



**Circular**  
**Archdiocese of Bangalore**

Archbishop's House, Post Office Box No. 2, 75 Miller's Road, Benson Town Post,  
Bengaluru - 560046. Phone : 23330438, Fax : 080-23531600  
Email: archbishop@bangalorearchdiocese.com, Web : www.banglorearchdiocese.com

**No. 136** **SEPTEMBER 2015**

Dear Rev. Fathers / Sisters / Brothers / Lay Faithful,

## **1. FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LADY**

There are many Marian feast days celebrated in the Catholic Church, but the principal ones are the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, the Annunciation, the Assumption, the Immaculate Conception and the Nativity of our Lady. The Feasts of our Lady are dear to us. Before we are born, our mothers are our entire world; they enfold, nourish, and protect us. When we are born they continue to care for us, by comforting, nursing, and teaching us as we grow. Mothers do not stop being mothers just because we are grown. Our mother will always be our mother. So it is with our Blessed Mother, the Virgin Mary. She will always be Jesus' Mother, and she will always be our Mother with Jesus our brother. As our Mother, she will continue to nourish, protect, comfort, and teach us as we grow. She is the Mother of God, the Queen of the Saints, the humble spouse of the Church, and attentive patron of hundreds. It is not surprising that there are So many feast days dedicated to Mother Mary.

The feast of the Nativity of Mary celebrated on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September is closely connected with the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Mary who is prepared by divine providence to be the Mother of Jesus the son of God, is conceived in the womb of her mother Anna, her father being Joachim, without the stain of sin and her birth is

considered by the Church as a Solemn event. Our Lady's birthday has been described as "the hope of the entire world and the dawn of salvation". That is why the Liturgy of the day says: "Let us celebrate with joy the birth of the Virgin Mary, of who was born the Sun of Justice.... Her birth constitutes the hope and the light of salvation for the whole world.... Her image is light for the whole Christian people". St. Augustine connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the nature inherited from our first parents is changed." The opening prayer at Mass speaks of the birth of Mary's Son as the dawn of our salvation and asks for an increase of peace.

This Feast provides us with an occasion for praise and thanksgiving in honour of the personal sanctity and vocation of the Blessed Virgin Mary as the mother of the Lord Jesus. There is nothing contained in Scripture about the birth of Mary or her parentage, though Joseph's lineage is given in the first chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. According to tradition, the house in which Mary was born in Nazareth is the same one in which the Annunciation took place.

In celebrating the nativity of Mary, Christians anticipate the Incarnation and the birth of her Divine Son, and give honour to the mother of Our Lord and Saviour. This Feast provides us with an occasion for praise and thanksgiving in honour of the personal sanctity and vocation of the Blessed Virgin Mary as the mother of Jesus. The Church's calendar observes the birthdays of only three persons: St. John the Baptist, Mary, (Mother of Jesus) and Jesus, the Son of God. John the Baptist was sanctified even before his birth. Luke tells us that Elizabeth felt the infant John "leap in her womb" when Mary approached her soon after the Annunciation. Mary was preserved sinless in anticipation with the privilege of being the Mother of God from the moment of her conception.

The Feast of the Nativity of Mary has two aspects: first, the Heaven's view that enables us to enter into God's plan for the salvation

of the world; and the second, what happens on earth has the freshness of dawn and of a first morning. As seen from Heaven it is a Trinitarian Feast. On the other hand the Feast of the Nativity of Mary affects our Christian life and family. Her Birth is an event which belongs at the very heart of the History of Salvation.

In our Archdiocese the Feast of Nativity is celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> September, with a Novena commencing from 29<sup>th</sup> August to 8<sup>th</sup> September. The best way to venerate and honour Mother Mary is by cultivating a filial devotion to her by doing God's holy will as she did in her life. To celebrate her feast more worthily, let us also approach the sacrament of penance with trust in God's abundant mercy and compassion, and receive the Eucharistic Lord into her lives, just as our heavenly Mother carried Jesus in her womb for nine months.

May I request all the Archdiocesan priests and the religious priests to come to the Shrine in large numbers during the Novena days and help the Basilican Clergy in hearing confessions and offering the Holy Masses. It will be a great help to the devotees to celebrate Mother Mary's Birthday more spiritually and meaningfully.

I wish all of you a very Happy Feast of the Birthday of Our Blessed Mother. I assure you of my special prayers for you, especially on 8<sup>th</sup> September when I preside over the liturgical services at St. Mary's Basilica Shrine, Shivajinagar.

## **2. POPE TO PARENTS: FIND TIME FOR PRAYER IN BUSY FAMILY LIFE**

Pope Francis, on 26th August at the Wednesday General Audience in St Peter's Square, continued his reflections on family life, and focused especially on the importance of finding time for prayer.

