

VOX NOSTRA

Vol IV

May 2016

No. 05

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. MAY DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

May Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary refers to the special Marian devotion held in the Catholic Church during the month of May honoring Mother Mary as the ‘Queen of May’. Catholics offer special honour to Mother Mary in May: pilgrimages, visits to Marian churches, little sacrifices in her honour, and a more attentive recitation of the Rosary. As missionary intention for May 2016 Pope wishes that ‘families, communities, and groups may pray the Holy Rosary for evangelization and peace’. We have a beautiful tradition of reciting Marian Rosary gathering around the Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes in our parishes. Hence I hereby exhort you, dear Fathers, to continue to uphold this tradition by inviting your parishioners to gather around the Grotto for the Rosary. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, the patroness of our diocese, intercede for all of us to live a fervent Christian life, following the footsteps of her son Jesus Christ.

2. INTERNATIONAL WORKERS’ DAY

International Workers’ Day, also known as Labour Day or May Day, is celebrated all over the world on May 1. This day has its origins in the labour union movement, specifically the eight-hour day movement, which advocated eight hours for work, eight hours for recreation, and eight hours for rest. During the Year of Mercy, it is an occasion for all those related to the Church to reflect their compassion and commitment on the issues of the poor workers, especially unorganized labourers, domestic and migrant workers in their regions. Work is an integral part of human sustenance and every worker is our companion. On commemoration of the May Day 2016, the CBCI office for Labour has issued its message on the theme ‘A Call for Revolution of the Tenderness.’

The Commission for Labour in our diocese, in association with the Labour Department of Udupi District, has organized half-a-day programme to celebrate this occasion. It will be held on 1 May 2016 at 2.30 pm in Udupi Church Hall. Please encourage the unorganized labourers in your parish to attend this programme where they will be apprised of the different schemes of the Govt of Karnataka for the unorganized sector. May St Joseph, the patron of the Universal Church and the workers, help us all in all our efforts to safeguard and protect the rights of the workers!

3. CANDIDATES FOR SEMINARY

The month of May is a time for dioceses and religious congregations to search new ‘workers in the vineyard of the Lord’ and to identify prospective candidates to priesthood/ religious life. All of us are aware of the acute shortage of priests for our diocese. Hence, I urge all priests, especially the parish priests, to identify suitable boys and motivate them to join the seminary as candidates for our diocese. Let us take this as our core responsibility to help our children, especially the altar boys, to discern their vocation by motivating them to join as candidates to the priesthood. Please forward the names of the prospective candidates to Rev. Fr Anil Cornelio.

4. WORLD COMMUNICATIONS’ DAY

World Communications’ Day is celebrated each year on the Sunday before Pentecost and this year it falls on 8 May 2016. This day was established by Pope Paul VI, after Vatican II, in order to draw attention to the “the vast and complex phenomenon of the modern means of social communication.” The Pontifical Council for Social Communications has chosen ‘*Communication and Mercy: A Fruitful Encounter*’ as the theme for the year. You will find as annexure the text of the message of Pope Francis for the 50th World Communications’ Day.

5. JUBILEE OF MOTHERS

The Commission for Family has organized a ‘Jubilee of Mothers’ on the occasion of the Year of Mercy. It will be held on 9 May 2016 from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm at St Mary’s English Medium School at Kannarpady, Udupi. Mrs Judy Pinto from Mangalore will be the resource person. Please encourage the mothers in your parish to participate in

this jubilee in large numbers.

6. PRAYER FOR RAIN

We are all aware of the drought situation all over India. Lots of people are suffering due to the shortage of potable water. Only God is our hope who can send us rain! Although the situation is not that worst in our region, it is a time for us to show solidarity with the suffering brothers and sisters of our nation. Therefore, I kindly request you all to offer special prayers so that God may bless us with sufficient rain, for scripture says, “again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops (James 5:18). Please include a prayer for rain in the prayers of the faithful during mass on Sundays. In this regard, I encourage Parish Priests to organize prayers in the parishes by gathering faithful for the recitation of Rosary or the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

7. A NEW PRIEST

I am glad to inform you that I ordained Deacon Canute Noronha as priest for our diocese on 20 April 2016 at St John the Evangelist Church, Pangala. In the name of our whole presbyterium, I welcome him to the diocese and offer our hearty congratulations. We wish him fruitful ministry in our diocese. Let us offer him our prayers and support as he begins his mission of ministerial priesthood.

