



DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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Circular No.185

+ ROBERT M. MIRANDA
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

May 2021

Dear Fathers, Sisters, Brothers and Lay faithful,
Greetings of Peace and Joy in the Risen Lord!

First of all I thank everyone of you for your greetings and good wishes on the occasion of Easter, my Birthday last month and also yesterday on the day of my Priestly Ordination Anniversary. Love heals, love strengthens and love makes us go forward with a resolute mind. During the sickness I suffered for the past 20-25 days I felt your closeness to me in a very special way. The Lord has heard our prayer and given me good health. Hope I will be back to my normal work in a few days. Thanks for your prayers. Let's continue to pray for each other and support one another.

I'm deeply saddened by the sudden demise of our beloved Fr Thomas D'Souza on 12th of April last. Having spent 27 years of his priestly service in Mangalore, he had volunteered to work for this diocese and continued to work for 21 years with devotion, commitment and a lot of creativity. Helped the needy people quietly whenever he could. I never heard him speaking ill of others anytime in my association with him since the seminary days. He cautioned of the dangers we may have to face like an elder brother and this made me go to him for an exchange of views. So much can be said about Fr Thomas. I just believe, with the satisfaction of the work he did as a priest which he expressed to me a few days before his death, I believe, he will intercede for us, for all of us in this Diocese that he loved. Rest in Peace, rest in the bosom of the Heavenly Father dear Fr Thomas and do intercede for us.

Covid 19: The Corona Virus Second wave: has devastated our Country and has made it the worst hit Country in the world with over 4 lakh people daily getting infected and over 4000 deaths recorded daily. The virus is at our door steps. Let's take all precaution first to save ourselves from this pandemic, and also educated our people to protect themselves from this dreaded illness following some basic health care regulations such as: wearing the mask keeping distance, daily steaming, breathing exercises, drinking warm water etc. Please educate people to go in for a checkup as soon as symptoms appear and take doctor's prescription. All should be able to overcome the sickness with the simple prescriptions. Negligence can do great harm for us. The Holy Father is urging us to surrender our families to the Lord's mercy and protection in our daily prayers. He alone can save us from this pandemic.

Holy Father's prayer intention for the month of May: Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

The Month of May and Devotion of Rosary: The month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, our loving mother. All catholic families have a special devotion of Rosary Prayer in churches and families everywhere in the catholic world. Her maternal heart is full of love and mercy for her beloved children. She is always waiting for us to turn to her for her motherly guidance and constantly presents all our prayers to her dear son, Jesus. Mary is known as the 'Gate of Heaven'. We need Mary to guide us to heaven so that we may not lose our way by falling into sin. This year Pope Francis invites us to pray the Rosary every

single day, imploring the intercession of our Blessed Mother for an end to this pandemic which has already lasted over a year and taking away thousands of lives of the people around us.

May 7th a day to be observed as one of Prayer and Fast: The Cardinal Oswald Gracias, the president of the CBCI has requested all the churches and catholic families to observe May 7th as the Day of prayer and fast imploring the Lord to free us from the Corona Pandemic taking away thousands of lives every day in our country. A prayer service is also attached for help during the Adoration you may be holding. Kindly inform the people about it and let the people also join us_in prayer. (Copy of the Cardinal's appeal and prayer format is attached)

Pope approves 7 new invocations to Litany of St. Joseph. On the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, on May 1, the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments added 7 new invocations to the Litany in honour of St. Joseph, with the approval of Pope Francis. The initiative comes during the Year of St. Joseph which Pope Francis declared from 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021. The new invocations, originally in Latin, are as follows: *Custos Redemptoris, Serve Christi, Minister salutis, Fulcimen in difficultatibus, Patrone exsulum, Patrone afflictorum, Patrone pauperum.* These could be translated as: Guardian of the Redeemer, Servant of Christ, Minister of salvation, Support in difficulties, Patron of exiles, Patron of the afflicted and Patron of the poor.

The Ascension of the Lord: (15th May) a feast that gives us a sure faith that Jesus has accomplished the mission and has gone back to the Father giving us a mandate to preach the Gospel to the ends of the world. Let us thank Jesus for being with us as he promised "Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.." (Mt. 28:20)

Pentecost Sunday (23rd May) Pentecost marks the era of the Holy Spirit powerfully present in the church and also the birth of the church, the new people of God chosen from all the nations. The Spirit is ever present in the church satisfying every soul that thirsts, showering bountiful blessings and charisms keeping the church ever vibrant. Let's celebrate the Pentecost with due faith and solemnity and with a desire for fresh outpouring of the Spirit in all the church.

