



Circular

Archdiocese of Bangalore

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No. 138 NOVEMBER 2015

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

1. ALL SAINTS DAY

The Solemnity of All Saints confirms that many have already attained their destiny and are with God forever. These are the ones we call “saints,” “holy men and women of every time and place.” Some of these are either canonised or beatified by the Church; so many others have not been so proclaimed, yet they too are with God, sharing eternal life. Among these are our relatives and friends.

All of these saints are longing for our arrival; in fact, they are praying that we will remain open to God’s saving grace that we will persevere in our efforts to obey his Word and to do His Will, as they did in their lifetime.

The feast of All Saints also points out that those who are now saints were like us as they travelled through life: weak, limited, prone to sin and actually sinners. But they were open and receptive to the Lord’s saving grace and they knew their absolute need for God, so they more and more lived with the spirit of the beatitudes which Jesus proclaimed. They prayed, did penance and performed acts of charity. Certainly, they loved Jesus really present in the Most Holy Eucharist. We should never doubt that following Christ is worth the effort it takes. If we follow him, we will surely be able to feel the joy of his presence and the company of our loved ones in Heaven.

In the early days the Christians were accustomed to solemnize the anniversary of a martyr's death for Christ at the place of martyrdom. On 13 May 609 or 610, Pope Boniface IV consecrated the Pantheon at Rome to the Blessed Virgin and all the martyrs, ordering an anniversary; the feast of the *dedicatio Sanctae Mariae ad Martyres* has been celebrated at Rome ever since.

The feast of All Saints, on its current date, is traced to the foundation by Pope Gregory III (731–741) of an oratory in St. Peter's for the relics "of the holy apostles and of all saints, martyrs and confessors, of all the just made perfect who are at rest throughout the world", with the date moved to 1 November and the 13 May feast suppressed.

As we celebrate the feast of All Saints on 1st November, I pray and wish all of you a very Happy Feast. May the good God through the intercession of all Saints, bless all of us and help us lead a holy life and join the company of Saints one day in His heavenly Kingdom.

2. KARNATAKA RAJYOTSAVA

1st November is also a Special Day for us as we celebrate the Karnataka Rajyotsava. God has blessed the Karnataka State with various natural resources, rich cultural heritage, large number of professional and educational institutes, IT sectors, Hospitals, Health Care Institutes, magnificent monuments, places of worship, palaces and beautiful gardens. Of late, Karnataka is making steady economic growth. However, out of 66 million people of the State, we have still around 20 percent of the people below the poverty level who are illiterate and marginalized. It is our Christian responsibility and commitment to work and rededicate ourselves for the welfare of our less-fortunate brothers and sisters. If we work as a community, we are sure to eradicate poverty and illiteracy in Karnataka. Let us, therefore, pray for our beloved State, especially for those who are in authority that they may work selflessly for the welfare of the people.

This year, the Rajyotsava will be celebrated in a low key as many parts of our State are affected very badly and thousands of our brothers and sisters are displaced due to the recent floods. Let us minimize the cost of the celebration and donate that money for the rehabilitation of the flood victims. However, this natural calamity should not dampen our spirit in our responsibility of promoting the culture and tradition of our beloved State.

May I earnestly request the Parish Priests and Heads of the Institutions to inform the parishioners/members to offer special prayers for our Karnataka State, either on November 1 or any other convenient day, and to pray for our leaders and the people.

On this joyful occasion, I wish all the people of Karnataka a Happy Rajyotsava Day!

3. ALL SOULS' DAY

On 2nd November, the Church specifically remembers the departed faithful who have not yet been purified and reached Heaven. We celebrate All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day in the fundamental belief that there is a prayerful spiritual bonding among those in heaven (the "Church triumphant"), in purgatory ("Church suffering") and the living (the "Church militant"). This is what we profess in the Creed by saying: *I believe in the Communion of Saints*. While honouring our brothers and sisters who have gone ahead of us and are now praying for all of us, we do consider that it is our Christian duty to pray for those who are also the members of the same Church and are presently in the purifying state to attain heaven. During the month of November, the Church wants us to offer special Masses and prayers for the Dead, and to visit the cemeteries. Although we pray for the dead every day, we remember them in a very special way on All Souls Day. There are two plenary indulgences attached to All Souls Day, one for visiting a church and another for visiting a cemetery. (The plenary indulgence for visiting a cemetery can also be

obtained every day from November 1-8 and, as a partial indulgence, on any day of the year.) While the actions are performed by the living, the merits of the indulgences are applicable only to the souls in purgatory.

