

VOX NOSTRA

Vol V

February 2017

No. 2

Dear Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters,

1. CENTENARY YEAR OF FATIMA

Centenary year of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima which began on 13 May 1917 will be celebrated this year. The Universal Church inaugurated it on 27 November 2016 and it will go up to 26 November 2017. As you all know that the apparitions of Our Lady began from 13 May 1917 and that she appeared to the children six times on 13th of every month, except in the month of August she appeared on 19th. Let us all rejoice over the gift of this Centenary celebration awaiting us all and thank God for the several apparitions of our Heavenly Mother and determine to do God's will as expressed at Fatima by the voice of the Holy Virgin, namely: **to work for the establishment in the world of the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary**. This devotion consists of five practices: the daily recital of the Rosary, prayers and sacrifices for the conversion of sinners, the communion of reparation on the first Saturdays of the month in reparation for offenses against the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and wearing the scapular. To accomplish God's will it is necessary to make these five practices our own, and to spread them around us. I exhort Parish Priests the following: - to start Marian Sodality for junior girls and Legion of Mary for seniors in their parishes so that our Catholic young girls are attracted to the message and life of Our Blessed Mother Mary; - on 11 February recitation of the rosary in front of the Grotto of Our Lady and thereafter candle light procession; - in the month of May recitation of the rosary in front of the Grotto a devotion being kept up in a few parishes but I request that it be held in all parishes and, - in the month of October recitation of the rosary at

every Parish Ward level. May the Blessed Virgin Mary whom we honour and revere as the Patroness of our Diocese: Our Lady of Miracles intercede for all of us obtaining showers of blessings upon us all from Her Son Jesus Christ.

2. ATTUR-KARKALA ST LAWRENCE BASILICA ANNUAL FEAST

St Lawrence annual Shrine Feast took place from 22 to 26 January with the traditional glitter, solemnity and devotion after it was proclaimed and dedicated as a Minor Basilica on 01 August 2016. God's providence, benevolence and blessings through the powerful intercession of St Lawrence were truly visible and tangible the way the five days festivities took place so smoothly, prayerfully and devotionally. The status of the Minor Basilica attracted a larger crowd this festive season especially on Wednesday and Thursday (25 & 26 January) so much so it was a sea of humanity of devotees and pilgrims flowing into the Shrine with such unction and devotion, thanks to the powerful intercession of St Lawrence our Patron, Deacon and Martyr. He certainly attracts pilgrims to himself irrespective of faith and family background and grants them their hearts' desires and wishes, prayers and vows. The Rector of the Shrine and his team had made all necessary infrastructural facilities especially at the confessional and around the shrine campus with additional space for easy movement of devotees. While thanking God for His immense blessings, graces and mercies constantly showered upon this Diocese through St Lawrence on all those who visit this shrine at Attur-Karkala, I express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Rector, Very Rev. Fr George D'Souza, Assistant Rev. Fr Vijay Joyson D'Souza, the Attur Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils and Parishioners for their wholehearted support and cooperation and all others: the Catholic Sabha, Women Association (*Shtri Sanghatan*) Youth, Choirs from various parishes, volunteers, singers, Lectors, ushers in, Commentators, MCs, caterers, the Police Department, the Media and Press. I remain grateful for the wholehearted support and cooperation extended by our five Deans (Kundapur, Kallianpur, Karkala, Shirva and Udupi) and all Priests from these deaneries and from the Diocese of Mangalore and neighbouring Dioceses and all

Religious Priests for their ministry at the confessional and every assistance to the celebration of the five days' festivities. May St Lawrence continue to guide and inspire us all to minister his devotees and pilgrims knocking at his Shrine throughout the year in season and out of season for peace, solace, mercy and reconciliation.