The Most Holy Trinity Sunday (30th May): Our God is a Trinitarian God ! On Trinity Sunday, we ponder how the Holy Trinity, the three persons of the Holy Trinity together accomplished the mystery of Salvation, and we give Glory to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is day not so much to try to understand the mystery of the Holy Trinity, but rather understand, appreciate gratefully the unity of the three persons: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit fully involved in the redemption of the sinful humanity

Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary: (31st May) The theme of the Visitation feast centers on Mary responding to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to set out on a mission of charity. This visit was to bring divine grace to both Elizabeth and her unborn child. As we celebrate this feast let us pray that we may become true missionaries like Mary and our presence may bring grace and blessing to the people.

Covid Vaccine: will be given free for all those who are above 18 years in government hospitals. Let us not neglect our health and also the health of others by refusing to be vaccinated. Instead, let us give the news of availability of vaccines at taluka hospitals and PHCs

We have resumed streamlining the Sunday Mass through the Diocesan YouTube Channel. Kindly motivate people to participate in the Eucharist at least once a week.

Hearty thanks to Fr Lukas (Ekamba Mission) and Fr Naveen (Santpur Mission) who will be leaving us to serve their home diocese Bengaluru around 12th of this month. They cooperated very well in spite of all the mission challenges and inconveniences. Thanks to you dear Fathers Lukas and Naveen and we wish you all the best. Like a good foundation, the experience of mission life will always be a happy memory for you in your priestly life.

Please note, due to Covid illness and Lock down all transfers will take place in the last week of May.

Blessing of St Ann's (New) Church at Vijayapura : We blessed the new St. Ann's Church at Vijayapura on 13th April along with His Grace Arch Bishop Peter Machado who was the main celebrant, Bishop Francis Serrao and Provincial Superior of the Jesuits and other Jesuits of Karnataka Region. All the religious sisters of Bijapur Mission, and the local community were present. The Inauguration ceremony was graceful and beautiful. The new church is a beautiful house of the Lord at Vijayapura and it would surely attract many tourists and pilgrims coming to the city. We thank the Jesuits of Karnataka for this beautiful church and congratulate Rev. Fr. Antony Das SJ., James Gonsalvez SJ and all the fathers and sisters who worked for it. I earnestly pray and wish the church soon becomes full with local faithful coming to worship the Lord.

Necrology :


† Fr. Thomas D'Souza, 74 years serving at Bhalki mission passed away and is gone to the Eternal Abode on 12th of April. The end came suddenly, but it was a peaceful death. May his soul Rest in Peace! We pray for him, offer our hearty condolences to Fr. Fredrick D'Souza. His nephew and all the members of bereaved family. (Please find the obituary attached to this Circular)

† Mother of Rev. Sr. Reena John SAB, the Superior, Shahabad Community departed on 4th of April. May her soul Rest in Peace. Hearty condolences dear Sr. Reena and all the members of the bereaved family.

† Mr. Edward Lobo brother of Mons. Stany Lobo, VG, passed away on 5th of April at Ujire. May his soul Rest in Peace. Hearty condolences to Fr. Stany and all the members of the bereaved family.

† Sr. Kavita Csst. Hails from Indranagar, Bangalore. She did her profession in 1986, thereafter she served in Polibetta, Kushalnagar Siddapur, Mysore, Kumta, Mandya, Ganjam and Mariapura. She was transferred to St. Joseph Convent last year and has been serving as Head Mistress of English Medium School. She was known for discipline and hard work. Hospitalized due to Corona on 23rd of April to St. Philomena Hospital, Bangalore, both of her lungs badly affected. Her condition worsened day by day in spite of all possible medication. She breathed her last on April 30th Friday at 10:00 am. The Diocese of Gulbarga remains indebted to her for all the services rendered by her. We pray for the repose of her soul. May her soul rest in Peace. Hearty condolences to all the CSST Sister at Gulbarga

Kripalaya, Bishop House


† **Robert Miranda**
Bishop of Gulbarga

HAPPY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Date of Ordination	Names of the Priests
01-05-2018	Fr. Deepak Furtado, Bhalki
01-05-2018	Fr. Roshan D'Souza, Bishop's House
03-05-2014	Fr. Divya Karunesh OFM, Halbarga
04-05-1978	Bp. Robert Mirnada, Bishop
04-05-2010	Br. Vincent SHJ (Profession), Jewargi
10-05-1990	Msgr Stany Lobo, Bishop's House
11-05-1979	Fr. Stany Goveas, Shahabad

