

VOX NOSTRA

Vol IX

DECEMBER 2021

No. 12

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. ANNUAL CLERGY RETREAT

The **Annual Retreat** for the clergy of the Diocese will be held in the Pastoral Centre of the Diocese of Mangalore. The retreat begins at 06.30 pm on Sunday, 05 December 2021 with an introductory conference and will end with lunch on Friday, 10 December 2021. Please be in time. The preacher is Rev. Fr Gregory Pinto, SVD, Mumbai. I request you to bring your alb, cincture and stole for the concelebration at Mass and your personal Mass Diary (not the Parish Mass Register) for my scrutiny. The annual retreat is a compulsory spiritual exercise which is a God-given opportunity for us, priests, to come together to pray, meditate and celebrate the Holy Eucharist and enrich ourselves with the God-experience. I request those who do not join this Diocesan retreat to bring your personal mass diary for my scrutiny at Bishop's House before 31 December 2021.

2. BLESSING OF RETIRED PRIESTS' HOME- 'MILAGRES HOME'

We have a reason to rejoice! In January 2022, we will be blessing two much-needed and much-awaited projects of our Diocese. The blessing of the newly constructed Retired Priests' Home, named as '**MILAGRES HOME**' for the priests of Udupi Diocese will be held on Thursday, 06 January 2021 at 09.30 am at the premises of Milagres Home, Kallianpur. Thereafter, a formal programme of felicitating the donors will be held in the Milagres Tri-centenary Hall of Milagres Cathedral, Kallianpur. It is a time to thank God for his benevolence towards the completion of this project and

thank all the donors for their generous contribution. I cordially invite all priests to mark this date and be present on this joyful occasion for the blessing and the felicitation programme that concludes with lunch.

3. BLESSING OF PASTORAL CENTRE- 'ANUGRAHA' The blessing of the newly-constructed Pastoral Centre, named 'ANUGRAHA', will be held on Thursday, 13 January 2021 at 09.30 am at the premises of Pastoral Centre, Ambagilu, Udupi. The formal programme of felicitating the donors will be held thereafter in the premises. It is a time to thank God for His blessings towards the completion of this project and thank all the donors for their generous contribution. The Pastoral Centre will house all the offices of the Diocesan Pastoral Commissions and will be a centre for the formation for the priests, religious and laity. I cordially invite all priests to mark this date and be present on this joyful occasion of the blessing and the felicitation programme that concludes with lunch.

4. CONFESSIONS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

Since the arrival of the pandemic of Corona Virus last year, the administering of the Sacrament of Confession was limited to only necessary cases to maintain sufficient social distance between the confessor and penitent. The usual practice of arranging the confessions for the parishioners before important liturgical solemnities could not be held in our parishes. Therefore, since the situation is now conducive to arrange Confessions for children and adults in the Advent season before Christmas, please catechize the parishioners on the importance of this sacrament and the need of returning to the Sacrament of Confession and also to begin frequenting this Sacrament often.

5. THE COUNCIL OF PRIESTS: 2022–2024

The membership in the Council of Priests is for a period of three years (cf. Constitution of the Council of Priests, no. X (1). The previous Council began its term in January 2019.

Having done the new elections and appointments to the Council as per norms, I decree that the previous Council of Priests is hereby dissolved with effect from December 31, 2021. I thank the members for their

suggestions, cooperation and pastoral initiatives during their term in the Council.

I am pleased to approve the new Council of Priests (2022-2024) comprising the following members and decree that this new Council shall come into effect from January 01, 2022, for three years:

6 NEW CONSULTOR

Since Rev. Fr Lawrence D'Souza, Karkal-Town, has expressed his inability to continue as the member of the College of Consultors for health reasons, in his place, Rev. Fr Ferdinand Gonsalves, Parish Priest, Pangala, has been appointed Consultor for the remaining term of the present College of Consultors. We wholeheartedly thank Rev. Fr Lawrence D'Souza for his services as the Consultor and convey our best wishes to Rev. Fr Ferdinand Gonsalves.

