

VOX NOSTRA

Vol III

November 2015

No. 11

Editorial

It gives us great joy to know that our beloved Bishop Gerald Isaac Lobo will be celebrating his birthday on 12 November 2015. As the first Bishop of Udipi installed on 15 October 2012, he has completed three precious years of his shepherding ministry by meticulously planning and promulgating the Pastoral Plan 2025 all over the Diocese by personally explaining to members of Statutory Bodies of all parishes in detail of its vision, mission and objectives and the manner in which every parish needed to understand it and implement with ease and bring forth concrete fruits and results. The results of this Mission 2025 are already seen and bearing desired fruits, thanks to the untiring concern, efforts, leadership and prayers of our Bishop. The blessing of the Foundation Stones of the three urgent Diocesan projects on 15 October



2015 is indeed a milestone and essential part of the Pastoral Plan 2025 the success of which we all need to pray for, support and collaborate.

With these above sentiments of joy, appreciation and gratitude for the way you, our dear Bishop have been leading our three year old Diocese, we offer you our cordial and affectionate wishes on the occasion of your **HAPPY BIRTHDAY on 12 November 2015**

**The Clergy, Religious and Laity of the Diocese of Udipi wish
the Beloved Bishop**

A Very Happy Birthday and Happiness Always

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. ALL SAINTS' DAY

The Feast of All Saints is celebrated all over the Catholic world on 1st November with great solemnity. On this day the Church rejoices over all the canonized and beatified saints as well as the multitude of those who are in heaven enjoying the beatific vision. We “must follow in His footsteps and conform ourselves to His image seeking the will of the Father in all things. We must devote ourselves, with all our being, to the glory of God and service of our neighbour. In this way, the holiness of the People of God will grow into an abundant harvest of good, as is admirably shown by the life of so many saints in Church history” (LG, 40). The Church recalls our brothers and sisters “of all nations and tribes standing before the throne and in sight of the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands, proclaiming Him who redeemed them in His Blood.” The Feast of *All Saints* inspires us with great hope. I exhort all of you, dear Fathers, to celebrate this solemnity with jubilation so that through the prayerful intercession of all saints, we may be found worthy to join them in the heavenly Jerusalem.

2. ALL SOULS' DAY

The Church remembers and prays for all the faithful departed on 2nd November. *Requiem Masses* are offered for the faithful departed who are in the state of purification. Naturally, Christians offer special prayers on this day for their departed family members, relatives and friends.

There are two **Plenary Indulgences** attached to the All Souls' Day, one for visiting a church and another for visiting a cemetery. Praying for the dead is a Christian obligation for which the Church devotes the month of November.

Pope Francis, on 3.11.2014, called for prayers for the departed, including “those no one remembers.” He said: “We remember the victims of war and violence, the many ‘little ones’ of the world crushed by hunger and poverty,” to the crowds in St Peter’s Square. “We remember the anonymous who rest in common graves. We remember our brothers and sisters killed because they are Christians and those

who sacrificed their lives to serve others. We especially entrust to the Lord those who have left us last year.” “Church tradition has always urged prayer for the dead, in particular by offering the celebration of the Eucharist for them: it is the best spiritual help that we can give to their souls, particularly to the most abandoned ones,” he added. Let us encourage our people to pray for the dear departed so that those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith may obtain remission of their sins and be admitted to the company of saints.

Aplenary indulgence, applicable only to the souls in Purgatory, is granted to any of the faithful. Please refer to the *Ordo* 2014-15 on pages 148 and 149. I request you to explain your parishioners about the importance of this commemoration and the plenary indulgence attached to it. The importance of All Souls’ Day was made clear by Pope Benedict XV (1914-22), when he granted all priests the privilege of celebrating three Masses on All Souls’ Day: one in favour of any person, the second to be made applicable to all the faithful departed and the third, for the intention of the Holy Father.

3. DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

The Diocesan Eucharistic Procession this year will take place on November 22, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Like last year, it will be held at the Mother of Sorrows Church, Udupi, under the leadership of, V. Rev. Fr Fred Mascarenhas, the Dean of Udupi Deanery. A Committee has been formed to work out the details.

There will be a Eucharistic celebration at 4.00 pm on the Udupi Church grounds followed by a short adoration and the solemn Eucharistic Procession. The celebration will conclude with a homily and benediction. I request you, dear Rev. Fathers, to announce to your parishioners the significance of this Annual Diocesan Eucharistic Procession and the need to participate in it in large numbers. Those of you who wish to concelebrate at the Mass at 4.00 pm are welcome to do so. I request you to join the procession without fail.

Members of all Official Bodies and Associations/ Organizations like the Altar Servers, Legion of Mary, SVP, SFO, etc. are requested

to wear their *insignia* during the procession.

I request Parish priests of all parishes in Udupi and Kallianpur Deaneries to cancel Saturday evening Mass preceding this Sunday and hold only one Mass on 22 November 2015, the day of the celebration, as there is Mass at 4.00 pm on the Udupi Church grounds.

4. DIACONAL MINISTRY

God has blessed us with one Deacon this year. Brother Canute Noronha was ordained a Deacon by me on 14.10.2015 in St Joseph's Seminary, Mangalore. He hails from Pangala Parish. He will begin his diaconal ministry from 01 November 2015 at St Philip Neri Church, Basrur. We wish him a fruitful diaconal ministry.

5. ANNUAL PARISH FEASTS

Annual Parish Feasts are round the corner in good many parishes of our Diocese. Parish feasts are occasions for families and relatives to meet and greet each other, come together and share a fellowship festive meal with guests, relatives and family members. It is also an occasion to promote parish unity and family spirit and grow more in spiritual strength and grace.

