

VOX NOSTRA

Vol VII

SEPTEMBER 2019

No. 9

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary which is celebrated on 8th September is very dear to us because it is not just a liturgical celebration but a family feast for us, 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 is 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, your dear parishioners, and religious communities of men and women, a blessings-filled feast of the Nativity of Our Lady. Happy **Monthi Fest** to all of you!

2. GIRL CHILD'S DAY

As we joyfully celebrate the feast of the nativity of Infant Mary, the Catholic Church in India has given a clarion call to all of us to protect every girl child as God's wonderful creation by dedicating this day to the girl child. Hence, I appeal to all of you to highlight the importance of the girl child on the feast of Infant Mary in your homily with special prayers included in the prayers of the faithful.

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 dolours 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 05, 2019. This celebration affords us an opportunity to reflect on teaching and on the sacred responsibility the teachers bear in shaping the minds and hearts of young students. Teaching, as we know, is a vocation – a call from God to form the students. On this day we remember, with gratitude, all those who moulded us. 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 service in our educational institutions. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their loving service. May the good Lord bless them and their families. **Happy Teachers' Day!**

5. AD LIMINA VISIT

It is an occasion to deepen the communion that exists between the local Church and the See of St Peter and an opportunity to rejoice in the universality of the Church. The Ad Limina Visit to the Latin Rite Bishops of Bangalore, Madras, Madurai, Pondicherry, Hyderabad, Vishakapatnam, Trivandrum and Verapoly archdioceses and their suffragan dioceses is scheduled from 11th to 19 September 2019. This is my third graceful occasion to meet the Holy Father carrying with me your prayers, aspirations and hopes. Please keep the Holy Father and me in your prayers.

I intend to use this occasion to pay a courtesy visit to a few of our benefactors in Europe to thank them for their benevolence towards our Diocese. Hence, I will be away from the Diocese from **10th September to 4th October 2019**. Rt Rev. Msgr Baptist Menezes, Vicar General, may be contacted for urgent and important matters during my absence.

6. SEASON OF CREATION

On the occasion of the International Day of Biodiversity and in anticipation of the fourth anniversary of Laudato Si, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development invites us to join the ecumenical family in celebrating the **Season of Creation** every year. The season would begin on September 1, the World Day Prayer for the Care of Creation, proclaimed by the Patriarch Dimitrios I for the Orthodox and endorsed by Pope Francis in 2015 and ends on October 4, Feast of St

Francis of Assisi. During the season Christians unite in praying and acting together to care for ‘Our Common Home’. Caring for creation protects the inheritance the Creator has given us, an inheritance that is essential to our well-being. As Pope Francis said in *Laudato Si*, “Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are a part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it.”

The theme for 2019 is ‘**the web of life**’, a theme that connects our role as the stewards of God’s creation with the urgent need to protect biodiversity.

7. SEMINAR FOR RELIGIOUS – II BATCH

The second seminar on ‘Evangelization and Extraordinary Missionary Month’ to all Men and Women Religious of our Diocese has been scheduled on Saturday, 28 September 2019 at Bishop’s House, Udupi, from 02.30 pm to 5.00 pm. I request **all those who could not attend at the first batch** to participate in this seminar to prepare for the meaningful celebration of the Extraordinary Missionary Month in October 2019.

8. THANKS FOR THE GENEROSITY TOWARDS FLOOD VICTIMS

We are pleased to note that with a short notice, our Diocese was able to collect four truck-loads of essential relief materials amounting to around Rs 40 lakh for the victims of floods. The materials were sent to the Dioceses of Gulbarga, Belgaum, Karwar and Shimoga for distribution to the needy. I profusely thank all the Parish Priests for encouraging your parishioners to generously contribute towards this cause and the Catholic Sabha for collecting the materials from parishes and for sending it to the needy within a short span of time. I am sure God will bless us, all, generously for this generous gesture towards the victims of flood, our suffering brothers and sisters.

9. PASTORAL CONSULTATION 2019

The Pastoral Consultation 2019 held on 28 August 2019 was, indeed, a memorable event. I appreciate the presence of our priests in large numbers and their active participation in all the discussions and deliberations throughout the day in dealing with the relevant pastoral issues/problems. I remain beholden to the Organizing Committee the Consultation and those who provided Logistics, thereby making the Consultation meaningful. Thanks again and God bless you, all.

Yours sincerely in Christ

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+ Gerald I. Lobo

COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

1. DIVYAJYOTHI

- 01/9/2019 Youcat Semnar at Pamboor
- 08/9/2019 Youcat Seminar at Tallur
- 22/9/2019 Bible Study at Home Seminar -2 at Bishop's House, Udupi

Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza
Director

2. COMMISSION FOR SCCs

- 01.09.2019 SCC Training at Parapady Parish
- 01.09.2019 Shirva Deanery Convention: Ward Gurkars & Preraks at Muderangady (2.30 to 5.30pm)
- 02.09.2019 Karkal Deanery Convention: Ward Gurkars & Preraks at Miyar (10 am to 2 pm)
- 09.09.2019 Spirituality of SCC Training at Pamboor Parish
- 15.09.2019 Spirituality of SCC Training at Katpadi Parish
- 22.09.2019 Seminar on Lay leadership at Udyavar Parish
- 22.09.2019 Spirituality of SCC Training at Hirgan Parish
- 29.09.2019 Spirituality of SCC Training at Kalmady Parish

Rev. Fr Harold Pereira
Director

3. FAMILY COMMISSION

01 & 02 Sept Parish Family Cell Training – Gulbarga Diocese 14 &15
Sept Marriage Preparation Course

15 Sept Single Parents’ get together Pangala - 3.30 pm
22 Sept Family Enrichment Programme- CSI Mission Church, Moolur

Mr Leslie Arouza
Director

4. CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY OF UDUPI

1-9-2019 Workshop on Psychological First Aid for Primary and High
School Teachers at Bishop’S Hose, Udupi – 9.30 am to 4
pm.

4-9-2019 Teachers’Day Celebration at St Francis Xavier English Medium
School, Udyavar– 9.30 am to 1pm.

Rev. Fr Vincent Crasta
Secretary

5. COMMISSION FOR PROCLAMATION AND EVANGELIZATION

16-9-2019 Training to Lay Evangelizers and Intercessory group members at
Udyavar Church -9.30 am to 4 pm

Rev. Fr Vincent Crasta
Director

BISHOP’S ENGAGEMENTS IN SEPTEMBER 2019

01 10.00 am : Pratibha Puraskar, Kundapur
03 : Free day for the Priests and the Religious
04 09.30 am : Teachers’Day Celebration, Udyavar
05 : Free day for the Lay Faithful
06 09.30 : Senate Meeting
08 : Nativity of Our Lady
10-21 : Ad Limina Visit, Rome
22- October 04 : Visit to various Agencies, Europe

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