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Editorial

Come December and the world all over is abuzz with lots of activities like selling Christmas products, buying new dresses, exchanging greetings, gifts and cakes, merry-go-round and fun and frolic. There is a commercial side to Christmas: business and money oriented, secular and glamorous world in which its true gifts take a back seat and message gets either hidden or lost. But for the Church and us believers and followers, Christmas has its own unique, indispensable and irreplaceable charm, attraction and attachment which still leads us all to the Crib and Salvation history because with the Birth of Christ, darkness gave way to light, despair turned into hope, hatred transformed into love and strife and struggle brought in peace: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favours” (Lk 2:14).

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Is. 9:6). God’s Love has become tangible in Jesus Christ, by His birth Salvation has been assured, through His life Year of Peace is proclaimed and by His death the hope of new life (resurrection) has dawned. CHRISTMAS – the nativity of Jesus Christ is the momentum for us to live in peace and joy and love one another as He has loved us. There is every reason therefore to rejoice, be happy and truly celebrate Christmas.

May this celebration of Christmas usher in tidings of joy and peace in abundance in the hearts and lives of all and may the world be filled with them galore driving away unrest and uneasiness, poverty of egoism and selfishness and evils of sectarianism, division and fundamentalism.

Merry Christmas to you all and thank you for your support to VOXNOSTRA.

Fr Stephen D’Souza
Editor

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters:

1. DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

The annual diocesan Eucharistic procession held on the solemnity of Christ the King turned out to be a grand event of our devotion to our Eucharistic Lord and public manifestation of our faith in Him: the *Bread of Life* (Jn 6:36). That very day our beloved Holy Father Pope Francis concluded the Year of Mercy in a befitting ceremony in the Vatican; the ordinary liturgical year was over paving way for the holy season of Advent and the clergy, religious and lay faithful of this diocese gathered together in the campus of Mother of Sorrows Church in Udupi to proclaim Christ as the Universal King through the Eucharistic celebration, its adoration, solemn procession and benediction. My profound thanks to Very Rev. Fr Fred Mascarenhas the Parish Priest of Mother of Sorrows Church and Dean of Udupi deanery for his leadership in the meticulous planning and execution of this event; to the Assistant Parish Priest Rev. Fr Royson Fernandes for the support; for the collaboration extended by the Priests of the Udupi deanery; to the Organizing Committee members mainly drawn from the Udupi Parish and of other parishes of the deanery; the Udupi Church Parish Pastoral and Finance Council members and all those who closely and actively involved, cooperated, collaborated and joined hands selflessly and generously making this annual event a memorable one of holy and prayerful experience.

I have made a note of the presence and active participation of the laity in large numbers with great joy and happiness and I request you dear Parish Priests to convey my thanks and appreciation to your parishioners on my behalf.

As I place on record with a grateful heart for the support, goodwill and every assistance extended by the Organizing Committee under the leadership of the Parish Priest and Dean Fr Fred Mascarenhas and all from the Udupi Parish and the clergy, men and women religious and lay faithful of Udupi deanery and outside of it, I pray to the Eucharistic Lord to bless us all abundantly to continue to proclaim Him as the King of Kings and the Bread of our Life.

2. DALIT LIBERATION SUNDAY

The CBCI has invited us all to keep up the Dalit Liberation Sunday on 11 December 2016 to reflect on the theme: *Administer Justice daily! Deliver the Oppressed (Jer. 21:12)*. It is an occasion to celebrate the culture and history of the dalits, at the same time to show solidarity to them in their sufferings and struggles. It needs to be observed with the hope that God will never abandon His people especially the poor and the oppressed; those who are denied opportunities. He cares all of us equally. We are called to share this unity as the mystical body of Christ our Lord who shared His life and love for all without any discrimination. Let this day be a day of unity in the Church in India promoting peace and love of the gifts of the Holy Spirit on this earth. I request for prayers for this cause and a special intention during the Holy Masses to be celebrated that day so that religious freedom is respected in our secular India and justice is rendered to the affected people thereby showing our solidarity to our Dalit sisters and brothers.

