



DIOCESE OF SHIMOGA

Vol. 6 No. 2

Mallige Mane, Sagar Road, Shimoga - 577205

March 2019

The Bishop and all at Mallige Mane wish all our readers a blessed and joy filled Easter.



FEAST OF ST JOSEPH

Joseph the just man, Joseph the silent one is also Joseph who is faithful to his mission of being the protector of Jesus and Mary, even in the face of unbearable trials and tribulations. As such, St Joseph is the patron of every parent. He is also the patron of every priest who by his very vocation is called to represent the Fatherhood of God in the Local Church entrusted to his pastoral care. Let us, therefore, pray specially for our priests on the feast of this great saint, that they may be ever faithful to their vocation and mission despite all the attractions and allurements of the current culture which seduces us with worldly dreams.

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Mary, the mother of Jesus and our mother, is an icon of an ideal disciple, who always listened to the Word of God in her heart and pondered over it, and patterned her life according to the will of God. "Behold the servant of the Lord, whatever the Lord wants let it happen to me" can well be the motto for our own life as the servants of the Word of God. As we celebrate this great feast in our liturgical calendar, let us pray that through the intercession of our Blessed mother we may walk the way of the Gospel even to Calvary in the footsteps of Jesus, who was comforted by the compassionate presence of His mother on the way of the cross.

CHRISM MASS

The holy oils will be blessed at the Chrism mass in our Cathedral at 5.30pm on Thursday 11 April 2019. The strict liturgical tradition of the Latin Church is to have it in the morning of Maundy Thursday, but, due to pastoral reasons a special dispensation allows us to anticipate it to the previous Thursday, and, as such, it is a kind of anticipation of Maundy Thursday when, the whole Presbyterium, gathered around its head, the Bishop, celebrates its unity based on shared vocation and mission as priests. Therefore, I urge every priest in the Diocese, both diocesan and religious, to make it a point to participate in the Chrism mass. Also kindly encourage your people to attend the chrism mass in large numbers.

RECOLLECTION FOR PRIESTS

All the priests in our diocese, both diocesan and religious, will please attend the recollection in preparation for the Chrism mass and Holy Week from 6.00pm on Wednesday, 10 April 2019 till the afternoon of the following day, after which all of us will assemble in the Cathedral for the Chrism mass. The recollection will be held in Chaitanya and Father Cyprian Tellis SJ, Professor of Moral Theology in Bangalore, will guide the recollection.

HOLY WEEK

The Holy Week is the most sacred, solemn and spiritual time of our liturgical calendar, when we remain in close companionship and communion with our Saviour as He makes His painful way through the agonizing events of His Paschal Mystery. It is also a busy time for all of us. Let us, therefore, take special care to be in a spirit of silence and solitude, even as we busy ourselves with a multitude of details pertaining to the liturgical ceremonies. It is our privilege and duty as pastors to lead our people to delve deeper into the infinite riches of God's mercy revealed in the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ.

EASTER

Easter is the culmination of Lent, during which we have walked the way of the cross together with Christ. By walking the Way of the Cross we are in fact walking towards the Resurrection of Jesus. That is indeed the 15th Station of the Way of the Cross. Lent is here, a time of preparation for Easter, when we are called to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life. The fire of Easter is the fervour that fills our hearts like the disciples of Emmaus who exclaimed that their hearts were burning when they met the risen Lord. During the Easter Vigil, we will celebrate once more the moving rite of the lighting of the Easter candle. Drawn from the "new fire", this light will slowly overcome the darkness and illuminate the liturgical assembly. "May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds", and enable all of us to relive the experience of the disciples on the way to Emmaus. By listening to God's word and drawing nourishment from the table of the Eucharist, may our hearts be ever more ardent in faith, hope and love. A very happy Easter to all of you.

VOCATION CAMP

Immediately after Easter, namely, on Monday 22 April and Tuesday 23rd, a vocation camp for boys of 8th, 9th, 10th stds and PUC is

being organized at Chaitanya. Please identify suitable participants in this camp and encourage them to attend.

