

VOX NOSTRA

Vol XI

OCTOBER 2023

No. 10

Dear Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters,

1. PRAYER FOR THE UNIVERSAL PHASE OF SYNOD 2021-24

Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary General of the General Secretariat of the Synod, has written a letter to bishops and eparchs worldwide, emphasising the importance of prayer in preparation for the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod, set to begin in the Vatican on 4 October 2023. In the letter, he stresses that the Synodal Assembly is primarily a spiritual event centered on prayer and listening to the Holy Spirit.

He discusses four facets of prayer in the context of the Synod. The first is listening. He highlights that prayer begins with “listening to the Word of God and the Spirit,” as “the voice of the Spirit is the sine qua non for ecclesial discernment.” Speaking then about adoration, he emphasizes the importance of “adoring in silence in awe for what God is saying to his Church and for what the Spirit arouses in the Church today.” With regard to intercession, he calls for intercessory prayer, and explains that it is “not about bending God’s will to ours,” but rather “asking the Lord to enlighten our hearts with the power of His life-giving Spirit so that we might discern and do His will.” Finally, he addresses thanksgiving, encouraging gratitude, saying, “the prayer of thanksgiving is a true ‘therapy’ that moves us from our withdrawal into ourselves to the openness that is able to discover all that God continues to work in His Church.”

He also invites everyone to specially pray for the Synodal Assembly on **01 October 2023, 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time**, by incorporating it into homilies, universal prayers, and the final blessing during Eucharistic celebrations. I exhort all parish priests to inform about this universal phase of the Synod 2021-24 to your parishioners and to pray for this intention in prayers of the faithful during all masses on Sunday, 01 October 2023 and also during the adoration.

2. MONTH OF HOLY ROSARY

The month of October is dedicated to the most Holy Rosary. This is primarily due to the fact that the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7. Praying the Rosary is a way to grow in our faith and protect ourselves in the secular world. The Mysteries offer a focal point for our reflection; they centre on the key moments in the life of Christ as well as Mother Mary. Each of the Mysteries comes with a specific spiritual ‘goal’ for us to contemplate it as we pray. Let us take this month as an occasion to catechize our faithful on the importance of the Rosary in nourishing Christian life and also encourage them to pray the Rosary daily in their families. I urge the parish priests to organise community Rosaries in Churches or in front of Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes.

A plenary indulgence may be gained by those reciting five decades of the Rosary in church, as a family at home, as a religious community, or as a pious fraternity, or in general whenever several persons have gathered together for a good purpose. In other circumstances a partial indulgence may be gained (Enchiridion of Indulgence, 1999 edition, concession 17).

In a special manner, the Church exhorts the sacred ministers to honor the Virgin Mother of God with particular veneration (Can. 276 §1, 5°) and all members of Religious Institutes to have a special devotion, including Marian Rosary, to the Virgin Mother of God, the example and protectress of all consecrated life (Can. 663 §4). Therefore, I urge all priests and religious, as communities and individuals, to specially

pray the Rosary in this month and draw closer to Blessed Virgin Mary as spiritual support in the ministry.

3. CONCLUSION OF THE SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation began on 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, ends on **04 October 2023**, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. It is an ecumenical initiative. In 1989 Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitros I proclaimed September 1 as the Orthodox Day of Prayer for Creation. Subsequently, the World Council of Churches (WCC) extended the celebration until October 04, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. In 2015, Pope Francis made the Season of Creation official for the Roman Catholic Church. For the entire month, all the Christians of the world gather to take care of the common home. The Season of Creation is in fact a privileged time to renew one’s relationship with the Creator and with all of creation through celebration, conversion, and common action.

“Let justice and peace flow” is the theme of the ecumenical Season of Creation 2023, inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: “Let Justice and Peace flow like waters like an everlasting torrent” (5:24). In this regard, Pope Francis in his message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, asks these questions: “How can we contribute to the mighty river of justice and peace in this Season of Creation? What can we do, especially as Christian Churches, to restore our common home so that it will once again teem with life?”. He goes on to say, “we must decide to transform our hearts, our lifestyles, and the public policies that govern our societies.”

