

VOX NOSTRA

Vol V

March 2017

No. 3

Dear Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters,

1. LENTEN SEASON

The season of Lent is a season of grace. The message of Pope Francis for Lent 2017 titled ‘**The Word is a gift. Other Persons are a gift,**’ explains Lent as a “favourable season for deepening our spiritual life through the means of sanctification offered us by the Church: fasting, prayer and almsgiving” and presents the Word of God as the basis of everything and invites us to hear and ponder on the Word of God deeply. Taking the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (*Lk 16:19-31*) for reflection, the Pope invites us to find inspiration in this meaningful story because it provides us a key to understanding what we need to do in order to attain true happiness and eternal life. He also invites us to sincere conversion. The full text of the Pope’s Message for Lent 2017 is found as Annexure I on page 8. I wish all of you a grace-filled Lenten season and request you to follow the instructions given for Lent in *Vox Nostra, February 2017*.

2. NEW APOSTOLIC NUNCIO

His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed H. E. Most Rev. Giambattista Diquattro, till now Apostolic Nuncio to Bolivia, as the new Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal. This ecclesiastical appointment was made public in Rome on Saturday, 21 January 2017 at noon, local time, corresponding to 16:30 hours, IST. He was born in Bologna (Italy) on 18 March 1954 and ordained a Priest in Ragusa on 24 August 1981. He received his Master’s Degree in Civil Law from the University

of Catania, Doctorate in Canon Law (JCD) from the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome and Master's Degree in Dogmatic Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He joined the Diplomatic Service of the Holy See on 1 May 1985 serving continuous missions in the Pontifical Representations in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chad, the United Nations (New York) and later in the Secretariat of State of His Holiness – Section for Relations with States and in the Apostolic Nunciature in Italy. On 2 April 2005, Saint John Paul II appointed him Titular Archbishop of Giromonte and Apostolic Nuncio to Panama. His Episcopal Ordination took place on 4 June 2005 in the Cathedral of Ragusa. He began his mission in Panama on 12 July 2005. On 21 November 2008 he was appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Bolivia. He is fluent in French, Spanish and English. We congratulate the new Nuncio and extend our prayers and whole-hearted cooperation in his mission in India.

3. NEW BISHOP OF MYSORE

The installation of the new Bishop of Mysore, Most Rev. K. A. William, took place on 27 February 2017 in the presence of Bishops, Priests, religious and the lay faithful of the diocese of Mysore and the Karnataka region. Bishop William was born in Pollibetta in the diocese of Mysore on 27 February 1965 and was ordained a priest on 18 May 1993 for the diocese of Mysore and has exercised his priestly ministry in various capacities. We congratulate and wish him all the best in his episcopal ministry.

We also thank Most Rev. Dr Thomas A. Vazhapilly who served the Diocese of Mysore for 14 years, shouldering the responsibility of the all-round development of the diocese. His contribution to the Karnataka region in various capacities is laudable. He served as the Chairman of CCBI Commission for Vocations, Seminaries, Clergy and Religious from 2010 to 2015. We wish him good health and contentment in the future years at Mysore.

4. NEW OFFICE BEARERS OF CCBI

The CCBI re-elected Cardinal Oswald Gracias as its President for a two-year term, Archbishop George Antonysamy of Chennai-Mylapore as Vice President, and Archbishop Anil Joseph Thomas Couto of Delhi as the Secretary General. The newly-elected office bearers were installed at a ceremony moderated by Archbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara of Nagpur. While we congratulate the new office bearers and promise our whole-hearted support in their mission, we remain grateful to the outgoing vice president Archbishop Philippe Neri Ferrao of Goa and the Secretary General, Bishop Varghese Chakkalakkal of Calicut.

5. CCBI MESSAGE ON FAMILY

The 29th Plenary Assembly of CCBI held from 31 January to 8 February 2017 at Bhopal deliberated on the theme of **Family** with special focus on the Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. It was an enriching experience to join the members of CCBI and to deliberate on the dynamics of Christian family in the Indian context. The final statement of this Assembly may please be read on page 12 as annexure II.