It is true that today '*pirjents*' come forward to sponsor parish festive expenses and, wherever this is not possible, contributions are made by families through '*murdom*'. I appreciate very much the goodwill of these *pirjents* and contributions from parishioners in order to make parish feasts devotional, joyous and attractive. I request the Parish Priests to set aside the **offertory collection** made during your respective annual parish festal Mass for the Diocese and send the same to the Financial Administrator as the **contribution to the Diocesan Projects**.

6. EARMARKED COLLECTION

Mission Sunday has been celebrated all over the Diocese on 18 October 2015. I thank you, dear Rev. Fathers, for the keen interest you have taken in celebrating this Sunday in a befitting manner by explaining to your parishioners the need to promote missionary activity of the Universal Church. I also thank you for organizing functions and festivals to raise funds for the Missions. Please extend my thanks to

your parishioners for their active participation and co-operation for their prayers for and contributions towards the cause of the Church's missionary activities. With a view to make announcement of collections made by various parishes of this Diocese on 22 November 2015, the day of the celebration of our Eucharistic procession, I hereby request you to send the same to the Diocesan Financial Administrator on or before 15 November 2015.

7. SINCERE THANKS

A. Camps:

Every Deanery enthusiastically conducted camps for Faith Formation for the students of 8th, 9th and 10th Standards. I am aware of the great effort put in by our Deans and Parish Priests to bring the children of their respective parishes together in these camps. The camps were made interesting, informative, faith-oriented and resourceful. I hope that our children have understood the value of the precious gift of our Faith and the need to live and promote it. I thank the Deans of our Deaneries for hosting and coordinating these camps and all Parish Priests for their effort in making these camps meaningful and successful. May God bless you, all.

B. Karnataka Regional YCS/YSM Convention

The Karnataka Regional YCS/YSM Convention, which was inaugurated on 18 October 2015 in the presence of over 600 YCS/YSM students, was solemnly concluded on 20 October 2015 at St Mary's English Medium School at Kannarpady, Udupi, in which 1,400 students participated. Thanks to the able and efficient leadership of Rev. Fr Edwin D'Souza, Diocesan Director of our Youth Commission and his Team, the Convention was a grand success. I offer my hearty congratulations to Fr Edwin and all who collaborated in organizing this mega event at the Regional level for the first time in this new and infant Diocese. May God bless you, all.

8. NEW BISHOP FOR MANDYA

The Holy Father Pope Francis has appointed Rev. Fr Antony Kariyil, CMI, as the new Bishop of Mandya, a Syro-Malabar Diocese in the Region of Karnataka. The Bishop-elect was consecrated on 18

October 2015 in Mandya. We, the clergy, religious and laity of this Diocese rejoice over the appointment and wish the new Bishop a fruitful Episcopal ministry in the Diocese of Mandya.

9. BLESSING OF FOUNDATION STONES

On the occasion of the third anniversary of the establishment of our Diocese and my installation as the first Bishop, I was very happy to bless the Foundation Stones for three of our important Diocesan Projects- Pastoral Centre, Home for Retired Priests and Minor Seminary - on 15 October 2015 in our land at Kinnimulki in the presence of Hon'ble Vinay Kumar Sorake, our District in-charge and Urban Development Minister, several Priests, Religious men and women, Vice Presidents and Secretaries of our PPCs, Secretary and members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council and special invitees. I thank all those who took a lot of interest in the logistics to organize this ceremony and for making suitable arrangements for its meaningful celebration. I request you to pray for the successful completion of these projects, as envisaged in our plan for the implementation of *Mission 2025*.

10. NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

50 years ago, during the 38th International Eucharistic Congress celebrated in Bombay from 28 November to 06 December 1964, Blessed Pope Paul VI had graced the historical and memorable event by his holy presence and participation. Now the Archdiocese of Mumbai is all set to host the National Eucharistic Congress from 12 to 15 November 2015 with the theme: *Nourished by Christ to nourish others*. While we rejoice over this Eucharistic Congress at the National Level to be hosted in Mumbai, let us pray that this Eucharistic Congress will deepen the understanding, appreciation and love of the Eucharist, experiencing the presence of the Lord by all those who will be privileged to participate in it so that being nourished themselves, they may, in turn, nourish others. May this Eucharistic Congress be a source of abundant blessings for our motherland, India.

The following five from our Diocese will represent us by taking part in this National Eucharistic Congress in Mumbai: Rev. Dr Roque D'Souza (Secretary, Council of Priests), Rev. Sr Tresilda (President,

CRI), Mr Alphonse D'Costa (Secretary, DPC), Mrs Smitha Ranjer (President, *Sthree Sanghatan*), Mr Derick Mascarennhas (President, ICYM).

11. CATECHISM ON THE HOLY EUCHARIST

I am happy to inform you that our '*Divya Jyothi*' has brought out a book on '*Yeukarista visheen Shikovun*' (Instruction on the Holy Eucharist) which is available in its office at a cost of Rs. 60/- per copy. This will be the text book for children preparing for First Holy Communion in the Diocese.

May all saints, for whom we gratefully thank and praise God on 1st November, intercede for all of us; may all souls for whom we offer our fervent prayers on 2nd November be granted eternal rest, and may God's copious blessings be showered upon our infant Diocese which has joyfully completed three years in its forward march to realize its *Mission 2025* for His greater glory. May God's choicest blessings be showered upon the Clergy, Religious and the laity of this Diocese as I entrust all to the protection and care of our Heavenly Mother, Our Lady of Miracles.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

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Gerald I. Lobo

Bishop of Udupi