



# DIOCESE OF GULBARGA

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Circular No. 236

**†ROBERT M. MIRANDA**  
**BISHOP OF GULBARGA**

February 2025

**Holy Father's Intention for the Month: For vocations to the priesthood and religious life:** Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

Dear Fathers, Sisters and Brethren, *Jai Christ!*

**1. Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life (Feb 02):** The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, celebrated on February 2nd, marks the occasion when Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord, in accordance with the Law of Moses. On this day, the liturgy encourages a procession where the faithful hold lighted candles, symbolizing Christ as the light of the world, and includes the blessing of candles.

This feast is closely linked to the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life, as both emphasize Christ's dedication to the Father and the significance of the consecrated life within the Church. It serves as a reminder of the virtues of obedience to God's will, along with the poverty and chastity embraced by those who dedicate themselves to a consecrated life. On this special day, we offer prayers for all religious priests, sisters, and brothers serving in our diocese, expressing heartfelt gratitude for their invaluable service and collaboration in the mission of the Church.

Day of the Consecrated Life will be celebrated at the diocesan level on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at Mother of Divine Grace Cathedral, Gulbarga. As we are celebrating this as a Jubilee Year programme, I invite all the Diocesan and Religious Priests, Sisters and Brothers serving this diocese to attend the celebration.

**2. MCA and Youth Jubilee 2025:** MCA Jubilee programme on 12-14 January 2025 and Youth Jubilee programme on 24-26 January 2025 was a grand success. Thanks to Directors, animators, Fr Abhishek Moses, Secretary of Evangelization Commission and Fr Sachin Christy, Secretary of Youth Commission for their tireless efforts that made it a memorable event. We are indeed happy about children participating so well in the liturgy, talks, praying and various educative entertainments. Happy to note, children have contributed Rs. 28,118.00 as their contribution to Pontifical Society of Holy Childhood. Our youth are now ready to organize programmes in their respective missions and parishes. Please give them the 'space' and opportunities to serve the community in the village or parish or mission level.

**3. CCBI General Body Meeting:** 36<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly of CCBI is being held from 27<sup>th</sup> January to 4<sup>th</sup> February at XIM University Bhubaneswar, Odisha with the theme: "Discerning Synodal Pathways for Mission". Please pray for this assembly of the Bishops (CCBI) and the meeting to be fruitful.

**4. Deanery Review Meetings:** As deanery recollections will go along with Day of the Consecrated, I request the Deans to hold half yearly review of Parish Pastoral Plan Implementation – Evaluation and Reporting on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> with following Agenda:

1. Parish Pastoral Plan Evaluation and Reporting.
2. Basic Ecclesial Community: Plan for the Deanery Level Jubilee programme and propose two convenient dates.
3. Family Commission: Plan for the Deanery Level Marriage enrichment programme and propose two convenient dates.

Deans will submit the report by 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and will also collaborate with the respective Secretaries to organize the proposed programmes.

**5. Jubilee Cross:** Please note, as mentioned in the last circular, the Jubilee Cross will be taken to all Catholic families in the respective Zones. However, I am not sure whether it has been planned according to the circular issued last month. Zonal leaders are requested to submit the programme to the chancery at the earliest

**6. Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes (Feb 11):** This feast commemorates the apparitions of the Virgin Mary to Saint Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France, in 1858. It was at Lourdes that Our Lady called herself “the Immaculate Conception” and gave the world her message that we must repent for our sins. We also celebrate this day as the ‘World Day of the Sick’. Saint John Paul II instituted the World Day of the Sick on this day of the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes to pray for the sick. This day is a significant event in the Catholic Church that emphasizes the importance of prayer, closeness and care for the sick. Let’s then on this day offer our prayers for people suffering due to various illnesses and those who care for the sick.

**7. From the Procurator:** The Interim Audit for the Diocese of Gulbarga and CDSB is scheduled to commence in the first week of February 2025. I request everyone who has not yet submitted their accounts to do so at the earliest.

**8. Mother Theresa Charitable Hospital Received a Special Donation of One Cr:** from a Donor through Fr Anil Crasta for the extension of its building to provide care for the mentally ill and also construct a Chapel in the hospital campus. Thanks to Fr Anil Crasta for his cooperation and concern. God bless the Donor and his family who prefers to be anonymous. Here below you'll find a message from the Donor:

*“Dear Bishop, This is to inform you that I am making a donation in the form of grant to construct Padre Pio Destitute Home and chapel only meant to cater to the rehabilitation of the mentally ill persons rescued from the streets of Bidar which can later be extended to Gulbarga as it is the Mission envisioned by my dear friend Fr Anil Crasta, at his ordination to priesthood. It is fulfilment of his noble mission desire and his tireless, committed and faithful work for the downtrodden that has moved me to make this donation as grant to realize his dream mission. I don't wish to be named anywhere in records, not even in the books of accounts or walls of building. My friend Fr Anil Crasta and his missionary zeal is the source of inspiration for this contribution. Therefore, kindly make a mention of only this full message in your communication to the diocesan priests and religious barring my name which will not be mentioned to you by Fr Anil Crasta. He will be the point person for me and for you for everything. I request Your Lordship to kindly adhere to all the conditions that I have asked you all to follow as per the notarized affidavit and inaugurate the building on Dec 8, 2025 as I love Immaculate Conception. Your in love of Christ, A dear friend of Fr Anil Crasta, whom I admire the most.”*

### **Commissions Speak:**

**Commission for Family Life:** A Marriage Preparation Course will be held at ORBIT on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of February. Kindly announce and send the eligible participants to attend this program.

-Fr Salvadore Fernandes, Secretary, Commission for Family Life

**Commission for Education:** Dear Managers & HMS of GDES Institutions, There will be a General Evaluation of all our educational institutions on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. All the Managers and HMs are expected to be present. Kindly come prepared with your Evaluation and Budget formats duly filled and send an editable copy to [gdesglb@gmail.com](mailto:gdesglb@gmail.com) 2. The Governing Body Meeting of GDES is scheduled on 12-FEB-2025 at Sugyan, Bishop House at 10:00 AM, Kindly make it convenient to attend the meeting.

- Fr Steevan Veigas, Secretary, GDES

**Commission for Catechetics:** Kindly note: 1. Diocese Level Annual exams for 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Standard students will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> February (Fourth Sunday) conduct in your mission centers or Parish. (Question Papers will be sent to you) 2. For other students (1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>) conduct catechism exam on 2<sup>nd</sup> March in centers or weekdays in villages. Contact: Fr Deepak Furtado-8861889762). Kindly Celebrate "Catechism day" along with your parish community on 9<sup>th</sup> March.

-Fr Deepak Furtado, Secretary, Commission for Catechetics

**Commission for Youth:** There will be a capacity building training for youth on February 21-23 at Sugyan.

-Fr Sachin Christy, Secretary, Commission for Youth

**Commission for Women:** A meeting of the Women Commission Animators and representatives of the Gulbarga Deanery will be held on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM in Cathedral Church Hall, Gulbarga.

-Sr Maria Reeta AC, Secretary, Commission for Women

### BISHOP'S PROGRAMME: FEBRUARY 2025

- 01 - 05 - CCBI Meeting, Bhubaneswar
- 07 - Visit to Shahabad School
- Holy Cross Fathers School Building Blessing, Afzalpur
- 08 - Day of Consecrated Life
- 09 - Jubilee Programme – Udupi Diocese
- 11 - Consultors Meeting
- 12 - GB Meeting Sevasangam, ORBIT
- 13 - Evangelization Commission – Regional Meeting
- 14 - Charismatic Spiritual Directors Meeting, Shimoga
- 16 - Silver Jubilee Mass, Ujini Mission
- 17-21 - Seminary Board and KRCBC Meetings
- 23 - Mission Appeal
- 27 - Visit Halbarga Mission



Kripalaya, Bishop's House  
01 February 2025

† Robert Miranda  
**Bishop of Gulbarga**

Happy Birthday Dear Sisters and Fathers			
01	Sr Annamma SAP, <i>Basavakalyan</i>	14	Sr Savitha Quadros AC, <i>Bidar</i>
02	Fr Arogya Das SAC, <i>Hulsoor</i>	14	Sr Lailitha Mary SAB, <i>Shahabad</i>
02	Sr Mary Bastin UFS, <i>Shorapur</i>	14	Sr Jaya CCV, <i>Vijayapura</i>
03	Sr Eugene Simon SCCG, <i>Bhalki</i>	15	Fr Faustine Crasta OCD, <i>Kadaganchi</i>
04	Sr Jenny D'sa UFS, <i>Itga</i>	15	Sr Florine Vas UFS, <i>Vijayapura</i>
06	Fr Martin SDB, <i>Bablad</i>	17	Sr Rosa Florine SCCG, <i>Kalaburagi</i>
06	Fr Arthur Pias, <i>Neo-Catuchumen</i>	18	Sr Sekunta Xess CSJ, <i>SH Bidar</i>
08	Fr Kanikya Vijay Kumar, <i>ORBIT</i>	19	Fr Rajashekhar CSC, <i>Afzalpur</i>
09	Sr Mukti Regina RNDM, <i>Santpur</i>	20	Sr Mable D'souza SCB, <i>Hulsoor</i>
11	Sr Zeena Menezes BS, <i>Hebbal</i>	20	Sr Margaret UFS, <i>Vijayapura</i>
12	Sr Preeti SRA, <i>Santpur</i>	22	Fr Anil Prasad, <i>KROSS</i>
13	Fr Wilson Fernandes, <i>Bidar</i>		