3. DAYS IN DIOCESE (DID)

In view of the National Youth Convention which took place in St Joseph's Engineering College at Vamanjoor, Mangalore from 18 to 22 January 2017, Days in Diocese (DID) programme was held in our Diocese from 14 to 17 January 2017 in which 365 youth (boys and girls) from 34 Dioceses in India took part. Over 24 parishes came forward to accommodate these youngsters in their homes to allow them to have a firsthand experience of our hospitality, prayer life, culture and tradition to share it with their counterparts back home and in their respective diocese. The response was overwhelming, generosity of hospitality from families where they stayed was truly generous and genuine and organization of it was meticulous, unique and memorable. In their review, the youngsters were all praises in the superlative for the way DID was conducted in the Diocese of Udupi. Its credit, honour and joy go to Rev. Fr Edwin D'Souza the Diocesan Youth Director and his excellent Team. I on my part express my sincere thanks to Fr Edwin and his team and pray God for His abundant blessings for this selfless and dedicated ministry for and amidst the youth.

4. DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE

02 February every year is set aside as a day of consecrated life. "Life consecrated through profession of the evangelical counsels is a stable form of living, in which the faithful follow Christ more closely under the action of the Holy Spirit, and are totally dedicated to God, who is supremely loved. By a new and special title they are dedicated to seek the perfection of charity in the service of God's Kingdom, for the honour of God, the building up of the Church and the salvation of the world. They are a splendid sign in the Church, as they foretell the heavenly glory" (Can. 573). The Code beautifully summarizes the

vocation, role and place of the religious men and women in the Church and we must join all religious especially those communities who have chosen this Diocese to live their Charism and serve it through their respective apostolate, praising God and thanking Him for calling men and women to follow Him closely in a life consecrated to Him in the Church. We wish all religious men and women in our Diocese on this day set aside for them with the assurance of our good will and prayers and appreciation for their support and apostolate.

5. TWENTY-FIFTH WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 2017

On 11 February 2017 the Twenty-fifth World Day of the Sick will be celebrated throughout the Church and in a special way at Lourdes. The theme of this year's celebration is: *Amazement at what God has accomplished: The Almighty has done great things for me...* (Lk 1:49). Pope Francis quoting Pope St John Paul II in his message says that 'this Day is an opportunity to reflect in particular on the needs of the sick and, more generally, of all those who suffer. It is also an occasion for those who generously assist the sick, beginning with family members, health workers and volunteers, to give thanks for their God-given vocation of accompanying our infirm brothers and sisters. This celebration likewise gives the Church renewed spiritual energy for carrying out ever more fully that fundamental part of her mission which includes serving the poor, the infirm, the suffering, the outcast and the marginalized'. Let us offer our prayerful support and encouragement to physicians, nurses, volunteers, family members and all those consecrated men and women committed to serving the sick and those in need. I request you dear Rev. Fathers to announce the importance of this day of the sick to be kept up on 11 February 2017 and to offer special prayers for them and those who so very generously assist them. May our families who take loving care of the sick and the elderly be blessed and rewarded for their generous and selfless service to the sick and the suffering shall be our earnest prayerful support to all of them.

6. HOLY CHILDHOODDAY

Good many parishes have established Missionary Children's Association which is quite encouraging. February 12 will be celebrated

as the Missionary Holy Childhood Day (Sunday) world over. Children would be quite enthusiastic to celebrate this day and hence special attention must be paid to keep up this day by preparing them well in advance to explain the purpose and importance of this part of the Pontifical Mission Society and what children could do and contribute to work for the missions. I request you dear Fathers to hold also a very meaningful liturgical celebration for them on 12 February 2017.

7. SEASON OF LENT

The Ash Wednesday this year will be celebrated on 01 March which will therefore mark the beginning of the holy season of Lent. By the time the Vox Nostra for March will reach you, you would have already entered into the season of Lent and therefore I take this occasion to wish all of you dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters a holy and prayerful season of lent. Our faithful do enter this season with great devotion, reverence and faith which is very heartening to note. Penance, self denial and sacrifices have been spontaneous and faithful come together for the weekly Way of the Cross with joy and enthusiasm. In some churches even daily Way of the Cross is being conducted before the Mass. I exhort Parish Priests to continue to organize the usual para-liturgical devotions in vogue during Lent and promote those like daily Way of the Cross and reading of the Passion Narrative, its reflection and meditation in families uniting themselves to the suffering, passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. All external pomp and celebrations may be toned down and acts of penance, fast and abstinence may be announced as indicated in the *Ordo* on page 35.

