



DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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Circular No.217

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BISHOP OF GULBARGA

September 2023

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network: For people living on the margins: We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

In his message, Pope Francis acknowledges that migrants are compelled to flee due to poverty, fear or desperation. He highlights that some of the most conspicuous reasons for migration include persecutions, wars, atmospheric phenomena and dire poverty. In this context, the Holy Father emphasizes the need for collective efforts by individual nations and the international community to guarantee that everyone has the right to live in peace and with dignity in their own country, without being forced to emigrate. Furthermore, the Pope urges us to perceive migrants not merely as individuals in distress but as Christ himself, who seeks refuge at our doorstep.

Dear Rev Fathers, Sisters and Lay faithful, Jai Christ!

The Follow up of Laity Convention: You are aware, we had two Laity Conventions, on 5-6 and 20th August at Don Bosco Bidar and Mother Theresa Hall, Kalaburgi respectively. We witnessed the great enthusiasm of our lay leaders during these programmes, expressing their readiness to collaborate with us in building a 'Synodal Church', a truly participatory church. I thank you for your whole hearted cooperation. Matters discussed in these conventions were brought to a logical conclusion at the Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting at Sugyan on 26th August 2023. Accordingly I wish to give the following guidelines to be followed by you.

- a) We shall work hard with a vision of making every member of the Parish or Mission actively participate in the mission of the church of proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom and be a powerful witness of faith.
- b) As a first step, we shall strengthen our PPC, PFC and all other parish units such as MCA, Youth, Women Cells, BEC and other associations by making them truly faithful to their role.
- c) The Bishop will visit parishes and Missions and hold training programmes for the PPC and PFC members in the coming weeks and months and motivate them to play their rightful role.
- d) In view of obtaining the government benefits it is decided to have the data collection from all Catholic families at the earliest.
- e) The PPC will propose at least one name of a person and request him or her to initiate the process of obtaining Government benefits.
- f) We also propose to revive the dormant Women SHG's and start Men SHG's under ORBIT/Seva Sangam, but not before giving people a proper concept on SHG's

Kindly make an announcement to people of the above decisions during the Sunday/Week day Mass and request for the cooperation of the people.

Bhalki Jathra:

The Bala Yesu Jathra, is proposed to be held at Bhalki on the 10th, 11th and 12th of November. It is a significant and faith nourishing event for all pilgrims. It is essential that we work together in an organized manner to ensure the success of this Event. Fr. Roque Naveen D'Souza, Director of Bhalki, has graciously accepted the role of Convener, while Fr. Abhishek Moses, Assistant Director, has agreed to serve as Secretary. We invite suggestions for a relevant theme, which may be communicated to us at the earliest. A meeting to plan for the Jathra Event will be held on Wednesday, 6th September at 10:00 at Bhalki. All the Parish Priests/Mission Directors, Superiors of the Religious Communities and at least 2 leaders from every PPC are cordially invited to be present.

Visit of Caritas Team (Czech Republic): Dr. Jaroslav, Director of Caritas Prague, along with Mrs. Paula, Ms. Barbara (Economia), and Fr. Edwardo, (Vice Chairman, Caritas) paid a visit to Gulbarga diocese from 29-31st August. During their visit, they had opportunity to meet the Sponsored children, Sponsorship Programme Partners, Seva Sangam Director, MTCH Director and Staff. They expressed their joy and satisfaction for the progress we have made and conveyed their gratitude to all those who are involved. We whole heartedly thank Caritas Team for their concern shown to us through financial assistance.