4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DIOCESE

On 15 October 2023, the Diocese completes eleven years since its establishment. During this decade, the Diocese has grown pastorally in an organized way with the implementation of the Pastoral Plan- **Mission 2025**. Through the powerful intercession of our Lady of Miracles, the Patroness of the Diocese, we have received numerous blessings from

God during these years. All priests, religious and lay faithful have involved themselves generously in the all-round development of the diocese through their ministry at parish and diocesan level. I remain grateful to all of you, dear Fathers and Sisters, for your generosity, hard work and dedicated service. Let us continue to serve the people of God with ever greater compassion, zeal and charity.

5. 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 the month of October 2023. I hope the Organizing Committees have been formed for this purpose, and the resource-persons chosen in all five deaneries. I request all parish priests to take this faith-event as of utmost priority and see that all children from the parish take part in these faith-formation camps. Do inform the children and also their parents about the importance of these camps which focus on topics relevant to the children in their high-school.

6. MISSION SUNDAY 2023

The Mission Sunday will be celebrated this year on **22 October 2023** and will be focused on the theme “**Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move**”, inspired by the story of the first appearance of Jesus to two of His Disciples, after His crucifixion and the discovery of the empty tomb, in the Gospel of Luke (24:13-35). In his message Pope Francis dwells on three images in the Gospel episode, which he says “reflect the journey of all missionary disciples”. The first one is that of their bewilderment after the crucifixion, changing into their “hearts burning” after they met the mysterious wayfarer explaining to them what was said in the Scriptures about Him. This story - Pope Francis writes - reminds us that the Risen Lord remains close to his missionary disciples, particularly

when they feel “disoriented, discouraged, fearful of the mystery of iniquity that surrounds them”, and that with His Word He transforms us, so that we can proclaim His mystery of Salvation. The second image recalled in the message is that of the disciples “opening their eyes” when Jesus takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it and gives it to them.” Here – the Pope notes - we can recognize an essential reality of our faith: Christ, who breaks the bread, now becomes the bread broken, shared with the disciples and consumed by them.” The third image recalled by Pope Francis is that of the disciples setting out on the way, “with the joy of telling others about the Risen Christ”. “This setting out in haste to share with others the joy of meeting the Lord – the Pope notes - demonstrates that the joy of the Gospel fills the heart and the whole life of those who meet Jesus. One cannot truly encounter the Risen Jesus without being set on fire with enthusiasm to tell everyone about Him”, he stresses.

I sincerely appreciate the great interest and enthusiasm each one of you take, year after year, to make Mission Sunday truly meaningful. While I thank you for last year 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.

7. PREPARATIONS FOR ‘JUBILEE 2025’

The Church is gearing to celebrate ‘**Jubilee 2025**’, an ordinary Jubilee marking 2025 years of Jesus’ birth with the motto ‘**Pilgrims of Hope.**’ The purpose of the Jubilee 2025 is threefold: ‘to celebrate Jesus, to celebrate the Church and to celebrate our faith.’ There are two years of preparation for the Jubilee 2025: (i) 2023 as Year of the Council (Year of Learning); (ii) 2024 as Year of Prayer. The Holy Father wishes that the four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council be

studied to obtain direction and guidance for God's people. More information about the Jubilee is available on <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>

The Dicastery for Evangelization has brought out 35 booklets giving background information to the Second Vatican Council and to the Four Constitutions on the Word of God, the liturgy, the Church as the people of God, and the Church in the modern world. The Notebooks are translated into English and are published by the CCBI.

The Local Churches in India will inaugurate the Preparations of the Jubilee on 26 November 2023, Solemnity of Christ the King, unveiling the Jubilee Logo and initiating people into revisiting the treasures of the Second Vatican Council and revamping prayer. More information about the preparations at Diocesan level for the Jubilee 2025 will be planned and coordinated after consultations with participatory bodies in the Diocese and will be communicated in days ahead. A seminar has been organised for priests and religious on **Friday, 27 October 2023** at 09.30 am at Anugraha. I request all priests and Superiors of the houses of Women Religious to attend this seminar.

