

VOX NOSTRA

Vol XI

FEBRUARY 2023

No. 2

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. SEASON OF LENT

Ash Wednesday this year will be celebrated on 22 February 2023 which marks the beginning of the holy season of Lent. Lent is a time of preparation for the celebration of Easter. The liturgy prepares the catechumens for the celebration of the paschal mystery by the various stages of Christian initiation: it also prepares the faithful, who recall their baptism and do penance in preparation for Easter (*LY 27*). It is heartening to note that our faithful do enter this season with great devotion, reverence and faith. They participate with devotion and enthusiasm in Lenten exercises. Hence, I exhort the Parish Priests to continue to organize the usual para-liturgical devotions in practice during Lent and promote them: Daily Way of the Cross, reading of the Passion narrative, its reflection and meditation in families uniting themselves to the suffering, passion, and death of Jesus Christ. All external pomp and celebrations may be toned down and acts of penance, fast and abstinence may be announced. I take this occasion to wish all of you, dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters, a holy and prayerful season of Lent.

2. DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE

We celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord on 02 February 2023. This celebration commemorates the presentation of Jesus by Blessed Virgin Mary, His mother, to the Lord in the Temple. The liturgy of the day invites us to organize the blessing of candles and the faithful coming into the Church in a procession, holding lighted candles in their hands, proclaiming Christ as the light of the world.

The Church invites us to celebrate this day as the Day of the Consecrated Life. I request you, dear Fathers, to apprise your faithful of the significance of the Consecrated Life that is set apart for God in the Church which needs to be promoted, encouraged, and appreciated because the Religious Men and Women, being an integral part of the Church, play a very constructive role in building the Church and the People of God. On my part, I express my gratitude and appreciation to all Religious Men and Women who are rendering their dedicated services in the diocese of Udupi as per their charisms, contributing thereby to the growth of our local Church. Let us keep all of them in our prayers.

3. MISSIONARY HOLY CHILDHOOD DAY

The second Sunday of February, this year the 12th, is celebrated as the Missionary Holy Childhood Day. The aims of the Missionary Childhood Association are: 1. To meet the spiritual and material needs of all children, so that they can live worthily as true children of God. 2. To sensitize children regarding the needs of others by teaching them the value of solidarity and mutual support. 3. To instil a missionary spirit in children that will accompany them throughout their lives, regardless of whether God will guide them towards lay or religious lives, making them valid and responsible members of society. I exhort all parish priests who had established Missionary Childhood Associations in their parishes to rejuvenate them and help the children in their contribution in their own tiny way to the mission of the church. I hereby appeal to all of you to motivate them further to be effective signs of the Church's mission by organizing activities and celebrations that will suit their age and enthusiasm.

4. WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

February 11 is the World Day of the Sick, an observation started by Pope St John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses. The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes. People around the world take time to pray for the sick and those who work hard to alleviate the sufferings of the sick on this day. Faith-organizations mark this day especially, to provide the sick with medicines, food, and spiritual guidance. Let us all be solicitous towards the plight of our

sick and suffering brethren in our parishes and, above all, in our own families, and make it a point to care for them and alleviate their pain and suffering as much as we can.

5. ANNUAL FEAST OF ST LAWRENCE BASILICA

The five days of festivities of St Lawrence Basilica which began with traditional gaiety, prayer and solemnity on 22 January 2023 were concluded on 26 February 2023 with great joy and gratitude, thanks to the continuous protection of St Lawrence, the wonder-worker, and incessant mercy and blessings of God, our Heavenly Father. While the five-day celebrations which were meticulously planned by the Shrine Basilica Management Committee, the flow of devotees and pilgrims was so peaceful, devotional and reverential that St Lawrence truly worked wonders in Attur attracting pilgrims year after year to himself whose number has been steadily increasing. I thank Very Rev. Fr Alban D’Souza, Rector of St Lawrence Basilica, Spiritual Father Rev. Fr Roman Mascarenhas, Fr Ashwin Rebello, SVD, and members of the Attur PFC and PPC for their all-out efforts and dedication before, during as well as after the celebrations; the five deans of our deaneries and their deanery priests – diocesan and religious for their presence, support and, above all, service at the confessional; the clergy of the diocese of Mangalore and from our neighbouring dioceses and the religious priests from various congregations for helping us at the confessional; Rev. Deacons (diocesan and religious) for helping at the liturgical celebrations; and post novices for their continuous presence and assistance at the shrine. May God bless you, all, and may St Lawrence intercede for you always.