Happy Birthday

Date	Birthday Babies	Date	Birthday Babies
02	Sr. Mea Josephine SCCG, MTCH	17	Sr. Lydia Cutinha UFS, Shahapur
02	Sr. Pricilla BS, Jalasangi Mission	17	Fr. Alwyn D'Souza SJ, Sidagi
05	Sr. Angeline Lobo SCCG, MTCH	19	Sr. Reshma SRA, Santpur
05	Sr. Irene D Sa UFS, Vijayapra	22	Fr. Teyol Machado SJ, Vijayapur
07	Sr. Winnifred D'Souza SCCG, MTCH	22	Fr. Vincent Balaraj Cap, Halbarga
11	Sr. Florence D'Souza, Kankal	23	Sr. Freda AC, Bidar Mission
11	Sr. Ancilla Pais AC, Bidar	24	Sr. Sangeetha Fargos, Kaudiyal
13	Sr. Rita Mendonca FMM, Udbal	26	Sr. Arputha FMM, Chincholli
13	Fr. Prashanth OFM Cap, Halbarga	27	Sr. Teresa UFS, Kawdiyal
13	Fr. Saji A.George SDB, Gulbarga	29	Fr. Benedict SAC, Muchalamba
13	Theresa D'Souza SAP, Kawdiyal	30	Sr. Mini Mathew FMM, Itga
13	Fr. Praveen K.J SDB, Yadgir	30	Fr. Puthur Joshy SDB, Yadgir
14	Sr. Justine D'Silva SCCG, Kankal	31	Sr. Arpana SHM, Sedam
15	Sr. Julie SJC, Vijayapura	31	Br. Vincent SHJ, Jewargi
16	Sr. Stella Mathias SCCG, Kankal	31	Sr. Lincy Antony, Yadgir
16	Fr. Vimal Andrew SDB, Chikpet		

OBITUARY

“The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord....” Romans 6:23

Fr. Thomas D' Souza completing his journey of life went to the Eternal Abode on 12th April 2021 at 6.20am, at Arogya Matha Seva kendra, Bhalki due to severe cardiac arrest after a short illness that he experienced for a week long.

He was born at Bela Parish of Mangalore Diocese on July 1947 25th to Mr. Baptist D'Souza and Mrs. Piyad D'Souza as the youngest child among the five children. He has two elder brothers and two elder sisters. Among the sisters, one sister has left to the heavenly abode few years back.

He belonged to the family who generously gave their children to serve, in the vineyard of the Lord. His elder brother Mr. Joseph D'Souza's second daughter Sr. Juliana works in the missions at Nepal. His second brother Mr. John D'Souza's children Fr. Fredrick D'Souza

who belongs to the Diocese of Mangalore and is serving in Gulbarga Diocese, Fr. Jayaprakash D'Souza belongs to the Diocese of Mangalore serving as the Parish Priest of Ranipura and Fr. Prem Prakash D'Souza a priest of the Redemptorist Congregation working at Jamkhandi Mission of Belgaum Diocese. Fr. Thomas D'Souza's Sister Mrs. Remezia D'Souza's son Fr. Abel D'Souza belongs to Mangalore Diocese serves as Parish Priest at Uppinagady and daughter Sr. Maria Lobo is working at missions in Zambia, South Africa. His another sister Mrs. Dulcine D'Souza's daughter Sr. Cicilia Crasta belongs to Salesian Sisters of is presently serving at Lonavala in Pune.

Fr. Thomas D'Souza completed his Primary and High school education at Bela and completed his minor and major Seminary studies at St. Joseph's Seminary, Jeppu, Mangalore and was ordained as priest for the Diocese of Mangalore, on May 5th 1973. After his ordination he was appointed as the Asst. Parish Priest at Karkal Town Parish. Thereafter, he served as the Parish Priest of Nelikar, Kalathur, Kayyar, Bellur and Sidhakatte Parishes of Mangalore Diocese respectively.

For the first time in the year 1998, with the Bishop of Mangalore Emeritus Bp. Aloysius D'Souza, he visited the Bidar Mission which was then the mission of Mangalore Diocese. There in Bidar Mission, he found the 'Call' within his 'Call' to serve Bidar Mission and then expressed it to then Bishop of Mangalore Emeritus Most Rev. Aloysius D'Souza, and also the then Episcopal Vicar for Bidar Mission Rev. Fr. Robert Miranda, presently the Bishop of Gulbarga.