Praying for the dead is a Christian obligation. In the modern world, when many have come to doubt the Church's teaching on Purgatory, the need for such prayers has only increased. The Church devotes the month of November to pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, and participation in the Mass of All Souls Day is a good way to begin the month.

Here are a few family activities that you could do in this month:

- One of the best ways to teach our children to respect the dead is to visit a cemetery and pray for the dear departed along with them.
- We should help them to learn how to prepare themselves for the eternal life after death.
- The month of November is a good time to tell children family stories about their great-grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins -- to remember their lives, and especially how their Christian witness had influenced the family members.
- Instead of the ordinary bed-time routine stories, take out the family albums and look at them with your children. This would inspire you to tell them some good family stories.
- Don't forget to add prayers for deceased relatives and the Holy Souls in Purgatory in the regular bed-time prayers.
- In St. Francis Xavier Cathedral and sacred heart church priests cemetery there are tombs of Bishops, priests and lay faithful. Visits to the cemetery and offering praying for the departed would be a nice gesture.

Maintaining the Cemeteries: Our parish cemeteries are sacred places, and they must be maintained well and treated with due respect. The area should be kept clean at all times and must never leave garbage, such as plastic bags, plantain leaves, bottles etc. in the cemetery.

Please encourage the faithful to offer Mass intentions for the departed souls of the family and souls in purgatory, especially during this month. Let us pray often, indeed, daily, with renewed faith and deepened hope: “May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.”

4. FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

Pope Pius XI instituted the Feast of Christ the King in his encyclical letter *Quasprimas*, in response to growing nationalism and secularism and in the context of the unresolved Roman Question. The title of the feast was: ‘Our Lord Jesus Christ the King’, and the date was “the last Sunday of the month of October, the Sunday which immediately precedes the Feast of All Saints”. In Pope John XXIII’s 1960 revision of the Calendar, the date and title remained the same and, in the new simpler ranking of feasts, it was classified as the first class feast.

In his 1969 *motu proprio* *Mysterii Paschalis*, Pope Paul VI gave the celebration a new title: “D. N. Iesu Christi universorum Regis” (Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe). He also gave it a new date: the last Sunday in the liturgical year, before a new year begins with the First Sunday in Advent, the earliest date for which is 27 November. Through this choice of date “the eschatological importance of this Sunday is made clearer”. He assigned to it the highest rank, that of “Solemnity”.

As happens with all Sundays whose liturgies are replaced by those of important feasts, the prayers of the Sunday on which the

celebration of Christ the King falls are used on the ferias (weekdays) of the following week. The Sunday liturgy is thus not totally omitted.

This year, this feast day falls on 22nd November. The liturgical vestments for the day are either white or gold, in keeping with other joyous feasts honouring Christ. While the encyclical that established this feast was addressed to Catholic Bishops, Pope Pius XI wanted this feast to impact the laity.

“The faithful, moreover, by meditating upon these truths, will gain much strength and courage, enabling them to form their lives after the true Christian ideal. If Christ our Lord is given all power in heaven and on earth; if all men, purchased by his precious blood, are by a new right subjected to his dominion; if this power embraces all men, it must be clear that not one of our faculties is exempt from his empire. He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to him alone. He must reign in our bodies and in our members, which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls, or to use the words of the Apostle Paul, as instruments of justice unto God.”

The Solemnity of Christ the King is an important feast asking Jesus to be the true center of our life, allowing him to be the One who forms us and making him the basis of all of our decisions. But it is more than that! It is not just Jesus and each of us; rather it is Jesus and all of creation: all other human beings and the whole universe.

