

VOX NOSTRA

Vol XI

MAY 2023

No. 5

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. ST JOSEPH THE WORKER AND INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY

International Workers' Day is celebrated all over the world on May

1. Saint Joseph, the husband of Mary and foster father of the Lord Jesus Christ, was a carpenter who supported the holy family through his daily labour. The Church presents him as the protector and model to all who earn their own and their families' livelihood through manual labour. His example is used as an occasion to highlight the concept of work, and the fact that the holy family worked for a living is seen as a point of fellowship with most of the world's families. May St Joseph the Worker motivate us all to recognize the dignity of labour, however big or small, and accord due respect to all those who work in our parishes and institutions.

International Workers' Day is a day which upholds the dignity and labour rights of workers. Dating back to 1886 and born as a result of worldwide struggle of workers for 8 hours working, labour security, workplace safety, health, etc., it stands as a symbol of working-class solidarity. The slogan of International Labour Organization for workers for 2023 is "World Day for Safety and Health at Work." The day is an occasion to express solidarity, ensure dignity and labour rights of working class who are the backbone of the economy. Let all the workers unite to protect the hard-earned rights which have become real through struggles. The theme for May Day 2023, given by the CBCI Commission for Labour is "protect the rights of workers who are the backbone of the economy and the society" and has been already posted in Chancery group.

2. MAY DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The May Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary refers to the special Marian Devotion practised in the Catholic Church during the month of May honouring Mother Mary as the ‘Queen of May’. Catholics offer special honour to Mother Mary in May: pilgrimages, visits to Marian shrines, little sacrifices in her honour, and devout recitation of the Rosary. Let us highlight the importance of Marian devotion in our messages, preaching, catechesis, etc. to the faithful and also encourage the faithful to practice the Marian devotion in their families.

Let us make it a point to teach this devotion to our children and the young people in our parishes. I appeal to parish priests to organize community rosaries in parish before the mass or in front of the Grotto or also encourage the praying of Rosary at ward levels. This would also help in rejuvenating this Marian devotion in all families of our Diocese. It is fitting that, as priests and religious, we too practise this devotion that nourishes our day-to-day spiritual life and provides spiritual strength in our pastoral ministry.

3. WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

World Communications Day is celebrated each year on the Sunday before Pentecost and this year it is on **21 May 2023**. The theme of World Communications Day for 2023 is “Speaking the truth in love: *Veritatem facientes in caritate* (Eph. 4:15)”. It is ideally connected to that of 2022, “Listening with the Ear of the Heart,” and is intended to fit particularly into the journey that will lead the whole Church to the celebration of the Synod in October 2023. To speak with the heart means “to give reason of the hope that is in us” (cf. 1 Peter 3:14-

17) and to do so with meekness, using the gift of communication as a bridge and not as a wall. In a time marked - even in church life - by polarization and exaggerated debates that exacerbate tempers, the Pope invites everyone to go against the tide. FAITH FORMATION CAMPS

It was heartening to note that a few parishes organized faith-formation camps to children in the month of April on topics related to Faith, Bible, etc. I wholeheartedly thank and congratulate the parish priests for these initiatives which certainly form a part of their pastoral ministry. I also request the

other parish priests to take initiative and organize faith- formation camps to children for 2-3 days in the month of May with the help of Catechism teachers and the youth.

4. MOMENT OF MARIAN PRAYER ON 31 MAY 2023

The General Secretariat of the Synod in Rome, through its letter Prot. N. 230068, dated 28 February, 2023, has requested Episcopal Conferences worldwide to arrange for the celebration of a “Moment of Marian Prayer,” on 31 May 2023 — the liturgical memorial of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the conclusion of the Marian Month — in preparation for and prayerful expectation of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. The CCBI Office Bearers, gathered at their scheduled online meeting on Wednesday, 29 March 2023, unanimously felt that, just as the inauguration of the Synodal Journey had taken place in each Diocese, this celebration too should be held in each Diocese on the indicated date, either in the Cathedral or in one or more Marian shrines of the territory, bearing in mind that:

- a) “it is to be a prayer for the Synodal Journey, in order to make the People of God aware of the importance of the Process underway and to exhort the Faithful to accompany it with prayer;”
- b) “it is to place the Church’s entire Synodal Process, especially the work of the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, under the specific protection of Our Lady;”
- c) “it is to include the participation of the different ecclesial vocations (lay, priestly, consecrated life).”

The meeting also felt that besides the diocesan celebrations of this “Moment of Marian Prayer,” each parish could also be encouraged to organize similar prayer services on the same day, so that all our Faithful

may have the opportunity to join the Universal Church in this special “moment” of prayer. It is needless to say that this will be a much welcome time of intense prayer that will express the vitality and beauty of our Church and of the popular religiosity of our Faithful centered around the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Udupi diocesan level Moment of Marian Prayer will be organised at the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Vailankanni, Kalmady on Wednesday, 31 May 2023. More information will be sent to you in due time. I also request all parish priests to organise the Moment of Marian Prayer in your parishes. The prayer could include a holy hour or a meaningful prayer service with reading and reflection on the word of God of the day, prayers of the faithful and Marian Rosary.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ **Gerald Isaac Lobo**

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF ORDINATION

Rev. Fr Stany B. Lobo, Parish Priest St Francis Xavier Church, Udyavar	08-05-2023
Rev. Fr Alphonsus D’Lima, Parish Priest St Joseph Church, Kota	08-05-2023
Rev. Fr Arthur Pereira, Milagres Home	08-05-2023
Rev. Fr Stany Tauro, Parish Priest, Holy Rosary Church, Kundapur	10-05-2023
Rev. Fr Xavier Pinto, Milagres Home	10-05-2023

Congratulations and Best Wishes Dear Rev. Fathers

COMMUNICATION FROM ANUGRGRAHA- PASTORAL PASTORAL CENTRE

1. DIVYAJYOTHI

Liturgical seminar for Parish Conveners, Choir Masters and Musicians - 09.30 am to 04.00 pm

Rev. Fr Cyril Lobo
Director

2. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND ECOLOGY COMMISSION

May 28, Sunday - Parish Conveners' Meeting – 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm.

Rev. Fr Reginald Pinto
Director

3. WOMEN COMMISSION

May 30, Tuesday - Parish Conveners' Meeting – 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm.

Rev. Fr Reginald Pinto
Director

4. HEALTH COMMISSION

14.05.2023 - Diocesan Level Gathering of Nurses and Para- Medical Staff - 3.00 pm to 05.00 pm

Dr Edward Lobo
Director

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