



DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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Circular No. 225

† ROBERT M. MIRANDA
BISHOP OF GULBARGA

March 2024

Holy Father's Intention for the Month: For the New Martyrs: We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

"There will always be martyrs among us. This is the sign that we are on Jesus' path. It is the Lord's Blessing that there be among the People of God, someone who can offer this witness of martyrdom." "In persecutions there is always the presence of Jesus who accompanies us, the presence of Jesus who comforts us and the strength of the Holy Spirit that helps us to go forward. Let us not be discouraged when a life that is faithful to the Gospel draws persecution from people. There is the Holy Spirit who sustains us in this journey." - *Pope Francis*

Dear Fathers, Sisters and brethren, *Jai Christa*,

I had a great learning from brother Bishops at 36th CBCI General Body Meeting at St John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bangalore from 30th January to 7th February on the theme: Church's Response to the Current Socio-Political Situation in the Country and the Benefits and Challenges of Artificial Intelligence. I learnt a lot from the experience of a number of Bishops I met. Sorry to say that many Bishops are facing problems from the fundamentalists in their dioceses. Compared to those dioceses we are blessed to be serving the Lord by and large in a peaceful atmosphere. There are places where the missions are vibrant and missionaries are working under many adverse situations. Let's remember to pray for them always.

The church, in India is facing great challenges in the current socio-political situations. The least we can do in this context is to educate our people to vote for a secular party. Let's do this in all earnestness. We also felt, prayer is the only weapon we have to fight the enemy. The church in India has invited all people to **observe Friday 22nd March as a day of prayer and fasting.** Please instruct your people of the importance of this day of prayer and fast and organize the same at the parish in an appropriate way. The recent incident in Mangalore (Gerosa School) is only a sign how the communal forces are working. Let us be vigilant, 'Gentle like the dove and shrewd as snakes' as the Lord puts it (Mt 10:16). We are planning to organize a 'Legal Cell' in the diocese. Please pray that it may be successful. Please take some time and read the enclosed statement of the CBCI and get to know the mind of the church on all matters including AI (Artificial Intelligence). Thank you for praying for the success of this Event.

Diocesan MCA Convention at Bhalki: I am delighted to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you dear Fathers, Sisters, Brothers and Lay Animators for your invaluable support and dedication during the MCA children's convention held from 9-11 February at Bhalki. Your efforts in motivating the children, bringing them to the venue, and your presence played a significant role in making the event a resounding success. It was like a mini *Jathra!* The meticulous planning and execution were evident, and I am truly grateful for your commitment.

We specially thank Mons. Ambrose Pitchaimuttu, National Director of Pontifical Mission Organizations for his gracious presence at the convention and for his generous financial assistance. We also thank the Good Will Mission Group.

Thanks to Rev. Fr Abhishek, Secretary to the Commission for Proclamation and Evangelization, Rev. Fr Roque N. D' Souza Parish Priest, Holy Redeemer Church, Bhalki and Rev. Fr Clary D' Souza, Dean of Bidar Deanery.

The theme "*Yesu Nanagagi, Nanu Yarigagi?*" resonated deeply with everyone, and it was inspiring to witness the enthusiasm and passion of the children throughout the program. Your cooperation and hard work behind the scenes did not go unnoticed. Thank you one and all.

Please take a moment to view the list of parish/mission and the corresponding amounts contributed by children on MCA Convention. We appreciate their generosity towards the poor and needy children. Please convey my thanks to all the children.