3. MISSION SUNDAY COLLECTION

It is very heartening to note the mission consciousness of our faithful: the clergy, religious and the laity the way Mission Sunday is celebrated and kept; truly, words can ever express this consciousness adequately. In most of the parishes, the collection drive takes place throughout the year through mission box collection from every family. The generosity of the people is overwhelmingly demonstrated on the day set aside for the missions through offerings, food festivals and auctioning events. Our priests all over the Diocese have taken such a leadership motivating respective parishioners and animating them to donate generously that the collection this year has increased by rupees over ten lakhs as compared to last year and the total Mission Sunday collection this year stands at ‘ 67,22,234 as compared to ‘ 55,43,495 of last year. I thank you dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters for your all out effort and support in generating such a huge collection for the missions and above all enthusing your parishioners of our responsibility to pray and work for the mission to proclaim God’s command and witness to His Word. Please convey my heartfelt thanks to your dear parishioners for their generosity and mission consciousness in a big way. May God bless you all.

4. ELECTION TO THE STATUTORY BODIES

I am sure that elections are being held in all parishes for the various Statutory Bodies as per the new Constitution which came into effect from 01 November 2016. Please constitute new Bodies of PPC and PFC by 15 December 2016 and send the list of names of these bodies to me for approval so that the new term can begin from 01 January 2017 and they function as per the Constitution on time. I do understand the work and effort involved in this exercise on the part of the Parish clergy. I appreciate very much your goodwill and cooperation. Thanks very much.

5. NEW PRESBYTERY AT PANGALA PARISH

The newly constructed presbytery at St John the Evangelist Church was inaugurated on 19 November 2016 and blessed by me after a meaningful Eucharistic celebration held in the said Church. A thanksgiving formal function followed the inauguration and blessing ceremony after which lunch was served to all. The parishioners under the leadership of the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils came forward to put up the presbytery on their own and contributed in a big way in the realization of this project which needs to be appreciated. I thank the Parish Priest Rev. Fr Leslie D'Souza for his all out effort and leadership; support given by Rev. Fr Vincent Coelho the Principal and the PPC and PFC for their enthusiasm, cooperation and every assistance provided in the realization of this project and for giving the parish clergy a decent and worthy home which was a long felt need. May God bless the Parish community of Pangala Parish for its goodwill towards their priests and their welfare.

6. 2017 – YEAR OF THE “WORD OF GOD”

As proposed by the Council of Priests in its last meeting held on 21-10-2016 I am pleased to declare 2017 as the Year of *Lexio Divina*: Year of the Word of God in this Diocese. The manner in which this Year needs to be celebrated in all parishes will be chalked out by *Divya*

Jyothi and informed to you in due course of time. I need not emphasize the importance of the study, reflection and life-experience of God's Word in the life of every believer/Christian since the Church exists and is established to proclaim it and also witness as is the command of the Lord Jesus and hence it shall be our honest endeavour to make this Year of *Lexio Divina* a Year of thorough study of the Bible through seminars, classes, catechesis and group discussions, its meditation through Bible service and homilies and live, promote and witness to it through life-experience.

7. CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters, Happy Christmas! Christ, the Saviour of the world is born for us and hence let us rejoice in the day of our salvation. "Let us open our hearts to receive the grace of this day, which is Christ himself. Jesus is the radiant day• which has dawned on the horizon of humanity. "A day of mercy in which God our Father has revealed his great tenderness to the entire world. A day of light, which dispels the darkness of fear and anxiety. A day of peace, which makes for encounter, dialogue and, above all, reconciliation. A day of joy: a great joy• for the poor, the lowly and for all the people" (cf. Lk 2:10) (Pope Francis). Christmas is an event which is renewed in every family, parish and community which receives the love of God made incarnate in Jesus Christ. Where God is born, peace is born. And where peace is born, there is no longer room for hatred and for war. Where God is born, hope is born; and where hope is born, persons regain their dignity. May our closeness today be felt by those who are most vulnerable in our society. Where God is born, mercy flourishes. Mercy is the most precious gift which God gives us and in which we are called to discover that tender love of our heavenly Father for each of us. Today, then, let us together rejoice in the day of our salvation. As we contemplate the Crib, let us gaze on the open arms of Jesus, which show us the merciful embrace of God. May the Babe born at Bethlehem shower upon you all His Peace, Joy and Love in abundance and may you have a holy and blessed Christmas, i.e., my wish and prayer for you.

