

VOX NOSTRA

Vol IX

JUNE 2021

No. 6

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

We celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on **Friday, 11 June**, this year. The solemnity provides us with an opportunity to renew our devotion to the Sacred Heart. The heart of Jesus is viewed as the symbol of God's boundless and passionate love for mankind. The devotion to the Sacred Heart has widespread popularity among the faithful. Its transcendent dignity outshines the numerous devotions which the Spirit of God has raised up and fostered in the Church. I exhort the parish priests to encourage the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus among the faithful, especially praying the Rosary of the Sacred Heart 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 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.

2. PRAYERS FOR RELIEF FROM COVID-19

We are aware of the harrowing pain and suffering created by the pandemic of COVID-19. Many families have lost their beloved family members and suffer the lack of transportation, medical facilities and timely care. The Indian Church too has suffered the loss of many priests and religious in this pandemic. The suffering of the poor, homeless and

marginalized has increased due to the lack of livelihood. While we continue to serve the needy in our parishes, let us raise our hearts and minds to God with persistent prayers so that the world is completely delivered from this pandemic. Let us also pray for the countless frontline workers like medical personnel and various service providers who risk their lives to help and care for the infected.

3. LAITY SUNDAY

The CCBI Commission for the Laity has proposed to celebrate **Sunday, 27 June 2021**, as the **Laity Sunday**. St Thomas More is the Patron of the laity and he is remembered and honored with an Optional Memorial on 22 June every year according to the liturgical calendar. 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. 12AB REGISTRATION

As you are already informed, the submission of the application for the renewal of the 12AB registration began on 1 April 2021 and the deadline is 30 June 2021. Hence, once again, I remind you to speed up the process with your auditors for submitting the application by providing the necessary documents and also follow up with them.

5. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

As per the constitution of Parish Finance Council (Nos. 2.12.6 to 2.12.9), all parishes are to submit the audited accounts to my office before 15 August 2019. Hence, I request all parish priests and heads of institutes to get their accounts audited, present them to the bodies concerned as per the constitution of PFC, and send us for scrutiny before the deadline. I request you to consider this as a great priority and not to delay the same so that we are able to go through the accounts

and give the necessary guidelines/observations to be kept in mind during the preparation of accounts of current financial year.

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). As per his communication on 21 May 2021, so far only 16 parishes have created the website and installed the parish data management program. I congratulate and appreciate the parish priests who took keen interest in the digitalization and completed the work. A few parishes have websites created by other developers. There are two options in this case: first, you may continue with the same developer maintaining the website and install the data management program by Fr Evan Gomes as a sub-domain, or, second, while continuing with the same domain (website name), you may hand it over to Fr Evan Gomes and thus you can have both the website and data management program in the same domain. Fr Evan Gomes has already carried out the second option in a few parishes, where they had websites earlier. This will enable us to have the same data management program uniformly in all parishes, as discussed in the meeting of the Council of Priests. 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 contact Fr Evan Gomes, discuss and plan with him at the earliest.

7. PARISH HISTORY

I had issued a letter on 26 May 2021, posted on Chancery WhatsApp group asking the parish priests to compile the history of 20 years of your parish. As far as possible, please mention accurate dates and years. Kindly consider it as an important record for the files in the diocesan archives. Please write the history in English and send it by the middle of June 2021.

8. ONLINE REMITTANCES

We are living in a digitalized world and the government is in the forefront of digitalization as we see in our transactions with the various government departments. We also see more and more organizations embracing digital transactions. We, as a Diocese, cannot lag behind in this process. Therefore, in order to facilitate the transfer of earmarked collections and other remittances from parishes to the Diocese, we have given the details of remittances and also the related bank accounts on pages 8-10. I urge all the parish priests to make use of the Internet Banking (E-Banking) and online-transfer facilities like NEFT/RTGS which are convenient and time efficient. After remittance, please send an E-mail or WhatsApp message to the officials concerned giving the details of remittance such as UTR(Unique Transaction Reference) No. and date of remittance.

