

VOX NOSTRA

Vol VIII

MARCH 2020

No. 3

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The International Women's Day (IWD) will be celebrated on Sunday, 08 March 2020. "I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights" is the campaign theme for IWD 2020. The Generation Equality campaign is bringing together people of every gender, age, ethnicity, race, religion and country, to drive actions that will create the gender-equal world we all deserve. The emerging global consensus is that despite some progress, real change has been agonizingly slow for the majority of women and girls in the world. Today, not a single country can claim to have achieved gender equality. Multiple obstacles remain unchanged in law and in culture. Women and girls continue to be undervalued; they work more and earn less and have fewer choices; and experience multiple forms of violence at home and in public spaces. Furthermore, there is a significant threat of rollback of hard-won feminist gains. The year 2020 represents an unmissable opportunity to mobilize global action to achieve gender equality and human rights of all women and girls. \

While I appreciate the contribution of women in pastoral work in the parishes of our Diocese, I offer my warm greetings to all women of our Diocese and wish them divine blessings on the 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.

2. ANNIVERSARY OF THE INSTALLATION OF POPE FRANCIS

On 19 March 2020 we celebrate the anniversary of the installation of Pope Francis. He has been guiding the Church with his unique characteristics of simplicity, approachability, continuity and fidelity to the Magisterium, tenderness and the gesture of service. 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 priests to remember and pray for the intentions of our Pope during mass on the day.

3. 34TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF CBCI

The 34th Plenary Assembly of CBCI, held at St John's, Bengaluru from 13 to 20 February 2020, deliberated on the theme of '**dialogue**' through various input sessions and workshops. There were 192 Bishops from different Archdioceses and Dioceses of India.

At the Plenary, the new Office-Bearers of the CBCI were elected. They are as follows: President - His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias (re-elected); Vice-President I- Most Rev. Joshua Mar Ignathios (re-elected); Vice-President II - Most Rev. Mar George Njaralakatt (re-elected) and Secretary General - Most Rev. Felix Anthony Machado (elected).

The plenary also elected new Chairmen for the 4 National Centres: Caritas India: Most Rev. Sebastian

Kallupura (Buxar); NBCLC: Most Rev. Pauly Kanoorkadan (Irinjalakuda); St. John's: Most Rev. George Antonysamy (re-elected) (Madras-Mylapore); CBCI SME-NI: Most Rev. Anand Jojo (Hazaribag).

We congratulate both the new Office- Bearers of CBCI and the new chairmen of four national centres and convey our best wishes in shouldering these responsibilities.

4. SEASON OF LENT

We have just begun the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. The 40 days of Lent correspond to the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness to fast, pray, and endure the temptations of the devil, all in preparation for his public ministry which would culminate in his death on the cross. Each year, Lent offers us a providential opportunity to deepen the meaning and value of our Christian lives, and it stimulates us to rediscover the mercy of God so that we, in turn, become more merciful toward our brothers and sisters. In the Lenten period, the Church makes it her duty to propose some specific tasks that accompany the faithful concretely in this process of interior renewal: these are *prayer, fasting and almsgiving*. The message of Pope Francis for this year's Lent is given as Annexure 2.

5. BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2020-21- A REMINDER

We had informed you in January 2020 that the budget for 2020-21 needs to be finalized as per the statutes of Parish Finance Council, no. 3.12.10, and submitted in duplicate to my office for approval on or before 28 February 2020 and also reminded once again in February

2020. While I thank and appreciate the parish priests who have already completed this important work, I request those who have not yet submitted to do it at the earliest.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

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✠ Gerald Isaac Lobo
Bishop of Udupi

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

1. DIVYA JYOTHI

15/03/2020 Biblical Seminar at Kanajar

Note:

Divya Jyothi conducted the diocesan exam in Catechism and Value Education for VII and X on 04 January 2020 and the results were announced on 14 February 2020. We thank the correspondents, headmaster/headmistress, school Catechism and Value Education coordinators, and all the teachers for their wholehearted cooperation.

Catechism

| Std | Medium | No. of Students | Percentage |
|-----|---------|-----------------|------------|
| VII | Konkani | 102 | 99% |
| X | Konkani | 128 | 98% |
| VII | English | 225 | 97% |
| X | English | 237 | 99% |

Value Education

| Std | Medium | No. of Students | Percentage |
|-----|---------|-----------------|------------|
| VII | Kannada | 557 | 99% |
| X | Kannada | 373 | 100% |
| VII | English | 775 | 98% |
| X | English | 682 | 100% |

Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza
Director

2. FAMILY COMMISSION

- 01 March ICYM, YCS Youth & Parents meet,
Kuntalngar
- 01 March Resource Team Meeting Diocese level, 3
- 5pm
- 16 March Remote Preparation for Family life 1st
PUC students – Kallianpur Deanery –
Mount Rosary Hall
- 17 March Remote Preparation for Family life 1st
PUC students – Kundapur Deanery –
Trasi Hall (Trasi, Gangolli, Padukone,
Byndoor, Tallur,)
- 18 March Remote Preparation for Family life 1st
PUC students – Kundapur Deanery –
Basrur Hall (Basrur, Kundapur,
Koteshwar, Piusnagar, Kota, Kandlur)
- 19 March Remote Preparation for Family life 1st
PUC students – Udupi Deanery –
Bishop's House
- 20 March Remote Preparation for Family life 1st
PUC students – Shirva Deanery – Shirva

- Hall (Shirva, Pangla, Pilar, Pamboor,
Pernal, Mudarangadi, Kalathur)
- 21 March Remote Preparation for Family life 1st
PUC students – Shirva Deanery –
Belman hall (Belman, Palimar, Mundkur,
Mukamar, Kelmbet)
- 22 March Remote Preparation for Family life 1st
PUC students – Karkal Deanery – Christ
King Church Hall
- 28-29 March Marriage Preparation Course

Mr Leslie Arouza
Director

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FOR LENT 2020**

“We implore you on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God” (2 Cor 5:20)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year the Lord grants us, once again, a favourable time to prepare to celebrate with renewed hearts the great mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the cornerstone of our personal and communal Christian life. We must continually return to this mystery in mind and heart, for it will continue to grow within us in the measure that we are open to its spiritual power and respond with freedom and generosity.