In the year 2000, he came to Bidar Mission and took up the assignment as the Asst. Director of Holy Cross Mission Center at Santhpur, Aurad Taluka and later as an Asst. Director of Kristha Ashrama, Kaudiyal of Basavakalyan Taluka. In the year 2005, when the new Diocese, Diocese of Gulbarga was formed, from 20th May 2006 onwards he served as the Parish Priest of St. Thomas Church (2006) Shahabad from 3rd June 2008 onwards in the Chancery of Bishop's house Gulbarga for 3 years. From June 2011 onwards as Spiritual Director to the Minor Seminarians at Sacred Heart Minor Seminary, Sirnur, Gulbarga for 6 years. From 7th May 2017 onwards for the last four years he served Bhalki Mission as the Spiritual Director for the Infant Jesus Shrine Bhalki. He desired to be in Gulbarga Diocese till the retirement and requested the Bishop not to give him a transfer. He served as a Priest for 48 years, 27 years in the Dioceses of Mangalore and 21 years in the Diocese of Gulbarga.

Fr. Thomas D'Souza was known for his spirituality, simplicity, humility, obedience, creativity, hard work, and dedicated service. He was a very friendly and jovial person and spoke well of others at all times. He was a man of prayer, strong in faith in Christ Jesus, followed disciplinary life, dressed neatly he would everyday avail himself to the people in his own simple ways to strengthen the simple faith of the simple people in the mission centers. He was silently supporting many people by spiritual direction, counseling and providing the moral support in their struggles of life. As a committed priest, he was very much interested in seeking the souls for Christ through his wisdom filled simple way of communication to the people.

At the infant Jesus Shrine, he was a great and powerful Counselor to the simple people who had lots of hurts and pains in their lives. He was giving them courage and strength to bear their sickness and pain with Christian faith, hope and equanimity. As he was known for his spiritual direction and counseling, many couples and young people were going to him for guidance and counseling. He had a great love for the needy and the poor and those who were in distress. Fr. Thomas was ever ready to offer Masses and to administer the

sacraments to the sick. His steady and loving communication with all his family members made him an affectionate family member, from whom they were seeking guidance always.

Towards the end he was sick just for a week and taking treatment. And we never thought that his end would come so soon. His death is a great shock and loss to all of us. But God's plan for him was different. 'So let us resign ourselves to God's holy will!'

In the death of Fr. Thomas D'Souza, we have lost one of the exemplary and dedicated priests of both the Dioceses. We shall continue to pray for the repose of his soul, in gratitude remember all the services that he had rendered for all of us in both the Dioceses. On behalf of all the clergy, religious and lay faithful of both Dioceses, I wish to express my heartfelt sympathies to his relatives and friends, especially to Rev. Fr. Fredrick D'Souza, Fr. Jaya Prakash D'Souza, Fr. Prem Prakash D'Souza, Fr. Abel Lobo, Sr. Juliana D'Souza, Sr. Maria Lobo and Sr. Cicilia Crasta. May the Lord grant all of them the strength and courage to bear this irreparable loss with unshakable Christian faith.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord; and let the perpetual Light shine upon him. And may his soul rest in Peace!

13-4-2021

Fr. Santhosh Dias

ಶ್ರದ್ಧಾಂಜಲಿ

“ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾರು ತನಗಾಗಿಯೇ ಬದುಕುವುದಿಲ್ಲ; ತನಗಾಗಿ ಸಾಯುವುದಿಲ್ಲ; ನಾವು ಬದುಕಿದರೂ ಪ್ರಭುವಿಗಾಗಿಯೇ; ಸತ್ತರೂ ಅವರಿಗಾಗಿಯೇ”
(ರೋಮ: 14:7)

ಕೆಲವೇ ದಿನಗಳ ಅನಾರೋಗ್ಯದಿಂದ ಬಳಲುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಫಾದರ್ ತೋಮಸ್ ಡಿ'ಸೋಜರವರು 2021 ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್ ತಿಂಗಳ 12 ತಾರೀಖಿನಂದು ಮುಂಜಾನೆ 6:20 ಕ್ಕೆ ಆಕಸ್ಮಿಕವಾಗಿ ತೀವ್ರವಾದ ಹೃದಯಘಾತಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮಾತಾ ಸೇವಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಭಾಲ್ಕಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತನ್ನ ಆತ್ಮವನ್ನು ತಾನು ಅಪಾರವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರೀತಿಸಿದ ಇಹಪರಗಳ ಒಡೆಯನಾದ ಪ್ರಭು ಯೇಸುಕ್ರಿಸ್ತರಿಗೆ ಒಪ್ಪಿಸಿದರು. ಅವರು ಹೀಗೆ ಆಕಸ್ಮಿಕವಾಗಿ ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಅಗಲಿಹೋಗುವವರೆಂದು ಯಾರು ತಿಳಿದಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಅವರ ಮರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಅಗಲುವಿಕೆ ಒಂದು ಅಘಾತ ಮತ್ತು ತುಂಬಲಾರದಷ್ಟು ನಷ್ಟವಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೂ ದೇವರ ಇಚ್ಛೆಯೇ ನೆರವೇರಲಿ ಎಂಬುದು ನಮ್ಮ ಮನಸ್ಸಾಗಿರಲಿ.