St Joseph's Church, Bidar & Jamgi	3640.00	St Thomas Church, Shahabad	1250.00
St Anthony Church, Hulsoor	3589.00	Queen of Heaven Church, Chittapur	1221.00
Holy Redeemer Church, Bhalki	3055.00	St Francis of Assisi Church, Halbarga	1136.00
Maria Ashram, Jalasangi	2700.00	St Joseph the Worker Church, Muchalama	855.00
Mary Pavada Mathe Church, Itga	2641.00	Orbit, Humnabad	775.00
St Lawrence Church, Talmadgi	2251.00	Sacred Heart Church, Bidar	550.00
Holy Cross Church, Santhpur	1534.00	St Paul's Church, Ekamba	292.00
Christ the King Church, Ujini	1533.00	St Ann's Church, Wadi	60.00
Sankalpa Study Home, Gulbarga	1450.00	Grand Total	28,532.00

International Women's Day (March 8): The theme for the Women's Day 2024 is "ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಲಿಂಗಸಮಾನತೆ (Gender equality with economic empowerment)". On this occasion, I extend heartfelt greetings to all women in our Diocese, wishing them abundant divine blessings. I express deep gratitude for the invaluable role women religious play in pastoral work in the Diocese. May this day serve as a moment to acknowledge and honor women's contributions in the Church.

Thanks to all at ORBIT, *Seva Sangama* and all the FBOs working for women development all over our Diocese. Special thanks to our religious Sisters who along with social workers, coordinators and animators work hard for women empowerment. You are also requested to observe March 10, Sunday as Women's Day in the parish. The Programmes of ORBIT will be on March 12th at Basavakalyan, 16th at Bhalki, 23rd at Humnabad.

Anniversary of the Election as Supreme Pontiff Pope Francis (March 13): Cardinal George Mario Bergoglio was chosen as the 266th pontiff in the Church on 13th March 2013 and inspired by the great example of St Francis of Assisi, he chose to be called 'Francis'. We thank God for his leadership in the church and throughout the world. Let us earnestly pray God to bless him with good health and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (March 19): St Joseph is the patron saint of the Catholic Church, fathers, migrants, workers and also many Parishes and Institutions in our Diocese. He is portrayed as a just man and a model of faith for all believers. He is also recognized as a worker, symbolizing fulfilment through service to

others, making his life an example for all engaged in various forms of work. I invite the youth in every parish to take initiative to celebrate the Feast of St Joseph honouring their own fathers during the celebration. Let us all entrust our mission diocese to his care.

Chrism Mass

Chrism Mass will be celebrated on **Thursday, 21st March 2024** at **Cathedral**. It is a blessed occasion we all come together, particularly the priests along with Bishop united in Christ the High Priest to bless the Holy Oils of Chrism, Catechumen and Anointing the Sick and experience the joy of the *Unum Presbyterium*.

It is also a day of Prayer and Recollection for all the Priests and the Religious. Rev. Fr Stanislaus, Professor at St Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore, has kindly consented to be the resource person of the day. The day's programme will begin with the prayer at 09.30 AM and will end with the Chrism Mass at 05.00 PM. I request all of you to be present. Just as we prepare our people, let us also spiritually prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Paschal *Triduum*.

Please exhort our faithful to participate in the Chrism Mass. Mission Centre Directors, please remember to bring Holy Oil containers. The programme details will be sent to you soon.

Holy Week and Easter: We begin the Holy Week on Sunday 24th March. I wish and pray the liturgy at your parish/mission becomes a faith experience and catechesis to all the faithful. Please prepare well all things especially Word of God you are preaching on these solemn celebrations. The Paschal *Triduum* begins at sunset on Holy Thursday when Christ accomplishes the work of Redemption and enters into the glory. We commemorate the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord observing the Solemn Liturgy of the Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday. Please read diligently the instructions given in the ORDO as well as the Missal before you celebrate the Easter *Triduum*, and your liturgy of *Triduum* will become meaningful, beautiful and according to the mind of the church. Wish you all a meaningful Paschal *Triduum*.

I extend heartfelt Easter blessings to each of you. Kindly convey my Easter greetings to your beloved parishioners and fellow members of your religious communities. May the Risen Lord enrich our lives with His blessings of happiness, serenity, and optimism as we continue to fulfill the divine mission bestowed upon us.

Live Way of the Cross: Santpur Mission Team with the collaboration of the youth of Aurad zone will be organizing on Friday, 22nd March at 05:00 PM at Holy Cross Mission, Santpur. There will be Adoration, Sacrament of Confession and Healing Prayer.