Let us, therefore, rejoice, especially on the Feast of Christ the King, and be glad that we are called to his Kingdom. We can rejoice that we live and are loved. And we can begin anew that strong work of responding to the love of God in our lives.

5. SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent is a time of joy tinged with penance. Joy, because we can imagine nothing sweeter than the Christ Child and His Mother Mary's bliss at His coming to light. Penance because we must strive to be properly disposed to receive so great a gift as His presence. In the millennial tradition of the Church, we faithful have done penance before great feasts. Let us spend the season of Advent with joy coupled with moderation and focused spiritual preparation by doing penance. This year the Season of Advent begins on 29th November.

Advent comes from the Latin word for an "arrival" or a "coming". Advent means that the Lord is coming. Jesus Christ, our brother in our humanity and our God in His divinity is about to arrive. But He comes to us in different ways. First, Jesus came to us at a specific point in history at Bethlehem about 2000 years ago. But in the Church's great feast of Christmas He mystically comes again. Second, the Lord, Alpha and Omega, will come to judge the living and the dead in the Second Coming. Third, the Redeemer comes to us in grace. He speaks to us in our conscience, he comes to us in the Eucharist and in the Word of God proclaimed. He arrives in the person of the poor, the needy, the suffering and the oppressed. We must be ready to receive and welcome him when he comes, however he comes.

Practices associated with Advent include keeping an Advent calendar, lighting an Advent wreath, praying an Advent daily devotional, as well as other ways of preparing for Christmas, such as setting up Christmas decorations.

Let us observe the season of Advent with proper preparation and devotion.

6. POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE FOR THE WORLD DAY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Given here below are the highlights of Pope's Message:

The family is a subject of profound reflection by the Church and of a process involving two Synods: the recent extraordinary assembly and the ordinary assembly scheduled for next October. So I thought it appropriate that the theme for the next World Communications Day should have the family as its point of reference. After all, *it is in the context of the family that we first learn how to communicate*. Focusing on this context can help to make our communication more authentic and humane, while helping us to view the family in a new perspective.

We can draw inspiration from the Gospel passage which relates the visit of Mary to Elizabeth (*Lk 1:39-56*). “When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit cried out in a loud voice and said, ‘Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb’.” (vv. 41-42)

This episode first shows us how communication is *a dialogue intertwined with the language of the body*. The first response to Mary’s greeting is given by the child, who leaps for joy in the womb of Elizabeth. Joy at meeting others, which is something we learn even before being born, is, in one sense, the archetype and symbol of every other form of communication. The womb which hosts us is the first “school” of communication, a place of listening and physical contact where we begin to familiarize ourselves with the outside world within a protected environment, with the reassuring sound of the mother’s heartbeat. This encounter between two persons, so intimately related while still distinct from each other, an encounter so full of promise, is our first experience of communication. It is an experience which we all share, since each of us was born of a mother.

Even after we have come into the world, in some sense we are still in a “womb”, which is the family. *A womb made up of various interrelated persons*: the family is “where we learn to live with others despite our differences” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 66). Notwithstanding the differences of gender and age between them, family members accept one another because there is a bond between them. The wider the range of these relationships and the greater the differences of age, the richer will be our living environment. It is this *bond* which is at the root of *language*, which in turn strengthens the bond. We do not create our language; we can use it because we have received it. It is in the family that we learn to speak our “*mother tongue*”, the language of those who have gone before us. (cf. *2 Macc* 7:25,27).

The experience of this relationship which “precedes” us enables the family to become the setting in which the most *basic form of communication*, which is *prayer*, is handed down. When parents put their newborn children to sleep, they frequently entrust them to God, asking that he watch over them. When the children are a little older, parents help them to recite some simple prayers, thinking with affection of other people, such as grandparents, relatives, the sick and suffering, and all those in need of God’s help. It was in our families that the majority of us learned the *religious dimension* of communication which in the case of Christianity is permeated with love, the love that God bestows upon us and which we then offer to others.