ನಶ್ವರ ಬದುಕಿನ ಯಾತ್ರೆ ಮುಗಿಸಿ ಶಾಶ್ವತ ಜೀವನದ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸ್ವರ್ಗಸ್ಥರಾದ ಫಾದರ್ ತೋಮಸ್ ಡಿ'ಸೋಜರವರು ಮೂಲತ ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಧರ್ಮಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಬೇಳಾ ಧರ್ಮಕೇಂದ್ರದವರು. ಇವರು 1947 ಜುಲೈ ತಿಂಗಳ 25ರಂದು ತಂದೆ ಶ್ರೀ ಬ್ಯಾಪ್ಟಿಸ್ಟ್ ಡಿ'ಸೋಜ ಮತ್ತು ತಾಯಿ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಪಿಯಾದ ಡಿ'ಸೋಜರವರಿಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ಮಗನಾಗಿ ಜನಿಸಿದರು. ಫಾದರ್‌ರವರ ಇಬ್ಬರು ಅಣ್ಣಂದಿರರಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇಬ್ಬರು ಅಕ್ಕಂದಿರಲ್ಲಿ ಓರ್ವ ಅಕ್ಕ ಈ ಮೊದಲೇ ಸ್ವರ್ಗಸ್ಥರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಫಾದರ್ ತೋಮಸ್‌ರವರ ಕುಟುಂಬ ಧರ್ಮಸಭೆಗೆ ಉದಾರ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಿಂದ ದೇವರ ಸೇವಕರನ್ನು ಕೊಟ್ಟಂತಹ ಕುಟುಂಬ. ಅವರ ಹಿರಿಯ ಅಣ್ಣನಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಜೋಸೆಫ್ ಡಿ'ಸೋಜರವರ ಮಗಳಾದ ಸಿಸ್ಟರ್ ಜುಲಿಯಾನ ಡಿ'ಸೋಜರವರು ನೇಪಾಳ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಶುಭವಾರ್ತೆ ಪ್ರಸಾರದ ಸೇವೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅವರ ಎರಡನೇಯ ಅಣ್ಣ ಶ್ರೀ ಜೋನ್ ಡಿ'ಸೋಜರವರ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಮಕ್ಕಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂವರು ಯಾಜಕರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅವರಲ್ಲಿ, ಫಾದರ್ ಫೆಡ್ರಿಕ್ ಡಿ'ಸೋಜ ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಧರ್ಮಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದವರಾಗಿದ್ದು ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಗುಲ್ಬರ್ಗಾ ಧರ್ಮಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇವೆಸಲ್ಲಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಫಾದರ್ ಜಯಪ್ರಕಾಶ ಡಿ'ಸೋಜರವರು ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಧರ್ಮಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ರಾಣಿಪುರ ಧರ್ಮಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಧರ್ಮಗುರುಗಳಾಗಿ ಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಫಾದರ್ ಪ್ರೇಮಪ್ರಕಾಶ ಡಿ'ಸೋಜರವರು ರೆಡೆಂಪ್ಟೋರಿಸ್ಟ್ ಸಭೆಗೆ ಸೇರಿದವರಾಗಿದ್ದು ಬೆಳಗಾಂ ಧರ್ಮಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಜಮಖಂಡಿ ಧರ್ಮಪ್ರಸಾರ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಫಾದರ್ ತೋಮಸ್‌ರವರ ಅಕ್ಕ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ರೆಮೆದಿಯಾ ಡಿ'ಸೋಜರವರ ಮಕ್ಕಳಲ್ಲಿ ಫಾದರ್ ಆಬೆಲ್ ಲೋಬೊರವರು ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಧರ್ಮಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಉಪ್ಪಿನಂಗಡಿ ಧರ್ಮಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಧರ್ಮಗುರುಗಳಾಗಿ ಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಹಾಗೂ ಸಿಸ್ಟರ್ ಮರಿಯಾ ಲೋಬೊರವರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾದ ಜಾಂಬಿಯಾ ಧರ್ಮಪ್ರಸಾರ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಫಾದರ್ ತೋಮಸ್ ಡಿ'ಸೋಜರವರ ಇನ್ನೊರ್ವ ಅಕ್ಕ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ದುಲಿಸ್ ಡಿ'ಸೋಜರವರ ಮಕ್ಕಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಸ್ಟರ್ ಸಿಸಿಲಿಯಾ ಕ್ರಾಸ್ತಾರವರು, ಪುಣೆಯ ಲೋನಾವಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಫಾದರ್ ತೋಮಸ್ ಡಿ' ಸೋಜರವರು ಬೇಳಾ ಊರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಘೌಡ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮುಗಿಸಿ ಮಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಗುರುವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾಜಕರಾಗಲು ತರಬೇತಿ ಪಡೆದು 1973ರ ಮೇ ತಿಂಗಳಿನ 5 ರಂದು ಗುರುದೀಕ್ಷೆ ಪಡೆದರು. ನಂತರ ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಧರ್ಮಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಕಾರ್ಕಳ ನಗರ ಧರ್ಮಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಗುರುಗಳಾಗಿ ಸೇವೆ ನೀಡಿದರು. ತದನಂತರ ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ಮಂಗಳೂರಿನ ನೆಲ್ಲಿಕಾರ್, ಕಲತ್ತೂರ್, ಕಯ್ಯೂರ್, ಬೆಳ್ಳೂರ್, ಮತ್ತು ಸಿದ್ದಕಟ್ಟೆ ಧರ್ಮಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಧರ್ಮಗುರುಗಳಾಗಿ ಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದರು.