ELECTIONS

Around Easter time this year we will be going into General Elections. These are very crucial for the future of our country. On their results will depend what kind of country we will be having in the near future. I earnestly request all our priests, especially those who are in charge of parishes and institutions to educate our people on the importance of exercising their franchise freely, wisely, prudently and fearlessly, succumbing to no blandishments and empty promises, but with the good of the Nation alone as their single-minded focus. Please do everything in your power to make sure that every eligible voter is registered and exercises the right to vote. Lent would be the ideal time for us to educate and motivate the voters for a responsible exercise of their patriotic duty.

APOSTOLIC HOUSE

The diocese will be starting an apostolic house for prospective candidates to the priesthood from the coming academic year. A maximum of 8 boys eligible for High School studies can be accommodated. Please contact **Fr Pius D'Souza**, the Vocation Promoter of the Diocese for further information.

SEMINAR

A one-day seminar on Reconciliation is organized at Chaitanya for all the priests in the diocese both diocesan and religious, on Tuesday 14 May 2019. On the following day, namely 15 May, it would be for women religious. As this is the Year of Reconciliation in our diocese, kindly make it a point to attend. Rev. Fr Selvarathinam, professor of Sacred Scripture will be the resource person.

THE WEBSITE

The diocesan website has been updated and is under the care of Fr Ronald Viegas. Kindly send news and pictures of every event in your parish or institution, however minor, so that our website is constantly updated. You may please contact: <shimogawebnews@gmail.com>

IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING

Rev. Sr Lynn, CSST, (62), Serving at Harihar, passed away on 22 January 2019. Funeral took place on 23 January 2019 at St Lawrence Church, Bondel, Mangaluru.

2019 LENTEN MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

“For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God” (Rom 8:19)

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Each year, through Mother Church, God “gives us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed... as we recall the great events that gave us new life in Christ” (*Preface of Lent I*). We can thus journey from Easter to Easter towards the fulfilment of the salvation we have already received as a result of Christ’s paschal mystery - “for in hope we were saved” (*Rom 8:24*). This mystery of salvation, already at work in us during our earthly lives, is a dynamic process that also embraces history and all of creation. As Saint Paul says, “the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God” (*Rom 8:19*). In this perspective, I would like to offer a few reflections to accompany our journey of conversion this coming Lent.

1. The redemption of creation

The celebration of the Paschal Triduum of Christ’s passion, death and resurrection, the culmination of the

liturgical year, calls us yearly to undertake a journey of preparation, in the knowledge that our being conformed to Christ (cf. *Rom 8:29*) is a priceless gift of God’s mercy. When we live as children of God, redeemed, led by the Holy Spirit (cf. *Rom 8:14*) and capable of acknowledging and obeying God’s law, beginning with the law written on our hearts and in nature, *we also benefit creation* by cooperating in its redemption. That is why Saint Paul says that creation eagerly longs for the revelation of the children of God; in other words, that all those who enjoy the grace of Jesus’ paschal mystery may experience its fulfilment in the redemption of the human body itself. When the love of Christ transfigures the lives of the saints in spirit, body and soul, they give praise to God. Through prayer, contemplation and art, they also include other creatures in that praise, as we see admirably expressed in the “Canticle of the Creatures” by Saint Francis of Assisi (cf. *Laudato Si’*, 87). Yet in this world, the harmony generated by redemption is constantly threatened by the negative power of sin and death.

2. The destructive power of sin

Indeed, when we fail to live as children of God, we often behave in a destructive way towards our neighbours and other creatures - and ourselves as well - since we begin to think more or less consciously that we can use them as we will. Intemperance then takes the upper hand: we start to live a life that exceeds those limits imposed by our human condition and nature itself. We yield to those untrammelled desires that the Book of Wisdom sees as typical of the ungodly, those who act without thought for God or hope for the future (cf. 2:1-11). Unless we tend constantly towards Easter, towards the horizon of the Resurrection, the mentality expressed in the slogans “*I want*

it all and I want it now!" and *"Too much is never enough"*, gains the upper hand.