- **St. Mother Theresa of Kolkata - Sept 5** : We are delighted to honor the legacy of Mother Theresa, an inspiration of compassion and love that captivated the whole world with her firm dedication to caring for the poor, dying, destitute, orphans and the elderly. In 1946 she answered the call to follow Christ into the slums and serve the poorest of the poor. She is inspiring us missionaries to imitate her example. Mother Theresa teaches us to serve with boundless love and trust in the Lord and we are proud to serve society under her patronage especially through ORBIT (Humnabad), and Mother Teresa Charitable Hospital in Kalaburagi. Our joint efforts bring hope to the poor, sick, and the suffering in our Diocese. Glad to know that on 5th September, ORBIT and Youth Commission have organized a Blood Donation Program from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Please encourage the youth to donate blood.
- **September 5th Teachers' Day**, a day to express our gratitude towards the Teachers who shape the minds of our children and equip them with the tools to become outstanding persons of tomorrow. A teacher is not just a mere instructor, but a source of inspiration, guidance, enlightenment, and motivation, who strives to bring out the best in every child. We are greatly thankful to all the teachers in our schools for their steadfast commitment and dedication providing the best education to all children. Happy Teachers' Day! Our heartfelt wishes and prayers are with you all.
- **Anniversary of Late Bishop Basil D'Souza**: We proudly honor Late Bishop Basil S D' Souza, the visionary founder of Bidar Mission, on the anniversary of his passing (Sept 5). His unwavering passion for missionary work inspired him to boldly establish the Bidar Mission in 1982. We are grateful for this Mission and pray that God, through his intercession, may bless us with the grace and dedication to continue our apostolic Zeal for the glory of God's Kingdom.
- **Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Sept 8)**: The birth of every human child is said to be a concrete expression of God's love for humanity. The birth of Mary brought great joy to the entire humanity, because of her was born Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the mankind. Our Lady's Birthday has been described as 'the hope of the world and the

dawn of Salvation'. As children of our heavenly mother, we joyfully celebrate her birthday and ask her assistance to be firm in our vocation amid all trials and tribulations.

The church also celebrates our Blessed Mother Mary's birthday as the Girl Child Day. The best way to show our love to Mother Mary is to love and respect the girl children and women in the society as they need to enjoy gender-equity, freedom, opportunities for education and employment in our society. Let us celebrate the Girl Child Day meaningfully accepting the girl child as God's precious gift. Happy feast to you all!

- **New Appointment:** Congratulations to Fr. Santhosh Dias on his Appointment as National Secretary for the Commission for Health under CBCI. We wish him all the best for a successful and fruitful ministry.

Commissions Speak:

Youth Commission:

1. With the cooperation of Basic Ecclesiastical Community Commission, a youth gathering has been scheduled for the Basavaklyan zone at Muchalamba on the 10th of September. The event will begin at 9:30 am and conclude at 4:30 pm. Fr. Arogyadass will facilitate the programme.
2. The third phase of the ISI Training program will take place from September 22nd to 24th. This event is exclusively for those who have previously attended the training. The programme will be held at Bhalki from 6:30 pm on the 22nd to 2:30 pm on the 24th.
3. A youth retreat has been scheduled for October 1st and 2nd at Bhalki. Let us encourage all youth to participate in this event.

- Fr. Sachin Christy, Secretary, Youth Commission

Family Commission: PRE-CANA Programme will be held on the 23 - 24th (Saturday and Sunday) at ORBIT. The programme begins on Saturday Evening at 05.00 pm. Please let me know the number of candidates from your Parish/mission center who wish to attend this programme by 20th September. - Fr. Lawrence Arun, Secretary, Family Commission

Commission for Education: GDES has arranged a Counseling Course for Teachers on 9th at St. Joseph School, Bidar at 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and on 10th at Sugyan, Bishop's House in Gulbarga, the same timings. Warm welcome to teachers from GDES and Religious schools to participate in this Course. The Resource Person of the course will be Rev. Fr Joyson Vas SJ, who did this job wonderfully well last month. I hope, you will grab this opportunity to enhance your Counseling skills in the field of education and counseling.

- Fr. Steevan Veigas, Secretary, GDES

Commission for Prison Ministry: There would be a meeting of all the prison ministry volunteers at St. Mary's Cathedral, Gulbarga on 18th September 2023 from 2pm to 4pm. Sr. Theresa Mascarenhas State Co-ordinator of the PMI will address the gathering. All the sisters and priests who are engaged in this ministry are requested to attend the meeting and also, kindly do encourage lay volunteers to join the same.

- Sr Vasantha Prathipati SSpS, Secretary, Prison Ministry

The Commission for Migrants and Refugees: cordially invites the Diocesan Clergy and religious congregations to attend a formal Session/Awareness on Migrants' Rights and the challenges they face on Saturday, September 23, 2023, at 6 p.m. via Google Meet. We kindly request your participation in this important gathering.

