



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On 1 November 1950, Venerable Pope Pius XII proclaimed as Dogma that the Virgin Mary “having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory”. This truth of faith, known by Tradition, was affirmed by the Fathers of the Church, and was a particularly important aspect in the veneration of the Mother of Christ. Precisely this devotional element, so to speak, was the driving force behind the formulation of this Dogma. The Dogma appears as an act of praise and exaltation of the Holy Virgin. It also emerges from the text of the Apostolic Constitution, where it affirms that the Dogma is proclaimed for “the honour of her Son... for the increase of the glory of that same august Mother, and for the joy and exultation of the entire Church”. What was already celebrated in the veneration and devotion of the People of God as the highest and most permanent glorification of Mary was thus expressed in the form of a dogma; the act of the proclamation of the Assumption was presented almost as a liturgy of faith. Mary herself prophetically pronounces a few words that orientate us in this perspective. She says: “For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed” (Lk 1:48). It is a prophecy for the

whole history of the Church. These words of the Magnificat, recorded by St Luke, indicate that, praising the Blessed Virgin, Mother of God, intimately united to Christ her Son, regards the Church of all ages and of all places. The fact that the Evangelist noted these words presupposes that the glorification of Mary was already present in the time of St Luke and he considered it to be a duty and a commitment of the Christian community for all generations. Mary’s words tell us that it is a duty of the Church to remember the greatness of Our Lady for the faith. This Solemnity is an invitation to praise God, and to look upon the greatness of Our Lady, for we know who God is in the faces of those who belong to him.

But why is Mary glorified by her Assumption into Heaven? St Luke, sees the roots of the exaltation and praise of Mary in Elizabeth’s words: “Blessed is she who believed” (Lk 1:45). And the Magnificat, this canticle to God, alive and active in history is a hymn of faith and love, which springs from the heart of the Virgin.

She lived with exemplary fidelity and kept in the inmost depths of her heart the words of God to his people, the promises he made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, making them the content of her prayer: the Word of God in the Magnificat became the word of Mary,

the lamp for her journey, thus preparing her to receive even in her womb the Word of God made flesh. Today's Gospel passage recalls this presence of God in history and in the unfolding of events; in particular, there is a reference to the Second Book of Samuel (6:1-15), in which David moves the Holy Ark of the Covenant. The comparison is clear to the Evangelist: Mary expecting the birth of her Son Jesus is the Holy Ark that contains the presence of God, a presence that is a source of consolation, of total joy. John, in fact, leaps in Elizabeth's womb, just as David danced before the Ark. Mary is the "visit" of God that creates joy. Zechariah, in his song of praise says explicitly: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people" (Lk 1:68). The house of Zechariah experienced the visit of God by the unexpected birth of John the Baptist, but above all by the presence of Mary, who bore within her womb the Son of God.

Now let us ask ourselves: how does the Assumption of Mary help our journey? The first answer is: in the Assumption we see that in God there is room for man, God himself is the house with many rooms of which Jesus speaks (cf. Jn 14:2); God is man's home, in God there is God's space. And Mary, by uniting herself, united to God, does not distance herself from us. She does not go to an unknown galaxy, but whoever approaches God comes closer, for God is close to us all; and Mary, united to God, shares in the presence of God, is so close to us, to each one of us.

There is a beautiful passage from St Gregory the Great on St Benedict that we can

apply to Mary too. St Gregory says that the heart of St Benedict expanded so much that all creation could enter it. This is even truer of Mary: Mary, totally united to God, has a heart so big that all creation can enter this heart, and the ex votos in every part of the earth show it. Mary is close, she can hear us, she can help us, she is close to every one of us. In God there is room for man and God is close, and Mary, united to God, is very close; she has a heart as great as the heart of God.

There is also another aspect: In God not only is there room for man; in man there is room for God. This too we see in Mary, the Holy Ark who bears the presence of God. In us there is space for God and this presence of God in us, so important for bringing light to the world with all its sadness and with its problems. This presence is realized in the faith: in the faith we open the doors of our existence so that God may enter us, so that God can be the power that gives life and a path to our existence. In us there is room, let us open ourselves like Mary opened herself, saying: "Let your will be done, I am the servant of the Lord". By opening ourselves to God, we lose nothing. On the contrary, our life becomes rich and great.

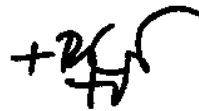
And so, faith and hope and love are combined. Today there is much discussion on a better world to be awaited: it would be our hope. If and when this better world comes, we do not know, I do not know. What is certain is that a world which distances itself from God does not become better but worse. Only God's presence can guarantee a good world. Let us leave it at that.

One thing, our hope is certain: God expects us, waits for us, we do not go out into a void, we are expected. God is expecting us and on going to that other world we find the goodness of the Mother, we find our loved ones, we find eternal Love. God is waiting for us: this is our great joy and the great hope that is born from this Feast. Mary visits us, and she is the joy of our life and joy is hope.

What is there to say then? A great heart, the presence of God in the world, room for God within us and room for us in God, hope, being expected: this is the symphony of this Feast, the instruction that meditating on this Solemnity gives us. Mary is the dawn and the splendour of the Church triumphant; she is the consolation and the hope of people still on the journey, it says in today's Preface.

Let us entrust ourselves to her Motherly intercession, that she may strengthen our faith in eternal life; may she help us to live the best way the time that God has given us with hope. May it be a Christian hope, that is, not only nostalgia for Heaven, but a living and active desire for God who is here in the world, a desire for God that makes us tireless pilgrims, nourishing in us the courage and the power of faith, which at the same time is the courage and the power of love. Amen.

- Blessed Charles de Foucauld (1858-1916)



+ **Thelagathoti J. Raja Rao, S.M.M.**,
Bishop of Vijayawada

Things To Be Noted

- The month of August marks rest and relaxation since most of our people are at work in the fields while the children are busy in the schools and colleges. I believe that the parish priests can avail this time to rest, recuperate and to prepare for the next course of action. During this month we have two great feasts: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Independence Day Anniversary of our beloved country. Two articles on these subjects by eminent personalities are published in this issue. We also need to begin our pastoral planning for the future of our diocese for which I am inviting two resource persons: Bishop Eugene Joseph of Varanasi and Mr. Ray Kancharla, National Humanitarian and

DRR Manager, Save The Children, New Delhi. We will have the programme in September for which we will invite selected priests according to age group of 35-50 who can be the path-makers. I thank everyone for the hard-work, for the spirit of self-sacrifice and great generosity. Let us try to support one another in our difficulties and never to delay if help can be given to your neighbouring priest who is in need.

- Our Street Children Project, Deepa Nivas has been handed over to the Salesians of Don Bosco for a period of three years on experimental basis. The house has been repaired and let us wish these apostles of the youth all the best. In a special way I

thank the Provincial Superior, Fr. Vijaya Bhaskar and the Director of Navajeevan, Fr. Balashowry who came forward to help us to continue our commitment to the cause of children and the poor. I also record my gratitude to the past Directors of the SSC, Fr. Pidathala Balaswamy, Msgr. Muvvala Prasad and the present Director, Fr. Thomas Pasala for their commitment in all these years towards Deepa Nivas, and Sr. Annamma, FMSH, for her edifying selfless work for many years here. To all the other in-home Directors I convey my thanks and good wishes.

- The CBCI Commission for Scheduled Castes has encouraged us to observe August 10 as the Black Day. The reason being, on the 10th of August 1950, the Presidential Order had stated that those who follow faiths other than Hinduism, will not be considered belonging to scheduled caste (SC), brought in discrimination based on Religion. Sikhs, Buddhists, Muslims, Christians, Jains, etc. were denied the SC rights and privileges. Sikhs and Buddhists were given SC status in 1956 and 1990 respectively. Hindutva forces are stubbornly resisting till today to give the benefits to the Muslims and Christians.

What are the benefits the Muslims and Christians lose because of 1950 Presidential Order?

1. Dalits and Tribals have 16% and 7% quota in the elections held for the Parliament, Assembly, Municipality, Panchayat etc. Muslims and Christian Dalits cannot stand for election in the quota. Our voices will

not be heard in the Parliament and other elected bodies. The present President of India Mr. Ram Nath Kovind had feared this onslaught ten years ago and said: “If the government accepts the Ranganath Mishra Commission recommendations, the convert Christians and Muslims would become eligible to contest on seats reserved for Scheduled Castes. Thus the people of Scheduled Castes would have to share their reservations in government jobs and political fields with convert Christians and Muslims,” “... the educational level of SC children remained much lower than that of convert Dalit Christians and Muslims, he said: “... the SCs would suffer from all angles in all fields. Moreover, it would further encourage conversion and fatally destroy the fabric of Indian society.”

2. Dalits and Tribals have quota in the education, employment and many welfare measures from the Government. Muslims and Christians are not eligible for this.
3. SC and ST Prevention of Atrocities Act (1989), taking into consideration the weakness and vulnerability of Dalits and Tribals, give stringent punishment to the offenders and handsome compensation to the affected. Muslims and Christians are not eligible for these privileges. For instance, when houses are burnt, the Muslims and Christians will not get the compensation given to the Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists.
4. Even the BJP Committee appointed for the Reformation of the Constitution, by the then BJP Government, suggested that SC Muslims and SC Christians must be

brought under the SC and ST Prevention of Atrocities Act.

5. Dalits lose their religious freedom. Dalits cannot choose a religion of their choice because they will lose the SC status.
6. Christians are made to live with double identity. At home they are Christians; outside in public, they are Hindus. Many live in fear of being caught by police and of losing their benefits.

On which date this Order was promulgated?

1950 Presidential Order was promulgated on 10th August. That is why 10th August is commemorated as Black Day.

Did the UPA government help us?

The UPA government had no guts to face Hindutva people. And so they promised again and again, but never did anything. Even when they had absolute majority in both the houses of Parliament, they never passed this Bill. They did not even file an affidavit in the Supreme Court.

What about the case in the Supreme Court?

A writ petition was filed in 2004 by PIL Trust of famous advocates Shanthi Bhushan and Prashanth Bhushan, and a Catholic lawyer Franklin Caesar. The UPA government refused to file the affidavit and the Supreme Court has been cooperating

with the government and dodging the case. Now it has been referred to a Constitutional Bench.