In the family, we learn to embrace and support one another, to discern the meaning of facial expressions and moments of silence, to laugh and cry together with people who did not choose one other yet are so important to each other. This greatly helps us to understand the meaning of communication as *recognizing and creating closeness*. When we lessen distances by growing closer and accepting one another, we experience gratitude and joy. Mary’s greeting and the stirring of her child are a blessing for Elizabeth; they are followed by the beautiful canticle of the *Magnificat*, in which Mary praises God’s loving plan for her and for her people. A “yes” spoken with

faith can have effects that go well beyond ourselves and our place in the world.

More than anywhere else, the family is where we daily experience our own *limits* and those of others, the problems great and small entailed in living peacefully with others. A perfect family does not exist. We should not be fearful of imperfections, weakness or even conflict, but rather learn how to deal with them constructively. The family, where we keep loving one another despite our limits and sins, thus becomes a *school of forgiveness*. Forgiveness is itself *a process of communication*. When contrition is expressed and accepted, it becomes possible to restore and rebuild the communication which broke down. A child who has learned in the family to listen to others, to speak respectfully and to express his or her view without negating that of others, will be a force for dialogue and reconciliation in society.

In a world where people often curse, use foul language, speak badly of others, sow discord and poison our human environment by gossip, the family can teach us to understand *communication as a blessing*. In situations apparently dominated by hatred and violence, where families are separated by stone walls or the no less impenetrable walls of prejudice and resentment, where there seem to be good reasons for saying “enough is enough”, it is only by blessing rather than cursing, by visiting rather than repelling, and by accepting rather than fighting, that we can break the spiral of evil, show that goodness is always possible, and educate our children to fellowship.

Today the *modern media*, which are an essential part of life for young people in particular, *can be both a help and a hindrance* to communication in and between families. The media can be a *hindrance* if they become a way to avoid listening to others, to evade physical contact, to fill up every moment of silence and rest, so that we forget that “silence is an integral element of communication; in its absence, words rich in content cannot exist.” (BENEDICT XVI, *Message for*

the 2012 World Communications Day). The media can *help* communication when they enable people to share their stories, to stay in contact with distant friends, to thank others or to seek their forgiveness, and to open the door to new encounters.

The great challenge facing us today is to *learn once again how to talk to one another*, not simply how to generate and consume information. The latter is a tendency which our important and influential modern communications media can encourage. Information is important, but it is not enough. All too often things get simplified, different positions and viewpoints are pitted against one another, and people are invited to take sides, rather than to see things as a whole.

The family, in conclusion, is not a subject of debate or a terrain for ideological skirmishes. Rather, it is *an environment in which we learn to communicate* in an experience of closeness, a setting where communication takes place, a “*communicating community*”. The family is a community which provides help, which celebrates life and is fruitful. Once we realize this, we will once more be able to see how the family continues to be a rich human resource, as opposed to a problem or an institution in crisis. At times the *media* can tend to present the family as a kind of abstract model which has to be accepted or rejected, defended or attacked, rather than as a living reality.

Families should be seen as a resource rather than as a problem for society. Families at their best actively *communicate* by their *witness* the beauty and the richness of the relationship between man and woman, and between parents and children. We are not fighting to defend the past. Rather, with patience and trust, we are working to build a better future for the world in which we live.”

7. THE POPE CANONISES FOUR NEW SAINTS AND APPEALS FOR PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND

On Sunday, 18th October 2015 at St. Peter’s Square, the Pope celebrated the Holy Mass for the canonisation of Blesseds Vincenzo

Grossi (1845-1917), diocesan priest and founder of the Institute of the Daughters of the Oratory; Maria Isabel Salvat Romero (Mary of the Immaculate Conception), (1926-1998), Superior General of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Company of the Cross; and the spouses Louis Martin (1823-1894) and Zélie Guérin (1831-1877).

In his homily, Pope Francis emphasised that “service is the way for authority to be exercised in the Christian community. Those who serve others and lack real prestige exercise genuine authority in the Church. Jesus calls us to see things differently, to pass from the thirst for power to the joy of quiet service, to suppress our instinctive desire to exercise power over others, and instead to exercise the virtue of humility. ... By imitating the Master, the community gains a new outlook on life: ‘The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many’”.

