

VOX NOSTRA

Vol IX

OCTOBER 2021

No. 10

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. MONTH OF THE ROSARY

The month of October each year is dedicated to the most Holy Rosary. This is primarily due to the fact that the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7. Praying the Rosary is a way to continuously grow in our faith and protect ourselves in the secular world. The Mysteries offer a focal point for our reflection; they center on the key moments in the life of Christ as well as Mother Mary. Each of the Mysteries comes with a specific spiritual ‘goal’ for us to contemplate it as we pray.

During this month, let us use this beautiful prayer in order to draw closer to Jesus and Mary. Let us take this month as an occasion to catechize our faithful on the importance of the Rosary and also encourage them to pray the Rosary daily in their families.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DIOCESE

On 15 October 2021, the Diocese completes nine years since its establishment. During these nine years, the Diocese has grown pastorally in an organized way with the implementation of the Pastoral Plan- Mission 2025. We have received numerous blessings from God in these years through the intercession of our Lady of Miracles, the Patron of the Diocese. All priests, the religious and lay faithful, have generously involved themselves in the developments at the parish and diocesan levels. I remain grateful to all of you, dear Fathers and Sisters, for your generosity, hard work and dedicated service. May God bless you, all, with great health, joy and peace in your ministry. Once again, let us re-dedicate ourselves to the service of the people of God with greater compassion, zeal and charity.

3. MISSION SUNDAY

The Mission Sunday will be celebrated on 17 October 2021. The theme the Holy Father has chosen this year is: ***“We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard”*** (Acts 4:20). In his message for the World Mission Sunday 2021, Pope Francis says: “Once we experience the power of God’s love we cannot help but proclaim and share what we have seen and heard. Jesus’ relationship with his disciples and his humanity shows us the extent to which God loves our humanity and makes his own our joys and sufferings, our hopes and our concerns’.

I sincerely appreciate the great interest and enthusiasm each one of you take, year after year, to make this Sunday truly meaningful. Last year our diocesan contribution was Rs 38,07,731. While I thank you for this contribution, I urge you to motivate your parishioners to be generous towards the cause of the missions through their prayers, sacrifices and contributions. As mentioned in the ORDO, the Mass on the day may be offered ‘For the Evangelization of Peoples’, as indicated in the Roman Missal.

4. FAITH FORMATION CAMP

As a part of the faith-formation of our children in High Schools, we used to organize Jeevan Amrith, Jeevan Disha and Jeevan Jyothi camps in October for 8th, 9th and 10th Standards respectively. However, owing to the pandemic we could not hold them last year. Since the offline classes have begun for these children, I request the deaneries/parishes to organize at least **Jeevan Jyothi camp for 2-3 days** for the children of the 10th Std during the Dasara holidays from 10 to 20 October 2021 with input sessions on most important topics relevant to them.

5. PREPARING FOR THE SYNOD: OCT 2021- OCT 2023

Pope Francis has announced XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops with the theme: ‘For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission’. According to the Pope, “it is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church in the third millennium.” The Pope says that “Synod” means “journeying

together – laity, pastors, the Bishop of Rome”. He invites the whole Church for a “mutual listening to the Holy Spirit” at every level of the Church’s life.

The Pope has given a new format for the consultations: they will begin in the local Churches, and then move on to the Episcopal Conferences. The synthesis of the discussion will be sent to the General Secretariat at the Vatican, and there the matter will be collated to prepare the *Instrumentum Laboris* (Working Paper). This will be dispatched to the International Episcopal Conferences at the Continental level for further discussion and discernment. Their observations will be forwarded to the General Secretariat which will prepare the synthesis to be presented in the Synod Hall. The official opening of the synodal process will be at the Vatican on 9-10 October 2021. The local Church will open it on Sunday, 17 October 2021. The Synod at the universal level will be held in the Vatican in October 2023. Let us pray for the success of the Synod so that the whole Church may zealously journey together to carry the flame of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The Vatican has issued the *Lineamenta* (preparatory document) and a ‘handbook’ for the dioceses as a part of the global Church’s preparation for this Synod. The handbook or “*Vademecum*” offers guidelines for bishops and those who facilitate the synodal process locally on how best they can listen to and consult Catholics and the wider community, particularly those on the periphery of society as well as Christians and non-Christians. As a part of the diocesan phase, the questionnaire from the *Vademecum* will be discussed at the Pastoral Councils, Council of Priests and various groups and associations in the Diocese. I have appointed Rev. Fr Stephen D’Souza, Director, Divya Jyothi as the diocesan contact person to coordinate the Diocesan phase and to facilitate discussion on the questionnaire. The other members of the coordinating team will be co-opted soon. The inauguration of the Diocesan Phase of the Synod will be held on Mission Sunday, 17 October at 08.00 a.m. in the Milagres Cathedral during the Holy Eucharist.