Bidar Mission Team will be organizing on Good Friday, 29th March from 10:30 AM to 01:30 PM at Sai Ground (Opp. Stadium), Bidar. I request you all to encourage the youth of the zone and all people to participate in this spiritual journey.

Faith Formation Camp: to be held at your Missions/Parishes from 29th March to 4th April 2024 for all the children from Std IV to IX. The Commission for the Catechetics has prepared the lessons and other teaching material for you. These lessons provide you with only the required basic material. The teacher must study them, take pain to prepare the lessons suitable to the class one is teaching adding his or her faith-experience. You can enrich the lesson by giving better examples, adding appropriate songs, action songs, dramatization etc. Make your lessons more and more experiential and let it be a joyful faith experience for our children receiving the knowledge of faith, values and convictions.

The children selected for the Sankalpa Camp are exempted from this. They will have something similar here.

PRERANA Camp: You are welcome to hold *Prerana* Camp between April 14th to May 10th for all the children from 1st to 9th Standard desiring to study especially those deprived of good education in the villages. The afternoon time can be utilized to help children to know their talents organizing various faith formation and cultural activities. Let there be Prayer, *Bhajans*, Mass and Rosary every day. Please engage good teachers and able Camp Masters. Also, please get the budget approved before you begin the camp.

House Blessing: The practice of House Blessing is a beautiful tradition preserved for centuries in the Church. Visiting the parishioners in their homes during the Easter time, the parish priest represents the Risen Lord meeting his people in the families bringing forgiveness, peace and hope of a new life with the Lord. I request all the parish priests to begin Family Blessings soon after Easter and complete the same before the Easter Season ends.

Family Prayer Books: The Family Prayer books are available in the Bishop's office. I request you to introduce them to the people in your parish.

Parish/Mission Level Evaluation: The annual evaluation of the pastoral plan activities will take place on 25th and 26th of March. The directors are requested to send the reports along with the annual budget by 15th April.

Election Enrolment: As by now many of our youth and all the social workers are trained to register the names of the voters, I request all the parish priests to organize registration at the parish soon after the coming Sunday/Weekday Mass. For Gulbarga zone, training is arranged at the Cathedral on Saturday, 02 March at 03:00 PM. Directors, please send your representatives.

Legal Cell: Present socio-political situation calls us for preparedness to face the challenges that may arise on our way ahead. It's found urgent that every diocese should form a Legal Cell to take up issues affecting our Christian community. Therefore, a legal cell that aims at preparedness to face atrocities on the Church, organizing legal awareness, offering legal consultation in specific cases, and building up good rapport with the legal fraternity at the Taluka and District headquarters is formed under the leadership of Fr Vincent Pereira along with Fr Prashant Sequeira SJ assisted by Sr Vasantha SSpS, Adv. Augustine, Adv. Amal Nathan and a few others. While thanking them for taking up this task, I wish them success. Their contact numbers given below. Kindly pass on this message to others. Fr Vincent Pereira: 96322 66168, Fr Prashant Sequeira: 9845815709, Sr Vasantha: 9581167577, Adv. Augustine: 9845869414, Adv. Amal Nathan: 9880119459.

From the Procurator: Those who have not remitted the ear marked collections kindly remit by the 10th of March. Kindly remit all the Mission centre collections (collections of 1st Sundays) up to March by the 10th of March.

This year Holy week celebrations fall in the Month of March. Kindly account the collections of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter and Lenten Campaign collections in the month of April 2024 (i.e. 02-04-2024).

Session on Synthesis Report and Joint Session on Council of Priests' and Diocesan Pastoral Councils

We are meeting on Saturday **9th March** to deliberate on the Synodal Synthesis.

This will be followed by the joint session of COP and DPC.

Time : 09:30AM - 02:00 PM

Venue : SUGYAN, Pastoral Centre

We have combined these meetings due to time constraint. Kindly cooperate.

