

# VOX NOSTRA

**Vol. XII**

**OCTOBER 2024**

**No. 10**

*Dear Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters,*

## **1. MONTH OF HOLY ROSARY**

The month of October is dedicated to the most holy Rosary. This is primarily because the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7. “Meditation on the mysteries of Christ is proposed in the Rosary by means of a method designed to assist in their assimilation. It is a method based on repetition. This applies above all to the *Hail Mary*, repeated ten times in each mystery. If this repetition is considered superficially, there could be a temptation to see the Rosary as a dry and boring exercise. It is quite another thing, however, when the Rosary is thought of as an outpouring of that love which tirelessly returns to the person loved with expressions similar in their content but ever fresh in terms of the feeling pervading them.” (Pope John Paul II, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, #26). I urge all parish priests to organise community Rosaries for the faithful in parish Churches or in front of the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. I also urge all priests and religious, as communities and individuals, to especially pray the Rosary in this month and draw closer to the Blessed Virgin Mary as spiritual support in your ministry.

## **2. SECOND SESSION OF SYNOD 2021-24**

The second session of the Synod on Synodality will take place in Rome from **October 2 to 27, 2024** on the theme, “For a Synodal Church: communion, participation, and mission.” This session will mark

the end of the discernment phase and the beginning of the implementation phase. Before the session begins, participants will gather for a two-day spiritual retreat from September 30 to October 1. The retreat will include a penitential prayer vigil led by Pope Francis. Four forums will be held alongside the assembly to provide a platform for reflection and debate on theological topics. Fifteen study groups will continue their work through June 2025, providing progress updates at the beginning of the October session.

The *Instrumentum laboris* for the second session focuses on “how the synodal Church is on mission” and proposes concrete ways to implement a more synodal approach in Church governance, theology, mission, and discernment of doctrine. Building on the results of the first session in 2023, it outlines three overarching questions: 1. How can we be more fully a sign and instrument of union with God and of the unity of all humanity? 2. How can we better share gifts and tasks in the service of the Gospel? 3. What processes, structures, and institutions are needed in a missionary synodal Church?

From India, Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, Cardinal Filipe Neri António Sebastião Do Rosário Ferrão, Archbishop of Goa and Damão, Cardinal Anthony Poola, Archbishop of Hyderabad, Archbishop George Antonysamy of Madras and Mylapore, Bishop Alex Joseph Vadakumthala of Kannur, Metropolitan Archbishop Andrews Thazhath of Trichur and Archbishop Joseph Pamplany of Tellicherry will participate in the second phase of Synod 2021-24.

As we continue to pray for a fruitful synod 2021-24, let us remember and pray for all the participants in this second phase so that they keep in mind only the good of the Church so that the Church may become a place for a true encounter with risen Christ, and that she may be faithful to the mission entrusted by Jesus Christ and bring salvation to all the people.

### 3. END OF THE SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation, began on 1 September, ends on **04 October 2024**, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. As I informed you in the previous issue, the Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our creator and all other creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment. Let this season remind us once again that humans are only stewards of creation and the goods of this creation are to be shared not only with humans on this earth but also with all living beings who are created by God with a purpose. Our Christian faith invites us to recognize the earth as a common home for all living beings and that we have a responsibility to care for it every day through our common and individual actions.

### 4. SEMINARS FOR THE CLERGY AND THE WOMEN RELIGIOUS

As part of the Year of Learning and the Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee 2025, a seminar for Women Religious on *Sacrosanctum concilium* has been organised on Friday, **11 October 2024** with Rev. Dr Ronald Serrao as the resource person. Another seminar for all diocesan and religious priests and deacons on *Lumen gentium* has been organised on Wednesday, **16 October 2024**. The second seminar for women Religious on *Gaudium et spes* has been organised on Thursday, **31 October 2024** with Rev. Dr Rajesh Rosario as the resource person. These three seminars will be held in Anugraha Pastoral Centre from 10.00 am to 01.00 pm with registration starting at 09.30 am. I request all the participants in their respective groups to attend these seminars without fail and thus grow and deepen their understanding of the Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council.

### 5. ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIOCESE

On **15 October 2024**, the Diocese completes twelve years since its establishment. The Second Vatican Council defines a diocese as “a

portion of the people of God which is entrusted to a bishop to be shepherded by him with the cooperation of the presbytery. Thus, by adhering to its pastor and gathered together by him through the Gospel and the Eucharist in the Holy Spirit, it constitutes a particular church in which the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church of Christ is truly present and operative” (cf. *CD* 11, can. 369). Since the establishment of the Diocese, we have strived to realize this vision of Vatican II for a diocese through the implementation of the pastoral plan- mission 2025, by the active participation of priests, religious, and the laity in various participatory structures at the diocesan, deanery, and parish levels, and working together in communion as one spiritual family.

We have received numerous blessings from God during these years through the intercession of Our Lady of Miracles, the patroness. We raise our hearts in gratitude to God for his showers of blessings. I sincerely appreciate the cooperation extended by all parish priests and assistant priests who have steered the parishes in the implementation of the pastoral plan in their parishes. I remain grateful to you. Without your pastoral leadership and hard work in parishes, the implementation of the pastoral plan would not have been achieved. A word of gratitude to all priests in schools, diocesan institutes and centers shouldering the responsibility of education apostolate, directing and guiding the pastoral commissions and other ministries at the diocesan level. I also acknowledge and thank the members of the religious institutes and the societies of apostolic life in the diocese, who besides carrying out the works of their institute/society, contribute to the growth and welfare of the diocese through their prayers and active participation in parish and diocesan works. Let us continue to serve the people of God with ever greater compassion, zeal, and charity. You are all in my daily prayers. May God bless you.