“The men and women canonised today unfailingly served their brothers and sisters with outstanding humility and charity, in imitation of the divine Master. ... The radiant witness of these new saints inspires us to persevere in joyful service to our brothers and sisters, trusting in the help of God and the maternal protection of Mary. From heaven may they now watch over us and sustain us by their powerful intercession”.

Following Mass and before the Sunday Angelus prayer, the Pope spoke about the situation of tension and violence that continues to afflict the Holy Land. “At this time, there is a need for great courage and fortitude to reject hatred and revenge and to make gestures of peace”; he remarked. “We pray that God may reinforce in all, governors and citizens alike, the courage to oppose the violence and to take concrete steps towards pacification. In the current context of the Middle East, it is crucial, more than ever, that there be peace in the Holy Land: God and the good of humanity demand this of us”.

8. YEAR OF MERCY (JUBILEE YEAR)

The Holy Father Pope Francis announced the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy during the Lenten penitential service at St. Peter's Basilica, Rome on Friday 13th March 2015. This Jubilee will be celebrated from 8th December 2015, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception to 20th November 2016, the Feast of Christ the King. It is indeed a happy coincidence that Pope Francis will inaugurate the Holy Year of Mercy on the same day that the Church celebrates the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council, indicating that this Jubilee year is part of the reception process. "Now we go a step further with this central theme of mercy", Pope Francis says, "and re-read the texts and documents of the Council under this aspect."

It is fitting to know that a Jubilee Year is: *"a year of forgiveness of sins and also the punishment due to sin, it is a year of reconciliation between adversaries, of conversion and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and consequently of solidarity, hope, justice, commitment to serve God with joy and in peace with our brothers and sisters. A Jubilee year is above all the year of Christ, who brings life and grace to humanity."*

The Motto of the Holy Year of Mercy, "Merciful like the Father," (Lk. 6:36) serves as an invitation to follow the example of the Compassionate Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and give love and forgiveness without measure.

The official Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy was done with the publication of the Bull, '*Misericordiae Vultus*' (The Face of Mercy) on 11th April 2015 at the St. Peter's Basilica, Rome. The Vatican has already sent to all the Bishops the Logo, the Prayer, the Calendar Jubilee Year of Mercy and other relevant directives.

At the Meetings of the Council of Priests (Senate) and the College of Consultors held on 14th October, the main point of the Agenda was: *The Meaningful Celebration of the Year of Mercy in our Archdiocese.*

Many proposals were made in accordance with *Misericordiae Vultus*’ and the Calendar Jubilee Year of Mercy published by Pope Francis. We, in the Archdiocese, will follow this calendar of events as far as possible, except where a few changes/adaptations are needed and inevitable.

A separate Booklet is being prepared to give guidance for a meaningful celebration of the Year of Jubilee and will be mailed to you in the third week of November.

9. FINAL SYNOD DOCUMENT STRONGLY BACKS CHURCH TEACHING, BEAUTY OF FAMILY LIFE

The Vatican’s synod on the family was opened by Pope Francis 4th October and it closed on 25th October. This year’s event followed the theme “The vocation and mission of the family in the Church and the modern world,” and follows 2014’s extraordinary synod on the family, which focused on pastoral challenges involved in family life.

This year’s discussion tended to be reduced in Western secular media to two issues: communion for divorced-and-civilly remarried, and Church teaching and pastoral care regarding homosexuality.

However, actual topics brought up during meetings were much broader, with synod fathers touching on themes such as domestic violence, violence against women, incest and abuse within families, marriage preparation and pornography.

A closing news conference at the Vatican 24th October reported a sense of collegiality among the global Bishops. Only two of the 94 paragraphs showed a disparity in the voting.