8. LENTEN CAMPAIGN

The Diocesan Commission for Social Development- SAMPADA has come forward to raise funds for Housing Project through Lenten Campaign. The Council of Priests in its meeting held on 20 January 2017 has given its recommendation to this project. I am pleased to approve it with an appeal to support SAMPADA which will launch it in all Parishes, Institutions and among religious communities during Lent. Please promote this noble cause of helping the needy and deserving

families which will approach the Diocese for house repairs, renovation works and perhaps even construction of houses so that our determination to reach out to those among our faithful who are in need of help may benefit from it and MISSION 2025 objective may be fulfilled. I thank you dear Rev. Fathers and the religious Communities for your support in the past years towards the SAMPADA Lenten Campaign and look forward to it this time with greater zeal and enthusiasm.

9. ANNUAL BUDGET 2017-18

Soon the financial year will be over and before the new one will begin, it is just and meaningful that the annual Budget is in place in order to plan and carry out financial expenditure as projected and approved. I request you to prepare the Budget for 2017-18 as per Diocesan Finance Manual already provided to you and having placed it before the PFC for its approval, send it over to my office by the end of February 2017 for approval. Please be convinced of its need and usefulness so that the projected income and expenditure becomes a guide in achieving/reaching targets set for income generation and limit expenditure as per amount sanctioned and approved.

10. DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL (DPC)

I have yet to receive names of members from our Deaneries. Deans of five deaneries who have not yet sent names of those Priests and lay representatives (*Sainyojaks* from every Parish) from your deaneries are hereby requested to go through pages 64 to 66 of the Constitution about membership to DPC and to send names of those who are eligible as per nos. 6.4.4.1 and 6.4.4.2 in the Constitution from the Parish and Deanery level to me by 15 February 2017.

11. TRAINING FOR PPC SECRETARIES AND VICE PRESIDENTS

Training for Secretaries and Vice Presidents of Parish Pastoral Councils (PPCs) of all Parishes will be held in the Bishop's House at Udupi on 24 February 2017. For Secretaries, the training programme will be from 09.30 am to 01.00 pm and for Vice

Presidents, it will be from 02.30 pm to 05.00 pm. I hereby request the Parish Priests to inform your PPC Secretary and Vice President about the date and time of this training programme and to attend the same without fail.

12. NEW BISHOP FOR MYSORE DIOCESE

Holy Father Pope Francis has appointed Rev. Fr K.A. William, a priest of the Diocese of Mysore as the new Bishop of Mysore. The announcement was made on 25 January 2017 by the former Bishop of Mysore Thomas A. Vazhappilly at 04.30 pm in Mysore Bishop's House. We congratulate the Bishop- Elect K.A. William with an assurance of our prayers, goodwill and good wishes for the Episcopal ministry awaiting him in the Diocese of Mysore.

13. IMPORTANT DAYS TO MARK IN THE CALENDAR

- A. Council of Priests' Meeting in 2017: 07 June; 18 September & 20 November.
- B. Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting in 2017: 09 March, 26 June & 05 October.
- C. Clergy annual Retreat 09 July eve. To 14 July noon 2017.
- D. Ordination of Deacons: 04 May 2017 in Udyavar Church at 03.30 pm
- E. Religious Superiors' Meeting: 02 April & 17 December 2017.
- F. Chrism Mass 06 April 2017.

I invoke God's plentiful blessings upon you all and wish you a holy season of Lent filled with God's benevolence, mercy and grace.

