

VOX NOSTRA

Vol IX

FEBRUARY 2021

No. 2

1. DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE:

On 2nd February, Holy Mother the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This celebration commemorates the presentation of Jesus by Blessed Virgin Mary His mother, to the Lord in the Temple during which Simeon recognized in Christ the “Light to enlighten the Gentiles”. Good many religious Sisters set aside this day to pronounce their vows / commitments to a way of consecrated Life. As the tradition stands, there is also the custom of the blessing of candles and the faithful coming into the Church in a procession, holding lighted candles in their hands, proclaiming Christ as acclaimed by Simeon.

I request you dear Fathers to speak to your faithful about the significance of this day and the purpose of a Consecrated Life set apart for God in the Church which needs to be promoted, encouraged and appreciated because the Religious Men and Women being the integral part of the Church play a very positive and constructive role in building the Church and the People of God. I on my part express my thanks, gratitude and appreciation to all Religious Men and Women, who are rendering their respective apostolate in the diocese of Udipi as per their charism contributing thereby to the growth of this Local Church. Let us keep all of them in our prayers.

2. WORLD DAY OF THE SICK:

We are still under the grip of the pandemic which has devastated human life all over the world making not only many

sick but also feeling sick of it because of making our normal life topsy-turvy. For that matter, any and every type of sickness which becomes a disorder puts human life out of gear. This Day of the Sick was started by Pope St John Paul II as an observation as World Day of the Sick making us all aware of the fact of our responsibility towards the sick for proper care and to the medical and nursing professionals for their role in alleviating pain and suffering and seeing in the sick, the image of Christ suffering for the humanity. On 11 February, 2021, the feast of our Lady of Lourdes, the World day of the Sick will be celebrated with the theme: “You have but one teacher and you are all brothers” (Mt 23:8) - A trust-based relationship to guide care for the sick. While pilgrims from all walks of life flock to the holy shrine in Lourdes for blessings and favours, the sick make it a point either to be there or to be taken there for health and healing. We need to pray for all those who are suffering from and victims of Covid – 19 and remember all others who suffer in one way or the other from diseases of different kind. Let our hearts go out to the sick, disabled and the elderly so that they are not alone in their life of pain and suffering but feel supported by our caring hands, loving words and timely presence.

3. MISSIONARY HOLY CHILDHOOD DAY:

14th February, Second Sunday is dedicated to the Missionary Holy Childhood Day. It is very heartening to note that several parishes have established Missionary Childhood Association involving children thereby making them aware of the role of the evangelizing mission of the Church and their own as well. There are a few objectives with a view to promote zeal for the missions as a missionary. They are the following:

- i. To meet the spiritual and material needs of all children so that they can live worthily as true children of God.

- ii. Sensitize children to the needs of others by teaching them the value and strength of solidarity and mutual support.
- iii. 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 request you dear Fathers to continue to promote the Missionary Childhood Association by making the children aware of their role towards the missions by conducting regular monthly meetings at the parish level.

4. HOLY SEASON OF LENT:

With a meaningful celebration of the Sacred Liturgy on Ash Wednesday which falls on 17th of this month, we enter into the holy season of Lent in preparation for the celebration of Easter. The theme of this Lent is “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem” (Mt 20:18) Lent: a Time for Renewing Faith, Hope and Love.

I hereby wish each and every one of you a holy and grace-filled season of Lent and invite you to enter into this season in a spirit of intense prayer, penance and fasting which go along with this season. Devotions such as the Way of the Cross, reading of the passion narrative, its reflection and meditation in Churches as a community and in families may be encouraged with a view especially to unite ourselves to the suffering, passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. All external celebrations which can display pomp and exuberance may be shunned making room for simplicity and prayerful atmosphere. The days of Penance and Abstinence and other details pertaining to Lent are given in the *ORDO* on pages 42 – 43 & 80 – 82. Kindly instruct the faithful accordingly.