8. APPOINTMENT OF DEACONS

Deacon Stephwn Rodrigues and Deacon Rickson Monteiro, after completing their theological studies in St Joseph Seminary, Mangalore, have been assigned to St Anne Church, Thottam and Our Lady of Fathima Church, Perampally respectively for their diaconal ministry w.e.f. 07 October 2023. I convey my best wishes to them in their ministry and in their preparation for the reception of the Ordination.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ **Gerald Isaac Lobo**

ANUGRAHA Pastoral Centre – Programmes in Oct. 2023

- 01-10-2023 - Sunday – ‘Distribution of Scholarships’ – Catholic Sabha, Udupi –3.00 pm to 5.30 pm.
- 08-10-2023 - Sunday - ‘Prathibha Puraskar’ - Catholic Sabha, Udupi – 9.30 am to 1.00 pm.
- 08-10-2023- Sunday – Get-together of Catholic Lawyers of Udupi Diocese – 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm
- 19-10-2023 to 21-10-2023 - Thursday to Saturday – Residential Training to YCS members

Rev. Fr Vincent Robert Crasta

Director

1. COMMISSION FOR BASIC ECCLESIAL COMMUNITIES

- 08.10.2023 - Shirva parish (3.00 to 5.30 pm)
- 16.10.2023 - Jeevan Jyoti camp (Karkal Deanery)
- 18.10.2023 - BECs Immersion program, Bangalore
- 29.10.2023 - Udyavar parish (3.00 to 5.30 pm)

Rev. Fr Harold Pereira

Director

2. JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION

- 07.10.23 Peace Club Conveners’ Meeting - 10.30 am to 12.30 pm - Anugraha
- 08.10.23 Catholic Lawyers’ Get-together - 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm
- 29.10.23 Programme on Constitution and Constitutional Values - Kuntalnagar - 09.30 am to 11.30 am

Mr Edward Larson D’Souza

Director

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

- 07-10-2023 – Saturday - Training for Animators of ‘Peace Clubs’ in the educational institutions under the management of CESU at Anugraha – 9.30 am to 1.00 pm
- 28-10-2023 – Saturday – Meeting of Heads of Educational Institutions under the management of CESU at Anugraha – 9.30am to 1.00 pm.

Rev. Fr Vincent Robert Crasta
Director/Secretary

4. FAMILY COMMISSION

- 01 Oct Interreligious Married Couples’ Day - Udupi Dist Level – Anugraha
- 14&15 Oct. Marriage Preparation Course
- 16 Oct Family Commission Conveners’ meeting - Kallinpur Deanery
- 17 Oct Remote Preparation for Family Life Kundapur Deanery 10Std.
- 17 Oct Jeevan Jyothi Camp Talk at Kallianpur Deanery
- 18 Oct Remote Preparation for Family Life Kundapur Deanery 7,8,9 Std
- 19 Oct Family Commission Conveners’ meeting - Udupi Deanery
- 24 Oct Family Commission Conveners’ meeting - Shirva Deanery
- 25 Oct Family Commission Conveners’ meeting - Karkal Deanery

- 26 Oct Family Commission Conveners' meeting-Kundapur
Deanery
- 29 Oct Marriage Enrichment Program – Kulshekar Parish
Mangalore Diocese

Mr Leslie Arouza
Director

5. COMMISSION FOR PROCLAMATION AND EVANGELIZATION

13-10-2023 – Friday - Retreat/Training for lay evangelizers – at
Anugraha Pastoral Centre - 9.00 am to 4.00 pm

15-10-2023 – Sunday – Training for Parish Animators of Missionary
Children Association (MCA) - 9.30 am to 1.00 pm

Rev. Fr Vincent Robert Crasta
Director

6. COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL COMMUNICAITONS

01-10- 2023 - Meeting of Diocesan Media Mentors: Revisit and
Review of the Vision and Mission Statements of the
Commission along with the Bishop and an evalua-
tion of the implementation of the objectives so far.

Rev. Fr Denis D'Sa
Director

OBITUARY

Mrs Gladys Pinto (62 yrs), Sr/o Rev. Fr Joswey Fernandes, Parish Priest, Yermal, passed away on 16 September 2023 and the funeral was held on 18 September 2023 at St Vincent De Paul Church, Katpady.

**MAY GOD GRANT HER ETERNAL
REST**

DIAMOND BIRTHDAY

V. Rev. Fr Charles Menezes, Parish Priest
Mother of Sorrows Church, Udupi 18-10-2023

GOLDEN BIRTHDAY

Rev. Fr Edwin D'Souza, Parish Priest
St Francis Assisi Church, Tallur 17-10-2023

**CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST
WISHES DEAR REV. FATHERS**

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