The Pope said families often experience difficulty in devoting time for prayer. But he said a heart filled with the love of God can make even a silent thought or small gesture of devotion into a moment of prayer.

Pope Francis noted that family life is complicated and time consuming: parents, he said, should win Nobel prizes for the way they manage to squeeze 48 hours' work into just 24 hours! The Pope urged parents to teach their children to pray, to read the bible and to make the sign of the Cross. The Pope addressed the crowd with the following words:

“Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our continuing catechesis on the family, today we reflect on the importance of devoting time to prayer. We all know how important prayer is, yet it seems so difficult to find time for it. Perhaps we need to ask if we truly love God, as he asks us to, with all our heart, and all our mind and all our strength. The reason being: the heart of prayer is the love of God, the source of our life, who constantly “caresses” us with his own love.

A heart filled with the love of God can make even a silent thought or a small gesture of devotion a moment of prayer. The Holy Spirit teaches us to pray, to call God our Father, and to grow daily in his love. Our families need to ask for the gift of the Spirit! Through prayer, even in the busiest times, we give time back to God, we find the peace that comes from appreciating the important things, and we encounter the joy of God's unexpected gifts. Through daily prayer may our homes become, like the house of Martha and Mary, places where Jesus always finds a warm welcome! Upon all of you, and your families, I invoke an abundance of joy and peace in the Lord Jesus. God bless you all!”

### **3. CARDINAL PETER TURKSON CALLS FOR CHANGE IN ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENVIRONMENT**

Cardinal Peter Turkson has renewed the call for radical changes in thinking and attitudes towards environment, ecology and creation. In a message delivered to the second international gathering for talks on climate change, organised by the Peruvian government in Lima, the President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace Cardinal Turkson, invited participants “[to] assume a new ecological spirituality

which favors the bond between man and environment, through an integral, ecological, community conversion.”

This Sustainable Innovation Forum – 2015 is a global initiative which gives nations the opportunity to showcase plans to reduce carbon emissions in preparation for the Paris conference on climate change due to take place later in the year.

The forum opened with a presentation of Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si’*, which was organised by the Jesuit University Ruiz de Montoya in Lima. The opening presentation event hosted 250 people, including experts, policy makers and religious leaders, who offered analysis of the Pope’s encyclical from a scientific, economic, political and theological perspective.

In his message, Cardinal Turkson expressed the hope that this Conference dedicated to environmental emergency might promote a “deeper ecological conversion, able to reflect itself in the different aspects of human life: in one’s lifestyle, education, in the dialogue between science, culture and faith, and in national politics and international negotiations.”

He concluded his message citing the last words of Pope Francis’ encyclical: “To re-establish harmony with Creation, people ought to reflect on their lifestyles and ideals, in order to contemplate the Creator, who lives in us and in what surrounds us.”

#### **4. NATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD**

Every year on 8th September, we rejoice in a special way, celebrating the birth of Our Blessed Mother Mary. The birth of a child brings great joy to the whole family, especially to its mother. The birth of every human child is a concrete expression of God’s love for humanity. The birth of Mary brought great joy not only to her parents but also to the whole of humanity because of her was to be born Jesus Christ, the Saviour of humankind. God is Life (Jn. 14:16) and Love (1 Jn. 4:8). God is the source of Life. God is Light (Jn. 8:12)

and Truth (Jn. 14:6). God is Goodness (Mk. 10:18), Holiness (Lev. 19:2) and Joy. Man, created in the image and likeness of God (Gen. 1:26), is called for a life of Love, Light, Truth, Goodness, Holiness and Joy. Every human child is a precious gift of God. Every human female child is a very precious gift of God. In India the birthday of Our Blessed Mother Mary is dedicated to the GIRL CHILD. Mary the woman, the mother is loved and honored in a special way by the Christians and non-Christians. Lakhs and lakhs of people and pilgrims gather at the shrines of our Lady to honour her, to pray to her and to thank her. One of the best ways to love and to honour Mary is to love and respect girl children, women in the world, especially in our country. Special attention is to be paid to the total and integral welfare of girl children and women. Girl children and women are to be empowered through education. Let us always keep in mind that when we educate a boy, we educate a man; but when we educate a girl, we educate a family and a people. All kinds of discriminations and atrocities meted out to girl children and women are to be condemned. As women and girl children enjoy equality of human dignity, so too they should be given equality of opportunities for education, employment and empowerment in the society. On 8th September let us all pray in a special way that the girl children are lovingly accepted as God's precious gifts and brought up with great affection and attention.

## **5. TEACHERS' DAY**

In India 5th September is celebrated as Teachers' Day as a mark of tribute to the contribution made by teachers to the society. The request showed Dr. Radhakrishnan's love for the teaching profession. From then onwards, the day has been observed as Teachers' Day in India.

