

# VOX NOSTRA

Vol IX

JULY 2021

No. 7

*Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,*

## **1. ANNIVERSARY OF THE ERECTION OF THE DIOCESE**

The Diocese of Udipi, erected on 16 July 2012, completes nine fruitful years on 16 July 2021 in the service of the Lord and the people of God by the abundant grace and providence of God, and intercession of Our Lady of Miracles, the patroness of the Diocese. We acknowledge these divine blessings and raise our hearts and minds in praising and thanking God the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit

We also acknowledge the **sincere commitment, dedication and hard work of our Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful** through bringing together their unique talents and abilities in contributing to the growth of this fledgling Diocese despite the lack of infrastructural facilities at the Diocesan level. I wholeheartedly thank and appreciate the services of all the priests, religious and lay faithful, and request you all to work with greater zeal and enthusiasm in realizing the kingdom of God in this local Church. May God bless you. Let us all re-dedicate ourselves to the mission entrusted to us by the Lord in this Diocese and march forward together with faith and hope.

## **2. OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel is the title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary in her role as the patroness of the Carmelite Order. Since the 15<sup>th</sup> century, popular devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel has been centered on the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, also known as the Brown Scapular, a sacramental associated with the promise of Mother Mary's special aid for the salvation of the devoted wearer. The scapular stands for a commitment to follow Jesus, like Mary, the perfect model of all the disciples of Christ. It is also an expression of the belief that the bearers of the scapular will meet God in eternal life, aided by the intercession and prayers of Mary, our heavenly Mother.

### 3. WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

The first **world day for grandparents and the elderly**, instituted by Pope Francis, will be held on **25 July 2021**, the fourth Sunday of July, close to the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. The Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life observed the establishment of this day as “the first fruits of the Amoris Laetitia Family Year, a gift to the whole Church that is destined to continue into the future.” The theme chosen by Pope Francis for this inaugural commemoration is “I am with you always” (Mt 28:20). It expresses the closeness of the Lord and the Church to every older person, especially in these challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic. The theme is also “a promise of closeness and hope that young and old can mutually share”. The grandchildren and youth are not only invited to be present in the lives of older people, but older people and grandparents also have a mission of evangelization, proclamation and prayer, and of encouraging young people in their faith.

### 4. ANNUAL CLERGY RETREAT

The **Annual Retreat** for the clergy of the Diocese scheduled for 11-16 July 2021 is postponed to **5-10 December 2021** and will be held at Shanthi Kiran, Bajjodi, Mangalore. Kindly keep these dates free. However, please know that even on the new dates, the retreat will be held only if the situation is favorable to do the retreat together.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

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✠ **Gerald Isaac Lobo**  
Bishop of Udupi

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Published at **Bishop's House, Udupi - 576 101**

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