1998ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊತ್ತಮೊದಲ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಧರ್ಮಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಕೆಲವು ಗುರುಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಬೀದರ್ ಶುಭವಾರ್ತೆ ಪ್ರಸಾರವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೇಟಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದರು. ಅದೇ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಫಾದರ್ ತೋಮಸ್‌ರವರು ಮಗದೊಮ್ಮೆ ಅಂದಿನ ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಧರ್ಮಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಧರ್ಮಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಹಾಗೂ ಮತ್ತೊಬ್ಬ ಧರ್ಮಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಬೀದರ್ ಧರ್ಮಪ್ರಸಾರ ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿದರು. ಆಗ ಅವರು ಬೀದರ್ ಧರ್ಮಪ್ರಸಾರವಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇವೆ ನೀಡಲು ದೈವಕರೆಯಲೊಂದು ದೈವಕರೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದರು. ಹಾಗೂ ಅದನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ಧರ್ಮಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಅಂದಿನ ಧರ್ಮಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾಗಿದ್ದ ಅತಿಪೂಜ್ಯ ಆಲೊಶಿಯಸ್ ಪೌಲ್ ಡಿ'ಸೋಜರವರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿ ಅಂದು ಬೀದರ್ ಶುಭವಾರ್ತೆ ಪ್ರಸಾರದ ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಧರ್ಮಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದ ಹಾಗೂ ಇಂದು ಧರ್ಮಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ಆಗಿರುವ ಬಿಷಪ್ ರಾಬರ್ಟ್ ಮಿರಾಂಡವರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿ ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಲು ವಿನಂತಿಸಿದರು.

ಹೀಗೆ 2000 ಇಸವಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೀದರ್ ಶುಭವಾರ್ತೆ ಪ್ರಸಾರವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದ ಫಾದರ್ ತೋಮಸ್‌ರವರು ಮೊದಲಿಗೆ ಹೋಲಿಕ್ರಾಸ್ ಶುಭವಾರ್ತೆ ಪ್ರಸಾರ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸಂತಪುರದಲ್ಲಿ 3 ವರುಷ, ನಂತರ ಕ್ರಿಸ್ತಶ್ರಮ ಶುಭವಾರ್ತೆ ಪ್ರಸಾರ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ಕೌಡಿಯಾಳ್, ಬಸವಕಲ್ಯಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ 3 ವರುಷ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಗುರುಗಳಾಗಿ ಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದರು.