8. INAUGURATION OF THE RENOVATED CHURCH IN UDYAVAR

The renovated St Francis Xavier Church in Udvavar was inaugurated by Most Rev. Gerald D’Almeida, Bishop of Jabalpur and blessed by me on 28 April 2016 in the presence of Most Rev. Robert Miranda, Bishop of Gulbarga. The construction of this artistic House of God was completed well on time, thanks to the untiring efforts, perseverance and determination of the Parish Priest, Rev. Dr Roque D’Souza and the wholehearted cooperation and collaboration of the Parish Finance and Pastoral Councils, supportive parishioners, generous benefactors, well-wishers and people of good will. I hereby express my sincere thanks to Rev. Dr Roque D’Souza for making the dream of a new Church in Udyavar a reality and the parishioners and donors for their wholehearted support.

9. INAUGURATION AND BLESSING OF NEWLY CONSTRUCTED ST AGNES CONVENT AND OLD AGE HOME, PERAMPALLY

The newly constructed St Agnes Convent at Perampally, of the Sisters of Ursuline Franciscan Congregation was inaugurated by V. Rev. Fr Fred Mascarenhas, Dean of Udupi Deanery and blessed by me on 21 April 2016 . In addition to their teaching services in our Infant Mary's Higher Primary School, Perampally, sisters have started an old age home, which is at the service of the needy. I congratulate Sr Noella Menezes, the superior and thank the Ursuline Franciscan Congregation for their noble services in Udupi Diocese and wish them the very best as they venture into the service of caring for the elderly in their new old age home.

10. BLESSING OF THE RENOVATED CHAPEL AT HOLY CROSS CONVENT, TRASI

The renovated chapel of Holy Cross Convent of the Sisters of the Mercy of the Holy Cross (SCSC) was inaugurated and blessed by me on 26 April 2016 in the presence of Rev. Fr Charles Lewis, Parish Priest of Trasi, and other priests. While I thank the sisters for their services in the parish, I congratulate Sr Emmy Fernandes, the superior for renovating the chapel that is appropriate for the celebration of the Eucharist and to spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

8. SACERDOTAL SILVER JUBILEE

V. Rev. Fr Anil D'Souza, Parish Priest of Holy Rosary Church, Kundapur, and Dean of Kundapur Deanery, and Rev. Fr Charles Menezes, France, celebrate the Silver Jubilee of their Priesthood on 8 May 2016. In the name of the presbyterium of the diocese, I extend to them our best wishes and hearty congratulations on their 25 years of fruitful priestly ministry and thank them for their dedicated ministry in the Lord's vineyard. May God continue to bless them abundantly in the years to come.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

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Gerald I. Lobo

Bishop of Udupi

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FOR THE 50th WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY
Communication and Mercy: A Fruitful Encounter**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Holy Year of Mercy invites all of us to reflect on the relationship between communication and mercy. The Church, in union with Christ, the living incarnation of the Father of Mercies, is called to practise mercy as the distinctive trait of all that she is and does. What we say and how we say it, our every word and gesture, ought to express God's compassion, tenderness and forgiveness for all. Love, by its nature, is communication; it leads to openness and sharing. If our hearts and actions are inspired by charity, by divine love, then our communication will be touched by God's own power.

As sons and daughters of God, we are called to communicate with everyone, without exception. In a particular way, the Church's words and actions are all meant to convey mercy, to touch people's hearts and to sustain them on their journey to that fullness of life which Jesus Christ was sent by the Father to bring to all. This means that we ourselves must be willing to accept the warmth of Mother Church and to share that warmth with others, so that Jesus may be known and loved. That warmth is what gives substance to the word of faith; by our preaching and witness, it ignites the "spark" which gives them life.

Communication has the power to build bridges, to enable encounter and inclusion, and thus to enrich society. How beautiful it is when people select their words and actions with care, in the effort to avoid misunderstandings, to heal wounded memories and to build peace and harmony. Words can build bridges between individuals and within

families, social groups and peoples. This is possible both in the material world and the digital world. Our words and actions should be such as to help us all escape the vicious circles of condemnation and vengeance which continue to ensnare individuals and nations, encouraging expressions of hatred. The words of Christians ought to be a constant encouragement to communion and, even in those cases where they must firmly condemn evil, they should never try to rupture relationships and communication.

