christ is the Light of nations". With great care the liturgy, in each celebration, must show that God's plan "was to raise men to participation in the divine life". The Church is the means of building up such a people in the unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Each celebration, which intensifies the bond with the Church of Rome and with the Holy Father, must be exemplary in two ways: in respect to the rules of the Liturgy, and as consequence, be an exemplar of pastoral action, by being close to the poorest and showing the mercy of God. Christ, the one Mediator, established and continually sustains here on earth His holy Church, the community of faith, hope and charity. In the Body of Christ, life is poured into the hearts of believers who, through the sacraments, are united in a hidden and real way to Christ who suffered and is glorified.

I hope this Minor Basilica may be, a great and important centre of encounter with Christ for all the faithful. May this be a great place of encounter with the thrice holy God who invites us to the sanctification of our lives: "For this is the will of God, your sanctification" (1 Thess 4:3). May the sacred liturgy celebrated in this important church lead all the people to a full, active and conscious participation. For the liturgy is the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful derive the true Christian spirit.

May the Sanctuary of Saint Lawrence be a centre where the people of Udupi and beyond have their faith confirmed through the worthy celebration of the sacred mysteries.

With every good wish and blessing, I am,

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Robert Card. Sarah
Prefect

His Excellency
Most Reverend Gerard Isaac LOBO
Bishop's House, UDUPI P.O. - 576 1001
KARNATAKA - INDIA



CONGREGATIO
PRO GENTIUM EVANGELIZATIONE

N. 2483/16

PROT. _____

11th July 2016

Your Excellency,

I am very happy to learn that the Holy Father Pope Francis has raised the Shrine of St. Lawrence, Attur-Karkala, in the Diocese of Udupi, to the rank of Minor Basilica, which will be solemnly proclaimed so on the 1st August 2016.

I wish to congratulate you, the Clergy, Religious and all the faithful of the Diocese of Udupi, and I pray that this time of celebration be a source of joy and blessing for all, and an occasion for a deep spiritual renewal and dedicated commitment to Christ Our Lord and His Church.

It is indeed a time to give thanks to God for the countless graces He has showered on thousands of pilgrims visiting the Shrine of St. Lawrence throughout the year, especially through the reception of the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, reflections on the Word of God and through the fervent recitation of the Rosary and other prayers.

May this occasion lead you to carry on the evangelizing mission with ever renewed fervour and dedication, which are very much demanded for in the Church in India as she faces the many present-day challenges. May St. Lawrence continue to intercede for you and protect you.

With cordial regards and every good wish, I remain,

Yours devotedly,

Most Reverend
Msgr. **Gerald I. LOBO**
Bishop of Udupi

UDUPI – 576 101

(via Apostolic Nunciature)



MESSAGE FROM THE APOSTOLIC NUNCIO

As the Representative of the His Holiness Pope Francis in India, I extend my felicitations and cordial greetings to Bishop, Priests, Religious and Faithful of the diocese of Udupi on the occasion of the elevation of the Sanctuary of St. Lawrence Church in Attur-Karkala, to the title of Minor Basilica on 1 August 2016.

I thank His Lordship Rt. Rev. Gerald Lobo for his kind invitation, to partake in the thanksgiving Eucharist. But unfortunately due to my previous schedules, I will not be able to be present for the event but in my prayers I will be close to each one of you.

As you gather to witness and experience God's love, together with Pope Francis I acclaim: "May this Church resound the message and sign of pardon, strength, aid, and love. Become the voice of every man and woman, and repeat confidently without end, 'Lord your steadfast love, remain forever'". (*Misericordiae Vultus (Face of Mercy)*), *Pope Francis' Bull of Indiction for the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy*).

As a sign of paternal affection from the Holy Father, hereby I send a chalice, for the occasion along with his Apostolic Blessing.

Through the intercession of your Patron Saint Lawrence and with the assurance of my prayers, I impart the Apostolic Blessing of Pope Francis

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio
Apostolic Nuncio