

VOX NOSTRA

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Dear Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters,

1. SEASON OF ADVENT

On Sunday, 02 December 2018, the Catholic Church all over the world begins the holy season of Advent which will culminate in the joyful celebration of the Solemnity of the birth of our Lord. The emphasis of this season remains on the coming of our Lord. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* stresses the two-fold meaning of this coming: “When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor’s birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: “He must increase, but I must decrease” (CCC, 524).

I earnestly appeal to you, dear Fathers, to make this holy season of Advent a period of grace and blessings to your parishioners by inviting each of them to reflect on the beauty of Advent and prepare themselves, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to experience the peace and joy of the Divine Babe of Bethlehem.

2. BLESSING OF THE BUILDING SITE OF PASTORAL CENTRE

The building site of our Pastoral Centre at Ambagilu (beside the road adjacent to Renault show room) near Udupi was blessed by me on Tuesday, 27 November 2018, in the presence of representatives of clergy, religious and laity of our Diocese. I request you to kindly inform

your parishioners about the project and also encourage generous donors and people of good will to contribute their mite towards the same so that we are able to complete the construction in time.

3. NEW COUNCIL OF PRIESTS

Since the present Council of Priests will complete its term of three years on 31 December 2018, we have to conduct elections for the new Council of Priests which will be convoked in January 2019. I hereby request all the concerned to conduct elections as the per the Statutes governing the Council of Priests of Udupi Diocese for the membership so that I have the names of new members to the Council of Priests on or before **24 December 2018**.

4. YEAR OF THE YOUTH - 2019

The meeting of the Council of Priests held on 24 October 2018 has proposed that we dedicate the year 2019 for the youth in our Diocese. The Diocesan Youth Commission has been entrusted with the responsibility of chalking out a plan for the year and the same will be communicated to you in due time. Please go through the letter from the Synod Fathers to Young People issued at the end of the Synod on Youth held in October 2018 given as annexure 1 on page 6.

5. MEETING OF RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS

The meeting of the Religious Superiors of our Diocese will be held on **Sunday, 16 December 2018**, from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm at Bishop's House, Udupi. I request you to consider this as my personal invitation and attend the meeting without fail. Please note that we won't be sending a separate letter of invitation to this meeting.

6. WILSON OLIVERANITE

In order to raise funds for the Pastoral Centre of our Diocese, St Mary's Konkan Community (SMKC), Dubai, in association with the

Indian Catholic Youth Movement (ICYM) of our Diocese, will organize Wilson Olivera Nite on **Sunday, 03 March 2019**, at Mission Compound Grounds, Udupi. The units of ICYM in all parishes have shown keen interest and have initiated the work to mobilize funds for our Diocesan projects through this Nite. I request all parish priests to make an announcement in this regard, inform the faithful and support and encourage the youth in their parish.

7. THE FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY – FAMILY DAY

The feast of the Holy Family this year will be celebrated on Sunday, 30 December 2018. The Feast of the Holy Family is a liturgical celebration in honor of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as a family. The primary purpose of this feast is to present the **Holy Family as a model for Christian families**. Christ, Himself showed His devotion to His mother and foster father by submitting Himself, with infinite humility, to the duty of filial obedience towards them. Pope Francis says: “Every family should look to the icon of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Its daily life had its share of burdens and even nightmares, as when they met with Herod’s implacable violence. This last was an experience that, sad to say, continues to afflict the many refugee families who in our day feel rejected and helpless. Like the Magi, our families are invited to contemplate the Child and his Mother, to bow down and worship him” (AL 30). He invites us to celebrate this feast as the **Day of Families**. Therefore, I exhort all parish priests to celebrate the feast emphasizing the role of families in the Church.

8. DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

The annual Diocesan Eucharistic Procession held on the solemnity of Christ the King, 25 November 2018, from Mount Rosary Church to Milagres Cathedral turned out to be a grand event of our devotion to our Eucharistic Lord and public manifestation of our faith in him. My profound thanks to Very Rev. Fr Dr Lawrence D’Souza, the Rector of

Milagres Cathedral and the Dean of Kallianpur Deanery, and Rev. Fr Dr Leslie D'Souza, Parish Priest of Mount Rosary Church, all priests and Parish Pastoral Councils, Volunteers and other members of Kallianpur Deanery for their leadership in the meticulous planning and implementation of this event. I remain grateful to all parish priests for contributing financially towards the expenses as a sign of unity and solidarity.

I have made a note of the presence and active participation of the laity in large numbers with great joy and happiness. I request you, dear Parish Priests, to convey my appreciation and thanks to your parishioners on my behalf. I pray to the Eucharistic Lord to bless us, all, abundantly to continue to proclaim Jesus as the King of Kings and the Bread of our Life.

9. CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Christmas is a blessed season of the year. It is also a busy time for most of us. It is my hope and prayer that we may not become so caught up in the pressures of the season that we place our emphasis on the wrong things and miss the simple joys of commemorating the birth of the Holy One of Bethlehem. We find the real joy of Christmas when we make the Savior the focus of the season. Born in a stable, cradled in a manger, He came forth from heaven to live on earth as a mortal man and establish the kingdom of God. His glorious gospel reshaped the thinking of the world. He lived and died for us. What can we, in return, give to Him?

Our celebration of Christmas should be a reflection of the love and selflessness taught by the Savior. Giving, not getting, brings to full bloom the Christmas spirit. We reach out in love to help the less fortunate. Our hearts are softened, enemies forgiven, friends remembered and God obeyed. The spirit of Christmas illuminates the picture window of the soul, and we look out upon the world's busy life and become more interested in people than things. To catch the real meaning of the spirit of Christmas, we need only drop the last syllable, and it becomes the Spirit of Christ.

As the Christmas season envelops us with all its glory, may we, as did the Wise Men, seek a bright, particular star to guide us in our celebration of the

Savior's birth. May we all make the journey to Bethlehem in spirit, taking with us a tender, caring heart as our gift to the Savior. May you have a joy-filled Christmas!

Yours Sincerely in Christ

+ 

+ Gerald I. Lobo

COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

1. DIVYAJYOTHI

- 01/12/2018 Bible Commission Parish Conveners' Meeting
at 3.00 pm at Bishop's House
- 16/12/2018 Kallianpur Deanery Bible Commission Members'
meeting at 3.00 pm at Milagres Cathedral

2. COMMISSION FOR SCCS

- 02.12.2018 SCC Sunday at Yermal Parish & SCC Sunday at Shirva
Parish.

Rev. Fr Harold Pereira
Director

3. COMMISSION FOR ECUMENEISM

- 17/12/2018 Shirva Deanery Ecumenical Christmasgathering.

Rev. Fr Harold Pereira
Director

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Email: voxnostaeditor@gmail.com

Editor: **Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza**

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