Teachers mold the lives that they influence because the lessons learned from teachers remain with their students throughout life. We should always respect our teachers. Teachers need encouragement and support from the community to feel that their devotion to students is

appreciated. Teachers' Day is now one of the occasions that is looked forward by the teachers and students alike as on this occasion it's not only when teachers are praised but also around various schools students dress up as a representation of their teachers and take various lectures that are assigned to the teachers they represent. As the day passes the students perform the regular activities that are performed by the teachers. On this day students realize what it means to be a teacher and what it means to control the future of several students in their classes and also teachers are reminded what it felt like when they were the students.

Apart from the fun aspect of the day it is also a day when one can look back, admire and get inspired by Dr. Radhakrishnan, a small town cunning boy, who grew up to become one of the most respected politicians in the history of democracy of India.

May Christ Jesus, the Teacher par excellence, bless all our teachers in our Catholic and non-Catholic Schools in Karnataka and reward them for their dedicated service. I thank in a very special way all the teachers who work in the institutions run by the Archdiocesan Board of Education (ABE). *A Happy Teachers Day!*

## 6. SERRANS WORLDWIDE REJOICE

The Serra Club of Bangalore joins Serrans worldwide on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2015 to celebrate the **Canonization of Blessed Junipero Serra** by **Pope Francis** at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Father Serra, the 18<sup>th</sup> century Franciscan friar, left a very comfortable life in Spain to go to the New World and share his love of the Gospel. Born Miguel Jose Serra on the island of Majorca on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 1713, Serra took the name of Junipero when he entered the Franciscan Order. Ordained in 1737, he taught philosophy and theology at the University of Padua until 1749.

At the age of thirty-seven, Father Serra landed in Mexico City on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1750. Junipero Serra's missionary life was a long battle

with cold and hunger, with unsympathetic military commanders and even with danger of death from non-Christian native people. Through it all his unquenchable zeal was fed by prayer each night, often from midnight till dawn. He founded the first nine of 21 eventual missions, and is said to have baptized over 6,000 people and confirmed 5,000. He brought the Native Americans not only the gift of faith but also a decent standard of living. He won their love, as witnessed especially by their grief at his death. Father Serra died at the age of 70 at Mission San Carlo Borromeo, Carmel, and is buried there. He was beatified in 1988.

Blessed Junipero Serra is the Patron of Serra International and has been since its founding in 1935. His goal was to bring people into the Catholic faith. Today, hundreds of years later, the Serra Club of Bangalore, with Serrans worldwide, focus on fostering and promoting vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, and supporting those who have already answered the call to become priests, religious or members of the Secular Institutes. In 1951, the Serra was aggregated to Congregation for the Clergy by Pope Pius XII.

The Serrans come from all walks of life, but they are united by a common mission: to promote, encourage and affirm vocations. Each Serra Club supports the Church in its own unique way, and the Serra Club of Bangalore, since its inception in 2002, strives to work in the service of the Archdiocese.

Thanksgiving Masses will be offered in different parishes across Bangalore, on September 23, 2015. Where possible, the Serrans will set up a help desk for any lay person wishing to join them in their mission. Those interested may also contact: Serra Communications: Mob. 9902826027, or Email: [serrabangalore@yahoo.co.in](mailto:serrabangalore@yahoo.co.in) or [bangaloreserra@gmail.com](mailto:bangaloreserra@gmail.com)

## **7. NEW BISHOP OF THE EPARCHY OF MANDYA**

His Holiness Pope Francis has extended the boundaries of the Eparchy of Mandya, including the six civil districts of the Bangalore region, where there is the presence of the Syro-Malabar faithful:

Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru rural, Chickballapur, Kolar, Ramnagara and Tumkur.

The Synod of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church gathered at Mount St. Thomas, Kerala, having received the Prior Pontifical assent, has canonically elected Rev. Fr. Antony Kariyil, CMI, till now Director of Rajagiri School of Engineering and Technology, Kochi, as the new Bishop of the Eparchy of Mandya.

This provision was made public in Rome on Wednesday, 26th August, 2015, at noon local time, corresponding to 15:30 hours, Indian Standard Time.

Rev. Fr. Antony Kariyil, CMI, was born on 26th March, 1950, in Cherthala, Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly. He made his First Profession on 16th May, 1967. He was ordained Priest on 27th December, 1977. After completing his Philosophical studies in Poona, he obtained a Masters in Theology (M. Th.) from Dharmaram College, Bangalore, and after the ordination he did his Doctorate in Social Sciences from the University of Poona. He is proficient in Malayalam, English and Hindi.