+ 

+ Gerald I. Lobo
Bishop of Udipi

CESU

1. I am happy to inform you that CBCI Commission for Education and Culture has declared the following four Institutions under CESU **“The Pride of the Catholic Church”**

- (i) St Joseph’s High School, Belman
- (ii) St Mary’s English medium School, Udupi
- (iii) St Mary’s College, Shirva
- (iv) Milagres College, Kallianpur

What it means: From the information we had furnished, the Commission for Education and Culture has come to the conclusion that these four Institutions conform to the ***All India Catholic Education Policy issued by CBCI in 2007.***

Hearty Congratulations to the Correspondents, Heads of the Institutions, Staff and Students of these Institutions. We have received certificates from CBCI office Delhi for other Schools/PU Colleges under CESU. The Correspondents may collect them from CESU office.

2. A one day Training Programme was held for the Correspondents and Heads of High Schools, PU Colleges and Degree Colleges under CESU on Monday, 16th of January 2017. Following topics were addressed during the Training Programme:

- (i) POCSO Act – Its content and implications
- (ii) Matters relating to PF, ESI and Gratuity
- (iii) Qualities of a good Educator Commandments for Teachers

Fr Eugene Lobo SJ, The Secretary, KRCE and Mr Vincent Consessao, Rtd Asst Labour Commissioner and Advocate were the resource persons. They made the sessions truly educative and interesting through ppt presentation and video clippings. A total of 7 Correspondents (out of 15) and 31 Heads of the Institutions participated and benefitted from this Training Programme. We thank all those who attended this training Programme.

3. **A study session on “How to prepare a budget and present it”** for the Correspondents and the office staff who maintain accounts was held on Monday 30, January 2017 from 10 a.m to 1.00p.m. Mr Rudolph Rodrigues CA and his staff conducted this session. We are grateful to them.

The Correspondents of the Colleges, PU Colleges and unaided High Schools are requested to prepare budget for 2017-18 on the basis of the actual figures for 9 months (from April 2016 to December 2016) and send them to the office of CESU. Thank you.

Rev. Fr Lawrence D’Souza
Secretary

DIVYAJYOTHI

Programs in February 2017

- 6 Feb - Lectio Divina training at Shirva parish
6-11 Feb - Visit to Shirva Deanery parishes –Lectio Divina action plan
11 Feb - Lectio Divina training for CRI, Udupi Diocese
13-18 Feb - Visit to Kundapur Deanery parishes - Lectio Divina action plan
14 Feb - Lectio Divina session at Pethri Church
20-25 Feb - Visit to Kallianpur Deanery parishes- Lectio Divina action plan
25 Feb - Felicitation of schoolwise Toppers in Catechism in X
26 Feb - Meeting of Conveners of Biblical Commission at Udupi

Mangalore Diocese.

1. I request you to kindly promote Lectio Divina in your parishes and encourage the parishioners to read the authentic Catholic Bible.

Fr Stephen D’Souza
Director

WOMEN COMMISSION

Women Commission Parish Conveners'

Meeting Date: 11 February 2017

Time: 9.30 am to 11.00 am

Venue: Conference Hall, Bishop's House, Udupi.

Sr Teresa Martis FMM

Director

OBITUARY

Mrs Lucy Pereira (88 yrs), M/o Rev. Fr Harold Pereira, Director of Commissions for SCCs & Ecumenism, passed away on 3 Jan 2017 and the funeral was held on 4 Jan 2017 at St John Baptist Church, Permude.

Mrs Josephine D'Souza (94 yrs), M/o Rev. Fr Lawrence D'Souza, Parish Priest of Kalathur, passed away 8 January 2017 and the funeral was held on 10 Jan 2017 at St Paul Church, Bolkunje.

Miss Princia Mascarenhas (19 yrs), Niece of Rev. Fr Henry Mascarenhas, Estate Manager, passed away on 23 Jan 2017 and the funeral was held on 25 Jan 2017 at St John Bosco Church, Kelmbet.

MAY GOD GRANT THEM ETERNAL REST

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