**Happy Ordination Anniversary (05 Feb):** Fr Steevan Lawrence SDB, *Chikpet Mission*

#### **Forth coming Programme:**

03-04 March : Clergy Recollection

13-15 March : Finalizing the GDES School Budget

## News January 2025

**Two Renovated Chapels Blessed at Santpur Mission (January 11, 2025):** Nagoor and Manigempur villages, part of the Santpur Mission, witnessed a day of joy and celebration as two renovated chapels were blessed. The Holy Family Church in Nagoor was blessed in the morning and later that evening, the Holy Rosary Church in Manigempur was blessed by the bishop in the presence of a large gathering of faithful. Fr Lawrence Arun, the Director of Santpur Mission, and his team were specially commended for their hard work in renovating the church.

**Chinnara Mahotsav 2025 Marks a Joyful Start to Jubilee Year 2025 (January 12-14, 2025):** The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) inaugurated its Jubilee Year 2025 with *Chinnara Mahotsav*, held from January 12 to 14 at the Infant Jesus Shrine, Bhalki. Around 400 children enthusiastically participated in the event, which featured faith-nourishing talks, prayer services, adorations and creative group competitions. Bishop Robert Miranda and Fr Maxim, the Regional Secretary inspired the gathering with messages highlighting children as the "hope of pilgrimage" and the importance of family prayer. The program was meticulously organized by Fr Abhishek Moses and the team of animators, clergy and youth volunteers.

**ORBIT Celebrated Its Pearl Jubilee (January 16, 2025):** The Organization of Bidar Integral Transformation (ORBIT) celebrated its Pearl Jubilee, marking 30 years of dedicated service to social transformation, at its premises in Humnabad, Bidar District. The event was graced by dignitaries, including Bishop Robert Michael Miranda, Fr Victor Anil Vas, and community leaders, who commended ORBIT's efforts in empowering marginalized communities. As part of the celebration, essential resources such as wheelchairs, walking stretchers, and sheep for sustainable livelihoods were distributed to those in need.

**St Joseph Chapel Blessed at Mudnaal, Itga Mission (January 17, 2025):** St Joseph Chapel in Mudnaal village, part of the Itga Mission, was blessed by the Bishop Robert Miranda. The chapel, built through the generous contribution of Goodwill Mission, Dubai, stands as a symbol of faith and community spirit. Fr Sunil Mankare and his team were lauded for their efforts in making this vision a reality.

**Medical Camp Conducted at Bijapur Prison (January 17, 2025):** Prison Ministry India, Bijapur, organized a medical camp at Bijapur Prison, benefiting nearly 220 inmates. Led by Fr Joseph Vas, Sr Divya, Sr Jaya, and Fr Suman, the initiative provided comprehensive healthcare services with support from doctors and staff of BLDE Hospital. The camp focused on general health, chronic conditions, and preventive care, reflecting the ministry's commitment to serving marginalized communities.

**KUCF Organizes Ecumenical Prayer Meeting (January 20, 2025):** KUCF held a prayer meeting at Hindustani Church, Kalaburagi, bringing together people of all denominations. Bishop Robert and Rev. S Saradagi shared the Word of God, while Rev. Samuel conducted the event. The members of various churches participated actively in this prayer service.

**Inauguration of St Joseph's CBSE Block at Bidar (January 21, 2025):** The newly constructed St Joseph's CBSE Block was inaugurated on January 21, 2025, at Shahapur Gate, Bidar, in a solemn ceremony led by Fr Stevan Veigas, Secretary of GDES and blessed by Bishop Robert Miranda. The event witnessed the participation of enthusiastic students, parents, and staff. The block reflects the institution's commitment to providing a modern educational environment. The management expressed heartfelt gratitude to all contributors, marking this milestone as a step toward a brighter future for St Joseph's students.

**Youth Jubilee Programme Celebrated in Bidar (January 24-26, 2025):** The Youth Jubilee Programme was held from January 24-26 at St Joseph's School, Bidar, with 228 young participants. The event featured cultural performances, prize distributions, adoration, confession and engaging sessions. Mr Colin shared his inspiring life journey, while Fr David conducted a session on leadership. Group discussions provided a platform to address challenges faced by youth, fostering meaningful dialogue and insights. The program was a vibrant celebration of faith, talent, and youth empowerment.