Fr. Antony Kariyil held the following offices: member of the personnel at Christ College, Bangalore, and later Principal of the same Institution for various years; Chaplain of the Syro-Malabar community at Resurrection Church, Bangalore; Principal of College of Social Sciences, Rajagiri, Kalamassery; collaborator of the Provincial Council of CMI Rajagiri Sacred Heart Province; Prior General of the CMI Congregation for six years and National President of C.R.I. Priests' Section.

## 8. TRANSFERS & APPOINTMENTS

Sl. No.	Name	To	Designation	Date
1.	Fr. Arulraj, cpps	Immaculate Conception Church, Railway Colony	Asst. Parish Priest	01.09.2015

## **9. INFORMATION**

### **i. Golden Birthday of Rev. Fr. Kanika Raj**

Rev. Fr. Kanika Raj, Parish Priest of St. Jude's Church, R. T. Nagar will be celebrating his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2015. While appreciating all his services to the Archdiocese, I congratulate him on his Golden Birthday with assuring him of my sincere prayers. I wish him to continue the work with dedication and pastoral earnestness. I request all of you to offer special prayers for him on 14<sup>th</sup> September. *Ad multos annos!*

### **ii. Priests' Recollection**

The next Archdiocesan Priests' Recollection will be on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 at Paalanaa Bhavana from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. I request all the Archdiocesan Clergy and the Religious Priests working in our Archdiocese to participate actively in the Recollection for spiritual renewal and benefits.

### **iii. Deans' Meeting**

The next Archdiocesan Deans' meeting will be on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 at Paalanaa Bhavana from 2.00 pm. I request all the Deans of the Archdiocese to participate in the meeting without fail.

### **iv. Honouring of Children of the of the Archdiocese of Bangalore**

Children who secured 80% and above marks in the S.S.L.C. & PUC examinations in the year 2014-15 will be honoured on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral at 4.00 pm. The ABE will organize the function and intimate the students. students may also contact:

The Secretary  
Archdiocesan Board of Education (ABE)  
Paalana Bhavana, Archdiocesan Pastoral Center  
#5, Nandidurg Road, Jayamahal Extension  
Benson Town Post, Bengaluru 560 046  
Tel: 23333050

**v. Congratulations to Rev. Fr. Christopher Vimalraj**

On behalf of all of you, I congratulate Rev. Dr. Fr. Christopher Vimalraj who successfully completed his Doctorate in Moral Theology from Accademia Alfonsiana, Rome. He secured “Summa Cum Laude”. I wish him every success in his ministry.

**vi. TABOR Magazines**

As regards the TABOR Magazine, I would like to tell you that, due to some unavoidable reasons, the Issues were not published on time. Hence, in order to ensure their regular publication, I have appointed an Editor in Chief to supervise the overall functioning of the TABOR Office, such as publishing the Magazines as per schedule, giving more publicity to promote advertisements and subscribers, bringing out special issues as and when required, improving the standard of the articles, etc. May I request all of you to strengthen the hands of the editorial team by extending your support to make these magazines as our Archdiocesan Family Magazine.

How can you help the TABOR Team? First of all, each family, community and institution in the Archdiocese should subscribe to these magazines; secondly, recommend your relatives and friends to do the same; thirdly, if you are a writer, send articles or, at least, send a short report of the event happened in your parish/institution/community. For the upkeep of the TABOR Office and to make the magazines more cost-effective, we need funds; so kindly advertise in these magazines as they are widely circulated in all the six districts of the Archdiocese.

**vii. “HOSANNA”: The Sunday Liturgy Leaflets**

The Liturgy Commission of the Archdiocese of Bangalore is publishing **The Sunday Liturgy Leaflets**, titled: “HOSANNA” in Kannada, Tamil and English. One of the main objectives of its publication is to assist us in the celebration of the Sunday Liturgy in

our respective parishes and communities, and also the faithful to prepare and reflect on the Sunday Readings and Prayers.

The September – 2015 Issues of Hosanna were already sent as complimentary to the Parish Priests and the Superiors of the Religious Communities/Institutions.

I expect all the parishes in the Archdiocese use only Hosanna – The Sunday Liturgy leaflets officially published by the Liturgy Commission of the Archdiocese.

You are requested to patronize this publication and help the Commission in its wide circulation.

You may also give your valuable suggestions for its improvement. If you are willing to write reflections for any of the forthcoming Sundays, you are most welcome to do so.

To place order for the leaflets and for other information, please contact the Office of the Liturgical Commission at Paalanaa Bhavana. Contact Numbers: 8867471295 / 080-23096500.