The root of all evil, as we know, is sin, which from its first appearance has disrupted our communion with God, with others and with creation itself, to which we are linked in a particular way by our body. This rupture of communion with God likewise undermines our harmonious relationship with the environment in which we are called to live, so that the garden has become a wilderness (cf. *Gen 3:17-18*). Sin leads man to consider himself the god of creation, to see himself as its absolute master and to use it, not for the purpose willed by the Creator but for his own interests, to the detriment of other creatures.

Once God's law, the law of love, is forsaken, then the law of the strong over the weak takes over. The sin that lurks in the human heart (cf. *Mk 7:20-23*) takes the shape of greed and unbridled pursuit of comfort, lack of concern for the good of others and even of oneself. It leads to the exploitation of creation, both persons and the environment, due to that insatiable covetousness which sees every desire as a right and sooner or later destroys all those in its grip.

3. *The healing power of repentance and forgiveness*

Creation urgently needs the revelation of the children of God, who have been made "a new creation". For "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (*2 Cor 5:17*). Indeed, by virtue of their being revealed, *creation itself can celebrate a Pasch*, opening itself to a new heaven and a new earth (cf. *Rev 21:1*). The path to Easter demands that we renew our faces and hearts as Christians through repentance, conversion and forgiveness, so as to live fully the abundant grace of the paschal mystery.

This "eager longing", this expectation of all creation, will be fulfilled in the revelation of the children of God, that is, when Christians and all people enter decisively into the "travail" that conversion entails. All creation is called, with us, to go forth "from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God" (*Rom 8:21*). Lent is a sacramental sign of this conversion. It invites Christians to embody the paschal mystery more deeply and concretely in their personal, family and social lives, above all by fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

Fasting, that is, learning to change our attitude towards others and all of creation, turning away from the temptation to "devour" everything to satisfy our voracity and being ready to suffer for love, which can fill the emptiness of our hearts. *Prayer*, which teaches us to abandon idolatry and the self-sufficiency of our ego, and to acknowledge our need of the Lord and his mercy. *Almsgiving*, whereby we escape from the insanity of hoarding everything for ourselves in the illusory belief that we can secure a future that does not belong to us. And thus to rediscover the joy of God's plan for creation and for each of us, which is to love him, our brothers and sisters, and the entire world, and to find in this love our true happiness.

Dear brothers and sisters, the "lenten" period of forty days spent by the Son of God in the *desert* of creation had the goal of making it once more that *garden* of communion with God that it was before original sin (cf. *Mk 1:12-13*; *Is 51:3*). May our Lent this year be a journey along that same path, bringing the hope of Christ also to creation, so that it may be "set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God" (*Rom 8:21*).

Let us not allow this season of grace to pass in vain! Let us ask God to help us set out on a path of true conversion. Let us leave behind our selfishness and self-absorption, and turn to Jesus' Pasch. Let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material goods with them. In this way, by concretely welcoming Christ's victory over sin and death into our lives, we will also radiate its transforming power to all of creation.

*From the Vatican, 4 October 2018
Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi*

CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF INDIA

XXXI PLENARY ASSEMBLY

THEME: 'THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL'

January 7 - 14, 2019

Joe Animation Centre, Chingleput,
Tamil Nadu

A MESSAGE

Introduction

We, 133 bishops of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI), assembled at the Joe Animation Centre, Chingleput, Tamil Nadu, from January 7 to 14, 2019, for our 31st Plenary Assembly to reflect upon, pray, discern and respond to the theme: 'The Joy of the Gospel'. This theme — which is the title of Pope Francis' Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (EG)—urges us to reflect more deeply on the demands of Christian discipleship.

