

VOX NOSTRA

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No. 8

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. SOLEMNITY OF ASSUMPTION AND INDEPENDENCE DAY

We celebrate the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady on Tuesday, 15 August 2017. The feast has its origin in the 5th Century. St Juvenal of Jerusalem stated as early as the Council of Chalcedon in 451 that Our Lady, after her death, was assumed body and soul into heaven. Pope Pius XII, on 1 November 1950, in *Munificentissimus Deus* officially defined the doctrine of the Assumption as an article of the Catholic Faith. He stated: “By the authority of Our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own authority, we pronounce, declare, and define as divinely revealed dogma: **The Immaculate Mother of God, Mary ever Virgin, after her life on earth, was assumed, body and soul to the glory of heaven.**” Since it is a **Day of Obligation** in India, I exhort Parish Priests to arrange necessary Masses so that the faithful are able to partake in the Holy Eucharist.

On the same day, as proud citizens of India, we celebrate the Independence Day of our nation. Although our country has achieved a lot during the 70 years since independence, we are aware of the problems faced by different sections of people in our society. Hence as we celebrate the Independence Day, let us join our fellow-citizens and strive to uphold the rights of all enshrined in the Constitution and work towards redeeming our country from all divisive forces. I wish you festal greetings of the Assumption and best wishes on the occasion of the Independence Day.

2. CIRCULAR ON THE BREAD AND WINE FOR THE EUCHARIST

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has issued a Circular to the Bishops on the **Bread and Wine for the Eucharist** on 15 June 2017, the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. The Circular reiterates that completely gluten-free hosts are invalid for celebration of the Eucharist. It urges bishops to look at ways to safeguard the validity of the bread and wine used for the celebration of the Eucharist and explains that because the bread and wine are no longer exclusively supplied by religious communities but “are also sold in supermarkets and other stores and even over the internet”, bishops should set up guidelines, an oversight body and/or even a form of certification to help “remove any doubt about the validity of the matter for the Eucharist”. It also underlies that every bishop “is bound to remind priests, especially parish priests and rectors of churches, of their responsibility to verify those who provide the bread and wine for the celebration and the worthiness of the material.”

In our Diocese, the bread and wine for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist is made available at the Bishop’s House with the Procurator. I recommend that all Parishes and Religious Houses procure the necessary bread and wine from the Bishop’s House. I also urge Parish Priests to guide the faithful properly whenever they come forward to offer bread and wine as offertory gifts during the Holy Eucharist. You will find the Circular as Annexure 1 on page 9.

3. FEAST OF ST JOHN MARY VIANNEY

We celebrate the feast of St John Vianney, the universal patron of Priests, on 4 August. St Vianney had his priesthood lived to the point where he truly became, more and more, day by day, “another Christ”. His priesthood brought him to a most exalted state. “Since the priest is important”, he wrote, “the priest will only be understood in heaven. If we were to understand him on this earth, we would die of love. After God, the priest is everything. Leave a parish without a priest for 20 years and beasts will be worshipped there.” No one has expressed

better than he how “frightful” it is to be a priest, to have the mandate to absolve people and to make God present in a host: “How a priest is to be pitied when he celebrates Mass as an ordinary event. How unfortunate is a priest without an inner life!”

As we celebrate the feast of St John Vianney, 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 priesthood becomes truly rewarding both for ourselves and for the people entrusted to our care. May St John Vianney intercede for us, all.

4. PRISON MINISTRY SUNDAY

The Prison Ministry Sunday is celebrated on 13 August this year. One of the important facets of Jesus’ Manifesto, as he proclaimed when he began his public ministry, was to ‘free the captives from prison.’ Prisoners have to be reformed morally, spiritually, socially and economically, so that on their discharge from prisons, they can become law-abiding citizens, useful to themselves and society. The Church in India under the banner **Prison Ministry India** strives earnestly to help the prisoners to experience the redeeming love of Jesus Christ through visits to them and also to their family members. Our diocesan Prison Ministry unit, under the guidance of Fr Francis Cornelio, also works towards the realization of the goals of Prison Ministry India. Let us extend our wholehearted cooperation to them and pray for their mission on this Sunday.

5. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The **International Day of Indigenous Peoples** is observed on 9 August every year, as decided by the United Nations General Assembly on 23 December 1994. The Commission for Tribal Affairs of CBCI has Bishop Vincent Barwa as the Chairman. The tribals in India with distinct socio-culture-language, tradition and history are part of Indian culture and civilization. But they are facing tough challenges to their physical, economic, social, political, environmental and cultural securities leading to tribal ‘Ethnocide’. They face systemic discrimination and

exclusion from political and economic power. They continue to be the poorest, the illiterate and the destitute. They are displaced by environmental disasters; are dispossessed of their ancestral lands and deprived of their resources for survival, both physical and cultural. It is therefore critical and urgent that the dignity, rights and needs of Tribals/ Indigenous peoples are discussed and addressed on a priority basis. Let us pray that the work of the Commission for Tribal Affairs may gain success as they work towards the cause of Tribals in India.