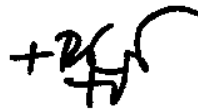
What is the present situation?

The BJP government, being pro-Hindutva, does not want to grant SC status to Muslims and Christians. The case is going on in the Supreme Court. Since it is only a Presidential Order, only a simple majority in the Parliament is needed to amend this.

Our Challenges?

We need to unite and fight with all our strength, to get back our rights. It is of vital importance that we Christians and Muslims work together. Black Day is a day to point out the injustice done to us, based on religion by 1950 Presidential Order and demand SC status and rights for the Dalit Muslims and Christians. Please do whatever you can at the parish level and conscientize our people of this gross injustice by the government to the Dalits who embraced Christianity.

Wishing everyone the blessings of the Blessed Mother,



+ Thelagathoti J. Raja Rao, S.M.M.,
Bishop of Vijayawada

Transfers And Appointments

PARISH PRIEST

Fr. Karem Shekar Babu : Parish Priest of Siluvagirinagar

ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST

Fr. Bondala Sleeva Raju : Assistant Parish Priest at St.Paul's Cathedral

REST

Fr. Mesapam Joseph : Vianney Home, Gunadala

Bishop's Engagements August, 2017

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|-----------|-----------|--|
| 01 August | Tuesday | : Occupied |
| 02 August | Wednesday | : Meeting with the Vincentian Congregation Superiors 10.00 a.m. |
| 06 August | Sunday | : Mass at St. Paul's Cathedral, 8.00 a.m. |
| 09 August | Wednesday | : Silver Jubilee Mass of Fr. Peram D.Dath, Nuzvid, 10.00 a.m. |
| 12 August | Saturday | : Priestly Ordinations, Andhra Loyola College |
| 14 August | Monday | : Occupied |
| 15 August | Tuesday | : Feast of Assumption, Pezzonipet Parish, 6.00 p.m. |
| 17 August | Thursday | : Regional Bible Commission Meeting, Bishop's House, Vijayawada |
| 19 August | Saturday | : Regional Educational Commission Meeting, Andhra Loyola College, 10.00 a.m. |
| 20 August | Sunday | : Mass at St. Paul's Cathedral, 8.00 a.m. |
| 26 August | Saturday | : One Day Seminar in Sikh Village, Secunderabad |
| 27 August | Sunday | : Hyderabad |
| 28 August | Monday | : Opening of new Church, Nandyal, Kurnool Diocese, 10.00 a.m. |
| 29 August | Tuesday | : Flag hoisting for the feast of Arogyamatha Shrine, Kadapa 5.00 p.m. |
| 30 August | Wednesday | : Kadapa |
| 31 August | Thursday | : Returning to Vijayawada |

Appointment Of Religious

- | | |
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| 1. Fr. Mathew (Shaiju) Ponmalakunnel, CFIC | : Parish Priest of Lourdunagar |
| 2. Fr. Dhanraj Polisetty OCD | : Parish Priest of Gampalagudem |
| 3. Fr. Balaswamy Macherla OCD | : Parish Priest of Kanuru |
| 4. Fr. Vinoth OMI | : Assistant Parish Priest of Paidurupadu. |
| 5. Fr. Rajesh Kumaraparthini OMI | : Assistant Parish Priest of Ramanakkapeta |
| 6. Fr. Michael Dara CPPS | : Assistant Parish Priest of Kondapalli |



INTENTION OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR AUGUST 2017

Artists : That artists of our time, through their ingenuity, may help everyone discover the beauty of creation.



POPE'S QUOTE

'Put the needs of the poor ahead of our own'

Pope's Message

Message from the Holy Father for World Mission Sunday 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Once again this year, World Mission Day gathers us around the person of Jesus, “the very first and greatest evangelizer” (PAUL VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 7), who continually sends us forth to proclaim the Gospel of the love of God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. This Day invites us to reflect anew on the mission at the heart of the Christian faith. The Church is missionary by nature; otherwise, she would no longer be the Church of Christ, but one group among many others that soon end up serving their purpose and passing away. So it is important to ask ourselves certain questions about our Christian identity and our responsibility as believers in a world marked by confusion, disappointment and frustration, and torn by numerous fratricidal wars that unjustly target the innocent. What is the basis of our mission? What is the heart of our mission? What are the essential approaches we need to take in carrying out our mission?

Mission and the transformative power of the Gospel of Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life

1. The Church's mission, directed to all men and women of good will, is based on the transformative power of the Gospel. The Gospel is Good News filled with contagious joy, for it contains and offers new life: the life of the Risen Christ who, by bestowing his life-giving Spirit, becomes for us the Way, the Truth and the Life (cf. Jn 14:6). He is the Way who invites us to follow him with confidence

and courage. In following Jesus as our Way, we experience Truth and receive his Life, which is fullness of communion with God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. That life sets us free from every kind of selfishness, and is a source of creativity in love.

2. God the Father desires this existential transformation of his sons and daughters, a transformation that finds expression in worship in spirit and truth (cf. Jn 4:23-24), through a life guided by the Holy Spirit in imitation of Jesus the Son to the glory of God the Father. “The glory of God is the living man” (IRENAEUS, *Adversus Haereses* IV, 20, 7). The preaching of the Gospel thus becomes a vital and effective word that accomplishes what it proclaims (cf. Is 55:10-11): Jesus Christ, who constantly takes flesh in every human situation (cf. Jn 1:14).

Mission and the kairos of Christ

3. The Church's mission, then, is not to spread a religious ideology, much less to propose a lofty ethical teaching. Many movements throughout the world inspire high ideals or ways to live a meaningful life. Through the mission of the Church, Jesus Christ himself continues to evangelize and act; her mission thus makes present in history the kairos, the favourable time of salvation. Through the proclamation of the Gospel, the risen Jesus becomes our contemporary, so that those who welcome him with faith and love can experience the transforming

power of his Spirit, who makes humanity and creation fruitful, even as the rain does with the earth. “His resurrection is not an event of the past; it contains a vital power which has permeated this world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force” (Evangeli Gaudium, 276).

4. Let us never forget that “being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a Person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction” (BENEDICT XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*, 1). The Gospel is a Person who continually offers himself and constantly invites those who receive him with humble and religious faith to share his life by an effective participation in the paschal mystery of his death and resurrection. Through Baptism, the Gospel becomes a source of new life, freed of the dominion of sin, enlightened and transformed by the Holy Spirit. Through Confirmation, it becomes a fortifying anointing that, through the same Spirit, points out new ways and strategies for witness and accompaniment. Through the Eucharist, it becomes food for new life, a “medicine of immortality” (IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, *Ad Ephesios*, 20, 2).
5. The world vitally needs the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through the Church, Christ continues his mission as the Good Samaritan, caring for the bleeding wounds of humanity, and as Good Shepherd, constantly seeking out those who wander along winding paths that lead nowhere. Thank God, many

significant experiences continue to testify to the transformative power of the Gospel. I think of the gesture of the Dinka student who, at the cost of his own life, protected a student from the enemy Nuer tribe who was about to be killed. I think of that Eucharistic celebration in Kitgum, in northern Uganda, where, after brutal massacres by a rebel group, a missionary made the people repeat the words of Jesus on the cross: “My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?” as an expression of the desperate cry of the brothers and sisters of the crucified Lord. For the people, that celebration was an immense source of consolation and courage. We can think too of countless testimonies to how the Gospel helps to overcome narrowness, conflict, racism, tribalism, and to promote everywhere, and among all, reconciliation, fraternity, and sharing.

Mission inspires a spirituality of constant exodus, pilgrimage, and exile

6. The Church’s mission is enlivened by a spirituality of constant exodus. We are challenged “to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the peripheries in need of the light of the Gospel” (Evangeli Gaudium, 20). The Church’s mission impels us to undertake a constant pilgrimage across the various deserts of life, through the different experiences of hunger and thirst for truth and justice. The Church’s mission inspires a sense of constant exile, to make us aware, in our thirst for the infinite, that we are exiles journeying towards our final home, poised between the “already” and “not yet” of the Kingdom of Heaven.

7. Mission reminds the Church that she is not an end unto herself, but a humble instrument and mediation of the Kingdom. A self-referential Church, one content with earthly success, is not the Church of Christ, his crucified and glorious Body. That is why we should prefer “a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security” (ibid., 49).

Young people, the hope of mission

8. Young people are the hope of mission. The person of Jesus Christ and the Good News he proclaimed continue to attract many young people. They seek ways to put themselves with courage and enthusiasm at the service of humanity. “There are many young people who offer their solidarity in the face of the evils of the world and engage in various forms of militancy and volunteering... How beautiful it is to see that young people are ‘street preachers,’ joyfully bringing Jesus to every street, every town square and every corner of the earth!” (ibid., 106). The next Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, to be held in 2018 on the theme Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment, represents a providential opportunity to involve young people in the shared missionary responsibility that needs their rich imagination and creativity.

The service of the Pontifical Mission Societies

9. The Pontifical Mission Societies are a precious means of awakening in every

Christian community a desire to reach beyond its own confines and security in order to proclaim the Gospel to all. In them, thanks to a profound missionary spirituality, nurtured daily, and a constant commitment to raising missionary awareness and enthusiasm, young people, adults, families, priests, bishops and men and women religious work to develop a missionary heart in everyone. World Mission Day, promoted by the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, is a good opportunity for enabling the missionary heart of Christian communities to join in prayer, testimony of life and communion of goods, in responding to the vast and pressing needs of evangelization.

Carrying out our mission with Mary, Mother of Evangelization

10. Dear brothers and sisters, in carrying out our mission, let us draw inspiration from Mary, Mother of Evangelization. Moved by the Spirit, she welcomed the Word of life in the depths of her humble faith. May the Virgin Mother help us to say our own “yes”, conscious of the urgent need to make the Good News of Jesus resound in our time. May she obtain for us renewed zeal in bringing to everyone the Good News of the life that is victorious over death. May she intercede for us so that we can acquire the holy audacity needed to discover new ways to bring the gift of salvation to every man and woman.

From the Vatican, 4 June 2017

Solemnity of Pentecost

Communications

August Recollection :

Monthly Recollection for the Pastoral Clergy for the month of August will be at the Vicariate level. I request all Vicars Forane to kindly organize the Recollection in their respective Vicariates without fail.