Impelled by Jesus' promise: "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete" (Jn 15:11), we go forth to joyfully and enthusiastically proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Our Joys and Hopes

We see so much that fills us with joy, consolation and hope. The fidelity, fervour and enthusiasm of so many

Christians, lay groups and associations in different parts of India to make Christ known, loved and followed is truly exemplary and encouraging. The heroic witness to the faith of our Christian brothers and sisters — even to the extent of laying down their life for Christ, as seen in places like Kandhamal and elsewhere — is a sublime testimony of courage and sacrifice. The silent witness of so many lay faithful, consecrated persons and priests who live their Christian commitment by walking the path of love, service and sacrifice is truly the effect of an outpouring of grace, expressed so beautifully by Pope Francis in '*Gaudete et Exsultate- Rejoice and be glad*' on the call to holiness in today's world.

We see the urgent need to further strengthen our faith, and we hope to continue extending our loving service to all people — in particular, the Dalits, tribals, women, migrants and refugees — so as to remove all traces of injustice, exploitation and oppression in our society and in the Church.

Challenges to Sharing the Joy of the Gospel

Many challenges, both internal and external, confront us in our mission. Among the internal ones is the need for: (a) a continuous spiritual renewal of bishops, priests, consecrated and lay faithful to inspire us to more joyfully proclaim the Good News; (b) to instill in ourselves a confidence to overcome any fear generated by some incidents of opposition and violence; (c) to find means to reveal more effectively the 'merciful face' of Jesus; (d) to go forth to the peripheries, instead of seeking security in institutions; (e) to take more decisive measures for promoting the welfare of Christians who suffer from various forms of discrimination.

Some external challenges confronting the Church are: (a) communal forces that threaten to deny some communities their religious identity and rights; (b) economic policies that favour the rich and adversely affect the 'poor'; (c) media sensationalism and the spread of fake news.

Our Foundations: The Word of God and Church Teachings

God's Word moves us to preach the Good News. Saint Paul exhorts us: "In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus ... I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent, whether the time is favourable or unfavourable" (2 Tim 4:1-2). Every baptized person is obliged to joyfully preach, practise and propagate the Gospel in all circumstances.

The Church's call is to be the seed, servant and sacrament of the Kingdom of God, announcing through her words, works and witness the "fullness of life" offered by Christ (Jn 10:10). This is clearly articulated in the documents of Vatican Council II (1962-65) such as *Ad Gentes*. Thereafter, *Evangelii Nuntiandi* of Pope Paul VI (1975), *Redemptoris Missio* of Pope John Paul II (1990) and other documents have provided the impetus to proclaim the Good News with new ardour, methods and expressions.

Pope Francis reminds us of the personal call for mission. Each of us not only 'has' a mission but also 'is' a mission: "I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world" (EG, 273).

Keeping in mind this call to us, we pledge to continue striving to be joyful and selfless shepherds according to the heart of Christ. All our ministries will be effective only if they spring out of a personal and loving relationship with Jesus Christ strengthened through a life of daily prayer and contemplation.

We therefore make an ardent appeal to:

- **All our Faithful:** You are "temples of the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor 6:19) called to be everyday "saints next door" (*Gaudete et Exsultate*, 6-9). Make the world a better place with your love for God, overflowing into selfless deeds for justice, peace, harmony and care of God's creation.

- **Christian Families:** Your vocation is to be the "Domestic Church" — called to be holy and happy. Always bear the Good News at home, in the neighbourhood, in places of study and work, ever seeking to go forth and widen 'family circles' by loving and serving all.

- **The Youth:** You are the hope of the Church and Society! Stay creative in mind, loving at heart, loyal to the Church and lively in your steps to joyfully follow the ways of Our Lord Jesus, so that the freshness and appeal of the Good News may shine forth brightly in your words and deeds.

- **The Clergy and the Religious:** You represent the person of Christ in the Church and in the World! Strive to be selfless missionary disciples, shunning every form of clericalism and careerism so as to be faithful to your vocation — active in the Spirit, effectively revealing the merciful and joyful face of God to all people, especially the poorest of the poor. In all our ministries—especially pastoral care, education, healthcare and social action—let us constantly seek to announce the Joy of the Gospel to all, so that God's Kingdom may blossom in our world today.

