

VOX NOSTRA

Vol VII

MAY 2019

No. 5

Dear Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters,

1. MAY DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

It is a Catholic tradition to offer special honour to Mother Mary in the month of May: pilgrimages, visits to Marian churches, little sacrifices in her honour, and a more meaningful recitation of the Rosary. We also have the beautiful tradition of reciting Marian Rosary at the Grotto of our Lady 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. The month of May is also an occasion for us to catechize our faithful on the devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Catholic Church and her role in our salvation history. May our Mother of Miracles, patroness of our Diocese, intercede for all of us to live a fervent Christian life, in the footsteps of her son Jesus Christ.

2. FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER AND INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY

The feast of St Joseph the Worker and International Workers' Day, also known as Labour Day/May Day, is celebrated all over the world on May 1. To foster deep devotion to Saint Joseph among Catholics, and in response to the 'May Day' celebrations for workers sponsored by Communists, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St Joseph the Worker in 1955. This feast extends the long relationship between Joseph and the cause of workers in Catholic faith and devotion. Beginning in the Book of Genesis, the dignity of human work has long been celebrated as a participation in the creative work of God. By work, humankind

both fulfills the Lord's command to care for the earth (Gn 2:15) and to be productive in their labors. St Joseph, the carpenter and foster father of Jesus, is but one example of the holiness of human labor.

Jesus, too, was a carpenter. He learned the trade from St Joseph and spent his early adult years working side-by-side in Joseph's carpentry shop before leaving to pursue his ministry as preacher and healer. In his encyclical *Laborem Exercens*, Pope John Paul II stated: "The Church considers it her task always to call attention to the dignity and rights of those who work, to condemn situations in which that dignity and those rights are violated, and to help to guide [social] changes so as to ensure authentic progress by man and society."

The Commission for Labour in our Diocese works towards the organization of the labourers to secure their rights. Let us support its activities and promote the welfare of all workers, without any discrimination.

3. ORDINATION

We are blessed with three new priests this year. Deacon Stevan Fernadnes, S/o Roman and Santan Fernandes of Pamboor, Deacon Jithesh Irol Castelino, S/o Joseph and Ida Castelino of Pangla, and Deacon Rolwin Fernandes, S/o Reginald and Lydwin Fernandes of Thottam, will be ordained by me as Priests for our Diocese at 10.00 a.m. on 8th, 9th and 30th May respectively in their parishes. We rejoice and thank our Lord for blessing us with the new priests. On behalf of the Diocese, I extend a cordial invitation to all of you to their ordination. Let us welcome them into our Presbyterium.

4. VOCATION SUNDAY

Vocation Sunday is celebrated each year on the fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday, which falls on 11th May this year. "The Lord's call makes us *bearers of a promise* and, at the same time, asks of us the *courage to take a risk*, with him and for him," Pope Francis said in his message for the 2019 World Day for Vocations."The Lord's

call is not an intrusion of God in our freedom; it is not a ‘cage’ or a burden to be borne,” the Holy Father said. “On the contrary, it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be part of a great undertaking. He opens before our eyes the horizon of a greater sea and an abundant catch.” The entire message is given as annexure 1.

5. SUNDAY AND SCHOOL CATECHISM

After the summer vacation, the new academic year will commence by the time next issue of *Vox Nostra* reaches your hands. While imparting quality and disciplined education which is our hallmark, providing our Catholic children with Catechism in our schools is also a serious responsibility. While I exhort all Correspondents and Catholic Heads of our educational institutions to take up this responsibility seriously, I hereby appeal to you, Rev. Parish Priests, to pay special attention to the Sunday Catechism which should begin on **2 June 2019** in all the parishes of our Diocese. There should be a minimum of 26 classes per year as outlined in *Dakval*. To initiate our children to learn the Word of God by heart, all children of V to X Stds have to memorize the suggested Word of God from this year onwards. Please catechize the Catholic parents on the importance of Catechism to their children and their obligation to impart the same to them. Kindly follow the syllabus prepared by Divya Jyothi. You may approach Divya Jyothi for help/material to impart Catechism meaningfully to our children.

6. ADMISSION TO SCHOOLS

Education is a fundamental human right and essential for the exercise of all other human rights. It promotes individual freedom and empowerment and yields important development benefits. It is a powerful tool by which economically and socially marginalized adults and children can lift themselves out of poverty and participate fully as citizens. The Church has been in the forefront in imparting quality education without any discrimination. In our Diocese, while doing admissions to our schools, I exhort that no Catholic child is denied

admission until PUC due to poverty of parents or because of low marks. Let us take this pastoral responsibility with all earnestness, conscientize the parishioners in helping the needy children and mobilize resources towards their fees so that every child in our Diocese is guaranteed of basic education till PUC.

7. OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF ST PAUL VI

Having considered the holiness of St Paul VI and the influence of his ministry for the Church worldwide, Pope Francis approved assigning a day for the saint in the Church's universal calendar of feast days as an Optional Memorial on May 29. This day is the anniversary of St Pope Paul VI's priestly ordination in 1920, given that the date of his death, August 6, is the feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. It said Pope Francis "considered this pope's holiness of life, witnessed to by his works and words" and took into account "the great influence of his apostolic ministry for the church throughout the whole world." The decree in this regard was issued by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments on 25 January 2019 on the feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the apostle. The entire text of the decree is given in pages 14-15.

Yours Sincerely in Christ

+ 

+ Gerald I. Lobo

COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

1. DIVYA JYOTHI

05/5/2019 Bible Seminar at Kelmbet

12/5/2019 Bible Seminar at Kanajar

18/5/2019 Sunday Catechism Coordinators' Meeting (9.30 am to
3.00 pm) at Udupi

24/5/2019 Kundapur Deanery Catechism Teachers' Training

25/5/2019 Karkal Deanery Catechism Teachers' Training

26/5/2019 Kallianpur Deanery Catechism Teachers' Training

27/5/2019 Shirva Deanery Catechism Teachers' Training

Please Note:

1. All Sunday and School Catechism and Value Education (Kannada and English) text books are available at Divya Jyothi.

2. The training of new Catechism Teachers is compulsory for all the newly selected Sunday Catechism teachers. Please register their names before 09 June 2019. The registration fees (Rs 250) can be paid on their arrival for training.

Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza
Director

Published at **Bishop's House, Udupi - 576 101**
Email: voxnostraeditor@gmail.com Editor: **Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza**
(For Private circulation only)