Feast of St. John Mary Vianney :

On the occasion of the feast of St. John Mary Vianney (4th of August), Patron of Priests, particularly parish priests, I wish all the priests a happy feast and I invoke the choicest blessings of the Chief Shepherd on all of you.

Retreat for the Pastoral Clergy in two groups :

The annual retreat for the pastoral clergy of the diocese will be held in two batches like last year. The retreat for the Senior Clergy (above 10 years of Priesthood) will be held from 9th to 13th October, 2017. It will start at 9.00 a.m. on 9th October and conclude at 1.00 p.m. on 13th October. The retreat for Junior Clergy (10 years of Priesthood) will be held in the month of November from 6th – 10th, 2017.

All the diocesan clergy and the religious priests working in the parishes are expected to attend this Retreat without fail. The dates which are mentioned above are provisional and it may vary according to the availability of the preacher. Express permission of the bishop is required for exemption from attending this Retreat.

New Directory of the Diocese :

The parish priests and the heads of the convents and the various institutions are requested to furnish the details of the parishes and the institutions at the earliest for the quick preparation of the directory.

All the superiors and the heads of the institutions are requested to give their permanent mobile numbers and the email addresses of the institutions.

Vicar Forane of Korukollu Vicariate :

Rev. Fr. Darsi Jeeva Kumar is appointed as the Vicar Forane of Korukollu Vicariate. All the priests and the religious of the Vicariate are requested to extend your cooperation to him.

20th Death Anniversary of Bishop Joseph Thumma :

18th August 2017 is the twentieth death anniversary of late Bishop Joseph Thumma. A Mass will be offered for the repose of his soul in Gunadala Cemetery at 04.00 pm. All the priests, religious and faithful are requested to remember and pray for our late bishop.

7th Death Anniversary of Archbishop Marampudi Joji :

27th August 2017 is the seventh death anniversary of late Archbishop Marampudi Joji. A Mass will be offered for the repose of his soul in Gunadala Cemetery at 04.00 pm. All the priests, religious and faithful are requested to remember and pray for our late archbishop.

Assisi Tailoring Centre, Theresanagar, Nuzvid :

Assisi Karuna Bhavan has launched a programme of stitching mass Vestments and cloths used during the Holy Mass, i.e., altar cloths, corporals, purificators etc. They also stitch cassocks for the priests. For further details please contact Sister in charge Assisi Tailoring Centre, Telephone No. 08656232611; Cell No.9492603154.

Educational Help to Catechists' Children:

In pursuit of the mission of extending wider support to our Catechists, the diocese, through the office of the Diocesan Educational Society, will offer some educational aid to TWO children of the catechists of the diocese. For this academic year too, help will be offered to two children of each catechist. Aid will be offered exclusively to the children of the catechists and not to the extended family such as grand-children, nieces and nephews, etc. The aid will be granted to one post-graduate or graduate and one intermediate student. Two students in a catechist's family will be helped.

The eligible catechists can avail the applications forms from the 1st August 2017 from Fr. Kondru Simharayalu, the Director of Diocesan Educational Society, Gunadala, with a letter of the respective parish priest. Applications are to reach the office latest by 15th September 2017. The

date of disbursements will be announced at a later date. The parish priests are kindly requested to announce to all the catechists and to cooperate with the Diocesan Educational Society in reaching out this help to the children of our catechists.

Sponsorship to ONE child of the Catechist:

One child of the young catechists will be given sponsorship from the diocesan educational society. Those interested may approach the office on Fridays with the letter from one's parish priest.

Fr. Kondru Simharayalu, Director, Diocesan Educational Society.

Scholarships to the Minorities :

The Managing Director of Andhra Pradesh State Christian (Minorities) Finance Corporation informs that the government of India is sponsoring Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit cum Means based scholarship for eligible Minority communities for the year 2017-2018 including Christians.

The Physical Allocation of scholarship of Andhra Pradesh is as follows:

S. no.	Scholarship	Target for the Year 2017-18						
		Muslim	Christian	Sikh	Buddhist	Jain	Parsi	Total
1	Pre-Matric	48543	12355	111	37	339	5	61390
2	Post Matric	8091	2059	19	6	56	1	10232
3	Merit cum Means	971	247	2	1	7	0	1228

The timeline for applying the scholarships is as follows:

S.no.	Scholarship	Submission of Online Application	Dates
1	Pre-Matric	Fresh	1 June to 31 August,2017
		Renewal	1 June to 31 July,2017
2	Post Matric	Fresh	1 June to 31 August,2017
		Renewal	1 June to 31 July,2017
3	Merit cum Means	Fresh	1 June to 31 August,2017
		Renewal	1 June to 31 July,2017

COMMUNICATIONS

All eligible Christian candidates shall register the application in National Scholarships Portal www.scholarships.gov.in. For more details, contact 08645 274068 or 1800-425-1068.

Condolences :

• Rev. Fr. Anthony Theckemury S.J. (90), a veteran priest of Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada, passed away on 30th July 2017. We express our heartfelt condolences to the members of the

Society of Jesus and to other bereaved members of the family. May the Lord of Mercies grant him Eternal Rest!

• Mrs. Pulipaka Jesu Mary (69), Mother of Rev. Fr. Pulipaka Jacob Prasad, the parish priest of Velagalagudem passed away on 01 July 2017. We express our heartfelt condolences to Fr. Jacob Prasad and to other bereaved members of the family. May the Lord of Mercies grant her Eternal Rest!

Contributions to Diocese in July, 2017

SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTIONS OF CITY PARISHES

S.no.	Name of the Parish	Amount
01.	Labbipeta	₹. 3,010.00
02.	Ranigarithota	₹. 1,308.00
03.	Kankipadu	₹. 3,150.00
04.	Christurajapuram	₹. 2,021.00
05.	Carmelnagar	₹. 553.00
06.	Pezzonipeta	₹. 7,010.00
07.	Satyanarayanapuram	₹. 2,358.00
08.	Gollapudi	₹. 2,240.00
09.	St. Paul's Cathedral	₹. 19,425.00
10.	Gunadala Matha Shrine	₹. 25,155.00
11.	Jojinagar	₹. 3,335.00
12.	St. Peter's Co-Cathedral	₹. 12,500.00
13.	Kanuru	₹. 3,200.00
14.	Ajithsinghnagar	
Total		₹. 85,265.00

MASSES

19.07.2017	Vuyyuru @ Rs.70	34	₹. 2,380.00
21.07.2017	Kesarapalli @Rs.100	92	₹. 9,200.00
	Kesarapalli @Rs. 75	2	₹. 150.00
22.07.2017	St.Paul's Cathedral @ Rs.100	80	₹. 8,000.00
26.07.2017	St.Peter's Co-Cathedral @ Rs.100	60	₹. 6,000.00
29.07.2017	Gunadalamatha Shrine @ Rs.100	596	₹. 59,600.00
Total		864	₹. 85,330.00

FAMILY CARDS		
22.07.2017	St. Paul's Cathedral	₹. 6,650.00
26.07.2017	St. Peter's Co-Cathedral	₹. 5,500.00
31.07.2017	Gunadalamatha Shrine	₹. 7,365.00
Total		₹.19,515.00

ANIMATORS' FUND		
17.07.2017	In memory of Fr. Katam Vijaya Kumar	₹. 5,000.00

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Workshop on 'The Joy of Teaching' at Bishop Grassi

"No significant learning can occur without a significant relationship." – James Comer

On 26th June, 2017, a one-day workshop, called 'the joy of teaching' was organized for all the teachers of the educational institutions of Gunadala in Bishop Grassi High School campus. The teachers from Bishop Grassi High School, St. Joseph's Telugu Medium Girls' High School, St. Joseph's Telugu Medium Elementary School, St. Joseph's Primary English Medium School and St. Joseph's English Medium High School participated in this seminar.

The day's programme started with the welcome words of Fr. Inti Anthony, the Correspondent of Bishop Grassi High School. To the joy of the participants, he introduced Rev. Fr. Kamatham Mariadas, the animator of the day, who took over the reins. Fr. Mariadas, the facilitator for the workshop gave emphasis on the three aspects relating to personal growth and professional



efficiency. He simplified it by asking, 1) How are you? 2) How is your student? and 3) What can we do to change for better? The facilitator insisted that effectiveness of one's teaching depends upon the effectiveness of one's personality. Hence there is the need for building a healthy personality.

The teachers actively participated in this workshop with great enthusiasm. They were happy that this type of seminar was organized in the very beginning of the scholastic year and viewed that the seminar is helpful to replenish themselves and work with renewed passion in their profession. The one-day gathering was also a great opportunity to the individuals who are in the same profession to know and encourage each other. At the end of the day, Fr. B. Anand Babu thanked Fr. K. Mariadas, the Director of SCAPS, Gunadala, the participants and the management of the above mentioned schools.

Fr. Inti Anthony, Correspondent, Bishop Grassi High School, Gunadala



Confirmations at Carmel Nagar Parish

July 2, 2017 is a memorable day to the parishioners of Carmel Nagar, for on that day, His Excellency, Most Rev. Dr. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao SMM, Bishop of Vijayawada, visited us, and celebrated the Sunday Eucharist with great solemnity, with Frs. Pasala Thomas, Rayappa SDB, Mariadas, Rajesh, Damala Vijay Kumar, and Ravikanth concelebrating. The Mass began with entrance dance procession (by children of Vijaya Mary School) at the end of which Fr. Rayappa, sdb, welcomed the Bishop on behalf of the parish. His Excellency, in his homily, said that for Christians, God should be the top most priority of life; Christian discipleship is a sacrificial one, and therefore, one should be willing to leave everything for Christ's sake. He exhorted people to imitate the hospitality of Shunammite woman and, to be holy people of God like prophet Elisha by receiving the Word of God, believing it, keeping it and proclaiming it. He also spoke of the importance and significance of the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation to the receiving candidates. Then His Excellency administered the Sacraments; 10 children received First Holy Communion and 56 received Confirmation. After the Communion, His Excellency



released the devotional audio album, titled 'Roja Pushpamaatha Vandanam', produced by Fr. P. Mariadas in gratitude to God and Mother Mary.