Commissions Speak:

The Annual Evaluation of DPP: The DPP Annual Evaluation has been fixed for Saturday 16th March. Kindly prepare the commission report as per the prepared format given to you and mail a copy to us at the earliest. We also need sufficient time to go through your reports and get back to you for any suggestions. Secretaries please attend without fail.

- Fr Stany Lobo, Coordinator, DPP

Commission for Proclamation and Evangelization: On March 2nd at the *Kristashrama* Kowdiyal, Lay evangelizers will engage in activities, share their faith experiences, and serve as inspiring examples to others. They'll contribute significantly to the spiritual atmosphere and collective growth of the retreat community.

- Fr Abhishek Moses, Secretary, Commission for Proclamation and Evangelization

Commission for Catechetics: Kindly Celebrate "Catechism day" in your parish community on 10th March. Make this day a memorable one for the children.

- Fr Deepak Furtado, Secretary, Commission for Catechetics

Commission for Youth: The ICYM along with Commission for Family and Sacred Heart Church, Bidar is organizing a Lenten vigil service on 7th March. The vigil will be held from 09:00 PM to 05:00 AM at the Sacred Heart Church premises. All are welcome to join us this special event.

- Fr Sachin Christy, Secretary, Commission for Youth

Commission for Family Life: PRE-CANA Programme will be held on 6th-7th April (Saturday and Sunday) at ORBIT. The programme begins on Saturday Evening 09.30 am.

- Fr Lawrence Arun, Secretary, Commission for Family Life

Commission for Education: SANKALPA-2024 is scheduled from April 3rd to 25th for current 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students at Sugyan, Diocesan Pastoral Centre. Mission Directors/Parish Priests are requested to encourage only eligible and interested children for the program and to get the maximum benefit.

- Fr Steevan P. Veigas, Secretary, Commission for Education

Commission for Social Communications: *Premavani* Communications is organizing two days workshop on AI Tools (Artificial Intelligence) on March 12 and 13 for the active and smart work into our office work. Requesting you to register online and take part in it. Please bring your laptop/smart phone. Fr Anil Fernandes, Director of Canara Communications, Mangalore diocese will be the resource person. Accommodation will be provided for those who stay back.

- Fr Roshan D' Souza, Secretary, Commission for Social Communications.

Commission for Vocation and Formation: The Commission for Vocation and Formation is hosting 'Vocation Camp-2024' for boys on April 4-5 at Holy Redeemer Church, Bhalki, begins on 4th evening at 06.00 PM and ends on 5th evening at 04:00 PM. Kindly encourage boys of Standard VIII and above. For more information contact Dn Aron Vas, Vocation Promoter - 6366072347

- Fr Deepak Furtado, Secretary, Commission for Vocation and Formation


Commission for Migrants: Requesting all the parish priests and directors of the parishes and mission centres to once again fill up the survey forms of the migrants in respective parishes and centres as information given is insufficient. Forms will be sent to you soon.

- Fr Lawrence D' Almeida, Secretary, Commission for Migrants

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME: MARCH 2024

03	- Mass at Shahapur Church
04 - 07	- Retreat for Bishop's of Karnataka, Dharwad
09	- Joint Meeting of Council of Priests, Diocesan Pastoral Council and Synthesis of Synod
10-11	- Pastoral Visit, Chittapur
11-12	- GDES School Evaluation
13	- Workshop on Artificial Intelligence
14	- Visit to Talikote, Muddebihal, Kanakal
15	- MTCH - GB Meeting
16	- DPP Annual Evaluation
17	- USFS Provincial's Visit
18 - 20	- GDES School Evaluation
21	- Chrism Mass
22	- Day of Prayer and Fasting
24	- Palm Sunday, Cathedral
25 -26	- GDES School Evaluation
28	- Holy Thursday
	- Faith Formation Camp Begins
30	- Easter Vigil Mass, Cathedral