Conclusion

Christ assures us: "I am with you till the end of the age" (Mt 28:20). Encouraged by this promise, we can say anew and aloud: "I can do all things in Him who

strengthens me” (Phil 4:13). In her *Magnificat*, Mary, our blessed Mother, wonderfully expresses the joyful trust and unconditional surrender of a disciple of Christ.

Invoking God’s blessings upon each of you, our dear sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus, let us echo Mary’s song: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour!” (Lk 1:46-47).

May Mary, the Star of the New Evangelization, and Joseph, her chaste Spouse, guide us as we generously and joyfully bear and ‘be’ the Good News to all people.

His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias

President, Conference of Catholic Bishops of India

Most Rev. George Antonysamy

Vice President, CCBI

Most Rev. Anil Joseph Thomas Couto

Secretary General, CCBI

**THE PASTORAL LETTER
OF THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS
OF KARNATAKA**

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and Lay Faithful,

We, the Bishops of the Karnataka Region, are very happy to send you our Greetings and this Pastoral Letter!

1. Attacks and Killings of the CRPF Personnel:

The recent brutal, beastly and barbaric attack on the CRPF in Kashmir has stunned all of us. We are indeed proud of and are grateful to these courageous Heroes who made the supreme sacrifice so that the rest of us, their fellow citizens, may be safe and secure.

At this hour of pain and anguish, we the Catholics of the Karnataka Region and all people of good will wish to stand by the bereaved families in their unbearable

agony and irreparable loss. We offer them our deepest condolences and strengthen them with our prayers.

At the same time, we, all of us the children of Mother India, should forget all our differences of ideology, faith, caste and class, and be prepared to stand as one solid wall of defiance and defence against all forces of hatred, division and violence everywhere, without succumbing to any natural reactions of rage, revenge and retaliation, and instead, calmly and rationally garner all our energies as a Nation to combat against any evil forces that weaken our common brotherhood and national unity.

In spite of the bitterness and anger that naturally fill our hearts in the face of this horrible crime against humanity, let us delve deep into the rich resources of our faith to hope and pray for true and lasting peace on this sub-continent and all over the world, recalling to mind the immortal teachings of the Father of the Nation.

We were informed that many of our parishes and institutions in our dioceses had organized condolence meetings, interreligious prayers and patriotic programmes. Perhaps, many such peaceful demonstrations and prayerful meetings can be held to manifest publicly our solidarity and sympathies.

2. The Holy Season of Lent:

Once again, Lent is here, a time of preparation for Easter, when we are called to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and express inner healing and spiritual transformation.

Lent is a time of grace; of conversion and change; of renewal and re-dedication. This is precisely what we need at this hour. We live in a world where there is so much progress in all fields accompanied also by so much chaos and confusion, particularly in the moral, spiritual, social,

economic and political spheres. Therefore, we need to use Lent to counteract the forces of darkness and destruction through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

These forces of darkness manipulate human emotions in order to enslave others, especially the young and lead them astray. They also offer instant gratification and easy solutions to perennial problems by providing false sources of happiness so that we are mesmerized by momentary pleasures, and mistaking them for true happiness! Drugs, alcohol, digital media, superficial and selfish relationships, etc. are leading our youth away from Christian Principles and the Gospel Values. Ultimately, it is greed, lust and pride that are the three basic roots of evil within us and in the world outside of us.

Very often, we prefer our own desolation rather than the comfort found in his word and the sacraments. All this leads to violence against anyone whom we think as a threat to our own self-interest, self-love and self-will: the unborn child, the elderly and infirm, the migrant, the alien among us, or our neighbour who does not live up to our expectations.

