

# VOX NOSTRA

**Vol VIII**

**FEBRUARY 2020**

**No. 2**

*Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,*

## **1. DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE**

In 1997 Pope St John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, February 2nd. The feast is also known as Candlemass, the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

During the Sunday mass on **2<sup>nd</sup> February**, I request you to talk about this day of Consecrated Life and to pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation. On my behalf, I sincerely thank all men and women in Consecrated Life who serve in our Diocese and pray God's choicest blessings on each one of them. May they always experience the closeness of our Lord Jesus in their ministry and do their ministry with great joy and vigour.

## **2. MISSIONARY HOLY CHILDHOOD DAY**

The second Sunday of February, this year the 9<sup>th</sup>, is celebrated as the Missionary Holy Childhood Day. The aims of the Missionary Childhood Association can be summarized as follows:

1. To meet the spiritual and material needs of all children so that they can live worthily as true children of God.
2. Sensitize children to the needs of others by teaching them the value and strength of solidarity and mutual support.
3. Sprout a missionary spirit in children that will accompany them throughout their life, regardless of whether God will guide them towards lay or religious life, making them valid and responsible members of society.

I am happy that several parishes have established Missionary Childhood Association in their parishes. I hereby appeal to all of you to make this day meaningful for children who are enthusiastic members of this association, motivating them further to be effective signs of the Church's mission by organizing activities and celebrations that will suit their age and enthusiasm.

### **3. WORLD DAY OF THE SICK: 11 FEBRUARY**

February 11 is the World Day of the Sick, an observation started by Pope St John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses. The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes. People all over the world take time to pray for the sick and those who work hard to alleviate the sufferings of the sick on this day. Faith-organizations mark this day especially to provide the sick with medicines, food, and spiritual guidance. Let us all be solicitous towards the plight of our sick and suffering brethren in our parishes and, above all, in our own families and make it a point to care for them and alleviate their pain and suffering as much as we can. I urge all of you to offer special prayers for the sick on this day of the sick.

#### **4. SEMINARS ON NEW KONKANI MISSAL**

We had informed you that the seminar on the New Konkani Missal will held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020 for all men and women religious of our Diocese. However, there is a slight change in the dates. While the seminar on 2<sup>nd</sup> February stands cancelled, the seminar on **9<sup>th</sup> February** will be held as informed earlier, from 2.30 to 5.00 pm (arrival at 2.00 pm) at Bishop's House, Udupi. In addition, a seminar on Friday, **21<sup>st</sup> February**, will be held from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm (arrival at 9.30 am) and concludes with lunch. I urge all priests who were absent for the seminar on 20<sup>th</sup> January to attend the seminar on one of the above-mentioned dates in February 2020.

#### **5. ONGOING FORMATION FOR PRIESTS: 1-10 YEARS**

Accepting the suggestion given during the Pastoral Consultation 2019, we have decided to organize programmes as a part of the Ongoing Formation for the priests of our Diocese. For the sake of equal distribution of priests and based on the years of ordination, we have formed three categories for our Diocese: 1-10 Years, 10-30 Years and 30 Years and above. A programme for the first category of priests, i.e., 1-10 years will be held on **20 February 2020** from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm (arrival at 9.00 am) at Conference Hall, Bishop's House, Udupi.

#### **6. SEASON OF LENT**

The Ash Wednesday this year will be celebrated on 26<sup>th</sup> February which will therefore mark the beginning of the holy season of Lent. 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 the 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 the 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 pages 71-73.

## **7. CBCI PLENARY ASSEMBLY**

The plenary assembly of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) will be held from 13 to 20 February 2020 at St John's, Bengaluru and deliberate on the theme of 'Dialogue'. Let us pray for the success of this plenary assembly as the Bishops of Indian Church come together for their biennial meeting and deliberate on the theme that is very relevant in the present context of our nation.

## **8. ANNUAL FEAST OF ST LAWRENCE BASILICA**

The five days of festivities of St Lawrence Basilica which began with traditional gaiety, prayer and solemnity on 26 January 2020 were concluded on 30 January 2020 with great joy and gratitude, thanks to the continuous protection of St Lawrence, the wonder-worker, and incessant mercy and blessings of God, our Heavenly Father. While the five days' celebrations which were meticulously planned by the Shrine Basilica Management Committee, the flow of devotees and pilgrims was so peaceful, devotional and reverential that St Lawrence truly

does wonders in Attur attracting pilgrims year after year to himself whose number has been steadily increasing. I thank Very Rev. Fr George D'Souza, Rector of the St Lawrence Basilica, Assistant PP, Rev. Fr Melwyl Roy Lobo, and members of the Attur Parish Pastoral Council for their all-out efforts and dedication before, during as well as after the celebrations; the five Deans of our deaneries and their deanery priests – diocesan and religious for their presence, support and, above all, assistance at the confessional; the clergy of the diocese of Mangalore and from our neighbouring dioceses and the religious priests from various congregations for helping us at the confessional; Rev. Deacons (diocesan and religious) for helping at the liturgical celebrations; seminarians and post novices for their continuous presence and assistance at the shrine. May God bless you, all, and may St Lawrence intercede for you always.

## **9. BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2020-21- A REMINDER**

We had informed you in January 2020 that the budget for 2020-21 needs to be finalized as per the statutes of Parish Finance Council, no. 3.12.10 and submitted in duplicate to my office for approval on or before **28 February 2020**. I request you to consider this as an important work and prepare the budget in consultation with the Parish Finance Council and submit the same before the due date.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

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+ Gerald Isaac Lobo  
Bishop of Udupi

## **DIVYA JYOTHI**

- 06/02/2020 Evaluation of Catechism Answer Papers  
14/02/2020 Diocesan Exam Results Day  
23/02/2020 Sunday Catechism Exams  
29/02/2020 Felicitation of Toppers in Catechism in X Std

**Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza**  
**Director**

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### **SAMPADA, UDUPI - Lenten Campaign 2020**

Dear Fathers,

This year's Lenten Campaign will be for the '**construction of houses for needy families**'. As you know, this program of Construction of Houses for the needy will be carried out jointly by St Vincent De Paul Society (SSVP) Central Council and Sampada Udupi.

It is decided in the meeting with SSVP's main office-bearers and in consultation with the Bishop that the donation coupons will be managed in the Parishes under the leadership of the Parish Priest, as usual and the donation coupons will be distributed by St Vincent De Paul Society members, this year. Due to the requirement of larger funds, each donation coupon will be of Rs 20 (Rupees twenty only) value. The donation-coupon-books will be reached to your parish in due time. Requesting your cooperation and support for this year's cause.

**Rev. Fr Reginald Pinto**

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