

VOX NOSTRA

Vol X

DECEMBER 2022

No. 12

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. SEASON OF ADVENT

We have already begun the season of the Advent, the season of spiritual preparation for the celebration of the solemnity of the birth of our Lord. The preparations should focus deeper, spiritual, and inward rather than merely external. The four Sundays of Advent have specific themes for each Sunday, the purpose of which is to reflect on the true meaning of the season - the life of Jesus Christ. I exhort all parish priests to organize the liturgy, especially of Sundays during the season of Advent, more meaningfully expounding the themes of Advent so that the faithful are truly prepared for the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord. I specially urge the parish priests to organize at least a half-day retreat in parishes at a convenient day in Advent. Do organize confessions and other spiritual exercises in your parishes and exhort the adults, youth and children to participate in them and prepare their hearts to receive Jesus. While celebrating the liturgy during Advent, please pay attention to the liturgical norms appropriate to the season and catechize the faithful so that they are able to distinguish between the different seasons of the liturgical year and appreciate its importance in their Christian life.

2. THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY – FAMILY DAY

The feast of the Holy Family this year will be celebrated on Friday, 30 December 2022. 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, supporting them and ensuring the closeness of the Church in their daily lives.

3. ICSE RECOGNITION TO LOURDES ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL, KANAJAR

With immense joy, we inform you that **Lourdes English Medium School, Kanajar** has been recognized as an ICSE Board School. The school has fulfilled all the criteria prescribed by the ICSE Board. This is the first school under CESU in Udupi Diocese to receive this recognition. I wholeheartedly congratulate and thank the Correspondent, Rev. Fr Vishal Lobo, Principal, and the Parishioners of Kanajar on this great achievement.

4. CONSTITUTION OF DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCILS

As already informed in November 2022, the new Deanery Pastoral Councils should be formed before **15 January 2023**. I request the Deans of all five Deaneries to constitute the Deanery Pastoral Councils, elect the Secretaries and Deanery Conveners of all 20 commissions and send us the details by 20 January 2023.

5. CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF 2022

As per the statutes of the PPC, the Coordinators of the 20 Commissions' of the parishes should compile a consolidated report of the activities in the year 2022 of the 20 commissions in the parish in the prescribed format and send the same to the Diocese. I request the parish priests to remind the present Coordinator of 20 Commissions in parishes to compile this report in two copies and send one to us and another to Rev. Fr Harold Pereira, Diocesan Coordinator of the 20 Commissions, on or before **20 December 2022**.

6. RE-ELECTION OFFICE BEARERS OF CCBI

His Eminence Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrão (69), Archbishop of Goa and Daman, was re-elected the President of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) by the 33rd Plenary Assembly held at St John's National Institute of Health Sciences, Bangalore, from 11 to 12 November, 2022. Most Rev. Dr George Antonysamy, (69), Archbishop of Madras- Mylapore and Most Rev. Dr Anil Joseph Thomas Couto (68), Archbishop of Delhi, were also re-elected Vice President and Secretary General of CCBI respectively. We convey our hearty congratulations to the office-bearers of CCBI and convey our best wishes to them in their responsibilities.

7. NEW OFFICE BEARERS OF CBCI

The 35th General Body Meeting of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) at St John's National Academy of Health Sciences in Bengaluru, on 10 November 2022, elected Archbishop Mar Andrews Thazhath, Metropolitan head of Thrissur, the new President of the CBCI. Archbishop George Antonysamy, Metropolitan

Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore (Latin) was elected the first vice-president of the CBCI. Bishop Mar Joseph Thomas, Bishop of the Eparchy of Batheri (Malankara), was elected the second Vice-President of CBCI. Archbishop Felix Machado, Bishop of Vasai, was re-elected the Secretary General of the CBCI. We convey our hearty congratulations to the new office-bearers of CBCI and convey our best wishes to them in their responsibilities.

8. DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

The annual Diocesan Eucharistic Procession, held on the solemnity of Christ the King, 20 November 2022, from Milagres Cathedral to Mount Rosary Church, turned out to be a grand event of our devotion to our Eucharistic Lord and public manifestation of our faith in him. In addition to the Eucharistic Procession, we also had Decennial Celebration of our Diocese in a modest yet meaningful way especially by founding a Diocesan Medical Fund to assist our sick brothers and sisters of our Diocese. My profound thanks to Very Rev. Fr Valerian Mendonca, Rector of Milagres Cathedral and Dean of Kallianpur Deanery, and Rev. Fr Dr Roque D'Souza, Parish Priest of Mount Rosary Church, all the 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.

9. CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Christmas has always been a time of joyful celebration all over the world, irrespective of the people's faith-traditions. The celebration has a flavour 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 and Stars 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. 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 I. Lobo

Published at **Bishop's House, Udupi - 576 101**

Email: voxnostaeditor@gmail.com

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

(For **Private circulation only**)