Then, the parish priest thanked the Bishop and all the others present, and spoke also of the great deeds that God had done and continues to do in his life. After the Mass, the lay faithful, Don Bosco Fathers,



Prashanth Bhavan, Vijaya Mary, St. Joseph's Studentate and Madonna Sisters felicitated the Bishop; novices, candidates and children performed cultural activities honoring His Excellency and expressing love, joy and gratitude to him. The Feast was closed with breakfast provided to all by Vijaya Mary and Madonna institutions Sisters.

Fr. Mariadas Peyyala, Parish Priest, Carmel Nagar

Samvrudhhi (SCAPS)(June 2015 – Till Date)

Samvrudhhi is an initiative of the diocese of Vijayawada. It was founded in order to address mental health concerns in the areas of education, family and health-care. Samvrudhhi Counselling and Psychological Services (SCAPS) was established in June, 2015. A year later, on 19th March 2016 small building was inaugurated by Most



Rev. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao S.M.M., Bishop of Vijayawada for administrative purposes. Samvrudhhi is a pioneer in catering mental health services in the church of Andhra Pradesh.

“I came that they may have LIFE, and have it ABUNDANTLY” (John 10:10). Inspired by the teaching of our Divine Master Jesus the name Samvrudhhi is given to counselling centre at Gunadala, Vijayawada. Samvrudhhi came into existence envisioning psychological and spiritual well-being in the society. Presently, there is an increased need for psychological agencies and experts for support and guidance. Samvrudhhi aims at responding effectively to the needs of individuals and society through prevention, early intervention and treatment of mental health concerns.

Centre focuses upon providing counselling, psychotherapy and training through training workshops and counselling



services. It's been an adventurous and noble journey for the past two years June 2015- June 2017. The centre is able to reach out to several institutions across Telangana, Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh rendering its valuable services. And very many families and individuals profit through counselling services as well. Thanks to the support of His Lordship and all the well-wishers Samvrudhhi continues to branch out and many come to take shelter when in want of support and healing.

Fr. Kamatam Mariadas, Director, SCAPS, Gunadala

Inaugural Mass of the Academic Year 2017-18 of the Educational Institutions of Gunadala

The staff and students of all the educational institutions of Gunadala gathered at the very beginning of the academic year 2017-18 for the inaugural function. The inaugural



function was led by His Excellency Most Rev. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao S.M.M., Bishop of Vijayawada and General Manager of RCM Schools of Vijayawada. His Excellency celebrated the solemn Holy Mass along with Frs. Eleti William Jaya Raju, Rector & Parish Priest of Gunadalamatha Shrine, Inti Anthony, the correspondent of Bishop Grassi High School, Boddu Anand

Babu, Golla Suvarnaraju, the assistant parish priest of Gunadalamatha Shrine. This Mass was celebrated in the auditorium of Bishop Grassi High School, Gunadala.

More than 1200 students along with their teachers participated in this spiritual event. These students belong to different educational institutions namely, Bishop Grassi High School, St. Joseph's ITI, St. Joseph's Girls' Telugu Medium High School, St. Joseph's Telugu Medium Elementary School, St. Joseph's English Medium Elementary School and St. Joseph's English Medium High School. During his homily, His Excellency instructed the students to make up their minds and hearts to concentrate on studies for their bright future. He also said that the management and the staff are happy to educate them and thanked the parents of the students for putting their trust in the institutions. The Correspondents, Principals and the teachers felicitated His Excellency as the token of love and gratitude. The Headmaster of Bishop Grassi High School, Mr. Melchior thanked His Excellency and all those who are responsible for making the day an unforgettable one.

Fr. Inti Anthony, Correspondent, Bishop Grassi High School, Gunadala

Ordinations at Kattubadipalem, Kondapavuluru Parish

The faithful of Kattubadipalem in Kondapavuluru witnessed the solemn ordination ceremony in which Rev Deacon Kuchipudi Anil Kumar, from the village along with Rev. Deacon Yajjala Suresh Kumar of Marividu village of the Archdiocese of Visakhapatnam on 6 July, 2017. They were



ordained for the Society of the Holy Spirit.

The arrival of His Excellency Most Rev. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao, S.M.M., boosted the joy of the people of Kattubadipalem village, Kondapavuluru parish. That evening His Excellency laid and blessed the foundation stone for the new chapel of the village. The Bishop ordained the two deacons during the Holy Mass after instructing them of their priestly duties and responsibilities. They were ordained in the presence of Very Rev. Fr. Christuraju, the founder of the Society of the Holy Spirit and many priests. On this great occasion Rev. Fr. Polimetlla Thomas, the parish priest of Kondapavuluru along with the newly ordained priests expressed his gratitude to Bishop Joseph Raja Rao, for ordaining both deacons and all the priests for coming and blessing the newly ordained priests and all the faithful.

Fr. Polimetlla Thomas, Parish Priest, Kondapavuluru



The Celebration of World Domestic Workers' Day

The World Domestic Workers' Day was celebrated in Vijayawada on 10 July, 2017 at 3.00 p.m. in the auditorium of Andhra Loyola College. The Domestic Workers' Union of Vijayawada also celebrated its decennial celebration (2007-2017) on this occasion. Formerly it was part of Hyderabad Union. Now that the states are divided this union in Vijayawada is working on its own under the leadership of Rev. Sr. A. Nirmala MSI. This union had a small beginning with 350 members. And now it numbers 3500 domestic workers who are periodically instructed about their rights and the exploitation they undergo in their work places.

On that day, the celebration was presided over by Rev. Fr. D. Ravi Shekar S.J., the Rector of Andhra Loyola College. His Excellency Most Rev. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja S.M.M., Bishop of Vijayawada was the chief guest of the great celebration in which 1500 domestic workers participated. Rev. Sr. Amala Rani M.S.I., the Provincial Superior of Missionary Sisters of Immaculate, Rev. Fr. Addanki Raju, the director of Social Service Centre, Eluru, Mr. Gumma Sambasiva Rao, Telugu lecturer of ALC, Mr. Maddala Anthony, President of Catholic Association, Pastor Johnson of the Church of Christ, Rev. Sr. V.C. Joseph, Charity Sister, Andhra



Pradesh Domestic Workers Coordinator, Dr. B. Keerthi Vasavya Mahilamandali, & Mrs. M. Kumari, the president of Andhra Domestic Workers' Union were the special guests.

The celebration started with the lighting of the lamp by His Excellency Bishop Joseph Raja Rao, Fr. D. Ravi Shekar SJ and all other special guests. In his speech, His Excellency appreciated the significant effort of Sr. Nirmala MSI as the coordinator of Vijayawada Union. He was surprised to know the number of the domestic workers in Vijayawada. He exhorted the coordinators to take care of the children of the domestic workers not to fall into same fate or situation. Fr. Ravi Shekar too expressed his astonishment over the number of the domestic worker and assured that they would support the cause of the welfare of the poor workers.

A book entitled "Gruha Kaarmikula Charitra" on the occasion of the tenth year of formation of the union was released by His Excellency. The organizers felicitated the Bishop and the guests. His Excellency appreciated and honoured the organizers with gratitude and joy. Mrs. Annapoorna, the secretary of the union thanked His Excellency, Fr. Ravi Shekar, all the dignitaries and the domestic workers who made their way.

*Sr. Addanki Nirmala MSI, Coordinator,
Domestic Workers' Union, Vijayawada*



News from Centres / Commissions

Holy Childhood Animators' Meeting on 11 July, 2017

On 11th July a meeting for Holy Childhood Animators was organized at Catholic Centre, Labbipeta. All together 59 participants (animators) were present for this meeting. The main intention of the meeting was to have motivation classes for the animators. Fr. Lamu Jayaraju, the parish priest of Machilipatnam was the main resource person. The Meeting started at 10 a.m with the lighting of the lamp. Sr Rakkini, Mr.Raju lighted the lamp along with Fr.I. M. Swaminadham, the Director of H.C.A, Sr. Sussela Grace ssp, co-coordinator of H.C.A and Fr. Lamu Jayaraju.

Fr. I. M. Swaminadham, the Director H.C.A., started the meeting with the welcome words quoting the words of Jesus. Lk 18:16: "Jesus called all the children to him and said 'Let the children come to me and do not stop them because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these'" and explained the role of the children in the church. Fr. Lamu Jayaraju in his talks spoke about Bp. Charles de Forbin-Janson, the founder of Holy Childhood and explained about the intention of Holy Childhood. It is for the Children, CHILDREN HELPING



THE CHILDREN. He explained the role of teachers how they can motivate the children not with many words but with deeds.

There was another session in the afternoon too. The material (syllabus) for the year 2017-18 was distributed for all the Holy Childhood children of the diocese through animators. The animators decided to conduct competition in Liturgical singing for the children. The Holy Childhood day will be celebrated on 31st Jan 2018. I thank His Lordship Most Rev. Bishop Joseph Raja Rao for permitting us to have this seminar for animators. Special thanks to Fr. Lamu Jayaraju, parish priest of Machilipatanam for giving wonderful guidance to the animators. I thank Sr. Sussela Grace ssp, the coordinator of Holy Childhood and all the animators.

*Fr. I.M.Swaminadham, Director of H.C.A.,
Labbipet, Vijayawada*

Youth Convention at Pedana Parish

On 16th of July 2017, a youth convention was conducted at Pedana parish. There were a good number of youth who took an active part in the convention. The convention was animated by Sr. Prema UFS, the diocesan youth animator. Rev. Fr. James Varikuty, the parish priest is very happy about the youth involvement in the parish. Rev. Fr. Maria Das the director of Samvrudhi Counselling Center, Gunadala was the resource person. During his session he encouraged the youth to have a clear focus on their future life. The group was very vibrant to say Christ



is our Light and made this convention successful. I express my sincere thanks to Fr. James Varikuty, Fr. Kamatham Mariadas and the Ursuline Franciscan Sisters for their cooperation in this one day youth convention.

Sr. Prema UFS, Diocesan Lady Youth Animator, Vijayawada

Youth Convention at Manginapudi Parish

Prayrana youth center conducted youth meeting on 23rd July at Manginapudi parish.