7 CLOSING OF THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

The diocesan level closing of the year of St Joseph will be held at St Joseph Church, Belman, with a solemn thanksgiving mass at 08.00 am on **Sunday, 05 December 2021**. Closing of the Year of St Joseph doesn't mean that we can't continue growing in devotion to him. While we remain grateful to Pope Francis for this special year of St Joseph, we hope that the new awareness, closeness and devotion that we developed towards St Joseph during this year of St Joseph, continue to inspire us in the years to come too. May St Joseph continue to intercede for us, all.

8 INAUGURATION OF THE DIOCESAN PHASE

The official inauguration of the Diocesan Phase of the Cause of the Servant of God, Fr Alfred Roche, OFMCap., will be held during the mass at 10.00 am on **Monday, 27 December 2021** at Holy Family Church, Brahmavar. We rejoice on this important event in the annals of our local church and pray that the diocesan process that we begin may be an occasion to experience the grace of God bestowed on the Servant of God, Fr Alfred Roche, during his life and ministry as an ordained minister in the vineyard of the Lord.

9. PASTORAL VISITS

The pastoral visits to the parishes of Karkal and Shirva deaneries will be held next year, 2022. While a few parish priests have already fixed the dates of pastoral visit for their parish, I request all the remaining parish priests to meet me and fix the dates of pastoral visit to your parish before **31 December 2021**.

10. THE FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY – FAMILY DAY

The feast of the Holy Family this year will be celebrated on Sunday, 26 December 2021, and the Church invites us to celebrate this feast as the **Day of Families**. Setting the Holy Family as the model for Christian families, Pope Francis says: “The covenant of love and fidelity lived by the Holy Family of Nazareth illuminates the principle which gives shape to every family, and enables it better to face the vicissitudes of life and history. On this basis, every family, despite its weaknesses, can become a light in the darkness of the world.” (Amoris Laetitia, #66). In the face of the multitude of challenges faced by the Catholic families at present, let us highlight and appreciate the contribution of families in the mission of the Church, and also accompany the families through our pastoral care by visiting and praying with/for them in their homes without any discrimination, supporting them financially, emotionally and spiritually in their struggles, and thus ensure the closeness of the Church in their daily lives.

11. MINISTRY BY DEACONS

God has blessed us with two deacons this year and, after their completion of seminary studies, they have begun their diaconal ministry in the Udupi Diocese. Deacon Leo Praveen D’Souza and Deacon Pradeep Cardoza have begun their ministry on 15 October 2021 in Kolalgiri and Attur, Karkal parishes respectively. We convey our best wishes to them in their pastoral ministry in the respective parishes.

12. CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

We are in the season of Advent which culminates in the celebration of the birthday of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ. Christmas has always

been a time of joyful celebration all over the world, irrespective of the people's faith traditions. The celebration has a flavor of tradition and newness in our community, which includes preparation and sharing of Kuswar, singing of Christmas carols and visiting houses in the parish, preparing cribs at homes and the festive celebrations at the parish level with new and colourful dresses at Christmas and the season of Christmas.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us remember the mercy of God towards us throughout this year. May this feast be an occasion for all of us to experience the joy and peace of God's benevolence. May this feast fill us and our parishioners with joy, peace and new hope amid the gloom of the pandemic. I wish you, dear Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters and all brothers and sisters in the Diocese, a blessed Christmas. Do convey my Christmas greetings to your parishioners and family members. Let us continue to trust in the Lord. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, you may abound in hope" (Rom 15:13) is my prayer for you.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ **Gerald Isaac Lobo**

OBITUARY

Mrs Mary Veigas (86 yrs) M/o of Rev. Fr Sunil Veigas, Rector, St Antony's Shrine, Kerekatte passed away on 30 October 2021 and the funeral was held on 2 November 2021 at St Sebastian Church, Permannur

Mrs Theresa Dsouza (82 yrs) , M/o Rev. Fr Alban D'Souza, Rector, St Lawrence Basilica, Attur, Karkal, passed away on 19 November 2021 and the funeral was held on 20 November 2021 at St John Evangelist Church, Pangla/Shankerpura.

MAY GOD GRANT THEM ETERNAL REST

RUBY JUBILEE OF ORDINATION

Rev. Fr Roman Mascarenhas,
Spiritual Director, Attur, Karkal

- 10-12-2021

Congratulations and Best wishes Dear Rev. Father

INTENTION OF POPE FRANCIS FOR DECEMBER 2021

Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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