

VOX NOSTRA

Vol VI

SEPTEMBER 2018

No. 9

Dear Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters,

1. NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary which is to be celebrated on the 8th of September is very dear to us because it is not just a liturgical celebration for us, but our family feast, dearly known as *Monthi Fest*. The unique and rich tradition of conducting Novena in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary and offering flowers by children to her in preparation for this feast are to be fostered in all parishes. I request all parish priests to organize the Novena and encourage all children to participate in these celebrations. With joy overflowing in my heart, I wish you, dear Rev. Fathers and your dear parishioners and religious communities of men and women, a very happy *Monthi Fest*. I hope all of you will find some time on the day to visit your own family and, while you do so, kindly convey my festal greetings to your family members as well. *Happy Monthi Fest!*

2. GIRL CHILD DAY

The CCBI Commission for Women invites us to observe the birthday of our Blessed Mother Mary as ‘Girl Child Day.’ Every child is a precious gift. In celebrating the Girl Child Day the Church is calling us once again to commit ourselves to the dignity of the girl children. Although there are differences from place to place and culture to culture, we all know that girl children are less welcome in Indian society. It is a challenge for all of us as we face the death-promoting forces that wish to eliminate female lives. Hence, I appeal to all of you to highlight the importance of the girl child on the feast of the Infant Mary in your homily with special

prayers included in the Prayers of the Faithful. Please find on Annexure 1 reflections for the celebration of the Girl Child Day issued by CCBI Commission for Women.

3. OUR LADY OF SORROWS - SALVI

The devotion of conducting the *Salvi*, from 9 to 15 September, present in some of our parishes, needs to be fostered. This is an occasion to meditate on the seven sorrows of our Lady along with the mystery of the Cross. Do encourage the faithful, especially the youth and children, to participate in this devotion whereby they grow in their devotion to our Mother of Sorrows.

4. TEACHERS' DAY

We celebrate the Teachers' Day on September 5, 2018. This celebration affords us an opportunity to reflect on teaching and on the sacred responsibility the teachers play in shaping the minds and hearts of young students. Teaching, as we know, is a vocation and a mission – a call from God to serve the students. On this day we remember, with gratitude, all our 'gurus'. We salute the teachers who are engaged in forming the tender young minds and hearts entrusted to their care. Let us pray for the teachers who render dedicated and selfless service in our educational institutions. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their selfless service, care and concern. May the good Lord bless them, their work and their families. **Happy Teachers' Day!**

5. ASSISTANCE TO FLOOD VICTIMS IN KODAGU AND KERALA

We are aware of the devastation caused by floods in Kerala and Kodagu with many human lives lost, houses and buildings collapsed, bridges and roads washed away, and towns and villages annihilated. People all over India and abroad have generously contributed through material and financial assistance as immediate response to this calamity and are overwhelmingly supporting the rebuilding works after the floods. The Church in India through its charity wing, **Caritas India**, has been in the forefront in relief works in both Kodagu and Kerala. In response to

the appeal of Caritas India, many parishes in our Diocese came forward with generous contribution both financially and materially. The materials received from parishes were forwarded without delay to relief centres as per the direction of Caritas India. I sincerely thank the Deans, Parish Priests, Catholic Sabha, Women's Association and all people of good will for your timely response in reaching out to our suffering brethren in Kodagu and Kerala.

8. BLESSING OF RENOVATED CHURCH AT BELMAN

The renovated Belfry and Church at Belman was blessed by me on Sunday, 26 August 2018. The work of renovating the Church was initiated in February 2018 as a part of the Post Centenary Silver Jubilee celebrations and was completed within a short span of time, thanks to the able leadership of the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr Edwin D'Souza. I convey my sincere appreciation and wholeheartedly thank him, the asst Parish Priest, the members of PPC and PFC for their cooperation, generous donors and well-wishers for their assistance provided in the realization of this project.

8. EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF MSGR PETER PAUL SALDANHA

The Episcopal Ordination and Installation of Bishop-Elect, Msgr Peter Paul Saldanha, will be held on Saturday, **15 September 2018** at 9.30 am at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Cathedral grounds, Mangaluru. While we send our warmest greetings on this occasion to the new Bishop of Mangaluru, let us continue to pray for the new Bishop so that God may shower his choicest blessings as he begins his shepherding ministry of the diocese of Mangaluru.

8. SC ORDER ON ENTRY, HYGIENE AND ASSETS OF RELIGIOUS PLACES

In a sweeping order, the Supreme Court has begun a massive judicial audit of all religious places and charitable institutions with regard to hygiene, assets, access and accounts, asking district magistrates to examine complaints in these respects and send reports to high courts that can treat them as PILs. The SC order will apply to all temples, mosques, churches and other religious and charitable institutions in India, and reports submitted by district magistrates to be treated as PILs, could be the basis of high courts passing suitable judicial orders. The above order is going to have serious implications as it also involves examination of proper utilization of offerings and donations. Therefore, let us ensure that all books of accounts, records and land documents are kept up-to-date at all Churches, Convents and our institutions.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

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+ **Gerald I. Lobo**
Bishop of Udupi

COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

1. DIVYAJYOTHI

09-09-2018 Lectio Divina Training at Hirgan
16-09-2018 Liturgical Seminar at Kota
23-09-2018 Lectio Divina Training at Palimar

Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza
Director

2. COMMISSION FOR SCCs

- 02.09.2018 SCC Sunday at Parapady Parish & Udupi Deanery
 SCC PAT Convention at Udupi
- 09.09.2018 SCC Sunday at Kolalgiri Parish
- 16.09.2018 SCC Training at Nilavar Chapel
- 24.09.2018 Ward Samithi Training at Pamboor Parish.
- 29.09.2018 Karkal Deanery SCC PAT Convention at Kanajar.
- 30.09.2018 SCC Training at Perampalli

Rev. Fr Harold Pereira
Director

3. COMMISSION FOR ECUMENISM

- 09.09.2018 Proclamation Training of Kallianpur Deanery
- 10.09.2018 Karkal Deanery Ecumenism Committee meeting at
 Attur at 4 pm
- 30.09.2018 Ecumenism Training at Milagres Parish

Rev. Fr Harold Pereira
Director

4. FAMILY COMMISSION

- 09 Sept Proximate Preparation for Family Life – Attur & Parappady
 Parish youth
- 15, 16 Sept. Marriage Preparation Course
- 16 Sept. Fathers Day Pangala Parish 3.30 – 5
- 23 Sept. Proximate Preparation for Family Life - Pilar Parish youth 9 - 3

Mr Leslie Arouza
Director

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