Many young girls and boys took part in the meeting. Sr. Prema UFS, the diocesan youth animator in her talk gave a boost for youth to involve themselves more in the parish activities and live a life of Christ in our daily life. I appreciate Fr. Jacob, MC, the parish



priest and the assistants, Fr. Swaminadan and Fr. Chatla Joseph and the sisters for their support and presence in the youth convention.

Sr. Prema UFS, Diocesan Lady Youth Animator, Vijayawada

Special Feature: An Interview with Mr. Sayala Balaswamy, the teacher cum catechist

A Journey to Inner Self

Psalm 90:10 The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

These are the words of Mr. Sayala Balaswamy who was a teacher for 36 years and has been serving as a Catechist for the last 53 at Koyyagurapadu village, Telaprolu parish. A silent servant within the boundary of Koyyagurapadu hamlet but well appreciated and hailed by the students and faithful of the village and the parish. He reached the age of 76 and the only difference we can see in every stage of

his life is his age. He never lost his zeal and interest for his catechetical work and love for the Church, priests and faithful. Though he was tested in his body due to ill health yet he overcame everything with the help of God and his strong will supported by his family members. He took the blessings and the sufferings alike. He has been waging war with his ill-health for the last 29 years but never drifted from the service of God. He remained unperturbed in all circumstances.

Tell me about your birth and the family.

I was born on 3 July, 1942 at Telaprolu. My parents are Showry and Mariamma.



They are coolies. I am the only son to my parents. Though they were poor and illiterate they gave me good education of the time. I completed my SSLC in 1962. From 1962-64, I took Second Grade Training at Bishop Grassi High School, Gunadala. And in 1964 I was appointed as the teacher at Koyyagurapadu, Telaprolu parish.

I married my wife Christina in 1966. She was also a teacher and now retired like me. I have one daughter and two sons. I always thank God for all my family members who are faithful to Him and to the society.

Coming from a poor family, you were able to become a Teachers' family. What do you share with us when you think of it ?

It is sheer grace of God. The providence of God does not come upon us overnight. It is felt only when we are deeply and personally related to God. The past works of sanctity begin to work when we are badly in need of God's blessing. This is my personal experience of God. From my childhood, I was interested in going to the church and participating in the Holy Mass. I remember when I was a boy, I used to follow the older boys of the village to the parish church of Avutapalli and in the evening to the chapel at Telaprolu for Rosary. During my childhood and youth the late Fr. J. B. Giovanni

Calderaro PIME, was the parish priest. I was very fond of him and that respect towards him carried on towards any priest especially to all the parish priests till today. From my life experience, I realized that the sacred and charitable acts done in our past will come to our rescue in some part of our life.

You said that the personal extensive relationship with God will be always a boost or bonus to our life. How do you justify it ?

I already mentioned that from the stage of childhood and adolescence, I was regular to Church and involved in its activities. That was the great investment I made for my spiritual life unaware. I never thought that such religiosity and devotion of my younger days would be a great boon when I would be facing problems and sufferings in my grown up years. The spiritual habits that we inculcate from the age of reasoning will help us to have right understanding of life and its experiences (joyful or sorrowful). I can say that the acts of worship will save the life both on the earth and preserve us for eternity.

You were a teacher for many years. Tell us about your profession period.

In continuation of what I mentioned just now, my profession always went along with my service as a catechist. I was a teacher for 36 years (1964-2000) at Koyyagurapadu village. Though retired now, but I am still serving as a catechist. Here, I would like to divide my life into two periods, namely, the period before 1988 and after 1988. The life from 1964 -1988 (24 years) was a normal instinctive feeling of a family head. As the head of the family, my career and the family responsibility were the priority. It was a just routine way of living. I was serving God too but again with a dutiful mind. But after 1988, everything changed. I encountered

the healing touch of the Almighty so distinctively which had a large effect on my life and perspectives. It was an internal healing which strengthened me in serving God consciously for the rest of my life. My heart was filled with gratitude, so with a kind of renewal in my life I started to serve God. All others became secondary.

It was interesting to know about the two eras of your life. Can you take us deeper into that defining experience?

The year 1988 was a decisive year in my own life. I had paralysis stroke that year. It was a great tragic event which shook my life totally. That was the moment when my mind was occupied with questions and doubts. In fact I even planned to end my life. However I never complained against God. Rather, with the Christian hope I promised to God if I were healed, I would serve Him till the last breath of my life. My only question was, "How should I endure the pain and overcome it?" The words of the Psalmist, "The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death." (118: 18) gave me hope and strength. Miraculously, with the merciful act of God, my health condition began to improve and I started going to school. Within few months I could live a normal life. My family members and all my colleagues were surprised to see me recovering so soon. For the past 29 years after 1988, I am the catechist of Koyyagurapadu, Telaprolu parish. I worked as the teacher and served as the Catechist with the strength of my affliction as it is said in the Book of Job.

"He delivers the afflicted by their affliction, and opens their ear by adversity." (36:15)

How did you endure and cope up with the affliction that came across in your life?

I took refuge in the words of St. Paul to the Romans, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer" (12:12). These words consoled me a lot and gave me the inner strength to overcome every barrier.

Tell us about the role of your family members in your life.

God blessed me with good wife and three children. To say about my wife, Mrs. Christina, she is really the grace of God come true. She is the perfect model of a spouse with inner strength. She was responsible for my healing too. At all junctures of my family life, she was the source of great strength. She took care of the family very well. Actually, she came from CSI background but after the marriage she became a good and faithful Catholic. She inspired me to read the Bible with much passion. The children too are good and grew up with the fear of God.

How was and is your association with the priests you worked with?

It is always the paternal relationship. I respected all the priests as the Anointed irrespective of their age. That spiritual bond and attitude has helped me to have good relationship with them. I worked with 18 parish priests until now and it a great privilege for me. All of them looked after me with care and love.

How do you advise the young Catholics?

I just advise them as I do to me, "Live according to the will of God and He will look after you". The virtue of gratitude is the greatest and that should be the motivating power both in physical and spiritual life. I strengthen my statement with the words of St. Paul to Thessalonians, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thess. 5: 16-18)

List of Diocesan Priests

S.no.	Name	Designation/Status	Address
1	Fr. Akurathi Lourdu Bernard Kumar	Studies	Rome
2	Fr. Amarlapudi Karunakar	Work	Austria
3	Fr. Ambalathuruthel Cheriyan Thomas	On leave	Kerala
4	Fr. Amire Ajay Kumar	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Chatrai, Krishna Dt. 521 221
5	Fr. Arava Bruno Stephen (Rajesh)	Work	Austria
6	Fr. Bandanadam Francis	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Bantumilli, Krishna Dt. 521 324
7	Fr. Bandi Maria Sagar Babu	House Minister	Bishop's House, 59 A 1-7, Ring Road, Vijayawada - 520 008
8	Fr. Bandi Anil	Work	Germany
9	Fr. Banka Yosebu	Work	U.S.A
10	Fr. Bantumilli Yohan	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Goodmanpet, Pamarru Road, Krishna Dt. 521 301
11	Fr. Bapatla Thomas	Assistant Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Jyothinagar, Hanuman Junction, Krishna Dt.521 105
12	Fr. Basani Papi Reddy	Parish Priest & Vicar Forane	St.Paul's Cathedral, Vijayawada 520 008
13	Fr. Bathula Joji Sudhakar	Work	Germany
14	Fr. Bavanu Vijaya Raju	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Telaprolu, Krishna Dt. 521 109
15	Fr. Bezwada Samuel John	Medical Leave	Gollapudi - 521 225, Vijayawada, Krishna Dt.
16	Fr. Boddur Anand Babu	Secretary	Bishop's House, 59 A 1-7, Ring Road, Vijayawada - 520 008
17	Fr. Bontha Lourdu Francis	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Guntupalli, Krishna Dt. 521 241
18	Fr. Bondala Sreeva Raju	Assistant Parish Priest Studies, LLB	St.Paul's Cathedral, Vijayawada 520 008
19	Fr. Bhupathi Vijaya Kumar	Rector	St. Ambrose Seminary, Nuzvid, Krishna Dt. 521 201
20	Fr. Bhupathi John Rajesh	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Nagayalanka, Krishna Dt. 521 120
21	Fr. Bunga Suresh	On leave	

22	Fr. Buraga Joseph Vinod	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Uppaluru, Krishna Dt. 521 151
23	Fr. Burri John Peter	Studies	Italy
24	Fr. Chandamala Joji	Work	Canada
25	Fr. Chebroolu Joseph Thambi	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Vuyyuru, Krishna Dt. 521 165
26	Fr. Chilukoti John Babu	Dean of Studies	Queen of Apostles Seminary, Gavvararam, Sanivarapupeta, Eluru, W.G.Dt. 534 007
27	Fr. Chinta Rakesh	Professor	Sacred Heart Seminary, Karayanchavadi Rd, Poonamallee, Chennai, TN- 600056
28	Fr. Chowtapalli Prashanth	Assistant Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Ventrapragada, Krishna Dt. - 521 263
29	Fr. Damala Vijay Kumar	Director	St. Joseph's Pastoral Centre, Carmel Nagar, Gunadala, Vijayawada
30	Fr. Damala Bala Yesu	Assistant Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Kankipadu, Krishna Dt. 521 151
31	Fr. Dara Balaswamy	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Dum Dum Gardens, Nehrupeta, Nuzvid - 521201
32	Fr. Daram Nirmal Kumar	Assistant Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Avanigadda, Kotagirilanka, Krishna Dt. 521 121
33	Fr. Daram Satheesh	Assistant Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Keesara Post, Krishna Dt. 521 185
34	Fr. Darsi Don Bosco	Studies	Belgium
35	Fr. Darsi Jeeva Kumar	Parish Priest & Vicar Forane	Catholic Church, Bhyravapatnam, Krishna Dt. 521 345
36	Fr. Dasi Suresh Kumar	Studies	France
37	Fr. Dodda Anil Kumar	Warden	St. Xavier's Hostel, C/o PIME Regional House, Xavier Nagar, Eluru, W.G. - 534 007
38	Fr. Doma Joji Ratnakar	Studies	Italy
39	Fr. Dovari Joseph	Work	Canada
40	Fr. Duggimpudi Rakesh Reddy	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Nandigama, Krishna Dt. 521 185
41	Fr. Eleti William Jayaraju	Rector & Parish Priest	Gunadalmatha Shrine, Gunadala, Vijayawada 520 004
42	Fr. Elike Balashowry	Assistant Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Gudivada, Krishna Dt. 521 301
43	Fr. Gaddala Abraham Sudhakar	Studies	Italy
44	Fr. Gaddam Joji	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Saradanagar, Machilipatnam, Krishna Dt - 521 001
45	Fr. Ganta Praveen	Parish Priest & Vicar Forane	Catholic Church, Gudivada, Krishna Dt. 521 301