Even Creation becomes a silently suffering victim to human greed and the consequent cooling of charity. As Pope Francis points out in *Laudato Si*, the earth is poisoned by refuse, discarded out of carelessness or for self-interest. The seas, themselves polluted, engulf the remains of countless shipwrecked victims of forced migration. The heavens, which in God's plan, were created to sing his praises, are rent by engines raining down implements of death.

Again, as Pope Francis states in *Evangelii Gaudium*, love can also grow cold in our own communities, as manifested in our selfishness and spiritual sloth, pessimism, the temptation to self-absorption, constant warring among ourselves, and the worldly

mentality that makes us concerned only for worldly wealth, worldly pleasures and worldly fame. There are false prophets, who, in peddling things that have no real value, rob people of all that is most precious: dignity, freedom and the ability to love. They appeal to our vanity, our trust in appearances, but in the end they only make us interiorly empty, sad and devoid of hope.

In order to counteract these evil forces, the spirituality of Lent extolls the merits of prayer, almsgiving and fasting. Prayer makes us grow more into the likeness of God who is infinite love and compassion. Fasting is also a form of prayer. It is the embodiment of a heart hungry and thirsty for God, and being satiated by God in prayer, becomes supremely free of all earthly attachments and is generous in giving of oneself to the needy neighbour. Lent makes us more sensitive to various forms of violence inflicted on our fellow human beings. When a person doesn't have enough to eat, that's a form of violence. Where there's exclusion and inequality, that's a form of violence. When there's no respect for the dignity of the person, that's violence. When human lives are held to be of less value than that of beasts, it is violence. When people are discriminated against on the basis of religion, language, caste or gender, then it is a form of violence. When helpless, innocent citizens are told to leave the country just because they do not subscribe to a particular ideology, do not sing particular songs, do not shout particular slogans or do not avoid particular food items, then that is a form of violence. But there is a form of violence we voluntarily take upon ourselves for a sacred purpose. That is penance! Many of us traditionally look at Lent as a penitential season and doing penance is

one of the ancient traditions of Lent. It reflects the Christian's desire to spend 40 days fasting in imitation of Jesus, who fasted in the desert. It also has historical roots in the time when public sinners were required to do public penance during Lent, only to be readmitted to Church at the Easter Vigil.

However, penance was not always the central focus of Lent. In ancient times, Lent was also a time to prepare catechumens for baptism at the Easter Vigil. Another wonderful practice is the daily Scripture readings during Lenten fasting and prayer, and reflecting on forgiveness and reconciliation, on commitment and charity, on justice and love. They are the original catechism of the Catholic Church. Listening to these readings is a perfect way to spend Lent and also to prepare for Easter.

3. The Forthcoming General Elections

Easter comes this year when the country will be thick in the battle of the ballot. It is a battle for the future of India! If our faith has to bear the fruits of reconciliation, justice and peace, then, each one of us, the disciple of Christ, unmindful of status in life, should fulfil the duty of citizenship by exercising the right to vote responsibly, judiciously and with discernment. It is particularly incumbent on our priests and religious to ensure that every eligible voter is registered and motivated to exercise the right to vote. Lent would be the ideal time for us to educate and motivate the voters for a responsible exercise of their patriotic duty. Such conscious awareness and intentional actions are very important today as we are going to elect committed and dedicated parliamentarians to serve our Country. What kind of India we will be bequeathing to the future generations

will very much depend on the outcome of this battle. We need to choose our representatives who will commit themselves to the agenda of development, good governance, job creation, controlling prices and inflation, and building a nation of Mahatma Gandhi's dreams and Tagore's prayer, namely, *where the mind is without fear, the head is held high and knowledge is free*. We need our leaders to prevent tendencies to target the minority communities, indulge in unrestrained hate speeches, instigate communal provocation, incite communal riots and pursue the policy of communal polarization of the polity. We need to elect only those who will uphold secularism, revere icons of the Nation and systematically imbibe and inculcate Constitutional values. We need Parliamentarians in whose hands our country will be safe and who will never let India bow its head to any divisive power on earth.

