

VOX NOSTRA

Vol. XIII

FEBRUARY 2025

No. 2

Dear Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters,

1. DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE

We celebrate the solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord on Sunday, **02 February 2025**. This celebration commemorates the presentation of Jesus by the Blessed Virgin Mary, His mother, to the Lord in the temple. On this day, the faithful go forth to meet the Lord as he comes, acclaiming him as did Simeon, who recognised in Christ the “Light to enlighten the nations.” For the commemoration of the mystery of the day, the Missal foresees the blessing of candles with a procession or with a solemn entry, holding lighted candles in hands, proclaiming Christ as the light of the world.

The Church invites us to celebrate this day as the Day of the Consecrated Life. “The life consecrated through the profession of the evangelical counsels is a stable form of living by which the faithful, following Christ more closely under the action of the Holy Spirit, are totally dedicated to God who is loved most of all, so that, having been dedicated by a new and special title to His honour, to the building up of the Church, and to the salvation of the world, they strive for the perfection of charity in the service of the kingdom of God and, having been made an outstanding sign in the Church, foretell the heavenly glory” (can. 573 §1). As part of Jubilee 2025, it’s a day dedicated to the **Jubilee of Consecrated Life**. I request you, dear parish priests, to apprise your faithful of the significance of the Consecrated Life in the Church and pray for all men and women in Consecrated Life during the holy Eucharist. On my behalf, I express my gratitude and appreciation to all Men and Women in Consecrated Life who are rendering their dedicated service in the Diocese of Udupi as per their charisms, contributing thereby to the growth of our local Church.

2. MISSIONARY HOLY CHILDHOOD DAY

The second Sunday of February, this year the 9th, 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 to celebrate this day meaningfully by organising activities and celebrations that will suit their age and enthusiasm and help them contribute in their own tiny way to the mission of the Church.

3. WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

February 11 is the 33rd 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. As part of Jubilee 2025, it is a day dedicated to the sick. During this jubilee, let us pray for all the sick in our parishes. Let us offer them the closeness of the Church in their sickness and suffering through visiting them in hospitals and homes, and provide them with spiritual care, especially the sacrament of reconciliation and the Holy Communion.

4. ANNUAL FEAST OF ST LAWRENCE BASILICA- THANKS

The five days of solemn festivities of St Lawrence Basilica which began on 26 January 2025 were concluded on 30 January 2025 with great joy and gratitude, thanks to the continuous protection of St Lawrence, the wonder-worker. While the five days' celebrations were meticulously planned by the Shrine Basilica Management Committee, the flow of devotees and pilgrims was so peaceful, devotional, and reverential that year after year we see the wonders of St Lawrence in Attur in attracting pilgrims from far and wide.

A word of gratitude to Msgr. Ferdinand Gonsalves, our Vicar General, for being present at the Basilica for five days and for overseeing all the arrangements and celebrations. I offer my sincere thanks to Very Rev. Fr Alban D'Souza, Rector, Fr Larry Franklin Pinto, Assistant Priest, Rev. Fr Roman Mascarenhas, Spiritual Director, Deacon Valesh Aranha and members of the PFC and PPC for their all-out efforts and dedication before, during as well as after the celebrations; the Deans of our five deaneries, priests from Udupi and neighbouring dioceses, and religious priests for their presence, support and, services at the confessional; Rev. Deacons (diocesan and religious) for their help at the liturgical celebrations; seminarians from Divya Dhama Propadeutic Seminary for their continuous presence and assistance at the Shrine. May God bless you, all, and may St Lawrence intercede for you always.

5. JUBILEE OF DEACONS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

As part of Jubilee 2025, we celebrate the jubilee of deacons and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion on **23 February 2025**. We offer our best wishes to both the diocesan and religious deacons who are rendering their services in different parishes of the Diocese and are also preparing themselves for the reception of the sacred Order of the Priesthood. The extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion render their services in our parishes to distribute the holy communion during the Holy Eucharist. I offer them my best wishes and blessings on their jubilee and pray that they may live their Christian life in imitation of Christ the Lord, whom they serve through their ministry.

6. REMINDER: ANNUAL BUDGET AND ACTION PLAN

We had requested to prepare the Budget for 2025-26 in all parishes of the Diocese. Hereby, I remind all parish priests to prepare them in the prescribed format and submit to me before **28 February 2025**. The budget should be prepared before the beginning of the new financial year 2025-26. Therefore, it is deplorable to send it in April as was the case last year in some parishes.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 
+ **Gerald Isaac Lobo**

COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

1. COMMISSION FOR BEC's

Feb. 2 *Samudai Divas* at Katpady parish

Rev. Fr Harold Pereira
Director

2. COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMISSION FOR SEMINARY AND RELIGIOUS FORMATION JOINTLY ORGANISES ONGOING FORMATION FOR THE PRIESTS

Participants: Priests Ordained in 2000 and later.

Date: Tuesday, 11 March 2025

Venue: Anugraha - Pastoral Centre

Rev. Fr Denis D'Sa and Rev. Fr Ashwin Aranha
Directors

3. FAMILY COMMISSION

01 & 02 Feb Marriage Preparation Course

02 Feb TOT Program for Remote Preparation Course Karwar
Diocese

11 Feb Senior Citizens Club office bearers' meet at Anugraha

17 & 18 Feb Regional Meet, KROSS, Bangalore

23 Feb Family commission Resource Team Meet

Mr Leslie Arouza
Director

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