

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

## **1. NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

‘**Monthi Fest**’, the feast of the Nativity of Our Lady, is very dear to all of us. Our children offer flowers to Maria Bambina during the Novena and rejoice during the celebration of the birthday of our heavenly Mother. The feast brings our families together through the meal on the day and our relationships are renewed by Mother Mary on the feast day. The blessed new corn, flowers, first fruits, family meal, sweets, sugar canes, etc. bring back nostalgic memories. As we offer the first fruits of our labour to the Lord, may Mother Mary, the first fruit of our redemption, bless all our families, communities, parishes and the diocese.

September 8 is also celebrated as the **International Day of the Girl Child**. It is imperative that our mothers and sisters receive the empowerment they deserve and are saved from violence and exploitation. The Girl Child, even in the mother’s womb, needs protection and great respect. Special prayers may be offered for the girl child on the day during the Mass. May Mother Mary obtain the choicest divine blessings for our girl-children.

## **2. ANNUAL SALVI**

The custom of conducting the *Salvi*, from 9 to 15 September, a meditation on the Seven Sorrows of our Lady along with the Mystery of the Cross, is a healthy devotion which needs to be fostered. An Annual Retreat may also be organized during the period and all, particularly the youth, encouraged to participate in the same. May Our Lady of Sorrows bless all our parishes.

## **3. CELEBRATION OF CONSECRATED LIFE**

The celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life will be held, on the diocesan level, on Thursday, September 17, 2015, from 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. in the Milagres Cathedral, Kallianpur. Most Rev. Dr Francis Serrao, SJ, Bishop of Shivamogga, will be the resource person of the day. The programme will comprise an inspirational talk followed by Holy Mass at 12.00 noon and Lunch at 1.00 p.m. All the Priests of the diocese along with all the Men and Women Religious in the diocese are requested to be present. The Religious Communities are requested to communicate the exact number of participants to the Bishop's House on or before 12.9.2015.

## **4. 'DADE' COURSES**

The **Dharmaram Academy for Distance Education (DADE)**, Bangalore, offers **PG DIPLOMA COURSES** in Theology,

Counselling, Psychology, Spiritual Theology, Biblical Studies, Philosophy, Formative Spirituality and Canon Law. These courses are designed to strengthen faith-formation and Christian leadership among the religious and laity, especially youth, catechism teachers, religious, counselors, etc.

I request you to inform your parishioners regarding the available courses and encourage them to join any of these courses, as per their interest.

## **5. WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION**

Pope Francis has instituted the **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation** to be celebrated on **September 1, every year**. The day invites all Christians to pray for our environment, as a follow up of the Encyclical '*Laudato si*'. The Holy Father emphasizes that Christians are "called to an *ecological conversion* whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them". In fact, "living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience" (*Laudato si*, 217).

The reminder of the vocation to be stewards of creation needs to reach all Catholics as well as men and women of good will. For 2016, "suitable ways of promoting and celebrating the Day" are being considered by the Church "so that this annual event will become a significant occasion for prayer, reflection, conversion and the adoption of appropriate life-styles." The webpage **[www.laudatosi.va](http://www.laudatosi.va)** may please be referred to for more details. I request you to bring this to the attention of the parishioners.

## 6. FESTAL GREETINGS

With great joy, I wish you, dear Fathers and your parishioners, and communities of both Men and Women Religious a very happy Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. May Infant Mary bless us, all!

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**Gerald Lobo**  
Bishop of Udupi.

**COMMISSION FOR SCCs**  
**TRAINING PROGRAMS IN SEPT 2015**

- 1-2/09.2015      NRT Meeting at Poona.
- 06.09.2015      Bible Mirror Method - Kemmannu Parish.
- 10.09.2015      DAT meeting.
- 11.09.2015      Udupi Deanery Conveners Meeting (Monthi Feast Novem) & SCC Evaluation
- 13.09.2015      *Ward Samithi* Training at Parapady Parish.
- 14.09.2015      Karkala Deanery VAT/Conveners Meeting (Monthi Feast Novem) & VATEvaluation
- 15.09.2015      Kundapur Deanery VAT / Conveners meeting (Monthi Feast Novem) & VATEvaluation.
- 16.09.2015      Kallilanpur Deanery Conveners Meeting (Monthi Feast Novem) & VATEvaluation.
- 20.09.2015      Ward Samithi Training at Miyar Parish.
- 22.09.2015      Diocesan SCC Central Committee meeting.
- 27.09.2015      *Ward Samithi* Training at Udupi Parish
- 29.09.2015      SCC/Laity Seminar at Lucknow.

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**FAMILY COMMISSION PROGRAMS IN  
SEPTEMBER 2015**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
01/09/15	Parish Family Cell Co-ordinators meet – Kallianpur deanery
02/09/15	Parish Family Cell Co-ordinators meet – Kundapur deanery
03/09/15	Parish Family Cell Co-ordinators meet – Karkal deanery
04/09/15	Parish Family Cell Co-ordinators meet – Udupi deanery
05/09/15	Parish Family Cell Co-ordinators meet – Shirva deanery
06/09/15	Family Enrichment Programme Katpadi
13/09/15	Proximate preparation–Tallur
17/09/15	CFCI Singles / Youth Training Seminar
19, 20/09/15	Marriage Preparation Course
20/09/15	Family Enrichment Programme - Nakre
24/09/15	Remote preparation (YCS students ) – Tallur
24/09/15	Proximate preparation– Parapady

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