Invoking God's plentiful graces and blessings upon you during this holy season of Advent, with greatest joy in my heart and happiness, I wish you merry Christmas.

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Gerald I. Lobo
Bishop of Udupi

IMPORTANT DAYS TO NOTE IN DECEMBER

08 December – Pro-life Day:

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Bl. Virgin Mary will be celebrated as the Pro-life day.

10 December – International Human Rights Day:

The earth belongs to all and all have a right to live as per the Plan of the Creator.

18 December – International Migrant Workers Day:

Our hearts go out to those who are jobless, displaced, destabilized and shunned due to ethnic and language, colour and faith differences and so also our prayers.

EARMARKED COLLECTIONS

Place	Seminary Formation	Nativity	Mission Sunday
Kallianpur, Milagres	14,130	18,573	1,25,100
Ajekar	4,000	11,500	1,10,000
Barkur	8,240	18,606	66,100
Basrur	10,150	18,800	2,02,000
Belle	13,503	23,645	8,35,700
Belman	14,860	13,821	2,00,000
Belve	1,360	1,370	18,000
Brahmavar	11,700	20,900	1,19,150
Byndoor	6,300	8,200	71,000
Gangolli		9,217	45,080
Giri	5,712	8,522	1,03,232
Hirgan	2,876	8,100	1,12,000
Kalathur	2,880	3,120	58,000
Kallianpur	12,070	22,630	1,01,346
Kalmady	4,535	5,515	45,000
Kanajar	5,875	8,056	4,20,348
Karkal- Attur	27,180	11,840	4,00,000
Karkal Town	8,113	18,043	2,10,000
Katapadi	11,079	14,880	1,32,720
Kelmbet	2,098	3,635	40,040
Kemman	4,822	13,246	98,275
Kenha Mudarangadi	4,856	8,000	80,000
Kota	2,875	4,130	20,200
Koteswar	1,795	4,260	24,210
Kundapur	12,088	19,060	1,04,340
Kuntalnagar	3,211	6,640	2,10,000
Manipal	14,200	14,400	67,000

Place	Seminary Formation	Nativity	Mission Sunday
Miyar	5,820	13,600	70,294
Mukamar	3,232	3,920	62,222
Mundkur	3,577	2,648	24,034
Nakre	5,512	7,954	2,56,602
Padukone	3,510	9,400	38,450
Palimar	2,170	4,480	70,000
Pamboor	5,418	10,635	91,760
Pangala	11,838	17,685	2,70,268
Parapady	1,211	2,486	37,091
Perampally	5,400	9,400	1,45,410
Pernal	4,233	6,172	44,900
Pethri	2,207	3,286	16,462
Piusnagar	7,444	11,835	75,000
Sastan	12,501	20,419	70,000
Shirva	20,274	32,425	2,38,000
Tallur	5,186	10,102	47,443
Thottam	7,240	14,368	2,00,000
Trasi	6,680	8,700	38,500
Udupi	22,586	34,222	6,40,000
Udyavar	13,220	24,000	1,60,000
Yermal	1,600	2,700	40,000
Kerekatte	1,240	2,320	2,885
Kera	1,080	1,860	21,500
Kandlur	1,230	2,232	25,252
Ozanam Home Kallianpur			6,320
Minor Seminary Belle			8,000
Salesian Sisters, Shirva			3,000
	3,64,917	5,75,558	67,22,234



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