2005 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಗುಲ್ಬರ್ಗಾ ಧರ್ಮಕ್ಷೇತ್ರವು ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಾಗ 2006 ಮೇ ತಿಂಗಳ 6ನೇ ತಾರೀಖಿನಿಂದ ಸಂತ ತೋಮಸರ ದೇವಾಲಯ ಶಹಬಾದ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ, 2 ವರುಷ, 2008 ಜೂನ್ ತಿಂಗಳಿನ 3ನೇ ತಾರೀಖಿನಿಂದ ಗುಲ್ಬರ್ಗಾ ಧರ್ಮಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 3 ವರುಷ, 2011 ಜೂನ್ ತಿಂಗಳ 16ನೇ ತಾರೀಖಿನಿಂದ ಗುಲ್ಬರ್ಗಾದ ಸಿರನೂರುನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸೇಕ್ರೆಡ್ ಹಾರ್ಟ್ ಕಿರು ಗುರುವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಧ್ಯಾತ್ಮಿಕ ಗುರುಗಳಾಗಿ 6 ವರುಷ, ಕೊನೆಗೆ 2017 ಮೇ ತಿಂಗಳ 7ನೇ ತಾರೀಖಿನಿಂದ ಕೊನೆಯ 4 ವರುಷಗಳನ್ನು ಬೀದರ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಭಾಲ್ಕಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಯೇಸು ಪವಿತ್ರ ರಕ್ಷಕರ ದೇವಾಲಯ ಭಾಲ್ಕಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಲ ಯೇಸು ಪುಣ್ಯಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿಯನ್ನು ನೋಡಿಕೊಂಡರು.

ಅವರಿಗೆ ಯಾಜಕ ಸೇವೆಯ ನಿವೃತ್ತಿಯ ತನಕ ಗುಲ್ಬರ್ಗಾ ಧರ್ಮಪ್ರಾಂತ್ಯದಲ್ಲೇ ಉಳಿದು ಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಗಾಧವಾದ ಮನಸ್ಸಿತ್ತು. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅವರನ್ನು, ಅವರ ನಿವೃತ್ತಿಯ ತನಕ ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಡಿ ಎಂದು ಗುಲ್ಬರ್ಗಾ ಧರ್ಮಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರೊಡನೆ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರು. ಆದರೆ ದೈವೇಚ್ಛೆಯೇ ಬೇರೆಯಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ಫಾದರ್ ತೋಮಸ್ ಡಿ'ಸೋಜರವರು ಆಧ್ಯಾತ್ಮಿಕತೆಗೆ, ಸರಳತೆಗೆ, ದೀನತೆಗೆ, ಸ್ವಜನಶಿಲತೆಗೆ, ಶ್ರಮ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮರ್ಪಣ ಮನೋಭಾವದ ಸೇವೆಗೆ ಪ್ರಸಿದ್ಧರು. ದಿವ್ಯಬಲಿಪೂಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕಾರಗಳನ್ನು ಅರ್ಪಿಸಲು ಅವರ ಮನಸ್ಸು ಸದಾ ಹಾತೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಅವರು ಸ್ನೇಹಮಯ ಹಾಗೂ ನಗುನಗುತ್ತ ಬಾಳುವ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ ಇತರರ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳತನ್ನೇ ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆಗೆ ಆದ್ಯತೆಯನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತ ಪ್ರಭುವಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪಾರ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸವಿಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು ಶಿಸ್ತಿನ ಜೀವನಕ್ರಮವನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿ ತಕ್ಕದಾದ ಶುಭ ಬಟ್ಟೆಬರೆಗಳನ್ನು ತೊಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು ಪ್ರತಿದಿನ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿಮಾಡುತ್ತ ಸರಳವಾದ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸರಳವಾದ ಭಾಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮನಮುಟ್ಟುವಂತೆ ದೇವರ ಶುಭಸಂದೇಶವನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಮೌನವಾಗಿ ಅನೇಕರಿಗೆ ಆಧ್ಯಾತ್ಮಿಕ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನ, ಆಪ್ತಸಮಾಲೋಚನೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತ ಜೀವನದ ಕಷ್ಟ ಸಂಕಷ್ಟಗಳನ್ನು ಎದುರಿಸಲು ಜನರಿಗೆ ಸಹಾಯ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಸಮರ್ಪಣಾ ಮನೋಭಾವದವರಾಗಿದ್ದು ತಮ್ಮ ಜ್ಞಾನದ ಮಾತುಗಳಿಂದ ಅವರು ಜನರನ್ನು ಸರಳತೆಯಿಂದ ದೇವರಡೆಗೆ ಒಲಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸದಾ ಹಾತೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು.