- Fr. Lawrence D'Almeida CSC, Secretary, Commission for Migrants and Refugees

PROGRAMME IN SEPTEMBER 2023

1	Visit to Hebbal Mission
3	Visit to Halbarga Mission
6	Jathra Meeting, Bhalki
7	Harihara Matha Shrine Feast, Shimoga
8	Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary, Cathedral
10	PPC/PFC Training Programme, Itga
11-15	Seminary Board Meeting/ KRCBC/CCK Meetings
16	MTCH – GB Meeting
17	PPC/PFC Training, Santpur
18	Village Visit, Hakiyal
24	PPC/PFC Training Programme, Bidar
26	Pastoral Visit to Nagral/Mural Village
28	Pasotoral Visit to Hupla and Siddeshwar



Kripalaya, Bishop's Hosue
1st September 2023

† Robert Miranda
Bishop of Gulbarga

WISH YOU HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

DATE	NAMES	DATE	NAMES
3	Fr. Vincent Kumar, St. Joseph, Bidar	15	Sr. Simprose BS, Chittapur
4	Sr. Celine Fernandes.DHM, Indi	17	Fr Robert Rodrigues SJ
5	Fr. Deepak Furtado	18	Sr. Janet Dias UFS, Shahapur
9	Sr. Josephine Vimala CCV, Vijayapur	19	Fr. John Crasta SJ, Bhalki
12	Fr Vincent Pereira, MTCH	22	Fr. Santhosh Dias
12	Sr. Maria Kawadi SAB, Shahabad	22	Sr. Harshitha CstT, Kalaburagi
14	Fr. Jeevan D'Souza SJ	23	Fr. Tomy Chirakkal SDB, Kalaburgi
15	Sr. Elsy SJT, Vijayapura	23	Sr. Leena B D'Souza SCCG, Talikote
15	Sr. Vinny Gonsalves SSpS, Ekamba		

In the News

- Laity Convention was held on 5th and 6th August and also in Gulbarga on 20th August for the PPC members' at Don Bosco, Chikpet was very successful. A total of 300 members actively participated in these events. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dear Fathers and Sisters who actively participated and collaborated in making this event a success. We are also grateful to Most Gerald Isaac Lobo and his team for serving as the resource person for this programme.
- Rallies were held at Bidar and Gulbarga to express our solidarity with those who suffered violence in Manipur. A memorandum was presented to the Deputy Commissioner during this protest rallies.
- The Inauguration of the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) took place in the month of July and August at the Ujini, Hulsoor, Talmadigi, Humnabad, Jalasangi, Bhalki and Santpur. Thanks to Fr. Abhishek Moses, Secretary for the Commission for Proclamation, as well as all the fathers and sisters who contributed to the formation of the minds and hearts of little ones, our little missionarlies.
- The Prison Commission Unit organized an Independence Day celebration at Aurad Sub Prison on 14th of August.
- On the 16th of August, on the occasion of the pastoral visit to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel, Beeri B village, (Bhalki mission), the renovated Chapel was Blessed during

the Eucharist Celebration. The event was beautifully organized by the local community and the Bhalki Team.

- The B E C training programs at ORBIT for Humnabad Zone on 20th and St. Josph, Bidar on 27th of August were a great success. The training was very informative and beneficial.
 - Through the support of Azim Pramji Foundation, Aids and Appliances were distributed to 30 children with physical deformities at Seva Sangama on 24th of August.
 - The Diocesan Pastoral Council held on 26th August at Sugyan. The Secretaries of various commissions presented their concerns and perspectives during the meeting. The Bishop presented the role of the Pastoral Council in the Diocese. The Council members actively engaged in the session, contributing their valuable suggestions during the group discussion.
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MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FOR THE 109th WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES
2023

(24 September 2023)

“Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay”

Dear brothers and sisters!

The migratory flows of our times are the expression of a complex and varied phenomenon that, to be properly understood, requires a careful analysis of every aspect of its different stages, from departure to arrival, including the possibility of return. As a contribution to this effort, I have chosen to devote the Message for the 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees to the freedom that should always mark the decision to leave one’s native land.