5. ANNUAL FEAST OF ST LAWRENCE AT BASILICA, ATTUR:

Keeping in mind the guidelines concerning Covid -19 pandemic, the annual festivities were toned down restricting to only five masses daily and keeping the Basilica church closed after the last Mass at 05.00 pm. In order to facilitate the visit of pilgrims and devotees to this holy Shrine, the festivities began on 18 January and were concluded on 28 January 2021. While during the first few days the flow of pilgrims was meager, it picked up gaining momentum as days passed by with a clear message to one and all that no matter what the situation may be, that St Lawrence always attracts to himself people of all faiths and walks of life and that he responds to their prayers and petitions and leads all to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

I hereby thank the Shrine Basilica Management Committee members, V. Rev. Fr George D'Souza, Rector of the St Lawrence Basilica, Assistant Priest Rev. Fr Melwyl Roy Lobo, members of the Attur Parish Pastoral and Finance Council and so also the members of the various Associations of the Parish for their wholehearted support, cooperation and dedicated service. There were Deacons from Mangalore Diocese and from religious communities in our Diocese, our own Parish Priests and Assistant priests and Priests from the Karkal Deanery who have rendered their precious ministry at the Shrine. I thank them all and invoke God's choicest blessing upon them.

7. TRAINING FOR PASTORAL PLAN 2021 – 2025

The training about the aims and objectives of the revised Pastoral Plan 2021-2025 for the Parish Priests, Vice Presidents and Secretaries of PPCs and Coordinators and Conveners of all parishes was conducted as per schedule. We thank the resource persons Frs. Stephen D'Souza, Harold Pereira, Chetan

Lobo OFM Cap and all the parish priests for their wholehearted cooperation and support.

8. YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

We all know that Pope Francis has declared *Year of St Joseph* from 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021. We need to make this Year as a God-given opportunity to grow in grace and holiness through the powerful intercession of St Joseph so that being a foster father of Jesus, he may be able to make our families, homes of Christian faith and love, proclaimers of the message of the Gospel and its witnesses and ministers of service to and of our neighbor in need. Indulgences can be obtained throughout this year by visiting churches dedicated to St Joseph. In our diocese, St Joseph's Church at Belman has been officially chosen for pilgrimage and visits.

I hereby propose the following for a meaningful and fruitful celebration of this Year:

- To dedicate the month of March to St Joseph
- To conduct Novena to St Joseph on Wednesdays after the Mass in all parishes
- To recite daily St Joseph's Prayer given by Pope Francis in all parish churches and families
- To preach sermons / homilies on St Joseph whenever occasions arise, especially in March
- To organize a meaningful liturgical celebration on 19th March and May 1st
- To encourage the faithful devotion to St Joseph
- To organize pilgrimage to St Joseph's Church, Belman
- To recite the litany of St Joseph after the recitation of the holy rosary on Wednesdays.

9. SUNDAY CATECHISM

As almost all the academic activities have started in schools, I urge the parish priests to resume the regular Sunday Catechism classes for all the children in the parishes without any delay.

10. ANNUAL BUDGET 2021-2022:

The financial year will come to an end on 31 March 2021. While thereafter you will be busy getting ready with the closing of accounts and the audit of said accounts, this is with the request to you dear Fathers to get ready with your Annual Budget for 2021-22 and to submit it to me by 15 March 2021 after placing the same before the PFC of your respective parish having approved by it. Thank you. Budget forms are enclosed along with the copy of the *Vox Nostra*.

11. PANCHAYATELECTIONS:

In the recent elections to the *Panchayat*, I am happy to inform you that 72 Catholics have been elected which is indeed good news. This means that there is awareness among our people of the need to contest elections to the local bodies, support and encouragement from the people of our communities and recognition of the role played, involvement in and service provided to the society by our Catholic faithful especially by those who have been elected. The elected women members were felicitated by me on behalf of the Diocese of Udupi in a function organized by *Sampada* on 16 January, 2021. I hereby offer my congratulations to all our Catholics on their success being elected to the *Panchayat*.

12. UDUPI AND KALLIANPUR DEANERY:

Due to the Pandemic, the Pastoral Visit to the Kallianpur and Udupi Deaneries had to be cancelled. Since the Pandemic situation still continues, the pastoral visit will take place when the situation improves and when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, since the children have been prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation, postponing it would inconvenience good many and hence I have decided to administer this Sacrament to them in your Deanery parishes. I hereby request Rev. Parish Priests from the Parishes of Udupi and Kallianpur Deaneries to meet me to fix a date for it with prior appointment of your visit to me.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ Gerald I. Lobo

Bishop of Udupi

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FAMILY COMMISSION PROGRAMS IN FEBRUARY 2021