46	Fr. Godavarthi Maria Raju	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Thurlapadu, Chandarlapadu Mndl, Krishna Dt. - 521 183
47	Fr. Golla Suvarna Raju	Assistant Parish Priest	Gunadalamatha Shrine, Gunadala, Vijayawada 520 004
48	Fr. Golla Vijaya Kumar	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Avanigadda, Krishna Dt. 521 123
49	Fr. Gone Joseph Thamby	Work	Austria
50	Fr. Gonthupulugu Kiran Babu	Studies	Rome
51	Fr. Gorantla Datham	Work	Germany
52	Fr. Gorremochu Johannes	On leave	
53	Fr. Gorremochu Joseph	Assistant Parish Priest	Gunadalamatha Shrine, Gunadala, Vijayawada 520 004
54	Fr. Gotru Suresh Merlo Babu	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Mudinepalli, Krishna Dt. 521 325
55	Fr. Guda Melchior Raju	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Vanukuru, Penamaluru Mdl, Krishna Dt. 521 151
56	Fr. Gudapati Jesu Ramesh Babu	Work	Spain
57	Fr. Gudapati Joji Pratap Kumar	Studies	Dharmaram PO, Opp Bangalore Dairy, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560029
58	Fr. Gudise Jaya Raju	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Vennanapudi, Krishna Dt. 521 321
59	Fr. Gundabathini Kishore Kumar	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Nawabupeta, Krishna Dt. 521 190
60	Fr. Gunturu Don Bosco	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Kaikaluru, Krishna Dt. 521 333
61	Fr. Guzzula Michael	DGM of Schools & Vicar Forane	St. Francis Boarding Home, Parasupeta, Machilipatnam - 521 002
62	Fr. Imandi Maria Swaminadham	Parish Priest & Director	Catholic Church, Labbipeta, VIJAYAWADA 520 010
63	Fr. Inti Anthony	Director & Correspondent	Bishop Grassi High School, Gunadala, Vijayawada - 520 004
64	Fr. Jaladi Sravan	Assistant Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Alcott Gardens, Rajamundry - 533 101
65	Fr. Jangam Vijay Kumar	Assistant Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Pezzonipeta, Vijayawada - 520 003
66	Fr. Johnny D'Cruz	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Arugolanu, Krishna Dt. 521 106
67	Fr. Junjunuri John Raju	Parish Priest & Vicar Forane	Catholic Church, Jagayyapeta, Krishna Dt. 521 175
68	Fr. Jyothi Ruben (Ramesh)	Work	Austria
69	Fr. Jyothi Kiran Kranth	Work	Papua New Guinea
70	Fr. Kama Anil	Assistant Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Vissannapeta, Krishna Dt. - 521 215

71	Fr. Kaithakott Jose	Retired	Vianney Home, St. Joseph's ITI, Gunadala, Vijayawada 520 004
72	Fr. Kakumanu Arogya Raju	Work	Germany
73	Fr. Kakumanu Kiran	Work	Italy
74	Fr. Kakumanu Sebastian	Work	Germany
75	Fr. Kallooparampil Joseph	Retired	Vianney Home, St. Joseph's ITI, Gunadala, Vijayawada 520 004
76	Fr. Kamatham Mariadas	Director	Samvrudhi, Diocesan Counselling Centre, Gunadala, Vijayawada 520004
77	Fr. Kama Christu Raju	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, IB Peta, Koduru, Krishna Dt.- 521 301
78	Fr. Kandula Maria Babu	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Ventrapragada, Krishna Dt. 521 263
79	Fr. Karem Sekhar Babu	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Siluvagirinagar, Nandigama, Krishna - 521 185
80	Fr. Katta Sleeva Vijaya Babu	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Kambhampadu, 521 227
81	Fr. Kattrukudiyil Abraham Thomas	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, RCM School, Ranigarithota, Vijayawada - 520 013
82	Fr. Kolakani Jayapaul Roy	Assistant Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Maria Nagar, Peddaveedi, Salur, Vizianagaram dt.- 535 591
83	Fr. Kolakani Marianna	Rector	St. John's Regional Seminary, Ramanthapur, Hyderabad 500 013
84	Fr. Kolikepogu Anil Francis	Youth Director	Prayana Youth Centre, ITI Campus, Gunadala - 520 004
85	Fr. Kommathoti Joshi Anil Kumar	Assistant Parish Priest	Gunadalamatha Shrine, Gunadala, Vijayawada 520 004
86	Fr. Kommavarapu Joseph Thambi	Assistant Parish Priest	Gunadalamatha Shrine, Gunadala, Vijayawada 520 004
87	Fr. Kondala Ravikanth	Secretary	Bishop's House, 59 A 1-7, Ring Road, Vijayawada - 520 008
88	Fr. Kondru Simharayalu	Director	Diocesan Educational Society, Gunadala, Vijayawada - 520 004
89	Fr. Kosanam Jeevan Babu	Work	Austria
90	Fr. Kottoor Sebastian	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Keesara Post, Krishna Dt. 521 185
91	Fr. Kovvala Joji Babu	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Polukonda, Krishna Dt. 521 385
92	Fr. Kuchipudi Prashanth	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Madhira Road, Chillakallu, Krishna Dt. 521 178
93	Fr. Kurma Thomas	Studies	Italy
94	Fr. Lamu Jaya Raju	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Machilipatnam, Krishna Dt. 521 002
95	Fr. Lanke Sreedhar	Work	Germany
96	Fr. Maddala Joseph	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Edulagudem, Agiripalli Mdl. Krishna Dt. - 521 211

97	Fr. Maddala Vara Prasad	Vice-Rector	St. Ambrose Seminary, Nuzvid, Krishna Dt. 521 201
98	Fr. Maddala Vinay Kumar	Assistant Parish Priest	St. Peter's Cathedral, P/N Road, Tarapet, Vijayawada 520 001
99	Fr. Mallavalli Balaswamy	Parish Priest & Vicar Forane	Catholic Church, Gannavaram, Krishna Dt. 521 101
100	Fr. Mandala Veilankanni Raja	Work	Germany
101	Fr. Mandapati Louis Raju	Parish Priest	Christ the King Church, Christuraja Puram, Vijayawada 520 008
102	Fr. Mangilate Mathew	Retired	Vianney Home, St. Joseph's ITI, Gunadala, Krishna Dt. 520 004
103	Fr. Marri Philomen Raju	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Lakshampuram, Via Bantumilli, Kruthivennu Md. Krishna Dt. 521 324
104	Fr. Mathangi Maria Kumar	Doctoral Studies	Pune
105	Fr. Mathangi Suresh Babu	Work	Canada
106	Fr. Matta Lazar	Studies	New Delhi
107	Fr. Medepalli Solomon Raju	Retired	St. Joseph's Home, G. Konduru, Krishna Dt. - 521 229
108	Fr. Mende Francis	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Muchintala, Penuganchiprolu (Via), Krishna Dt. 521 190
109	Fr. Menyam Francis Sharath Babu	Ministry	Bangalore
110	Fr. Meriga Suresh Babu	Work	Austria
111	Fr. Merugumala Chinnappa	On leave	
112	Fr. Merugumala Anil	Assistant Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Goodmanpet, Pamarru Road, Krishna Dt. 521 301
113	Fr. Mesapam Gabriel	Vicar General & Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Kotha Rajarajeswari peta, Near Railway Crossing, Vijayawada- 520 003
114	Fr. Mesapam Joseph	Rest	Vianney Home, St. Joseph's ITI, Gunadala, Krishna Dt. 520 004
115	Fr. Mocherla Aravind Babu	Zonal Coordinator, Diyavani TV	St. Joseph's Pastoral Cente, Carmelnagar, Gunadala, Vijayawada - 520 004
116	Fr. Mocherla Balayesu	Studies	Bangalore
117	Fr. Molugumati Joseph Suguna Rao	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Tiruvuru, Krishna Dt. 521 235
118	Fr. Molugumati Prakash	Director	Don Bosco Boarding, Nandigama, Krishna Dt. 521 185
119	Fr. Mula Joseph Thamby	Work	Austria

120	Fr. Muvvala Solomon Raju	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Kanchikacherla, Krishna Dt. 521 180
121	Fr. Muvvala Prasad	Vicar General & Parish Priest	St. Peter's Cathedral, P/JN Road, Tarapet, Vijayawada 520 001
122	Fr. Nagadesu Deva Kumar	Work	Canada
123	Fr. Nakka David Raju	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Kankipadu, Krishna Dt. 521 151
124	Fr. Nandipamu Jojappa	Professor in Liturgy	St. John's Regional Seminary, Ramanthapur, Hyderabad 500 013
125	Fr. Neelam Lourduraj	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Vatsavai, Krishna Dt. 521 402
126	Fr. Neeluri Mariadas	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Jagannadhapuram, Juzzuru P.O., Krishna Dt. - 521 181
127	Fr. Nellaturi Francis	Work	Austria
128	Fr. Nimmagadda Joshi Ramesh	Parish Priest	John Maria Vianney Parish, Kothapalli, Via Pedagonnuru, Mudinepalli Mandal, Krishna Dt. 521 329
129	Fr. Nuthalapati Kishore	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Penamaluru, Krishna Dt. 521 139
130	Fr. Palanisamy Joseph Thangaraju	Work	Canada
131	Fr. Pamiti John Stephen	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Gollapudi, Krishna Dt. 521 225
132	Fr. Pamu John Joshi Sudhakar	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Challapalli, Krishna Dt. 521 126
133	Fr. Panengaden John Prasad	Retired	Vijaya Nilayam, H.No. 7-309/D, Near RCM Church, Nuzvid, Krishna Dt. 521 201
134	Fr. Panthagani Lazar	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Bodavada-Jammavaram, Kanchikacherla, 521 180
135	Fr. Paragati Bernard	Assistant Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Telalprolu, Krishna Dt. 521 109
136	Fr. Pasala Thomas	Executive Director	Social Service Centre, Gunadala, Vijayawada - 520 004
137	Fr. Pataram Joseph	Retired	Vianney Home, St. Joseph's ITI, Gunadala, Krishna Dt. 520 004
138	Fr. Pathapati Vijay	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Mylavaram, Krishna Dt. 521 230
139	Fr. Peram D.Dath	Parish Priest & Vicar Forane	Catholic Church, Rajiv Circle, Nuzvid, Krishna Dt. 521 201
140	Fr. Peter Mannala	Retired	Vianney Home, St. Joseph's ITI, Gunadala, Krishna Dt. 520 004
141	Fr. Peyyala Anthony	Studies	Belgium
142	Fr. Peyyala Mariadas	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Carmelnagar, Gunadala, Vijayawada - 520 004
143	Fr. Pidathala Balaswamy	Medical Leave	