#### **viii. Reflections on Laudato Si'**

We all know that Pope Francis released his Second Encyclical on the environment, '**Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home**' on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2015. It is considered to be one of the popular Encyclicals published by the Popes. It is our responsibility to read this document with diligence, to develop spiritual bonding with the environment and to take the utmost care for its rightful utilization and careful preservation. Pope Francis says: "*Safeguard Creation, because if we destroy Creation, Creation will destroy us! Never forget this!*"

The Archdiocese organized a day-long *Orientation-cum-Consultation Meeting* on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2015 to familiarize ourselves with this Encyclical and also to chalk out a few concrete action plans in the Archdiocese in response to the clarion call given

by His Holiness. A small committee has been set up to organize programmes in our parishes, communities and institutions. I hope such programmes would help us implement the proposals made by the Pope in our Archdiocese.

Further, in order to help you have deeper insights into this Encyclical, I intend to publish the salient features of this Encyclical in my circulars, please share the reflection with your parishioners and the members of your communities.

#### **ix. Commission for Migrants**

Migrants challenge Bangalore Archdiocese to be more inclusive Church. They challenge Church towards respect of differences among people, attitudes of acceptance and hospitality towards migrants and safeguarding dignity and well-being of all persons in the Archdiocese. Thus, starting a Commission for migrants is a path towards becoming truly an inclusive Church by embracing migrants of different cultures, languages and economic status, and extending to them all love and respect.

From the Christian stand point, the experience of the Holy Family [Mt 2:14-15 & 19-21] of rejection, hunger and homelessness as migrants urges us not to be indifferent to the plight of the migrants in the Archdiocese. Migrants offer the Archdiocese possibilities for a new evangelization where Church is Mother to all without frontiers and limits. Thus, as Christians, we are urged to reduce distances that separate us from the migrants and act towards safeguarding dignity and well-being of the migrants. The issues of migrants working and studying in the Archdiocese have indeed been a big task for the Church in Bangalore and a few dioceses in Karnataka, especially regarding their pastoral needs and social well-being.

Pope Francis has proclaimed 2016 as the Year of Mercy and has chosen for the 2016 World Day for Migrants and Refugees the theme: “Migrants and Refugees Challenge us – the Response of the Gospel of Mercy”. In this context, starting a Commission for Migrants

to accompany them in their sojourn in the Archdiocese, we are planning to establish an exclusive Commission for Migrants.

The Archdiocese hosted a Consultation on Migrants on 27 August, 2015 at Paalanaa Bhavana and over 50 priests, religious and lay people participated in it. Rev. Fr. Martin Puthussery, SJ, from the Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru was the main resource person.

The consultation decided to start a Commission for Migrants which will work with coordination centres in deaneries assisted by Religious Congregations present in those deaneries. Through these centres, the Commission will reach out to the peripheries, to the work-sites and residential areas of migrants at the parish level. The Commission will also ensure Catholics among the migrants pastoral care, including periodical worship in their languages. Help desks will be established to cater to the social and psychological well-being of the migrants. On completion of the deanery level consultations, the Commission will meet with concrete action plans at Paalanaa Bhavana on 4th November, 2015.

## **10. DEATH OF REV FR. IGNATIUS JOSEPH**

Rev. Fr. Ignatius Joseph, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Vailankanni Church, Yelahanka, New Town died due to a massive heart attack on 17.08.2015 at 8.30 p.m. on the way to the hospital.

Rev. Fr. Ignatius Joseph was born on 18.03.1951 at Begur, Bangalore. His parents were Mr. Ignasappa and Anthonamma. Out of 10 children (4 boys and 6 girls). Fr. Ignatius Joseph was the ninth child. His parents and two sisters are already gone to their eternal reward. After his school studies, he joined the Archdiocese of Bangalore and did his priestly studies at St. Mary's Seminary, Bangalore; St. Mary's Seminary, Mysore; and at St. John's Regional Seminary, Hyderabad. He was ordained a priest on 24.05.1979 at Begur, Bangalore.

In his 36 years of priestly ministry, Fr Ignatius Joseph had served as asst parish priest in the Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Rayapuram,

St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral, and mission in charge of Byrathi and Chelikere, parish priest St. Francis Xavier's Church, Chikkaballapur, St. Rock's Church, Chelikere, Christ the King Church, Byrathi, Sacred Heart Church, Siluvepura, Ascension Church, Da Costa Layout and Our Lady of Vailankanni Church, Yelahanka New Town.

Rev. Fr. Ignatius Joseph was a simple priest who had a great zeal to spread the good news. Through his hard work he gave witness to Catholics and Non-Catholics. He died as he lived in his faith. He helped many students to pursue their studies.

In the death of Fr. Ignatius Joseph, we have lost a senior priest of our Archdiocese. Let us continue to pray for the repose of his soul in gratitude to God for all the services that he had rendered to all of us in the Archdiocese.

On behalf of all of you, I express my heartfelt sympathies to the brothers and sisters, relatives and friends of the late Fr. Ignatius Joseph. May the Lord grant them strength and courage to bear this irreparable loss.

His Funeral Service will take place on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at 10.30 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Church, Richmond Road. The mortal remains of Rev. Fr. Ignatius Joseph buried at begur parish cemetery.