- 01 February Parish Family Cell (PFC) Training, Thottam
- 05 & 06 February Marriage Preparation Course
- 09 February Parish Family Cell Training, Byndoor, Trasi, Padukone Gangolli
- 12 February Parish Family Cell Training, Kundapur, Tallur
- 18 February Parish Family Cell Training Basrur, Kandlur, Koteswar, Piusnagar, Kota
- 19 February Parish Family Cell Training, Bramavar, Petri, Barkur, Sastan
- 20 February Parish Family Cell Training, Kolalgiri
- 22 February Parish Family Cell Training, Mount Rosary, Milagres Cathedral, Kemmannu
- 23 February Parish Family Cell Karkal Town, Attur, Ajekar, Hirgan, Miyar, Kera, Parapady
- 24 February Parish Family Cell Training, Kanajar, Nakre
- 25 February Parish Family Cell Training - Belman, Mukamar, Kelmbet, Mundkooor, Palimar
- 26 February Parish Family Cell Training, Pernal, Pilar, Mudarangadi, Kalathur
- 28 February Seminar for Resource Team members by Rev. Fr. Kenneth Teles from Archdiocese of Goa

Leslie Arouza

Director

PROGRAMS OF COMMISSION FOR EDUCATION IN FEBRUARY 2021

1. 02-02-2021- Meeting of the Correspondents, the Heads of the Institution and the main Accountants of the institutions of all unaided Institutions coming under the jurisdiction of Udupi Diocese at Bishop's House School Hall, 3rd Floor, Udupi – 10 am to 12.30p.m.

2. 18-02-2021 – Meeting of Governing Body of CESU at Conference Hall, Bishop’s House Udupi at 4 p.m.

PROGRAMS OF COMMISSION FOR PROCLAMATION AND EVANGELIZATION IN FEBRUARY 2021

1. 08-02-2021– Training of Lay Evangelizers and Intercessory group members of Kundapur deanery at St. Antony Church Padukone at 9.30a.m to 4p.m
2. 12-02-2021– Training of Lay Evangelizers and Intercessory group members of Karkala deanery at Christ King Church, Karkala Town at 9.30a.m to 1p.m
3. 20-02-2021– Training of Lay Evangelizers and Intercessory group members of Udupi deanery at Stella Maris Church Kalmady at 9a.m to 1p.m
4. 22-02-2021– Training of Lay Evangelizers and Intercessory group members of Kallianpur deanery at St. Theresa’s Church Kemmannu at 9.30a.m to 1p.m
5. 26-02-2021– Training of Lay Evangelizers and Intercessory group members of Shirva deanery at St. John the Evangelist Church, Shankerapura at 9.30a.m to 1p.m

Fr Vincent Crasta, Director

RUBY BIRTHDAY (40 YEAR)

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| Rev. Fr Stephen D’Souza Director, Divya Jyothi | 28-02-2021 |
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Congratulations and Best Wishes Dear Rev. Father

REST IN PEACE

1. **Mr Baptist D’Souza (80)**, B/o Rev. Dr Lawrence C. D’Souza on January 09, 2021 at Shankerpura
2. **Mr Francis Assis Fernandes (69)**, B/o V. Rev. Fr Joswey Fernandes on January 24, 2021 at Mount Rosary, Santhekatte

BISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS IN FEBRUARY 2021

- 02 10.00 a.m. : CESU Meeting
03 : Free Day for Lay Faithful
04 : Free Day for Priests and Religious
05 04.00 p.m. : Meeting of the Agenda Committee of the Senate
08 : Meeting of the Karnataka Regional Commission
for Family
09 : KROSS Meeting, Shivamogga
10 10.00 a.m. : Meeting of St Lawrence Basilica Committee,
Attur
11 : Senate Meeting
14 04.30 p.m. : Blessing of the Renovated Cemetery, Pethri
15 10.30 a.m. : St Antony's Feast, Kerekatte
16 03.30 p.m. : SAMPADA Meeting
17 : Ash Wednesday
18 04.00 p.m. : CESU Administrative Council Meeting
21 10.30 a.m. : Confirmation, Thottam
22-24 : KRCBC Meeting, Bengaluru
25 : Board Meeting, St Peter's Seminary, Bengaluru
26 : CCK Meeting
28 09.00 : Family Commission Meeting

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