

VOX NOSTRA

Vol XI

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No. 9

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

We celebrate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, dearly known as *Monthi Fest*, on **Friday, 8th September 2023**. It is a beautiful tradition to prepare ourselves with nostalgic memories as one parish community for this feast with nine days of novena where, all, especially the kids gathered around the statue of Infant Mary, offer flowers of love to her. Let us foster this tradition with its solemnity in all parishes with due planning and preparation. The day is also celebrated as family feast with traditional festal lunch. May it be an occasion of strengthening the family bonds with mutual love and respect towards each member of the family. Do convey my festal greetings to all families of your parish during the announcements. We also celebrate the new harvest feast on this day. While we must always remain grateful to God for providing sufficient food day after day, let us remember our farmers who toil day and night in their fields. We also need to pray for sufficient rains so that their efforts may bear proper harvest. I wish you, dear Rev. Fathers and your dear parishioners and religious communities of men and women, a very happy *Monthi Fest*. ***Happy Monthi Fest to you, all!***

2. DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

As we joyfully celebrate the feast of the nativity of Infant Mary, the Catholic Church in India invites us to celebrate the day as the *day of the girl child*. "Created in the image of the one God and equally endowed with rational souls, all men have the same nature and the same origin.

Redeemed by the sacrifice of Christ, all are called to participate in the same divine beatitude: all therefore enjoy an equal dignity. The equality of men rests essentially on their dignity as persons and the rights that flow from it: Every form of social or cultural discrimination in fundamental personal rights on the grounds of sex, race, colour, social conditions, language, or religion must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God's design (CCC 1934-1935). In this context, the Indian Church recognizes and reminds us that celebrating the girl child day is a step towards accepting the gender-equality and honouring the rights of every girl child by all in India. Hence, I appeal to all of you to highlight the importance of the girl-child on Monthi Feast day in your homily with special prayers included in the prayers of the faithful.

3. TEACHERS' DAY

We celebrate the Teachers' Day on Tuesday, **05 September 2023**. Teaching, as we know, is a vocation – a call from God to form the students. According to Pope Francis teaching has three aspects. First and foremost, it is an *act of love*, because it generates life in its multidimensionality; it removes people from self-centeredness; it helps them to enter into confidence with their interiority, to put potential into action, to open themselves to transcendence, to help the discarded ones of the globalizing society. Education is also an *act of hope*, which helps to break the vicious circle of scepticism, disbelief, and restriction within conceptions and attitudes contrary to the dignity of the human being. Finally, education is a *factor that humanizes the world*, because it helps people to transcend individualism, to appreciate differences, to discover fraternity, to be responsible for the environment. It is “the natural antidote to an individualistic culture that at times degenerates into a veritable cult of the self and the primacy of indifference.” As we celebrate the teachers' day, we remain grateful to all teachers who are engaged in forming the young and tender minds and hearts entrusted to their care. Let us remember and pray for all the teachers who render dedicated and selfless service in all the educational institutions in our

Diocese. May the good Lord bless them, their families and their work.
Happy Teachers' Day!

4 OUR LADY OF SORROWS - SALVI

The traditional Marian devotion of conducting the *Salvi*, from **9 to 15 September**, is present in some of our parishes. It needs to be fostered and continued. This offers an opportunity to meditate on the seven sorrows of our Lady along with the mystery of the Cross. Let us set before our faithful, the seven sorrows of our lady as a model to keep faith and hope in the Lord in the face of their daily personal and family struggles and invite the faithful to see the continued accompaniment of Mother Mary in their journey of faith. May our Lady be an inspiration to all of us, priests and religious, to find meaning in our journey of faith and ministry in parishes and institutions.

5 DEMISE OF RT. REV. MSGR BAPTIST MENEZES

The former Vicar General of the Diocese Rt. Rev. Msgr Baptist Menezes breathed his last on Wednesday, 23 August 2023 at Fr Muller Hospital, Mangalore. He was born on 28 July 1948 at Shirva to Louis Menezes and Mary Magdaline Menezes. After his initial studies at Shirva, he joined the Diocese of Mangalore and was ordained a priest on 25 October 1974. He was appointed the first Vicar General of the new Diocese of Udupi on 14 December 2012, an office which he faithfully carried out for ten years, till he offered his resignation due to ill health on 31 March 2023.

Msgr Baptist Menezes served as the Vicar General with utmost zeal, commitment and dedication, and spent himself in the service of the Diocese. Being faithful to the canonical role and responsibilities of the Vicar General, he worked as a humble servant and faithful collaborator of the Bishop for the good of the diocese for the last ten and a half years and like a burning candle spent himself totally in the service of the Diocese. His services as the first Vicar General of Udupi

Diocese will always be cherished in the annals of the history of the Diocese. The funeral mass and rites were held in Our Lady of Health Church, Shirva on Sunday, 27 August 2023 in the presence of bishops and large number of priests and the faithful. We express our heartfelt condolences to his dear sister and all family members and we pray that God may grant him eternal reward for his generous and faithful priestly ministry in the service of the Diocese.

6. PREPARATION FOR HOLIDAY CAMPS

As part of faith-education, every year we organise 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 the month of October. I urge every deanery to organise these camps for the children without fail in October 2023. I request the dean of every deanery to form a team, oversee the timely planning in September itself and proper implementation of the plan with the support of deanery priests by selecting themes concerning the Catholic faith. Do find appropriate resource persons who would give inputs on the assigned themes appropriate to children by the use of the modern means of communication. This would be a great add-on to the faith formation that takes place through catechism classes in Parish and school to our children.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ **Gerald Isaac Lobo**

ANUGRAHA Pastoral Centre – Programmes in Sept. 2023

03-09-2023, Sunday Catholic Sabha Samavesh – 10.30 am to 1.30 pm.

Rev. Fr Vincent Robert Crasta

Director

1. JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION

Programme on Constitution and Constitutional Values:

10.09.2023	Ajekar Parish - 9 am to 11 am
10.09.2023	Hirgan Parish - 3 pm to 5 pm
24.09.2023	Shirva Parish - 4 pm to 5.30 pm

Mr Edward Larson D'Souza

Director

2. COMMISSION FOR EDUCATION AND CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY OF UDUPI DIOCESE (CESU)

09-09-2023	Teachers' Day Celebration at Anugraha Pastoral Centre – 9.30 am to 1 pm
19-09-2023	Annual General Body Meeting of CESU at Anugraha Pastoral Centre - 10 am to 1 pm

Rev. Fr Vincent Robert Crasta

Director/Secretary

FAMILY COMMISSION

03 Sept.	Marriage Enrichment - Venur Parish
9 & 10 Sept.	Marriage Preparation Course
10 Sept	Remote Preparation for Family Life - Kallianpur Deanery 7, 8, 9 & 10 Std.
13 & 14 Sept	Regional Secretaries meet KROSS
17 Sept	Remote Preparation for Family Life - Kundapur Deanery 7, 8, 9 & 10 Std.
24 Sept	Remote Preparation for Family Life - Karkal Deanery 7, 8, 9 & 10 Std.

Mr Leslie Arouza
Director

3. COMMISSION FOR PROCLAMATION AND EVANGELIZATION

15-09-2023 Retreat/Training for 12 Ly Evangelizers – Anugraha-
9.30am to 4 pm

Rev. Fr Vincent Robert Crasta
Director

PLATINUM BIRTHDAY

Rev. Fr Joswey Fernandes, Parish Priest
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Yermal

01-09-023

Congratulations and Best Wishes Dear Rev. Father

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