For this reason, I would like to invite all people of good will to rediscover the power of mercy to heal wounded relationships and to restore peace and harmony to families and communities. All of us know how many ways ancient wounds and lingering resentments can entrap individuals and stand in the way of communication and reconciliation. The same holds true for relationships between peoples. In every case, mercy is able to create a new kind of speech and dialogue. Shakespeare put it eloquently when he said: “The quality of mercy is not strained. It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath. It is twice blessed: it blesseth him that gives and him that takes” (The Merchant of Venice, Act IV, Scene I).

Our political and diplomatic language would do well to be inspired by mercy, which never loses hope. I ask those with institutional and political responsibility, and those charged with forming public opinion, to remain especially attentive to the way they speak of those who think or act differently or those who may have made mistakes. It is easy to yield to the temptation to exploit such situations to stoke the flames of mistrust, fear and hatred. Instead, courage is needed to guide people towards processes of reconciliation. It is precisely such positive and creative boldness which offers real solutions to ancient conflicts and the opportunity to build lasting peace. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Mt 5:7-9)

How I wish that our own way of communicating, as well as our service as pastors of the Church, may never suggest a prideful and triumphant superiority over an enemy, or demean those whom the world considers lost and easily discarded. Mercy can help mitigate life's troubles and offer warmth to those who have known only the coldness of judgment. May our way of communicating help to overcome the mindset that neatly separates sinners from the righteous. We can and we must judge situations of sin – such as violence, corruption and exploitation – but we may not judge individuals, since only God can see into the depths of their hearts. It is our task to admonish those who err and to denounce the evil and injustice of certain ways of acting, for the sake of setting victims free and raising up those who have fallen. The Gospel of John tells us that “the truth will make you free” (Jn 8:32). The truth is ultimately Christ himself, whose gentle mercy is the yardstick for measuring the way we proclaim the truth and condemn injustice. Our primary task is to uphold the truth with love (cf. Eph 4:15). Only words spoken with love and accompanied by meekness and mercy can touch our sinful hearts. Harsh and moralistic words and actions risk further alienating those whom we wish to lead to conversion and freedom, reinforcing their sense of rejection and defensiveness.

Some feel that a vision of society rooted in mercy is hopelessly idealistic or excessively indulgent. But let us try and recall our first experience of relationships, within our families. Our parents loved us and valued us for who we are more than for our abilities and achievements. Parents naturally want the best for their children, but that love is never dependent on their meeting certain conditions. The family home is one place where we are always welcome (cf. Lk 15:11-32). I would like to encourage everyone to see society not as a forum where strangers compete and try to come out on top, but above all as a home or a family, where the door is always open and where everyone feels welcome.

For this to happen, we must first listen. Communicating means sharing, and sharing demands listening and acceptance. Listening is much more than simply hearing. Hearing is about receiving information, while listening is about communication, and calls for closeness. Listening allows us to get things right, and not simply to be passive onlookers, users or consumers. Listening also means being able to share questions and doubts, to journey side by side, to banish all claims to absolute power and to put our abilities and gifts at the service of the common good.

Listening is never easy. Many times it is easier to play deaf. Listening means paying attention, wanting to understand, to value, to respect and to ponder what the other person says. It involves a sort of martyrdom or self-sacrifice, as we try to imitate Moses before the burning bush: we have to remove our sandals when standing on the “holy ground” of our encounter with the one who speaks to me (cf. Ex 3:5). Knowing how to listen is an immense grace, it is a gift which we need to ask for and then make every effort to practice.

Emails, text messages, social networks and chats can also be fully human forms of communication. It is not technology which determines whether or not communication is authentic, but rather the human heart and our capacity to use wisely the means at our disposal. Social networks can facilitate relationships and promote the good of society, but they can also lead to further polarization and division between individuals and groups. The digital world is a public square, a meeting-place where we can either encourage or demean one another, engage in a meaningful discussion or unfair attacks. I pray that this Jubilee Year, lived in mercy, “may open us to even more fervent dialogue so that we might know and understand one another better; and that it may eliminate every form of closed-mindedness and disrespect, and drive out every form of violence and discrimination” (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 23). The internet can help us to be better citizens. Access to digital networks entails a responsibility for our neighbour whom we do not see but who is nonetheless real and has a dignity which must be respected. The internet can be used wisely to build a society which is healthy and open to

sharing.