ಅನೇಕರಿಗೆ ಆಪ್ತಸಮಾಲೋಚನೆಗಳಿಂದ ಅವರ ಬದುಕಿನ ಕಷ್ಟ ನೋವುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬದುಕಿನ ಅರ್ಥವನ್ನು ಕಂಡುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕ್ರಿಸ್ತಿಯ ಮೌಲ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸಿ ಸಹಾಯ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಅನೇಕ ಮುಗ್ಧ ದಂಪತಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಯುವಜನರು ಅವರಿಂದ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನ ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಬಡವ ಬಲ್ಲಿದರ ಮೇಲೆ ಅಪಾರ ಪ್ರೀತಿ ತೋರಿಸಿ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಬದುಕನ್ನು ಗೆಲ್ಲುವ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೇಳಿ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು.

ಅವರ ಸ್ವಂತ ಕುಟುಂಬದೊಡನೆ ಅವರಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದ ನಿರಂತರ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಂದರ್ಭಕ್ಕನುಗುಣವಾದ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಂಭಾಷಣೆ ಅವರನ್ನು ಅವರ ಕುಟುಂಬದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಪ್ರೀತಿಯಿಂದ ಗೌರವಿಸಿ ಅವರೊಡನೆ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನ ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು.

ಫಾದರ್ ತೋಮಸ್ ಡಿ'ಸೋಜರವರ ಮರಣದಿಂದ ಎರಡು ಧರ್ಮಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳ ಓರ್ವ ಆದರ್ಶ ಯಾಜಕನನ್ನು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ನಮ್ಮ ಎರಡು ಧರ್ಮಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇವೆ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅವರ ಆತ್ಮಕ್ಕೆ ಫಲಭುಕ್ತಿಸ್ವರೂಪ ಚಿರಶಾಂತಿ ನೀಡಲಿ ಎಂಬುವುದು ನಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಎರಡು ಧರ್ಮಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳ ಯಾಜಕವೃಂದ ಕನ್ಯಾಸ್ತ್ರೀಯರು ಮತ್ತು ವಿಶ್ವಾಸಿಗಳ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಅವರ ಕುಟುಂಬದ ಸದ್ಯಸರಿಗೆ, ಅಪಾರ ಬಂಧುಬಳಗದವರಿಗೆ, ವಿಶೇಷವಾಗಿ ಫಾದರ್ ಫೆಡ್ರಿಕ್, ಫಾದರ್ ಜಯಪ್ರಕಾಶ , ಫಾದರ್ ಪ್ರೇಮ್ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ್, ಸಿಸ್ಟರ್ ಜುಲಿಯಾನ, ಸಿಸ್ಟರ್ ಮರಿಯಾ ಲೋಬೊ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಿಸ್ಟರ್ ಸಿಸಿಲಿಯಾ ಡಿ'ಸೋಜರವರಿಗೆ ಮನದಾಳದ ಸಂತಾಪವನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಫಾದರ್ ತೋಮಸ್‌ರವರನ್ನು ಅಗಲಿ ಕಂಬನಿ ಮಿಡಿಯುವ ಸರ್ವರಿಗೆ ಫಲಭುಯೇಸುಕ್ರಿಸ್ತರು ಪ್ರೀತಿಯ ಸಂತಾನ ನೀಡಲೆಂದು ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥಿಸುತ್ತೇವೆ.

“ಓ ಕರ್ತರೇ ಮೃತರಿಗೆ ನಿತ್ಯ ವಿಶ್ರಾಂತಿಯನ್ನು ದಯಾಪಾಲಿಸಿರಿ, ನಿತ್ಯ ಜ್ಯೋತಿಯನ್ನು ಅವರ ಮೇಲೆ ಪ್ರಕಾಶಿಸಲಿ”.



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA (CBCI)

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Cardinal Oswald Gracias
President

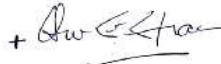
Your Eminence/ Your Grace/ Your Excellency

We had a fruitful Standing Committee meeting on Wednesday and Thursday April 27 and 28, 2021 and discussed several matters. The minutes will come to you later. But in a couple of days I will get back to you with information about what we discussed.

As you know, we are having a united campaign of fasting and prayer on Friday May 7, 2021. I am forwarding to you a suggested Prayer Service for the occasion. Please adapt it to your own local situation.

We are getting reports of many of our Priests and Nuns being affected all over the country and even of several deaths. We saw heart rendering scenes over television. We do pray that the worst is over with the arrival of aid and medical equipment from all over the world. We will discuss with Caritas India and CHAI what more the Church can do to help in the situation.

Kind regards and best wishes

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* Oswald Cardinal Gracias
Archbishop of Bombay &
President CBCI

May 1, 2021