144	Fr. Polimetla Christuraju	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Ajithsingnagar, Vijayawada - 520 015
145	Fr. Polimetla Joachim	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Jyothinagar, Hanuman Junction, Krishna Dt.521 105
146	Fr. Polimetla Thomas	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Kondapavuluru, Gannavaram Mndl.Krishna-521101
147	Fr. Polimetla Mario Vara Prasad	Work	Austria
148	Fr. Polimetla Jacob	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Yesupuram, Nagayalanka, Krishna Dt. 521 120
149	Fr. Polisetty Jaya Raju	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Satyanarayanapuram, Vijayawada 520 011
150	Fr. Polineedi John Barthalomew Kumar	Studies	Italy
151	Fr. Pulapaka Jacob Prasad	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Velagalagudem, Rangapuram post, Reddigudem Md. Krishna Dt. 521 215
152	Fr. Pulugu Vjaya Kumar	Parish priest	Catholic Church, Korukollu, Krishna Dt. 521 343
153	Fr. Puthukulanagara Joseph	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Kesarapalli, Krishna Dt. 521 102
154	Fr. Remalli Suresh Kumar	Studies	Austria
155	Fr. Sale Velangani Kumar	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Chanubanda, Krishna Dt. 521 214
156	Fr. Salikiti Emmanuel	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Pamaru, Krishna Dt. 521 157
157	Fr. Sankurla Shanthi Raju	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Tukkuluru, Nuzvid. 521 201
158	Fr. Savariappan Rajappa	Work	Canada
159	Fr. Soosai Maria Bernard	Medical Leave	Bishop's House, 59 A 1-7, Ring Road, Vijayawada - 520 008
160	Fr. Tenali Thomas	Director	Angel Boarding, Nuzvid, Krishna Dt. 521 201
161	Fr. Teneti Yesupadam	Work	U.S.A.
162	Fr. Tera Raraju	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Vellaturu, G. Konduru (P.O), Krishna Dt. - 521 219
163	Fr. Th. John Mathew	Retired	Vianney Home, St. Joseph's ITI, Gunadala, Krishna Dt. 520 004
164	Fr. Thelagathoti Paul	Work	Germany
165	Fr. Therukunnel Anthony	Retired	Vianney Home, St. Joseph's ITI, Gunadala, Krishna Dt. 520 004
168	Fr. Thirividhi Daniel	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Kuchipudi, Krishna Dt. 521 136
169	Fr. Thoppil Mathew	Retired	Vianney Home, St. Joseph's ITI, Gunadala, Krishna Dt. 520 004
170	Fr. Thota Sumil Raju	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Kalidindi, Krishna Dt.- 521 343

171	Fr. Thottakara Chacko	Retired	Vianney Home, St. Joseph's ITI, Gunadala, Krishna Dt. 520 004
172	Fr. Thullimalli Anthony Kumar	Parish Priest & Vicar Forane	Catholic Church, Jojinagar, Vijayawada 520 012
173	Fr. Thulimelli Jojappa	Work	Germany
174	Fr. Udumala Balashoury	Director	Amrutha Vani, P.B. No. 1588, 50 Sebastian Road, Secunderabad
175	Fr. Vadakel George	Confessor & Spiritual Director	St. Ambrose Seminary, Rajiv Circle, Nuzvid - 521 201
176	Fr. Valle Vijaya Joji Babu	Procurator & Chancellor	Bishop's House, 59 A 1-7, Ring Road, Vijayawada - 520 008
177	Fr. Varakala Gaspar Raju	Work	Austria
178	Fr. Varikuty James	Priest	Catholic Church, Pedana, Krishna Dt. 521 366
179	Fr. Yangaladasu Velankani Raju	Work	Passau, Germany
180	Fr. Yerramala Thambi Nirmal Kumar	Work	Austria
181	Fr. Yelisela Thambi Nirmal Kumar	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Kotapadu, Chatrai, Krishna Dt. - 521 214

List of Religious Pastoral Clergy

S.no.	Name	Designation/ Status	Address
1	Fr. Nagothu Bala Joji MSFS	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Nuzvid Road, Agiripalli, Krishna Dt.- 521 211
2	Fr. Mandagiri Jojiah MSFS	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Sahayanagar, Ibrahimpatnam, Krishna Dt.- 521 226
3	Fr. Ratnaswamy MSFS	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Nunna, Krishna Dt.- 521 212
4	Fr. Showry Kumar MSFS	Assistant PP	Catholic Church, Nunna, Krishna Dt.- 521 212
5	Fr. Inna Babu OFM Cap	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Avutapalli, Krishna Dt.- 521 186
6	Fr. Joseph Paladugu OFM Cap	Assistant PP	Catholic Church, Avutapalli, Krishna Dt.- 521 186
7	Fr. Allam Pratap OFM Cap	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Assisi Ashram, Enikepadu, Vijayawada Rural, Krishna Dt. 521 108
8	Fr. Baluvuri Jesu Raju MF	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Azzampudi, Krishna Dt. 521 102

9	Fr. Bethala Joji Babu MF	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Penugolanu, Gampalagudem Mandal, Krishna Dt. - 521 401
10	Fr. Kativarapu Mariadas PSDP	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Bhaskaraopeta Village, Santhoshapuram, Kalidindi Mandal -521 344
11	Fr. Yalla Anand Kumar VC	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Edara, Agiripalli Mandal, Krishna Dt. - 521 211
12	Fr. Dhanaraj Polisetty OCD	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Gampalagudem, Krishna Dt. - 521 403
13	Fr. Macherla Balaswamy OCD	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Carmel Vidhya Bhavan, Kanuru, Vijayawada - 520 007
14	Fr. Mathew Neerakkal SJ	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Gudlalleru, Krishna Dt. - 521 356
15	Fr. Katta Vincent CPPS	Parish Priest	Catholic Church Kondapalli, Krishna Dt. - 521 228
16	Fr. Jaya Raju OSB	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Jeevan Nagar, Jakkampudi, Vijayawada - 520 012
17	Fr. Mathew (Shaiju) CFIC	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Lourdunagar, Putrela Road, Vissannapeta, Krishna Dt. - 521 215
18	Fr. Sudhakar Reddy CFIC	Assistant PP	Catholic Church, Lourdunagar, Putrela Road, Vissannapeta, Krishna Dt. - 521 215
19	Fr. Jacob Chacko MC	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Thallapalem P.O., Manginapudi Beach, Machilipatnam, Krishna Dt.- 521 002
20	Fr. Swaminathan MC	Assistant PP	Catholic Church, Thallapalem P.O., Manginapudi Beach, Machilipatnam, Krishna Dt.- 521 002
21	Fr. John Pottamkuzhiyil CM	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Mallavalli, Bapulpadu Mandalam, Krishna Dt.-521 111
22	Fr. Thomas Enthackal CM	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Via Nidamanuru, Kankipadu Mandal, Velpur , Krishna Dt.- 521 104
23	Fr. Moses CSSR	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Munagalapalli, Muppala, Chandralapadu, Krishna Dt.- 521 185
24	Fr. Kulandairaj Sahaya Raj OMI	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Musunuru, Krishna Dt. = 521 207
25	Fr. John Bharathi OMI	Assistant PP	Catholic Church, Musunuru, Krishna Dt. = 521 207
26	Fr. G. Jesuratnam OMI	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Ramanakkapeta, Krishna Dt.- 521 213
27	Fr. K. Rajesh Kumar OMI	Assistant PP	Catholic Church, Ramanakkapeta, Krishna Dt.- 521 213
28	Fr. Basil OMI	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Paidurupadu, Guntupalli P.O., Krishna Dt.- 521 241
29	Fr. Vinoth OMI	Assistant PP	Catholic Church, Paidurupadu, Guntupalli P.O., Krishna Dt.- 521 241
30	Fr. Thota Mariadas SDB	Parish Priest	Catholic Church, Pezzonipeta, Vijayawada - 520 003
31	Fr. Wilson SDB	Assistant PP	Catholic Church, Pezzonipeta, Vijayawada - 520 003
32	Fr. George Puthenpura PIME	Parish Priest & Vicar Forane	Catholic Church, Vissannapeta, Krishna Dt. - 521 215

National / International News

Papal trip to India planned for late 2017 or early 2018

July 14, 2017; A papal visit to India is being planned for the near future, a spokesman for the country's bishops has disclosed.



"We are still hopeful that the visit (by Pope Francis to India) will take place at least early next year, if not earlier," said Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas, the secretary-general of the Indian bishops' conference. Officials at the Vatican and in New Delhi are trying to find dates for a papal visit that would accommodate both the Pontiff and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Yemeni official confirms: kidnapped priest is still alive

July 13, 2017

Father Tom Uzhunnalil, the Indian priest who was kidnapped in Yemen in March



2016, is still alive, the foreign minister of Yemen has stated.

Abdulmalik Abduljalil al Mekhlafi, the Yemeni foreign minister, said that his government is working energetically to secure the priest's release from his captors, who are believed to be associated with the Islamic State.

In May, Father Uzhunnalil released a video in which he pleaded for help, saying that he needed medical attention.

Pope Warns Of 'Dangerous Alliances' Among G20 Powers

"The danger concerns immigration. Our main and unfortunately growing problem in the world today is that of the poor, the weak, the excluded, which includes migrants," Pope Francis said.