6. KANNADA ROMAN MISSAL

The newly translated Kannada Roman Missal was released on 27 February 2017. It will come into effect on Easter Sunday 2017. We congratulate the Karnataka Region Commission for Liturgy for their hard work in shouldering the responsibility of translating the Missal. *Divya Jyothi* had taken orders for this Kannada Missal in our diocese and I hope that it will be made available to the parishes before long.

7. MEETING OF THE COORDINATORS OF THE COMMISSIONS

The first meeting of the Parish Coordinators of the 18 Pastoral Commissions will be held on 19 March 2017 from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm at the Conference Hall, Bishop's House, Udupi. They will be briefed

on their role in the parish and on coordinating the work of 18 Pastoral Commissions at the parish level. I extend cordial welcome to all the coordinators to this meeting and request all Parish Priests to send the coordinators for this meeting without fail.

8. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

As usual, the International Women's Day will be celebrated 8 March 2017. The focus of the celebration is respect, appreciation and love towards women for their achievements in various fields. The theme for this year is '**Be Bold for Change**'. While I appreciate the contribution of women in pastoral work in the parishes of our diocese, I offer my warm greetings to all women in our diocese and wish them divine blessings on this occasion. May this day be an occasion for us to recognize the contribution of women in the Church and to offer them due opportunities to grow and express themselves freely in the mission of the Church.

9. ANNIVERSARY OF THE INSTALLATION OF POPE FRANCIS

On 19 March 2017, we celebrate the anniversary of the installation of Pope Francis. We have experienced his unique, merciful approach and his contribution in revitalizing the Church, responding to the signs of the times. We pray that God may bless him with good health and the necessary graces to shepherd the Church for many more years. I request all parish priests to include a prayer during all masses on the day in the prayers of the faithful. Long live our beloved Pope Francis!

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ **Gerald I. Lobo**

DIVYAJYOTHI

Programs in March 2017

- March 2 – Lectio Divina Training – Moodubelle
March 5 – Lectio Divina Training – Yermal
March 10 – Lectio Divina Training – SFO of Karkal Deanery (Nakre)
March 12 – Lectio Divina Training – Kota
March 17 – Lectio Divina Training – SFO of Kundapur Deanery (Piusnagar)
March 18 – Felicitation of schoolwise Toppers in Catechism in X
March 19 – Lectio Divina Training – Belman
March 24 – Lectio Divina Training – SFO of Shirva Deanery (Mudarangadi)
March 26 – Lectio Divina Training – Barkur
March 31 – Lectio Divina Training – SFO of Udupi & Kallianpur
Deanery (Milagres Cathedral)

Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza
DIRECTOR

FAMILY COMMISSION PROGRAMS IN MARCH 2017

Date	Description
5 March	Proximate Preparation Thottam & Kemmanu Parish youth 10 – 4.30
6 March	Remote Preparation for 1 st year YCS - Kallianpur Deanery 9 -4
7 March	Remote Preparation for 1 st year YCS - Udupi Deanery 9 -4
8 March	Remote Preparation for 1 st year YCS - Shirva Deanery 9 -4
9 March	Remote Preparation for 1 st year YCS - Karkal

- Deanery 9 -4
- 10 March Remote Preparation for 1st year YCS - Kundapur
Deanery 9 – 4
- 12 March Talk on Effective Parenting at Hirgan parish
- 16 March Karnataka Regional Family commission Directors
meet at Udupi 9 – 1.30
- 19 March Marriage Enrichment at Kundapur parish 3 – 6
- 20 March Parish Family Cell Members training Kallianpur
Deanery 3 -5.30
- 21 March Parish Family Cell Members training Udupi Deanery
3 - 5.30
- 22 March Parish Family Cell Members training Shirva Deanery
3 - 5.30
- 23 March Parish Family Cell Members training Karkal Deanery
3 - 5.30
- 25, 26 March Marriage Preparation course
- 27 March Parish Family Cell Members training Kundapur
Deanery 3 -5.30

Mr Leslie Arouza
DIRECTOR

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