6. JUSTICE SUNDAY

The Justice Sunday this year falls on 20 August 2017, the Sunday after Independence Day. The CBCI Office for Justice, Peace and Development has chosen the theme : **Peace building through Active and Creative Non-Violence**. Each one of us is called to make a commitment to active and creative non-violence as a means of resolving human conflicts and all forms of social oppression. Pope Francis persuades us to dedicate ourselves prayerfully and actively to banishing violence from our hearts, words and deeds, and to become non-violent people and to build non-violent communities that care for our common home. He appeals us to cultivate nonviolence in our most personal thoughts and values. It is his ardent hope that nonviolence becomes the hallmark of our decisions, our relationships and our actions, and indeed of political life in all its forms. Let us pray that Justice and peace may prevail among all sections of our society and also support the work of Commission for Justice and Peace in our Diocese especially in establishing “Peace Committies” in our parishes.

7. PASTORAL CONSULTATION 2017

During the meeting of the Council of Priests held on 28 June 2017, it was proposed to hold the **Pastoral Consultation for two days on 28 and 29 August 2017**. I hereby approve these days and convoke the same so that the Committee appointed by the CP may go ahead with the necessary preparations. The details of the same are already provided to you in the report of the CP. The first day (28th) is reserved

for the theme: **Biblical Apostolate among Children, Youth and Adults.** On the second day (29th), the pastoral issues suggested by Deaneries and approved by the Agenda Committee will be dealt with and the annual General Body meeting of PWS also would be held on that day. I expect your whole-hearted support and active participation in this Consultation which definitely would help us streamline the Biblical Apostolate in our Diocese.

8. A WORD OF GRATITUDE

Our Annual Retreat, held from July 9 to 14, 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 Joseph Ivel Mendanha, CSsR, 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, Rev. Fr Peter D'Souza and his team, for making our stay comfortable and our retreat a pleasant spiritual experience at the Pastoral Institute, Mangalore.

9. CLERICAL APPOINTMENT

Rev. Fr Frederick D'Souza, Parish Priest, Christ Church, Manipal, has been assigned the additional responsibility of Spiritual Director of Society of St Vincent De Paul w.e.f. 06 July 2017.

10. DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2017

The new and updated Directory of our Diocese for the year 2017 is ready and available at Rs 75/- per copy at Divya Jyothi and with Fr Chetan Lobo at the Bishop's House.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ **Gerald Lobo**
Bishop of Udupi

COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

1. DIVYAJYOTHI

- 06/8/2017 Bible Sunday at Basroor
06/8/2017 Liturgical Seminar at Barkur
06/8/2017 OFEM at Kallianpur Deanery at Brahmavar – 2.30pm to 5.00pm
13/8/2017 Liturgical Seminar at Belman
13/8/2017 Youcat Training at Yuva Samagam- Karkal Attur
15/8/2017 Liturgical Seminar at Nakre – Children + Adults
17/8/2017 Lectors Training at Kalathur
20/8/2017 Bible Sunday at Basroor
20/8/2017 Youcat Training at Yuva Samagam- Belman
25/8/2017 Liturgical Seminar at Hirgan
25/8/2017 Youcat Training at Yuva Samagam- Kallianpur Cathedral
27/8/2017 Bible Sunday at Moodubelle
27/8/2017 Liturgical Seminar at Piusnagar

Fr Stephen D'Souza
Director

2. COMMISSION FOR SCCs

- 06.08.2017 Milagres Parish (Bible Mirror Method)
07.08.2017 Pamboor Parish (Bible Mirror Method)
13.08.2017 Parish SCC Commission members (Ayog) Kundapur
Deanery Convention
15.08.2017 Parish SCC Commission members (Ayog) Kundapur
Deanery Convention

17.08.2017 Bible Mirror Method -Basrur Parish.
18 to 25th National Resource Team (NRT) meeting at Calcutta.
27.08.2017 Bible Mirror Method - Byndoor Parish & Basrur Parish.

Fr Harold Pereira
Director

3. FAMILY COMMISSION

02 Aug Commissions members Training – Gangolli Parish 04
Aug Widow/Widower’s Day – Nakre Parish
06 Aug Proximate Preparation for Parish Youth – Belman Parish 13
Aug Proximate Preparation for Parish Youth – Giri Parish
20 Aug Diocesan level Couples for Christ Get-Together
24 Aug Talk on Amoris Latetia – Senet Meeting Mangalore Diocese 27
Aug Diocesan Level Resource Team Meet

Mr Leslie Arouza
Director

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