6. TRAINING OF PPC MEMBERS AT DEANERY LEVEL

We have completed the constituting of new parish pastoral councils and parish finance councils for the year 2023-25 in our parishes. As informed to you during the meeting of the deans, I kindly request the deans to organise training to the members of PPC at deanery level. This will facilitate the new members to know their role in the PPC and also help the other members to remind themselves of their proper role and responsibility in the ward and in the parish. Aright knowledge about the nature of the PPC will help the members

of PPC in carrying out their duties in the parish very effectively as well as efficiently.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ **Gerald Isaac Lobo**

COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

1. COMMISSION FOR SCCs

04.02.23 DAT Meeting
19.02.23 Parish SCC Conveners Meeting

Rev. Fr Harold Pereira
Director

OBITUARY

Mr. Wigbert Noronha (91 yrs) , father of Rev. Fr Anand Noronha, SDB, Parish Priest, St John Bosco Chburch, Kelmbet passed away on 09 January 2023 and the funeral was held on 10 January 2023 at Pune.

Mr. Harry Lobo (74 yrs), brother of Rev. Fr Stany B. Lobo, Parish Priest, St Francis Xavier Chuch, Udyavar, passed away on 24 January 2023 and the funeral was held on 26 January 2023 at St Peter Church, Barkur.

MAY GOD GRANT THEM ETERNAL REST

CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY OF UDUPI DIOCESE (CESU), UDUPI

Respected Fathers,

1) Handing over Programme

I am delighted to inform you that the prolonged and laborious process of taking over the educational institutions at Udupi Diocese from the management of Catholic Board of Education (CBE), Mangalore to Catholic Educational Society of Udupi Diocese (CESU), Udupi has been successfully completed. To mark the record in the history of the Diocese of Udupi about this successful completion of the work, the management of CESU has organized a “Handing over Programme”. The details of the programme are as follows:

Date and Date: 03-02-2023, Friday, Time: 10.00 a.m.

Venue: Apoorva Hall, II Floor, Anugraha Pastoral Center, Kakkunje, Santhekatte Post, Udupi.

The President of CESU, Most Rev. Gerald Lobo, the President of CBE, Most Rev. Dr Peter Paul Saldanha and the Secretary of CBE, Rev. Fr Antony Shera will be present for the programme. On behalf of the management of CESU, I warmly invite you to this auspicious programme. Kindly be present at the venue on time.

2) List of Educational Institutions at present legally and officially under the Management of Catholic Educational Society of Udupi Diocese (CESU), Udupi are as follows:

I. Under Graduate Colleges

1. St Mary’s College, Shirva (Aided)
2. Milagres College, Kallianpura (Aided)

II. Pre University Colleges

3. Milagres PU College, Kallianpura (Aided)
4. St Lawrence PU College, Moodubelle (Aided)
5. St Mary’s PU College, Shirva (Aided)
6. St Mary’s Composite PU College, Kundapura (Unaided)