9. PARISH REGISTERS

Since the establishment of the Diocese, we had printed and supplied various Canonical Parish Registers for use in the parishes. We have no stock left of those registers and also there are requests now by a few parish priests. We are planning to reprint these registers. In addition to the existing registers, we will also print Daily Mass Register and Multiple Mass Intentions Register. Hence, I request the parish priests to kindly place the order for any register you require for the parish before 25 June 2021 and inform Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza, Director, Divya Jyothi, either through an E- mail (dbclcludupi@gmail.com) or WhatsApp message.

10. MINISTRY OF CATECHISTS

Pope Francis has instituted the 'ministry of catechist' through the Apostolic Letter 'Antiquum Ministerium' (Ancient Ministry) given on 10 May 2021 calling for formal recognition of "those lay men and women who feel called by virtue of their baptism to cooperate in the

work of catechesis,”. “The Spirit is calling men and women to set out and encounter all those who are waiting to discover the beauty, goodness and truth of the Christian faith,” the Pope wrote in the Apostolic Letter. Bishops’ Conferences will need to determine the “process of formation and the normative criteria for admission to this ministry” and devise “the most appropriate forms for the service which these men and women will be called to exercise”. The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments has been tasked to publish soon the Rite of Institution of the lay ministry of catechist.” We rejoice at the institution of this ministry as it would motivate us to formally recognize the role of faith-educators in the parishes so that they could commit themselves with greater enthusiasm and meaning towards the noble task of transmitting the faith to children.

11. NEW INVOCATIONS TO THE LITANY OF ST JOSEPH

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments on 1 May 2021 introduced 7 new invocations to the litany in honour of St Joseph. Explaining the reason for inclusion of these new innovations, the Congregation wrote: “On the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, published the Apostolic Letter *Patris corde*, with the aim ‘to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal’ . . . “In this light, it appeared opportune to update the Litany in honour of Saint Joseph, approved by the Apostolic See in 1909, by integrating seven new invocations drawn from the interventions of the Popes who have reflected on aspects of the figure of the Patron of the Universal Church.”

The new invocations, originally in Latin, are as follows: *Custos Redemptoris, Serve Christi, Minister salutis, Fulcimen in difficultatibus, Patrone exsulum, Patrone afflictorum, Patrone pauperum*. These could be translated as: *Guardian of the Redeemer, Servant of Christ, Minister of salvation, Support in difficulties,*

Patron of exiles, Patron of the afflicted and Patron of the poor. With these additions, the invocations in the Litany to St Joseph now rise to 31. The new invocations are translated into Konkani and are now available for use in our prayers.

12. THANKS, AND WELCOME

During these months, many Religious, Priests and Sisters working in Udupi 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 us, I wish to express my sincere thanks to them for their dedicated and generous service in the local Church. May God sustain them in His peace and give them strength to continue His mission in their new missions. It is also, with great joy, I accord a warm welcome to the religious priests and sisters who have been assigned to work in the Udupi Diocese. We wish them a comfortable stay and fruitful ministry in our Diocese. May God bless them with fruitful ministry while they serve in the Udupi Diocese.

13. PRAYER FOR RAIN

With the arrival of the month of June, we look forward to adequate rain so that our farmers may begin their agricultural activities. In the last month, God has blessed us with rain. Yet, as we begin the Month of June, I request you, all, to offer special prayers so that God may bless us with sufficient rain this year.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ **Gerald Isaac Lobo**
Bishop of Udupi

OBITUARY

Mrs Veronica Sequeira (66 yrs), Sr/o Rev. Fr Leslie D'Souza, Parish Priest, Mount Rosary Church, Santhekatte, passed away on 27 May 2021 and the funeral was held 28 May 2021 at Derebail Church, Mangalore. May God grant her eternal rest.

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INTENTION OF POPE FRANCIS FOR JUNE 2021

The Beauty of Marriage

Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.

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