6. SEMINAR ON PARISH TRUSTS

Most of the parishes have completed the process of creating Trust Deeds for the parishes and some are in the process of creating it. The

creation of a Trust invites many legal compliances on the Trust and imposes certain obligations on the Trustees. Therefore, deanery level input sessions are to be organized for all Parish Priests, Vice Presidents and Secretaries of the Parish Pastoral Council. A team led by me will facilitate these sessions. The venue will be informed by the Dean. If it is not possible to attend the seminar in your deanery, you may attend it in another deanery, with prior information to the Dean of that deanery. The schedule is as follows:

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| Oct 06 | 09.30 am to 12.30 pm | Karkal Deanery |
| Oct 06 | 03.00 pm to 06.00 pm | Shirva Deanery |
| Oct 13 | 03.00 pm to 06.00 pm | Udupi Deanery |
| Oct 14 | 09.30 am to 12.30 pm | Kundapur Deanery |
| Oct 14 | 03.00 pm to 06.00 pm | Kallianpur Deanery |

7. NEW COUNCIL OF PRIESTS

Since the present Council of Priests will complete its term of three years on 31 December 2021, we have to conduct elections for the new Council of Priests which will be convoked in January 2022. I hereby request all the concerned to conduct elections as per the Statutes governing the Council of Priests of Udupi Diocese for the membership so that I have the names of new members to the Council of Priests by 31 October 2021.

8. NEW DEAN FOR KARKAL DEANERY

Since V. Rev. Fr Clement Mascarenhas, Parish Priest, Karkal-Town, has expressed his inability to continue as the dean of Karkal Deanery due to health reasons, V. Rev. Fr Paul Rego, Parish Priest, Miyar, has been appointed as the new dean of Karkal Deanery w.e.f. 01 October 2021. While I thank V. Rev. Fr Celement Mascarenhas for his services so far, I Convey my best wishes to V. Rev. Fr Paul Rego on his new additional responsibility. I request the priests of Karkal Deanery to extend full cooperation to the new dean in the pastoral care of Karkal Deanery.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ Gerald Isaac Lobo

TRAINING OF NEW EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Day & Date: Sunday, 24 October 2021

Venue: Udupi Church hall

Time: 9.30 am to 4.00 pm. Tea at 9.15 am.
Sunday Mass will be celebrated.

Note:

1. Please select candidates for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion as per the requirement of parish according to the revised guidelines (Oct 2016) given for Udupi Diocese and **register their names in writing with Divya Jyothi before 10 October 2021**. Do not select again as candidate whose request for renewal of term was rejected earlier for the lack of attendance at annual OFEM or for any other reason.
2. The registration fees (Rs 250) can be paid at their arrival for training.
3. Kindly note that the religious presently serving as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion in a parish in Udupi Diocese and are transferred within the Diocese, if they are chosen in the new parish to serve as Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, need not attend this training. A letter of request to Bishop to grant them mandate in the new parish is sufficient.
- 4 Training is compulsory for those religious who are transferred from other dioceses to Udupi Diocese and are chosen for this ministry.

Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza
Director-Divya Jyothi

INTENTION OF POPE FRANCIS FOR OCTOBER 2021

Missionary Disciples

We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavor of the Gospel.

Published at **Bishop's House, Udupi - 576 101**

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(For Private circulation only)