Communication, wherever and however it takes place, has opened up broader horizons for many people. This is a gift of God which involves a great responsibility. I like to refer to this power of communication as “closeness”. The encounter between communication and mercy will be fruitful to the degree that it generates a closeness which cares, comforts, heals, accompanies and celebrates. In a broken, fragmented and polarized world, to communicate with mercy means to help create a healthy, free and fraternal closeness between the children of God and all our brothers and sisters in the one human family.

From the Vatican, 24 January 2016

Francis

UDUPI COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE

1. Udupi Communications Centre, the social communications’ centre of the diocese, organized a three day Voice Workshop on 16-17-18 April in the Church Hall, Udupi, for the singers of the diocese, conducted by the internationally acclaimed Voice Coach, Mr Jossie Moras, Dubai. There were 57 participants from 14 parishes.

2. The **BIG J Channel** has offered our Diocese to telecast twice a week (Tuesday & Saturday at 7.00 p.m.) programme of 25 minutes duration each in Kannada/ English. The topics of the presentations could be Scripture, Values, Ecology, Family and the like. They have even offered to come to our parishes for the audio-visual recording. The programme could include a Theme, a Hymn, a Scripture Reading, a Reflection, a Skit and a Conclusion. We could include the youth and other artistes of our parishes in spreading the Word of God through the television. The first programme will be telecasted on 17 May 2016.

Rev. Fr Valerian Mendonca
Director

Divya Jyothi (DBCLC)

Programmes in May 2016

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| May 2 | Diocesan Liturgical Commission Meeting at 3.00 pm at Udupi |
| May 14 | Sunday Catechism Coordinators' Meeting (9.15 am to 12.00 noon) at Udupi |
| May 16 | Training of New Catechism Teachers (9.30 am to 4.00 pm) at Udupi |
| May 19 | Training of I & II Std. Sunday Catechism Teachers (9.30 am to 1.00 pm) at Udupi |
| May 20 | Training of IV & V Std. Sunday Catechism Teachers (9.30 am to 1.00 pm) at Udupi |
| May 21 | Training of VI & VIII Std. Sunday Catechism Teachers (9.30 am to 1.00 pm) at Udupi |
| May 27 | Udupi Deanery Catechism Teachers' Training (9.30 am to 1.00 pm) at Udupi |
| May 29 | Day of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at Milagres Cathedral |

Please Note:

1. All Sunday and School Catechism and Value Education (Kannada and English) text books are available at Divya Jyothi.
2. The Sunday catechism coordinators must attend their meeting on 14 May 2016. A letter has been already sent to them.
3. The training of new Catechism teachers is compulsory for all the newly selected Sunday Catechism teachers. Please register their names before 14 May 2016. The registration fees (Rs 250) can be paid on their arrival for training.
4. Since new text books will be introduced for I, II, IV, V, VI & VIII Std. for Sunday Catechism, training has been arranged to introduce these textbooks for teachers of those classes. The Registration fees (Rs 150) can be paid at their arrival for training.
5. Since the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion serve the

parish, I kindly request the Parish Priests to pay the registration fees of Rs 100 per participant for the Extraordinary Ministers' Day.

Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza

Director

COMMISSION FOR SCCs

SCC PROGRAMS IN MAY 2016

- 05.05.2016 SCC Conveners meeting of Kallianpur Deanery.
7-9/ 05.2016 SCC Residential Camp at Pamboor Parish.
15.05.2016 Ward Samithi Training at Kuntalnagar parish.
19.05.2016 SCC Residential Camp Evaluation meeting at Udupi.
22.05.2016 SCC training at Mudaranagady
26.05.2016 SCC Conveners meeting of Shirva Deanery
29.05.2016 SCC training at Kelmbet Parish

Rev. Fr Harold Pereira

Director

Silver Jubilee of Priesthood

- V.Rev. Fr Anil D'Souza, Kundapur 8/5
Rev. Fr Charles Menezes, France 8/5

Ruby Jubilee of Priesthood

- Rev. Fr John Alfred Barboza, Piusnagar 4/5
V.Rev. Fr Valerian Mendonca, Barkur 7/5
V.Rev. Fr Joswey Fernandes, Karkal Town 8/5

Ruby Birthday

- Rev. Fr Anil Castelino, Shirva 20/5

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