7. St John's Composite PU College, Shankarapura (Unaided)

III. Industrial Training Institute

8. St Mary's ITI, Chitpady, Udupi (Aided)

IV. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Schools

9. Christ School, Manipal

10. St Mary's English Medium School, Kannarpady

11. Don Bosco English Medium School, Shirva

V. Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) School

12. Lourdes English Medium School, Kanajar

VI. State Board English Medium Primary Schools

13. Milagres English Medium Primary School, Kallianpura

14. Nirmala English Medium Primary School, Brahmavara

15. Mount Rosary English Medium Primary School, Santhekatte, Kallianpura

16. St Antony English Medium Primary School, Sastan

17. St John's Academy Primary School, Shankarapura

18. St Francis English Medium Primary School, Mudarangadi

19. St Francis Xavier English Medium Primary School, Udyavara

20. St Lawrence English Medium Primary School, Moodubelle

21. Church English Medium Primary School, Ajekar

22. St Maria Goretti English Medium School, Hirgan

23. St Joseph English Medium Primary School, Belman

24. Holy Rosary English Medium Primary School, Kundapura

25. St. Philip Neri Central Primary School, Basrur

VII. State Board English Medium High Schools

26. Milagres English Medium High School, Kallianpura

27. Nirmala English Medium High School, Brahmavara

28. Mount Rosary English Medium High School, Santhekatte, Kallianpura

29. St Antony English Medium High School, Sastan
30. St John's Academy High School, Shankarapura
31. St Francis English Medium High School, Mudarangadi
32. St Francis Xavier English Medium High School, Udyavara
33. St Lawrence English Medium High School, Moodubelle
34. Church English Medium High School, Ajekar
35. St Maria Goretti English Medium High School, Hirgan
36. St Joseph English Medium High School, Belman
37. Holy Rosary English Medium High School, Kundapura

3) Words of gratitude

As we rejoice that our relentless efforts and hard work have borne fruit. I take this opportunity to thank the Almighty God for his benevolence and guiding hand throughout the process. While I thank you for your prayers, I would like to place on record the names of the following people who helped, guided, and supported me in achieving this prodigious task. They are as follow:-

- 1) Most Rev. Gerald Isaac Lobo – The President of CESU, Udupi
- 2) Most Rev. Dr Peter Paul Saldanha – The President of CBE, Mangalore
- 3) Rev. Fr Antony Shera – The Secretary of CBE, Mangalore
- 4) Rev Fr. Victor Lobo, S.J. – The Principal, St Joseph's University, Bengaluru
- 5) Mr Anil Dsouza – The Manager, St Joseph's University, Bangalore
- 6) Mrs. Gretta Lobo – The Office Assistant of CBE office at Mangalore and other administrative Staffs
- 7) Mrs. Sharel Alrica Dsouza – The Office Assistant of CESU, Udupi
- 8) Mrs. Clara Mathais – The former Office Assistant of CESU, Udupi

- 9) V. Rev. Fr Charles Menezes – Parish Priest of Mother of Sorrows Church, Udupi
- 10) Rev. Fr Johnson Lawrence Sequeira – Principal, St Mary’s English Medium School, Kannarpady, Udupi
- 11) Rev. Fr Alexander Lewis, Rev. Fr Cyril Lobo and Rev. Fr Stephen D’Souza – Udupi Diocese
- 12) Mr Siddaramaiha – The Opposition Leader, Legislative Assembly, Government of Karnataka
- 13) Mr B. C. Nagesh – The Education Minister (Primary & Secondary Education) Government of Karnataka
- 14) The officials of respective B. E. O offices, DDPI office and DDPU office at Udupi District
- 15) The officials of CPI office, Secretariat at M. S. Building and Directorate of PU Board at Bengaluru
- 16) Mr Akbar Ali – The retired Section Officer, Primary (B), from Secretariat at M.S. Building, Bengaluru
- 17) The members of Governing Board of CESU, Udupi and CBE, Mangalore.
- 18) Mr Edward Crasta, Mrs. Judith Crasta and Baby Ekta Crasta – My brother, Sister in law and niece, Bengaluru.
- 19) Mr Marcel Dsouza – Financial Administrator of Diocese of Udupi
- 20) The concerned Joint Secretaries, heads of the institutions and office assistants of the concerned educational institutions

A little ‘thank you’ that I say to someone for a ‘little favor’ shown to me is a key to unlock the doors that hide unseen ‘greater favors’. I expect your whole-hearted co-operation in the days to come in the mission of Education in the Diocese of Udupi.

Rev. Fr Vincent Robert Crasta
Secretary

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