“Free to leave, free to stay” was the title of an initiative of solidarity promoted several years ago by the Italian Episcopal Conference as a concrete response to the challenges posed by contemporary migration movements. From attentive listening to the Particular Churches, I have come to see that ensuring that that freedom is a widely shared pastoral concern.

“An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said: ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him’ (Mt 2:13). The flight of the Holy Family into Egypt was not the result of a free decision, nor were many of the migrations that marked the history of the people of Israel. The decision to migrate should always be free, yet in many cases, even in our day, it is not. Conflicts, natural disasters, or more simply the impossibility of living a dignified and prosperous life in one’s native land is forcing millions of persons to leave. Already in 2003, Saint John Paul II stated that “as regards migrants and refugees, building conditions of peace means in practice being seriously committed to safeguarding first of all the right not to emigrate, that is, the right to live in peace and dignity in one’s own country” (*Message for the 90th World Day of Migrants and Refugees*, 3).

“They took their livestock and the goods that they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and they came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him” (Gen 46:6). A grave famine forced Jacob and his entire family to seek refuge in Egypt, where his son Joseph ensured their survival.

Persecutions, wars, atmospheric phenomena and dire poverty are among the most visible causes of forced migrations today. Migrants flee because of poverty, fear or desperation. Eliminating these causes and thus putting an end to forced migration calls for shared commitment on the part of all, in accordance with the responsibilities of each. This commitment begins with asking what we can do, but also what we need to stop doing. We need

to make every effort to halt the arms race, economic colonialism, the plundering of other people's resources and the devastation of our common home.

“All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need” (*Acts 2:44-45*). The ideal of the first Christian community seems so distant from today's reality! To make migration a choice that is truly free, efforts must be made to ensure to everyone an equal share in the common good, respect for his or her fundamental rights, and access to an integral human development. Only in this way will we be able to offer to each person the possibility of a dignified and fulfilling life, whether individually or within families. Clearly, the principal responsibility falls to the countries of origin and their leaders, who are called to practice a good politics – one that is transparent, honest, farsighted and at the service of all, especially those most vulnerable. At the same time, they must be empowered to do this, without finding themselves robbed of their natural and human resources and without outside interference aimed at serving the interests of a few. Where circumstances make possible a decision either to migrate or to stay, there is a need to ensure that the decision be well informed and carefully considered, in order to avoid great numbers of men, women and children falling victim to perilous illusions or unscrupulous traffickers.

“In this year of jubilee you shall return, every one of you, to your property” (*Lev 25:13*). For the people of Israel, the celebration of the jubilee year represented an act of collective justice: “everyone was allowed to return to their original situation, with the cancellation of all debts, restoration of the land, and an opportunity once more to enjoy the freedom proper to the members of the People of God” (*Catechesis*, 10 February 2016). As we approach the Holy Year of 2025, we do well to remember this aspect of the jubilee celebrations. Joint efforts are needed by individual countries and the international community to ensure that all enjoy the right not to be forced to emigrate, in other words, the chance to live in peace and with dignity in one's own country. This right has yet to be codified, but it is one of fundamental importance, and its protection must be seen as a shared responsibility on the part of all States with respect to a common good that transcends national borders. Indeed, since the world's resources are not unlimited, the development of the economically poorer countries depends on the capacity for sharing that we can manage to generate among all countries. Until this right is guaranteed – and here we are speaking of a long process – many people will still have to emigrate in order to seek a better life.

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me” (*Mt 25:35-36*). These words are a constant admonition to see in the migrant not simply a brother or sister in difficulty, but Christ himself, who knocks at our door. Consequently, even as we work to ensure that in every case migration is the fruit of a free decision, we are called to show maximum respect for the dignity of each migrant; this entails accompanying and managing waves of migration as best we can, constructing bridges and not walls, expanding channels for a safe and regular migration. In whatever place we decide to build our future, in the country of our birth or elsewhere, the important thing is that there always be a community ready to welcome, protect, promote and integrate everyone, without distinctions and without excluding anyone.

The synodal path that we have undertaken as a Church leads us to see in those who are most vulnerable – among whom are many migrants and refugees – special companions on our way, to be loved and cared for as brothers and sisters. Only by walking together will we be able to go far and reach the common goal of our journey.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 11 May 2023