

# VOX NOSTRA

Vol VIII

JUNE 2020

No. 6

*Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,*

## **1. PRAYERS FOR RELIEF FROM COVID-19**

As per the government orders, the communitarian liturgical celebrations in our churches were halted since 20 March 2020 due to the outbreak of Covid-19. The cases of Covid-19 are still on the rise, especially in our district. Although the religious services will be gradually resumed from 8<sup>th</sup> June, we are awaiting for the guidelines from the government as regards the religious services in our churches. We hope that we will be able to come together soon for the celebration of the liturgy. Meanwhile, let us continue to raise our hearts and minds to God with incessant prayers so that the world is completely delivered from the pandemic of the corona virus.

## **2. SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

We celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday, **19 June**, this year. The solemnity provides us with an opportunity to renew the

devotion to the Sacred Heart among our faithful. The heart of Jesus is viewed as the symbol of God's boundless and passionate love for mankind. It has widespread popularity among the faithful. The transcendent dignity of its object gives a place of high honor to this devotion among the numerous devotions which the Spirit of God has raised up and fostered in the Church. I exhort the parish priests to organize the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, especially praying the Rosary of Divine Mercy, in the month of June.

The Congregation for the Clergy has declared this day as the **World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests**. Let us remember to pray for all priests, especially those serving in our Diocese, that they may experience the merciful love of Jesus through his Sacred Heart and impart the same to those entrusted to their pastoral care.

### **3. LAITY SUNDAY**

The CCBI Commission for the Laity has proposed to celebrate **Sunday, 21 June 2020**, as the **Laity Sunday**. St Thomas More is the Patron of the laity whose feast will be celebrated on 22 June this year. Let us affirm the role and mission of the laity in our local church and also encourage them to be active participants in the Church and society, and pray for their welfare.

### **4. PROGRAMMES IN JUNE 2020**

Since there is lockdown in our State, all scheduled programmes for the month of June 2020 stand cancelled.

All these programmes may be rescheduled after the situation permits us to hold them.

## **5. FINANCE MANUAL**

The revised and updated Finance Manual for our Diocese is printed and published and is now available with the Procurator, Mr Marshal D'Souza. Kindly purchase a copy of the same at Rs 60/-, follow the guidelines given therein and accordingly maintain the accounts of your parish/institution.

## **6. DIGITALIZATION OF PARISHES**

In October 2019, we had asked to start the process of digitalization of the records of our parishes with the help of Fr Evan Gomes, SVD (Cell: 9482185327). I appreciate the parish priests who took keen interest in the digitization and have completed most of the work in this regard. Since the lockdown provides us with a lot of time at our disposal, I request the parish priests who have not yet begun this process to start the digitalization of the records of their parish and complete it as early as possible. As we have understood now, digitalization came handy for our communication during lockdown and we believe that it would be in use for a long time because of the social-distancing required in the scenario of Covid-19.

## **7. YEAR OF LAUDATO SI**

On 24 May 2020, the fifth anniversary of the publication of 'Laudato Si' encyclical, Pope Francis announced a year-long reflection on this encyclical saying "I sought to draw attention to the cry of the earth and of the poor." The 'Laudato Si Year', begun on the same day, would conclude on 24 May 2021. This year of reflection will be held "thanks to an initiative" of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. Pope also introduced a prayer for this year, saying, "It would be beautiful to say this prayer" and invited "all persons of good will to adhere to this, to take care of our common home and of our most fragile brothers and sisters." The English and Konkani text of the prayer is given as annexure 1.

## **8. THANKS, AND WELCOME**

During these months, many Religious, Priests and Sisters working in our Diocese move out on transfers. They have worked in our parishes, taught in our schools, served in hospitals and health care centres caring for the sick, advocated for the poor, bringing the Gospel message of hope to them. We are happy that all of them have rendered their dedicated and valuable services to us in the Diocese. Hence, on behalf of all of you, I wish to express my sincere thanks to them for their charity and faith, the contribution of their holiness and their service in the local Church. May God sustain them in His peace and give them strength to continue His mission in their new locations. It is also, with great joy, I accord a warm

welcome to the religious priests and sisters who have been assigned to work in our Diocese. We wish them a comfortable stay and fruitful ministry in our Diocese.

## **9. PRAYER FOR RAIN**

With the arrival of the month of June, we look forward to adequate rain so that we have respite from the scorching heat, have sufficient potable water and that our farmers may begin their agricultural activities. Only God is our hope who can send us rain on time. Therefore, I request you, all, to offer special prayers so that God may bless us with sufficient rain. Please include a prayer for rain in the prayers of the faithful during Mass on Sundays.

## **10. TRANSFERS**

Rev. Fr Stany Rodrigues, Designate Director, St Joseph's Agricultural Colony, Belve, is back to Mangalore Diocese w.e.f. 01.04.2020.

Rev. Fr Lancy Fernandes, SJ, Headmaster, Milagres English Medium School, Kallianpur, is back to the province w.e.f. 10.05.2020

Rev. Fr Vincent Lobo, until now on leave, is Director of St Joseph's Agricultural Colony, Belve, w.e.f. 15.05.2020.

Rev. Fr Denis D'Souza, Director, St Joseph's Agricultural Colony, Belve, is Parish Priest, Parapady, w.e.f. 16.05.2020.

Rev. Fr Jerald Sandeep D'Mello, Parochial Administrator, Parapady, is Administrator, Regional Propaedeutic Seminary, Jeppu, w.e.f. 15.05.2020.

Rev. Fr Clany D'Souza, Asst, Kallianpur-Mount Rosary, Santhekatte, is back to Mangalore Diocese w.e.f. 30.05.2020.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ Gerald Isaac Lobo  
Bishop of Udupi

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*Annexure 1:*

**PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF LAUDATO SI  
(24 May 2020-24 May 2021)**

Loving God,  
Creator of Heaven, Earth, and all therein contained.  
Open our minds and touch our hearts,  
so that we can be part of Creation, your gift.

Be present to those in need in these difficult times,  
especially the poorest and most vulnerable.

Help us to show creative solidarity  
as we confront the consequences of the global  
pandemic.

Make us courageous in embracing  
the changes required to seek the common good.  
Now more than ever, may we all feel interconnected  
and interdependent.

Enable us to succeed in listening and responding  
to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.  
May their current sufferings become the birth-pangs  
of a more fraternal and sustainable world.

We pray through Christ our Lord,  
under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians,

Amen

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