

# VOX NOSTRA

Vol. IV

January 2016

No.01

## 1. NEW YEAR 2016:

After having celebrated the Feast of Christmas with great joy and enthusiasm, we are at the dawn of the New Year 2016. “Today is the first day of the New Year and the first day of the rest of our lives.” Hoping that all days in the New Year are going to be days of God’s abundant blessings and graces, let us raise our minds and hearts to God by invoking the intercession of the Mother of God, the Mother of Miracles, our Patroness. Let us also join the rest of humanity who desire peace, joy and love to build a human family of mercy and forgiveness. Dear Reverend Fathers, let us welcome the New Year with great optimism. I remain grateful to each one of you for your cooperation and for all that you have been to me during the past year. I wish you a very happy and grace-filled New Year 2016.

## 2. WORLD DAY OF PEACE:

January 1 is observed all over the world as the World Day of Peace. In India we observe this on 30<sup>th</sup> January as the Day of Peace. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has proposed ‘*Overcome Indifference and Win Peace*’ as the theme for the day.

“Peace is both God’s gift and a human achievement,” says Pope Francis. As a gift of God, it is entrusted to all men and women of goodwill who are called to attain it. It is, therefore, not only a responsibility to work for peace in the world on the part of every nation and its respective citizens but also leaders and believers of all religions to promote peace, thereby creating a conducive atmosphere to live without fear. Therefore I request you, dear Fathers, to convey the message of our Holy Father for the World Day of Peace to your parishioners and, above all, offer special prayers for the cause.

### 3. UNITY OCTAVE:

As usual, *the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* will take place from 18 to 25 January 2016 with the theme: **Called to Proclaim the Mighty Acts of the Lord** (1 Peter 2:9). “Prayer for unity is the royal door of ecumenism: it leads Christians to look at the Kingdom of God and the unity of the Church in a fresh way; it deepens their bonds of communion; and it enables them to courageously face painful memories, social burdens and human weakness. In every age of history, the principal artisans of reconciliation and unity were persons of prayer and contemplation, inspiring divided Christians to recommit themselves to walk the path of the unity” (Cardinal Walter Kasper, Former President, of Pontifical Council for Christian Unity). I hereby exhort Parish Priests and Religious Superiors to organize Prayer Services during the Unity Octave in their respective parishes/communities involving various Christian denominations around and amidst us praying for Christian Unity. I thank you in anticipation.

### 4. ECUMENISM SUNDAY:

24 January 2016, Sunday during the week of prayer for Christian Unity, is the *Ecumenism Sunday* for the Church in India. While the CCBI Commission for Ecumenism has provided material for the Liturgy to facilitate the active participation of the faithful in the parishes and religious communities, this is with an appeal to all of you not only to keep up the Ecumenism Sunday but also celebrate it in a befitting manner so that the mission of Jesus Christ may be realized in and through our incessant prayers for unity. Jesus has said: “And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock and one shepherd” (Jn 10:16).

## **5. VICTIMS OF FLOOD IN TAMILNADU:**

The CBCI President, His Eminence Cardinal Baselios Cleemis Catholicos, has appealed to all Dioceses to express solidarity with the victims of floods in Tamilnadu and has exhorted us to contribute our mite towards the relief and rehabilitation of the flood-affected people, to be undertaken through Caritas India. I hereby request all Parish Priests to set aside the offertory collection made during all Masses on 17 January 2016 (Sunday) for this purpose and, thereafter, to send it over to the Diocesan Procurator.

## **6. NEW CHURCH IN MANIPAL:**

A newly constructed Christ Church in Manipal Parish was inaugurated and blessed on 05 December 2015. The construction of this House of God was completed on record time, i.e., less than a year, thanks to the untiring efforts, perseverance and determination of the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr Francis Xavier Lewis and the wholehearted cooperation and collaboration of the Parish Finance and Pastoral Councils, supportive parishioners and generous benefactors, well-wishers, students and people of goodwill. Manipal has now a befitting, spacious and majestic church, conducive to prayer, worship and adoration. I hereby express my sincere thanks to Rev. Fr Francis Lewis for making the dream of constructing a new Church in Manipal a reality and the Parishioners and donors for their support and generous contribution in the realization of this well-deserved project.

## **7. DIOCESAN YOUTH DAY:**

The Youth Commission of the Diocese of Udupi under ICYM is organizing the Youth Convention of great magnitude for the first time from 08 to 10 January 2016 at the Capuchin Friary Centre, Trinity Vihar, in Permapally with the theme: ***“Let your light shine before others.”*** The aim of this convention is *“to unite all the youth of the Diocese under one goal, to evaluate the activities of the past 3 years and to look forward with enthusiasm to plan for the future.”*

Keeping in mind the all-round development of the youth, the ICYM of Udupi Diocese has taken its feeble steps with 5 main objectives under the

thrust: “Educated and United Catholic Youth for Christian Leadership”. It is taking immense interest towards the personality development of the members of the movement from the local to the diocesan level. It is constantly at the service of the youth to aspire towards higher education and positions in civil and civic posts. Our youth have taken initiative to come out from the clutches of the four walls of their family and parishes and participate in public administration like *Grama Sabha*, Ward meetings and so on. Some of them even have won in the election for the *Gram Panchayat*. This Youth Convention at the diocesan level aims at recognizing the talents of our youth and interacts with the achievers in every walk of life.

## **8. WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES:**

January 17 is dedicated to the World Day of Migrants and Refugees and our Holy Father has issued a beautiful message highlighting the importance of this Day on 12 September 2015.