## **6. MISSION SUNDAY 2024**

The Mission Sunday will be celebrated this year on **20 October 2024** and will be focused on the theme “Go and invite everyone to the banquet” (cf. Mt 22:9). In his message, the Pope reflects on the Gospel parable of the wedding banquet, where the king tells his servants, “Go therefore to the thoroughfares and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find”. “In the king’s command to his servants,” Pope Francis writes, “we find two words that express the heart of the mission: the verbs ‘to go out’ and ‘to invite.’” “Mission,” he says, “is a tireless going out to all men and women, to invite them to encounter God and enter into communion with him,” just as Jesus, “the Good Shepherd and messenger of the Father, went out in search of the lost sheep”. Turning to consider the king’s exhortation to “invite”, the Pope says that “here we can see another, no less important, aspect of the mission entrusted by God.” “As we can imagine,” he continues, “the servants conveyed the king’s invitation with urgency but also with great respect and kindness.” Christians today, the Pope stressed, should do the same: they are called to preach the Gospel with “joy, magnanimity, and benevolence that are the fruits of the Holy Spirit within them.”

I sincerely appreciate the great interest and enthusiasm each one of you takes, year after year, to make Mission Sunday in your parishes truly meaningful. While I thank you for this contribution, I urge you to motivate your parishioners this year too 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.

## **7. FAITH FORMATION CAMPS**

I had requested you to make appropriate preparations for the effective organization of the faith-formation camps, namely, Jeevan Amrith, Jeevan Disha, and Jeevan Jyothi for the children of standards

8th, 9th, and 10th respectively at the deanery level during the Dasara holidays in October 2024. I hope the Organizing Committees have been formed for this purpose, and the resource persons are chosen in all five deaneries. I request all parish priests to take this faith event in our diocese as of utmost priority and see that all children from the parish take part in these faith-formation camps. Do inform the children and their parents about the importance of these camps which focus on topics relevant to the children in their high school.

## **8. NATIONAL PASTORAL PLAN: MISSION 2033**

The Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) launched its new National Pastoral Plan, titled “Journeying towards a Synodal Church: Mission 2033.” It was officially released by Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão, President of the CCBI, during a meeting at St John’s National Institute of Health Sciences, Bangalore, on 11 September 2024. This initiative follows a year-long process involving over 5,000 members of the Latin Catholic Church in India, including bishops, clergy, religious leaders, men, women and youth. The plan is a collective project. A facilitation committee has been formed to oversee the implementation of the plan, which will be rolled out through the Commissions, Departments and Apostolates of the CCBI at the national, regional and diocesan levels.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

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+ **Gerald Isaac Lobo**

## **APPOINTMENT OF BISHOP GERALD LOBO AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CCBI PASTORAL PLAN FACILITATION COMMITTEE**

Our Bishop, Most Rev. Dr Gerald Isaac Lobo has been appointed as the Chairman of the CCBI Pastoral Plan Facilitation Committee, during the CCBI Executive Committee Meeting held on 11 September 2024, headed by His Eminence Philip Neri Cardinal Ferrao, President of the CCBI.

The Pastoral Plan Facilitation Committee, under the guidance of Bishop Gerald Lobo, will ensure the effective dissemination and implementation of the Pastoral Plan of the CCBI, “Journeying towards a Synodal Church: Mission 2033”. This Committee will play a crucial role in monitoring, reviewing, assisting and encouraging the Secretaries of the Commissions, Directors of the Departments and Coordinators of the Apostolates of the CCBI at the national, regional and diocesan levels.

The clergy, religious and the lay faithful of the Diocese of Udupi extend their heartfelt congratulations to Bishop Gerald Lobo on this appointment and extend their prayers and best wishes for the fruitfulness of this new ministry.

**Msgr Ferdinand Gonsalves**  
**Vicar General**  
**Diocese of Udupi**

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## **PROGRAM OF COMMISSION FOR BASIC ECCLESIAL COMMUNITIES**

11.10.2024 -- Kundapur Deanery Convention: 9.30 am -1.00 pm  
20.10.2024 -- Kanajar parish from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm  
27.10.2024 -- Udyavar parish from 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm

**Rev. Fr Harold Pereira**  
**Director**

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO REV. FR REGINALD PINTO AND REV. FR DENIS D'SA**

Rev. Fr Reginald Pinto, a priest of our Diocese and the Executive Director, Sampada Udupi, has been appointed as one of the Council Members of the CCBI Commission for Women for 4 years with effect from 01 October 2024 by Most Rev. Dr Anil Joseph Couto, Archbishop of Delhi and Secretary General, CCBI. The Women Commission Council is a consultative body tasked with assisting and guiding the Office Bearers of the Commission for Women. As a Council member, Fr Reginald Pinto's role will be to provide valuable advice and strategic direction for the implementation of the action plan outlined in the CCBI's Pastoral Plan.

Rev. Fr Denis D'Sa, a priest of our Diocese, and the Parish Priest, St Anne's Church, Thottam, has been appointed as one of the Council Members of the CCBI Commission for Ecumenism for 4 years with effect from 01 October 2024 by Most Rev. Dr Anil Joseph Couto, Archbishop of Delhi and Secretary General, CCBI. The Ecumenism Commission Council is a consultative body tasked with assisting and guiding the Office Bearers of the Commission for Ecumenism. As a Council member, Rev. Fr Denis D'Sa's role will be to provide valuable advice and strategic direction for the implementation of the action plan outlined in the CCBI's Pastoral Plan.

We congratulate Rev. Fr Reginald Pinto and Rev. Fr Denis D'Sa on these appointments and invoke God's blessings on them as they undertake these important services to the Church in India.

**Vicar General and the Clergy  
Diocese of Udupi**

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