Kripalaya, Bishop's House
01 March 2024


 † Robert Miranda
Bishop of Gulbarga

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS AND SISTERS

02	Fr K.C Mathew SDB	19	Fr Vincent Thoras
03	Sr Daisy L. SCB	19	Sr Suma SCB
03	Fr Stany Lobo, Vicar General	19	Sr Roseline Paul SMMI
07	Sr Felicitas BS	20	Fr Mathew SDB
08	Fr Deepak Thomas OCD	21	Sr Aloka DC
08	Sr Sulochana Kanavalli UFS	21	Sr Benita Gonsalves SCCG
09	Sr M Reema Janet BS	22	Sr Apoline MascarenasUFS
11	Sr Anita Antony UFS	27	Fr Abhishek Moses
12	Sr Grace Lima, CSST	28	Sr Rishika Rose CSST
12	Sr Amala Rani SJT	29	Fr Ronald Serrao SJ
14	Sr Lynette Lopes CSJ		

News February 2024

ICYM Patron's Day Celebration (Feb 07): The youth of Humnabad zone celebrated their Patron's Day on 7th February 2024 at St Lawrence Church, Talmadige. The youth of Mariashram, Jalasangi, and Talmadge participated in the event, which included a Holy Hour, Holy Eucharist, and a talk on the life of St Gonsalo Garcia. In memory of this celebration, YouCat Bibles were distributed to the participants. The celebration was a meaningful and spiritually enriching experience for all who attended.

MCA Convention at Bhalki (Feb 09-11): The MCA children's convention, held at the diocesan level from 09-11 February at Bhalki under the theme "Jesus for me and I am for Jesus," witnessed an impressive turnout of over 400 students. The event, aimed at fostering spiritual growth and a deeper connection to their faith, proved to be a great success. The convention, meticulously organized, featured a variety of activities and sessions tailored to engage and inspire the young participants. The convention provided a platform for the children to strengthen their faith, build friendships, and deepen their understanding of their role in spreading the message of love and compassion.

Ordination to Diaconate (Feb 10): Bishop ordained Bro Francis and Bro Regi Ronald Pinto as deacons on 10th February 2024, in a solemn ceremony at Holy Redeemer Church, Bhalki. The event was graced by a congregation filled with priests, sisters, children of MCA Convention, family of the two brothers, friends, and well-wishers, all gathered to witness this sacred occasion with reverence and joy.

Blessing and Inauguration of two Renovated Chapels in Santpur (Feb 13): On the 13th of February, a momentous occasion unfolded in the diocese as Bishop inaugurated two beautifully renovated chapels, *Christa Prabha* Chapel located in Borgi and *Karunaalu Yesu* Chapel in Kandugol, marking a significant milestone in the spiritual journey of the faithful of Santpur parish. Bishop blessed the chapels and offered prayers for the faithful gathered. Thanks to Fr Lawrence Arun & Team.

Virtual Training for Voter ID card Registration (Feb 19): On February 19, 2024, the Commission for Youth, Social Work and Commission for Laity conducted a virtual training session to educate and assist individuals in registering for their Voter ID cards. The event aimed to increase voter participation and ensure that eligible citizens are equipped with the necessary information and resources to exercise their right to vote.

Mega Bible Quiz (Feb 25): Commission for youth organized a Mega Bible Quiz on 25 February 2024 at Sacred Heart Church, Bidar. Eleven teams participated in this event, showcasing their knowledge and understanding of the scriptures. The event was well-attended, with 69 youth participating, reflecting the enthusiasm and interest among the youth in engaging with the Bible. Jalasangi Center secured first place, Santhpur Centre came in second, and Ujini Centre secured third place. Thanks to Fr Sachin for this special initiative.

NECROLOGY

Mr John DSouza (87 Years), F/o Rev. Fr Mark D' Souza SAC, Director of Muchalamba, entered into the eternal rest on 13 February 2024 and the funeral was held on 14 February 2023 at St John the Evangelist Church, Madhur, Mysore.

May He receive him in His Eternal abode.

Our heartfelt condolences to dear Fr Mark and all his family members