The Holy Father says that the migration problem, more than ever before, is growing worldwide. “Refugees and people fleeing from their homes challenge individuals and communities, and their traditional ways of life; at times they upset the cultural and social horizons which they encounter. Increasingly, the victims of violence and poverty, leaving their homelands, are exploited by human traffickers during their journey towards the dream of a better future. If they survive the abuses and hardships of the journey, they then have to face latent suspicions and fear. In the end, they frequently encounter a lack of clear and practical policies regulating the acceptance of migrants and providing for short or long term programmes of integration respectful of the rights and duties of all,” says the Pope. Our hearts should go out towards this unending and uncontrollable flux and flow of migrants and refugees so that a timely solution and settlement is arrived at by all able bodies, nations and people in authority. On our part let us raise our minds and hearts to God in prayer so that His mercy and protection may be upon them always for security and a better tomorrow.

## **9. ANNUAL SHRINE FEAST OF ST LAWRENCE AT ATTUR-KARKAL:**

I am happy to inform you that preparations are going on in full swing to celebrate the annual shrine feast of St Lawrence at Attur Karkal from 25 to 28 (Monday to Thursday) January 2016. In fact, the celebration will begin on 24 January 2016 with the Confraternity Sunday and will conclude on 29 (Friday) January 2016 after the morning festive Eucharistic celebration. Since the festive celebration commences on the Confraternity Sunday of the Attur Parish and since we have already inaugurated the Jubilee Year of Mercy, we expect a large number of pilgrims and devotees to visit the Holy Shrine from 24 January (Sunday) itself. Hence, there is certainly the need of adequate facility for confessional ministry from 24 to 28 January 2016. It is very consoling to note and appreciate that Catholic pilgrims and devotees make it a point to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation as an important/ integral part of their pilgrimage to this much-revered Shrine of St Lawrence in our Diocese.

I am grateful to you for your presence and participation during the days of the Shrine Feast during the past years, feeling that it is 'Our Shrine'. Now, this is my earnest appeal to you to make yourself available for the Confessional Ministry at the Shrine on 25, 26, 27 and 28 (Monday to Thursday) January 2016. While we must be grateful to God through our Patron, the wonder-worker St Lawrence of Attur for attracting his devotees to the Table of God's mercy, it is we, priests, who are chosen and anointed to dispense this sacrament. Now that we are in the Jubilee Year of Mercy, it is my personal appeal to you to see to it that we have sufficient number of priests at all times during the festive days to hear confessions and thus make the annual feast of St Lawrence an experience of God's Mercy besides receiving favours through the powerful intercession of the wonder-worker.

## **10. JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY:**

While the Jubilee Year of Mercy was officially and solemnly inaugurated by our Holy Father Pope Francis in St Peter's Basilica, Rome on 08 December 2015, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, in our Diocese it was inaugurated with the solemn opening of the Mercy Door in the Milagres Cathedral Church at Kallianopur and at St Lawrence Church/Shrine at Attur-Karkal on 13 December 2015. These two Churches, i.e. Milagres Cathedral in Kallianpur and St Lawrence Shrine at Attur have been declared as Churches of pilgrimages during the Holy Year of Mercy for visits to obtain indulgences attached to the Jubilee Year. To these I hereby include St Antony Shrine at Kerekatte so that all Christ's Faithful will be able to enter through the Door of Mercy to feel the healing touch of the Merciful Heavenly Father and live with one another in a spirit of mercy, repentance and forgiveness. I request you dear Parish Priests to not only to make announcement in this regard but also organize pilgrimages during the Year of Mercy to obtain the Jubilee indulgences. Adequate confessional facility may be provided by the Heads of these three Churches/Shrines every day throughout the Jubilee Year of Mercy especially when organized groups of pilgrims would plan to visit these holy Centers of pilgrimage.

Thank you for your prayers, support and cooperation in the mission of Proclamation and Evangelization, and of the acceptance and implementation of the Pastoral Plan *Mission-2025* throughout the past year. I invoke God's abundant blessings upon you throughout the New Year 2016 and entrust you to the care, protection and intercession of Our Lady of Miracles, the Patroness of our Diocese.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Gerald Lobo  
**Bishop of Udupi**

## **SCC TRAINING PROGRAMS IN JANUARY 2016**

- Jan. 04 Conveners meeting of Udupi Deanery.  
06 SCC Conveners meeting of Kallianpur Deanery.  
07 DAT Meeting  
08 Adoration and planning meeting for Ward Samithi  
members of Moodubelle parish.  
14 Conveners meeting of Karkal Deanery.  
15 Diocesan level- one day training for the Religious sisters  
17. Bible Mirror Method - Barkur Parish.  
19 Conveners meeting of Kundapur Deanery.

**Fr Harold Pereira**

---

## **FAMILY COMMISSION PROGRAMS IN JANUARY 2016**

- Jan 03 Resource Team & PFC Coordinators get together 4.00 – 5.30  
pm  
Jan 06 Family Life Education - Don Bosco Eng. Medium High School,  
Shirva 9 – 12.30  
Jan 09 & 10 Marriage Preparation Course 8.30 – 4.30  
Jan 24 Remote Preparation – YCS students – Mukamar, Palimar &  
Mundkur parishes  
Jan 26 to 28 National Biennial Meeting on ‘Family Synod’ (4 -25 Oct 2015)  
at Goa

**Leslie Arouza**

---

Published at **Bishop's House**, Udupi - 576 101, Editor: **Rev. Fr Baptist Menezes**  
(For Private Circulation Only)