

VOX NOSTRA

Vol VII

DECEMBER 2019

No. 12

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. SEASON OF ADVENT

On Sunday, 01 December 2019, the Catholic Church all over the world begins the holy season of Advent which will conclude 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. **THE FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY – FAMILY DAY**

The feast of the Holy Family this year will be celebrated on **Sunday, 29 December 2019**. 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.

3. **ORDERS FOR THE NEW KONKANI MISSAL- REMINDER**

In the last issue of *Vox Nostra* I had asked to place your orders for New Konkani Missal and related books before 20 November 2019. I am informed that some parishes and convents have not yet placed their orders with Divya Jyothi. I wish that every parish possesses two copies and the convents possess at least one copy of this new Konkani Missal. Hence, I request you to place your orders before 10

December 2019. The orders placed after that date will not be entertained and the pre-publication prices won't be applied to when you order in the future.

HOUSES FOR THE POOR PROJECT – YEAR 2020

As you are aware, Pope Francis often speaks about a Church that is in service of the poor, and in order to bring awareness among the faithful about this cause, he established the **World Day of Poor** on the penultimate Sunday of the Liturgical Year. We have celebrated the third World Day of Poor last month. "The poor are the Church's treasure because they give every Christian a chance to "speak the same language as Jesus, that of love," Pope Francis said, celebrating Mass for the World Day of the Poor 2019. "The poor are precious in the eyes of God," he said, "because they know they are not self-sufficient and know they need help. They remind us that that's how you live the Gospel, like beggars before God." "So," the Pope said, "instead of being annoyed when they knock on our doors, we can welcome their cry for help as a call to go out of ourselves, to welcome them with the same loving gaze God has for them."

Heeding the call of Pope Francis, to facilitate concrete action in serving the poor, we have decided to construct houses for the faithful of our Diocese who have their own land, but do not have a proper house to live in. This would be the focus in the year 2020 and each parish, under the leadership of Society of St Vincent De Paul in association with Sampada, shall prepare the project as per the need of the parish, mobilize the funds and implement the project

during the year. Please inform this to your parishioners and ask them to cooperate with the Society of St Vincent De Paul and Sampada in this noble cause of constructing houses for the poor.

4. APPOINTMENT

Fr Ivan Joy Martis, newly ordained priest, has been appointed as Asst. Priest at St Joseph Church, Belman w.e.f 23 November 2019. We wish him all the best as he begins his priestly ministry in our Diocese. He can be contacted at 9663136458.

5. DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

The annual Diocesan Eucharistic Procession held on the solemnity of Christ the King, 24 November 2019, from Milagres Cathedral to Mount Rosary Church was a grand event of our devotion to our Eucharistic Lord and a 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 thank Brahmavar parish for the elegant float prepared to take the Blessed Sacrament in procession. 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.

6. CONSTRUCTION OF RETIRED PRIESTS' HOME

We are happy to inform you that the construction work of the much-awaited Retired Priests' Home at Kallianpur has begun on 18 November 2019 and the work is going on in full swing. I kindly request you to remember this cause in your prayers so that the work may be completed in time.

7. CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

December has arrived and, with it, all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? It is a feast of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels shared in the excitement of knowing His birth. They knew that this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had foretold of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

Why did He come? Why did God send His son to this, sometimes cruel and hard, world? He sent Jesus to us so that one day, He would grow up to become a very important part of history. His story is one of truth, love, and hope. It brought

salvation to all of us. Without Jesus, we would all die in our sins.

We can truly be happy at Christmas! No matter what happens, we can know that we are His children. We become the sons and daughters of God. Heaven will be our home one day. Look at Christmas in a new way this year. This is the year to invite Jesus into your heart. You will then have a 'Blessed Christmas'. May the joy and peace of the Divine Babe reign in our hearts throughout the new year.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ Gerald Isaac Lobo
Bishop of Udupi

COMMISSION FOR FAMILY

- 08 Dec Marriage Enrichment Programme,
Modankap Parish
- 14&15 Dec Marriage Preparation Course
- 15 Dec Couples for Christ Formation - Diocesan
Level get together
- 21&22 Dec Marriage Preparation Course

Mr Leslie Arouza
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