All the Priests of the Archdiocese of Bangalore are requested to offer 3 Masses for the repose of the soul of Rev. Fr. Ignatius Joseph. May his soul rest in peace.

## **11. DEATH OF REV FR. RONNIE PRABHU, SJ**

Rev. Fr. Ronnie Prabhu, SJ died on 18/08/2015 Tuesday at 7.00 p.m. at St. Philomena's Hospital. He was suffering from stomach cancer for the last few months and underwent a surgery.

Fr. Ronnie was the Regional PRO of the Karnataka Region Catholic Bishops' Council (KRCBC) and also the Regional Secretary

of the All Karnataka United Christian Forum for Human Rights (AKUCFHR). He also served the KRCBC as the Regional Secretary of the Commissions for Ecumenism and Inter-religious Dialogue.

He was the former Provincial of the Karnataka Jesuit Society, and had held a number of responsible posts within and outside his Society. In his death, the Church in Karnataka in general, and the Archdiocese in particular have lost a dedicated and committed priest who was liked by all because of his jovial and cheerful attitude. Fr. Ronnie was a man loved and respected by all sections of the people without any distinction of caste, creed, colour or language.

I most gratefully acknowledge the services of Fr. Ronnie Prabhu to us in Karnataka and also thank the Jesuit Society of Karnataka for making his services available for all of us.

On behalf of the Karnataka Region Catholic Bishops' Council (KRCBC) and All Karnataka United Christian Forum for Human Rights, I express our deep and heartfelt condolences to the Provincial of the Karnataka Jesuit Society, the sorrowing family members and friends, and join in their prayers for our dear Fr. Ronnie.

May the Lord Almighty welcome the departed soul to His Heavenly Abode, and give his all dear ones strength and courage to bear this irreparable loss.

## **12. THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF MY ARCHBISHOPACY**

I will be completing 11 years as Archbishop on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015. I gratefully acknowledge my sincere thanks to God Almighty for gift of life, gift of vocation, gift of episcopacy and gift of pastoral service. My sincere thanks also to all of you for your prayers, support and collaboration in the pastoral work. Let us continue to work with great vigour and earnestness.

### 13. A WORD OF THANKS

I sincerely thank all of you for your prayers and wishes offered to me on my Birthday and Feast day. I thank everyone who sent me greetings and all those who offered bouquets with warm wishes. The expression of your love, support and sacrifice manifested to me in indeed a source of strength and joy to me. Kindly pray for me as I do to every one of you. May God bless you.

With every good wish and God's blessings,

Yours sincerely,



✠ **Bernard Moras**

*Archbishop of Bangalore*

## Reflection on the Encyclical Laudato Si' – 1

### **An Overview of the Encyclical Laudato si' – On the Care for our Common Home is the Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter on the environment and human ecology.**

Before I could brief you on this encyclical, let me share with you a few insights.

First of all, we should know what is an Encyclical? According to its etymology, an encyclical (from the Greek *egkyklios*, *kyklos* meaning a circle) is nothing more than a circular letter. An encyclical is considered as one of the weightiest forms of papal writing, it takes the form of a letter, usually addressed to members of the Catholic Church but sometimes also to society at large. A Pontiff typically expands on some teaching of the Catholic faith, pointing out errors that could threaten the faithful's understanding of Catholic doctrine or suggesting possible solutions to global problems.

Pope Francis has published two encyclicals: "Lumen Fidei" ("Light of Faith"), released in 2013, and now "Laudato Si'" ("Be Praised") Published in June 2015.

One might ask why this encyclical received so much attention. The reason is that no previous Pope has devoted an entire encyclical to the environment. Moreover, Pope Francis has said he wants it to "make a contribution" to a Paris summit on climate change at the end of this year. The Pope's huge popularity and moral suasion means his stance could influence the debate.

As you would see it in the Encyclical, Pope Francis calls global warming a major threat to life on the planet and says it is mainly caused by human activity. He argues there is an "urgent" need for policies that reduce carbon emissions, among other ways, by "substituting for fossil fuels and developing sources of renewable energy."

The Encyclical highlights the depletion of clean water and the loss of biodiversity. The 183-page encyclical includes an extensive section on Catholic theology of creation and critiques of economic globalization and consumer culture. Emphasizing his signature theme of economic justice, Pope Francis focuses on the unequal social effects of environmental problems on the “most vulnerable people on the planet.”

This encyclical breaks new ground in its language, which departs from the abstruse Latinate prose of earlier encyclicals, which make for heavy reading. It is intended to be read by as many people as possible and is therefore meant to be comprehensible to ordinary readers.