Therefore, we need to decisively join the battle of saving the Nation from these perils. We need to uphold true patriotism and nationalism. Exercising our right to vote is one of the most effective weapons in this war. Let us, therefore, wake up before it is too late! May our country be once again become a haven of peace where the mind is without fear and the head is held high, and people are not divided by narrow walls of class, caste, creed, culture, community and country. May the new fire that will be blessed at the Easter Vigil be the fire of freedom, justice, peace and truth for our country. In order to make this possible, all of us Christians need to take up the Lenten journey with enthusiasm, sustained by almsgiving, fasting and prayer, knowing that, even if, at times, the flame of charity seems to die in our own hearts, God

constantly gives us a chance to begin anew to bring in change within and outside. May our hearts be ever more ardent in faith, hope and love!

4. Educational Ministry

All people seek truth. In particular all the baptised are in need of an education that fosters their maturity both as human beings and as children of God. "This education should be suitable to the particular destiny of the individuals, adapted to their ability, sex and should be conducive to fraternal relations in order to promote true unity and peace in the world" (*Declaration on Christian Education No. 2*).

Our educational institutions are centers of 'Good News' for all, especially the poor and the marginalized. The empowerment and liberation of every human being, especially the poor and the marginalized through holistic education centered on Gospel values, such as love, compassion and justice, leading to the transformation of self and society. Let us not forget that promotion of the integral growth of each person in his/her uniqueness should be our primary Goal.

Therefore, we, the Bishops of the Region, very earnestly appeal to all our educational Institutions, especially run by the Religious and the Lay persons in our dioceses, should revitalize the Education Ministry, and strive to go all out to impart quality education to our children and youth.

It is indeed commendable that the Religious are doing various ministries in all our Dioceses, especially their active involvement in the Educational Apostolate.

We request them:-

1. To follow the Norms and Directives of the Diocesan Board of Education.
2. To open more institutions in rural areas.

3. To seek permission to start Educational Institution where the diocese or another Religious Congregation doesn't have its Institution in the close vicinity.

4. To give admissions to our Catholic Students, and also give fee concession and other assistance to the deserving cases.

5. To give certain percentage of Fee Concession to all the Catholic Students on overall annual fees (such as Admission, Re-admission and others). Their Fee structures should not be too high, but fairly nominal.

6. To provide job opportunities to the local Catholics.

7. To make Annual Contributions to the Diocesan Board of Education to reach out assistance to poor students in rural areas.

8. To strive to promote local language, culture and heritage.

9. To give top priority to Faith Formation (Catechism), Moral Science and Value Education. And to organize regular First Friday Masses, Retreats and Orientation Programmes for the Catholic staff and students.

10. To invest personnel and resources for evangelization in the Parish/ Diocese.

11. To avail themselves of the Minority Scholarships and other benefits.

12. To establish a Corpus Fund/ Educational Fund to help the poor and the meritorious students.

We earnestly hope that the above guidelines will be followed for the promotion of the Educational Apostolate in our dioceses and for the uplift of the underprivileged children and youth.

We also take this opportunity to thank all our dear priests, religious men and women, and the lay faithful for the good work they are doing in our dioceses, and we look forward to their continued service and cooperation. On our part, we assure them of our encouragement and support in all their pastoral initiatives. Let us work together for the extension of God's Kingdom in our Karnataka Region, and in our respective dioceses in particular.

May Mary, Our dearest Mother, the Queen of Peace, intercede for all of us so that our region and country may rise triumphant over the forces of darkness, destruction and death, which seek to dilute, decimate and destroy all that is good and beautiful in our state and country.

May I request you to make known the content of this Pastoral Letter to all your parishioners, and the members of your communities and institutions.

This Pastoral Letter was officially released on 21st February, 2019 at the Annual Bishops' Meeting held in Bengaluru.