ROME, ITALY: Pope Francis said Saturday that the G20 summit in Germany "worries" him because of the potential for "very dangerous alliances" among world leaders, with particularly dire consequences for migrants. "I worry about very dangerous alliances between powers which have a distorted vision of the world: America and Russia, China and North Korea, (Russian President Vladimir) Putin and (Syria's Bashar al-) Assad over the war in Syria," the pope said in an interview with Italy's *La Repubblica* newspaper.

"The danger concerns immigration. Our main and unfortunately growing problem in the world today is that of the poor, the weak, the excluded, which includes migrants," he said, pointing to countries which "fear an

invasion of migrants." "This is why the G20 worries me: It mainly hits immigrants," he said.



Concerning Europe, the "richest continent in the whole world" which has faced an influx of hundreds of thousands of migrants and refugees since 2015, the pope warned its leaders not to fall prey to the illusion that it is possible to seal its borders. On Friday, Francis had urged G20 leaders to work toward "more inclusive and sustainable global economic growth," while also highlighting the plight of some 30 million people trapped in conflict and famine, especially in Africa and Yemen.

India's bishops pray new president will defend rule of law

By Elise Harris

New Delhi, India, Jul 22, 2017 / 06:08 am (CNA/EWTN News).- The bishops of



India have offered their congratulations to the country's newly elected president, Ram Nath Kovind, urging him to live out the oath he will take to serve the well-being of the people.

India's presidency is largely a ceremonial role, while the prime minister is head of government and leader of the executive branch.

In a July 20 statement the Indian bishops congratulated Kovind, assuring him "of our prayers for his good health and for wisdom and strength that he might guide our beloved country towards peace, development and justice for all peoples."

"We pray that God may assist him, that, as per the Oath of Office, he will strive 'to the best of his ability to preserve, protect and defend the constitution and the law, and that he will devote himself to the service and well-being of the people of the Republic of India.'"

The bishops closed their statement praying that under his leadership India would "march towards greater heights," and again assured the president-elect of "our loyalty and support in the service of our country."

Pope Writes a "Frontier" Carmelite Nun Who Works to Recover Prostitutes, Addicts

Sister Monica Astorga, in the Argentine city of Neuquen, Works without Leaving Her Convent, JULY 25, 2017

Pope Francis sent a mail to cloistered Carmelite nun Monica Astorga — who for the past 11 years has worked with



transsexuals in Argentina, getting them to abandon prostitution and addictions – encouraging her in her work. “I have you and the convent very close to my heart, as well as the persons with whom you work,” wrote the Pontiff, saying that she could tell them.

This is part of the message that the Holy Father sent, which was published yesterday in the daily *LmNeuquen.com* of the city of Neuquen in the south of Argentina. The Pope wrote her “when he learnt of the project to build 15 dwellings for trans women, in the Confluencia district of this city” and “of the opening of a Home for the Elderly, which will be brought to completion by this group,” reported the daily.

In addition, it pointed out that Francis wrote to the nun previously, saying: “In Jesus’ time lepers were rejected. They are the lepers of the present. Don’t leave off the frontier work that has come your way.”

Sister Monica Astorga, 50, born in Buenos Aires, lives in a convent in Neuquen. At seven, she felt her religious vocation despite her family’s opposition. “I don’t leave the convent; this is my place; from here I can support and push those who need it. My social work rises from here, she clarified in an earlier note to the same daily.

Sister Monica added that a girl had come to the convent who wanted to give a tithing. Asked about her work, she said she was a prostitute because, given her transvestite condition, she could not get work. “They asked her if she needed help and it was then that Father Italo (Varvello) and Sister Mariucha (Dambroggio) contacted me and asked me if I could help her,” explained Sister Monica to the daily.

The girl asked for help to get away from prostitution and Sister Monica asked her if she knew others who wanted to leave the street. “She answered me ‘all.’” Then I asked her to find them. She began to laugh and answered: ‘they are about 70.’”

When this girl arrived with a group of transvestites, the first thing the nun did was to invite them to the Chapel to pray, “to put all their life in Jesus’ hands and to be able to strengthen their lives.” One of them asked her how they could pray to God when they had been rejected by their parents and relatives. “I asked them to have faith, otherwise, they were dead. Then I asked them what they wanted to do with their lives; what dreams they wanted to realize,” continued the nun.

With the help of the diocesan Caritas and other people, they helped them to open a hairdressing salon, a sewing center, etc. Sister Monica said she could not understand how there are men that pay to be with them. “It is indignant because those men pick them up on the street, mistreat them, use them as if they were the rubbish of humanity,” she lamented to the daily.



Vatican News

Vatican calls on bishops to prevent Eucharistic abuse in their dioceses

Vatican City, Jul 8, 2017 / 05:51 am (CNA/EWTN News).- In a new letter to bishops, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments denounced abuses against the Eucharist and "lack of respect in the sacred sphere," and reiterated existing norms regarding the Eucharist at Mass.

The letter, issued at the request of Pope Francis, reminds bishops of the norms concerning the Eucharist matter indicated in the Code of Canon Law and the Roman Missal, and explained in the Instruction *Redemptionis Sacramentum* of this Congregation of March 25, 2004.

According to those norms, "the bread used in the Holy Sacrifice of the Eucharist must be unleavened, of only wheat and made recently, so that there is no danger of it being corrupted." Therefore, "bread made with other substances" can not constitute the valid matter for the realization of the Sacrifice and the Eucharistic Sacrament.



In addition, they emphasized that "it is a serious abuse to introduce other substances such as fruit, sugar or honey in the manufacture of bread for the Eucharist."

As for wine, it states that it "must be natural, from the fruit of the vine, pure and without corrupting, without mixing of foreign substances," and insists that no other drinks "of any kind to be admitted for any reason, as they do not constitute valid matter."

The letter also addressed norms regarding gluten-free hosts.

"Hosts that are completely gluten-free are invalid matter for the celebration of the Eucharist. Low-gluten hosts (partially gluten-free) are valid matter, provided they contain a sufficient amount of gluten to obtain the confection of bread without the addition of foreign materials and without the use of procedures that would alter the nature of bread," the letter states.

The Congregation also issued a norm regarding GMOs, saying that "Eucharistic matter made with genetically modified organisms can be considered valid matter."

In the letter, the Congregation emphasized that it is primarily the responsibility of diocesan bishops to ensure that these norms are being followed and that abuse is not occurring in their parishes.

Finally, it suggests that bishops work together to carry out "the necessary checks on production, conservation and

sale of the Eucharistic bread and wine in a given country and for other countries to which they are exported. It is recommended that the bread and wine to be used in the Eucharist be treated accordingly in the places where they are sold.”

Tags: Pope Francis, Bishops, Canon Law, Congregation for Divine Worship

Pope Francis creates new category for beatification: oblatio vitae 2017-07-11 Vatican Radio

(Vatican Radio) Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter *motu proprio* on Tuesday, by which he created a new category, distinct from martyrdom, under which a Servant of God may be declared Blessed: *oblatio vitae*, or “the free offering (i.e. “oblation”) of [one’s] life”.

The Letter, *Maiorem hac dilectionem*, takes its title from the words of Our Lord as recorded in the Holy Gospel according to St. John, “Greater love than this no man hath, that a man lay down his life for his friends, (Jn 15:13)”.

The Letter creates a new category - a *facti species* in technical language - called, *oblatio vitae*, and distinguishes it from the *facti species* of martyrdom, by five (5) criteria:



a) The free and voluntary offering of one’s life, and heroic acceptance *propter caritatem* of a certain and soon-to-come death;

b) A nexus – i.e. close relation – between the offering of one’s life and the premature death of the one who offers it;

c) The exercise, at least in ordinary degree, of the Christian virtues before the subject’s offering of his or her life and, afterward, perseverance in those virtues unto death;

d) The existence of *fama sanctitatis* – i.e. the reputation for holiness – on the part of the subject, and of signs [in confirmation thereof], at least after death;

e) The necessity, for beatification, of a miracle, one that occurred after the death of the Servant of God, and by said Servant’s intercession.

The *oblatio vitae* of the Servant of God, in order that it be valid and efficacious for beatification, must respond to all of the aforementioned criteria.

The *positio* prepared by the diocesan inquest into the Cause of the Servant of God must respond to the following question: *An constet de heroica oblatione vitae usque ad mortem propter caritatem necnon de virtutibus christianis, saltem in gradu ordinario, in casu et ad effectum de quo agitur*, which is, “Does [the case of the Servant of God] consist of [an] heroic offering of his/her life up to death for the sake of supernatural love of God (*propter caritatem*) and also of the Christian virtues, at least in the ordinary degree, on the occasion and to the effect for which [the subject’s offering of his/her life] was made?”

Days to Remember in the month of August

ORDINATION DAY: HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS

19th Fr. Basani Papi Reddy



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY

2nd Fr. Puppady James
 3rd Frs. Therukunnel Anthony, Mathangi Maria Kumar
 9th Fr. Jaladi Sravan Kumar
 10th Fr. Basani Papi Reddy
 11th Fr. Thulimelli Anthony Kumar
 13th Fr. Matta Lazar
 14th Fr. Mallavalli Balaswamy
 15th Frs. Dasi Suresh, Sale Vinay Kumar
 17th Fr. Doma Joji Ratnakar
 18th Fr. Inti Anthony
 19th Fr. Kosanam Jeevan Babu
 20th Fr. Kaithakotte Jose
 23rd Fr. Ambalathuruthel Cherian
 24th Fr. Maddala Vara Prasad
 30th Frs. Susai Maria Bernard, Buraga Joseph Vinod



OBITUARY: MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

2nd Fr. Baldarelli Cesare (1952)
 6th Msgr. Kanjirathinkal Jacob (2005)
 16th Bishop Mulagada John (2009)
 18th Bishop Thumma Joseph (1997)
 20th Fr. Mannala Zacharias (1995)
 21st Fr. Natale Fumagalli PIME (1995)
 23rd Fr. Muppaseril Mathew (1990)
 26th Fr. Pagano Vincent PIME (1982)
 27th Archbishop Marampudi Joji (2010)
 29th Fr. Kalpakacherry Mathew (1990)