1. The paschal mystery as the basis of conversion

Christian joy flows from listening to, and accepting, the Good News of the death and resurrection of Jesus. This kerygma sums up the mystery of a love “so real, so true, so concrete, that it invites us to a relationship of openness and fruitful dialogue” (Christus Vivit, 117). Whoever believes this message rejects the lie that our life is ours to do with as we

will. Rather, life is born of the love of God our Father, from his desire to grant us life in abundance (cf. Jn 10:10). If we listen instead to the tempting voice of the “father of lies” (Jn 8:44), we risk sinking into the abyss of absurdity, and experiencing hell here on earth, as all too many tragic events in the personal and collective human experience sadly bear witness.

In this Lent of 2020, I would like to share with every Christian what I wrote to young people in the Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit*: “Keep your eyes fixed on the outstretched arms of Christ crucified, let yourself be saved over and over again. And when you go to confess your sins, believe firmly in his mercy which frees you of your guilt. Contemplate his blood poured out with such great love, and let yourself be cleansed by it. In this way, you can be reborn ever anew” (No. 123). Jesus’ Pasch is not a past event; rather, through the power of the Holy Spirit it is ever present, enabling us to see and touch with faith the flesh of Christ in those who suffer.

2. The urgency of conversion

It is good to contemplate more deeply the paschal mystery through which God’s mercy has been bestowed upon us. Indeed, the experience of mercy is only possible in a “face to face” relationship with the crucified and risen Lord “who loved me and gave himself for me” (Gal 2:20), in a heartfelt dialogue between friends. That is why prayer is so important in Lent. Even more than a duty, prayer is an expression of our need to respond to God’s love which always precedes and sustains us. Christians pray in the knowledge that, although unworthy, we are still loved. Prayer can take any number of different forms, but what truly matters in God’s eyes is that it penetrates deep within us and chips away at our hardness of heart, in order to convert us ever more fully to God and to his will.

In this favourable season, then, may we allow ourselves to be led like Israel into the desert (cf. Hos 2:14), so that we can at last hear our Spouse's voice and allow it to resound ever more deeply within us. The more fully we are engaged with his word, the more we will experience the mercy he freely gives us. May we not let this time of grace pass in vain, in the foolish illusion that we can control the times and means of our conversion to him.

3. God's passionate will to dialogue with his children

The fact that the Lord once again offers us a favourable time for our conversion should never be taken for granted. This new opportunity ought to awaken in us a sense of gratitude and stir us from our sloth. Despite the sometimes tragic presence of evil in our lives, and in the life of the Church and the world, this opportunity to change our course expresses God's unwavering will not to interrupt his dialogue of salvation with us. In the crucified Jesus, who knew no sin, yet for our sake was made to be sin (cf. 2 Cor 5:21), this saving will led the Father to burden his Son with the weight of our sins, thus, in the expression of Pope Benedict XVI, "turning God against himself" (*Deus Caritas Est*, 12). For God also loves his enemies (cf. Mt 5:43-48).

The dialogue that God wishes to establish with each of us through the paschal mystery of his Son has nothing to do with empty chatter, like that attributed to the ancient inhabitants of Athens, who "spent their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new" (Acts 17:21). Such chatter, determined by an empty and superficial curiosity, characterizes worldliness in every age; in our own day, it can also result in improper use of the media.

4. A richness to be shared, not kept for oneself

Putting the paschal mystery at the centre of our lives means feeling compassion towards the wounds of the crucified Christ present in the many innocent victims of wars,

in attacks on life, from that of the unborn to that of the elderly, and various forms of violence. They are likewise present in environmental disasters, the unequal distribution of the earth's goods, human trafficking in all its forms, and the unbridled thirst for profit, which is a form of idolatry.

Today too, there is a need to appeal to men and women of good will to share, by almsgiving, their goods with those most in need, as a means of personally participating in the building of a better world. Charitable giving makes us more human, whereas hoarding risks making us less human, imprisoned by our own selfishness. We can and must go even further, and consider the structural aspects of our economic life. For this reason, in the midst of Lent this year, from 26 to 28 March, I have convened a meeting in Assisi with young economists, entrepreneurs and change-makers, with the aim of shaping a more just and inclusive economy. As the Church's magisterium has often repeated, political life represents an eminent form of charity (cf. Pius XI, Address to the Italian Federation of Catholic University Students, 18 December 1927). The same holds true for economic life, which can be approached in the same evangelical spirit, the spirit of the Beatitudes.

I ask Mary Most Holy to pray that our Lenten celebration will open our hearts to hear God's call to be reconciled to himself, to fix our gaze on the paschal mystery, and to be converted to an open and sincere dialogue with him. In this way, we will become what Christ asks his disciples to be: the salt of the earth and the light of the world (cf. Mt 5:13-14).

Francis

Rome, at Saint John Lateran,

7 October 2019, Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary

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