Wishing all of you for the Holy Season of Lent and Easter, and imparting God's abundant blessings upon all of you,

Yours in Christ,



*Most Rev. Dr. Peter Machado
Metropolitan Archbishop of Bangalore
and
President - KRCBC*

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME

MARCH

- 03 : Mass, Feast at Gopala Church
- 04 : Day of the Consecrated, Cathedral Campus, Shimoga
- 06 : Ash Wednesday
Seminar, Chaitanya Staff
- 09 : Women's Day Celebration, SMSSS
- 10 : Mass & Women's Day Celebration, NT Bhadravathi
- 11 : am: Vianney Deanery meeting
pm: Consult Meeting, MM
- 13 : Seminar for Regional Priests, KROSS, Bengaluru
- 14 : Meeting of the Minor Seminary Rectors, Bengaluru
- 15 : Diocesan level Women's Day Celebration, Chaitanya
- 16-17 : Seminar to UFS, Mangaluru
- 27-

APRIL

- 06 : Visit to USA
- 07 : Mass, Legion of Mary
- 10-11 : Clergy Recollection, Chaitanya
- 11 : Chrism Mass, Cathedral Church
- 14 : Palm Sunday, Cathedral
- 15 : Seminar for Chaitanya staff
- 18-20 : Holy Week Triduum, Cathedral
- 21 : Easter
- 22-23 : Vocation camp, Chaitanya
- 26 : Mass, SAC-Harihar


March:

03 Sr Mary Mathias FMM
 03 Fr Robert D'Mello
 03 Sr Saroj Xalxo OP
 03 Fr William Winnifred
 04 Fr Felix J. Noronha
 05 Sr Supreetha AC
 08 Fr Paul Chalissery SDB
 10 Sr Jovita Vas UFS
 10 Sch. Mark Richard Pereira SJ
 12 Sr Regi Kuriakose SJT
 12 Bro Hrudaya SDB
 14 Fr Francis M.Ss.Cc
 14 Sr Matilda BS
 14 Fr Clifford Fernandes OFM Cap
 15 Sr Fatima Sheela Rayappan FMM
 16 Sr Devamani UFS
 12 Sr Evelyn BS
 19 Sr Josephine OP
 21 Sr Margaret D'Silva SCB
 21 Sr Bernie CSST
 22 Sr Flavy Fernandes UFS
 23 Sr Bhagya Theresa SAB
 25 Sr Jancy Monteiro UFS
26 Bishop Antony Kariyil, CMI
 29 Fr Jesu R. Nathan
 31 Sr Villa FSI

April:

01 Br Paruvanadiyil Bijo SDB
 01 Fr Sudeep Paul MSFS
 03 Sr Nirmala Mary SCB
 04 Sr Shirley SRA
 04 Sr Jyothi SCB

..April:

05 Sr Lilly D'Souza UFS
 06 Fr Biju Thomas V.R.
 06 Sr Saritha D'costa SCB
10 Bishop Robert Miranda
10 Mar Joseph Arumachadath
 11 Fr Ephraim Dias M.Ss.Cc
 11 Fr Gilbert Lobo
 11 Fr Joseph Thoompanal CMF
11 Bishop Thomas Antony Vazhapilly
 12 Fr Clifford Roshan Pinto
 15 Sr Sharlet Rodrigues BS
 15 Sr Icy Sylvia Saldanha SCB
 15 Sr Atchamma AASC
 16 Sr Leena Pinto SCB
 16 Sr Pushpa CSJC
 17 Sr Leonilla D'Souza UFS
 17 Fr George Lobo
 17 Sr Raymond SCB
 24 Sr Aneymary Mattakottal IMA
 24 Br Rolson Vishwas D'Souza
 27 Fr Simon Pinto
 27 Sr Zita D'Souza SCB
 28 Sr Beatrice FDM
 28 Fr Cyril Sagayaraj SDB
 30 Br Roysten Fernandes

May:

01 Sr Laveena Serrao SCB
 01 Sr Diana AC
 02 Fr Lawrence D'Souza
 03 Br Glanson D'Souza
 05 Fr Ronald Veigas
 05 Sr Maya SCB