## **An Overview**

The Encyclical takes its name from the invocation of St. Francis, “Praise be to you, my Lord”, in his *Canticle of the Creatures*. It reminds us that the earth, our common home “is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us”. We have forgotten that “we ourselves are dust of the earth; our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.”

Now, this earth, mistreated and abused, is lamenting, and its groans join those of all the forsaken of the world. Pope Francis invites us to listen to them, urging each and every one – individuals, families, local communities, nations and the international community – to an “ecological conversion”, according to the expression of St. John Paul II. Pope Francis, quoting Pope Saint John Paul II, reminds us that, as Christians, we are called to be responsible custodians of creation: “Christians in their turn ‘realise that their responsibility within creation, and their duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith”. We are invited to “change direction” by taking on the beauty and responsibility of the task of “caring for

our common home”. At the same time, Pope Francis recognises that “there is a growing sensitivity to the environment and the need to protect nature, along with a growing concern, both genuine and distressing, for what is happening to our planet”. A ray of hope flows through the entire Encyclical, which gives a clear message of hope. “Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home”. “Men and women are still capable of intervening positively”. “All is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start”.

The Encyclical *Laudato si'* and its key points are enumerated in six chapters:

It starts by presenting the current situation based on the best scientific findings available today (Chapter one), followed by a review of the Bible and Judeo-Christian tradition (Chapter 2).

The root of the problems in technocracy and in an excessive self-centeredness of human being are analysed in Chapter 3.

In Chapter 4, the Encyclical then proposes an “integral ecology, which clearly respects its human and social dimensions”, inextricably linked to the environmental question.

With this in mind, Pope Francis proposes to initiate an honest dialogue at every level of social, economic and political life that builds transparent decision-making processes (Chapter 5).

In the final chapter, recalling that no project can be effective if it is not animated by a formed and responsible conscience, ideas are put forth to aid growth in this direction at the educational, spiritual, ecclesial, political and theological levels.

The text ends with two prayers. One offered for sharing with everyone who believes in “God who is the all-powerful Creator”, and the other to those who profess faith in Jesus Christ, punctuated

by the refrain “Praise be to you!” which opens and closes the Encyclical.

Several main themes run through the text that are addressed from a variety of different perspectives, traversing and unifying the text: the intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet, the conviction that everything in the world is connected, the critique of new paradigms and forms of power derived from technology, the call to seek other ways of understanding the economy and progress, the value proper to each creature, the human meaning of ecology, the need for forthright and honest debate, the serious responsibility of international and local policies, the throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle.

In this Encyclical Pope Francis challenges us to consider the kind of world we want to leave to those who come after us. It’s not just an ‘environment encyclical’, it leads us to ask ourselves about the meaning of existence and the values at the heart of social life: “What is the purpose of our life in this world? What is the goal of our work and all our efforts? What need does the earth have of us?”

***(Please note: In the forthcoming Circulars, the highlights of each chapter of the Encyclical will be published).***

**CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED IN THE MONTH OF  
AUGUST 2015**

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**1) CLERGY SECURITY FUND**

1	18.08.15	Rev Fr Therese Babu	Kodathi	4,000.00
2	21.08.15	Rev Fr Kodavatikanti Raja Rao	Moodalapalya	4,000.00
3	25.08.15	Rev Fr P Arockiadass	Jalahalli	8,000.00
4	28.08.15	Rev Fr Francis Xavier J	Indiranagar	8,000.00

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**2) HOLY SEE MAINTENANCE Dated 16.11.2014**

**(To be sent to Rome to the maintenance of the holy see)**

1	21.08.15	St Anthony's Church	New Guddadahalli	5,630.00
2	25.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Yadavanahalli	630.00

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**3) CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS Dated 25.12.2014**

**(Maintenance of Retired Priests of Archdiocese)**

1	25.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Yadavanahalli	3,130.00
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**4) HOLY CHILDHOOD COLLECTION Dated 08.02.2015**

**(To be Sent to Rome)**

1	17.08.15	St Joseph's Church	Adigondanahalli	580.00
2	25.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Yadavanahalli	700.00

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**5) HUNGER AND DISEASE CAMPAIGN Dated 29.03.2015**

**(To be sent to Caritas, Delhi)**

1	07.08.15	St Theresa's Church	Theresapura	160.00
2	17.08.15	St Joseph's Church	Adigondanahally	700.00
3	25.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Yadavanahalli	600.00

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**6) HOLY LANDS COLLECTIONS Dated 03.04.2015**

**(To be Sent to Rome)**

1	17.08.15	St Joseph's Church	Adigondanahally	895.00
2	25.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Yadavanahalli	905.00

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**7) EASTER SUNDAY COLLECTIONS Dated 05.04.2015**

**(Towards extension of Mission works in our Archdiocese)**

1	17.08.15	St Joseph's Church	Adigondanahally	1,010.00
2	25.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Yadavanahalli	1,100.00

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## 8) VOCATION SUNDAY COLLECTIONS Dated 26.04.2015

(For the Maintenance of Major and Minor Seminarians of our Archdiocese)

1	12.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Uttarahalli	3,300.00
2	17.08.15	St Joseph's Church	Adigondanahally	515.00
3	21.08.15	St Gaspar's Church	Kithiganur	600.00
4	25.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Yadavanahalli	990.00
5	28.08.15	Blessed Teresa of Kolkata Church	Boopasandra	33,895.00
6	31.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Kaval Byrasandra	14,010.00

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## 9) PETER'S PENCE COLLECTIONS Dated 28.06.2015

(To be sent to Rome towards Holy Father's Charities)

1	05.08.15	St Puis X Church	Kammanahalli	15,010.00
2	05.08.15	St Anthony's Friary Church	Madiwala Check Post	94,081.00
3	05.08.15	Christha Prabhalaya Epiphany Church	Jayanagar	27,365.00
4	10.08.15	St Rita's Church	Kunigal	450.00
5	12.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Uttarahalli	3,400.00
6	13.08.15	St Joseph's Church	Susaipalayam K.G.F	2,170.00
7	17.08.15	St Joseph's Church	Adigondanahally	475.00
8	18.08.15	St Francis Xavier's Cathedral	Cleveland Town	61,825.00
9	18.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Kodathi	1,330.00
10	20.08.15	St Anne's Church	Marathahalli	9,245.00
11	21.08.15	Holy Ghost Church	Richards Town	76,670.00
12	21.08.15	St Gaspar's Church	Kithiganur	750.00
13	25.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Yadavanahalli	943.00
14	25.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Basavanapura	3,755.00
15	25.08.15	St Jame's Church	Mariannapalaya	7,220.00
16	25.08.15	St Anthony's Church	New Guddadahalli	8,060.00
17	31.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Kaval Byrasandra	13,400.00

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**10) CATHOLIC INFORMATION BUREAU (C.I.B) Dated 12.07.2015**  
**(For the spread of Good News in the Archdiocese of Bangalore)**

1	05.08.15	St Puis X Church	Kammanahalli	17,457.00
2	05.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Madiwala Check Post	1,94,209.00
3	06.08.15	Immaculate Conception Church	Doresanipalya	12,493.00
4	07.08.15	Ascension Church	Da Costa Layout	63,992.00
5	10.08.15	Our Lady of Fathima Church	Hoskote	315.00
6	10.08.15	St Rita's Church	Kunigal	450.00
7	10.08.15	Infant Jesus Church	Viveknagar	1,47,225.00
8	11.08.15	Annunciation Church	Nandi Durga Road	3,931.00
9	12.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Uttrahalli	4,100.00
10	13.08.15	St Joseph's Church	Susaipalayam K.G.F	3,333.00
11	17.08.15	St Joseph's Church	Adigondanahalli	600.00
12	18.08.15	St Francis Xavier's Cathedral	Cleveland Town	71,534.00
13	18.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Kodathi	1,711.00
14	21.08.15	Holy Ghost Church	Richards Town	98,700.00
15	21.08.15	St Gaspar's Church	Kittaganur	650.00
16	25.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Yadavanahalli	1,075.00
17	25.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Basavanapura	4,265.00
18	25.08.15	St Jame's Church	Mariannapalaya	9,300.00
19	25.08.15	Christha Prabhalaya Epiphany Church	Jayanagar	32,490.00

**11) AFRICAN MISSION Dated 16.08.2015**  
**(To be sent to Rome to help the Mission work in Africa)**

1	10.08.15	St Micheal's Church	Shanthinagar	3,851.00
2	18.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Kodathi	1,802.00
3	19.08.15	Immaculate Conception Church	Railway Colony	4,382.00
4	19.08.15	Nithya Daramathe Church	Srinivasapura	300.00
5	21.08.15	Holy Ghost Church	Richards Town	44,630.00

6	21.08.15	St Gaspars Church	Kittaganur	700.00
7	24.08.15	St Teresa's Church	Robertsonpet K.G.F	6,020.00
8	24.08.15	Holy Rosary Church	Venkatala/Yelahanka	22,020.00
9	25.08.15	St Anthonys Church	Yadavanahalli	860.00
10	25.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Basavanapura	3,685.00
11	25.08.15	St Jame's Church	Mariannapalaya	9,090.00
12	25.08.15	St Anthony's Church	New Guddadahalli	5,415.00
13	27.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Gangondanahalli	1,670.00
14	27.08.15	Our Lady of Lourdes Church	Lourdunagara	5,620.00
15	31.08.15	St Theresa's Church	J C Road	4,213.00
16	31.08.15	St Anthony's Church	Kaval Byrasandra	20,945.00

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