10. A FEW PRACTICAL ACTION PLANS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSALS MADE IN THE ENCYCLICAL: LAUDATO SI’

At the recent Consultation Meetings held to effectively implement the proposals made by Pope Francis in his Encyclical *Laudato Si*,

the members felt that we should implement these proposals primarily in our Parishes and Institutions, and for each segment they also proposed the following Practical Action Plans.

i. Action Plans in the Parish

- Homilies in the parish to create awareness on ecology.
- Efforts are to be made to keep the church campus clean and green.
- Display of posters/ banners in the church premises.
- Conscientize people to save water/power, and use of renewable energy.
- Drinking water and toilet facilities are to be provided for the parishioners.
- Celebrate the “Environment Day” in the parish.
- Collaborative approach to be encouraged to implement the proposals in every zone of the parish.
- The Parish Community should have concern for the hungry and the homeless.

ii. Action Plans in the Institutions

- To create awareness on the Encyclical of the Pope on Ecology (The Earth, our Common Home)
- Efforts are to be made to keep the Institution campus clean and green, and involve the staff and students.
- Display of posters/ banners/slogans in the Campus.
- Conscientize staff and students to save water/power, and use of renewable energy.
- Drinking water and toilet facilities are to be provided for the staff and students.
- Celebrate the “Environment Day” in the Schools/Colleges/ Seminaries/Formation Houses.
Skits and Dramas should be put up on School Day/Parents/ Children’s Day.

- Concern for the needy students to be the main concern.
- Students should be informed to stop eating junk food and avoid wasting food.
- Encourage recycling of things.
- Avoid the use of plastics.

The Vicars General, the Deans, Parish Priests, Head of the Institutions and Religious Communities will guide you in implementing the above action plans, and also help you in reviewing the results periodically.

11. INFORMATION

i. **Mass on All Souls Day**

On 2nd November, I will be offering a Concelebrated Mass for the departed Prelates, Priests and the Faithful at the Sacred Heart Church at 10.30 a.m., and thereafter bless the graves. Kindly make it convenient to participate in this Mass and the blessing of graves.

ii. **Diamond Birthday of Rev. Fr. Chowrappa Selvaraj**

Rev. Fr. Chowrappa Selvaraj, Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Church, Briand Square will be celebrating his 60th Birthday on 05.11.2015. We congratulate him on this happy occasion of Diamond Jubilee and gratefully acknowledge his services to the people of God. May God grant the Jubilarian good health and many more anniversaries. I request all of you to offer special prayers for him on 5th November. Ad Multos Annos!

iii. **God in Control 2015 Programme**

“God is in Control” a ministry of the Bangalore Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (BCCRS) is organizing a unique event “*The Life of Joy*” – on 14th November, 2015 (Saturday) at The Grand Magrath, Magrath Road (near Brigade Road Junction) from 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. We present The Life of Joy, an interactive one day seminar, in round table format, led by Mr. Anand Pillai, on how to live a joyful life based on the book of Philippians.

I request all the Parish Priests make announcements about this exclusive event in all your Parishes and to support this event. I invite members of the Working Community in your parishes to come and participate in this exclusive event to help build each other, our Parishes and contribute towards building the Kingdom of God.

For further details please contact: Bangalore Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (BCCRS), Post Box No. 8491, St. Mary's Orphanage Premises (Next to Ascension Church), 2nd Cross, Da Costa Layout, St. Thomas Town P.O, Bangalore – 560 084. Phone - (080) 25498176.

iv. Last Will

All the Priests of the Archdiocese of Bangalore are requested to send their updated LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT to the Chancery with immediate effect. Those of you, who have already sent them, please ignore this reminder.

Every priest is required to make his “Last Will and Testament” to avoid legal problems and complications. (It must be preferably done with the consultation of a Lawyer). Priests are to make this “Last Will and Testament” in duplicate, keeping a copy for their own file and sending a sealed copy to the Chancery. It is recommended that a brother priest be appointed personal representative (executor) of the Will. All accounts should have a nominee to avoid legal complications. The Will may be amended or modified any time by writing an entirely new Will and replace the old one with a new one. If a priest expires intestate (without writing a will), it will be taken for granted that the priest wished to leave all his belongings, movable and immovable, bank deposits etc. to the Archdiocese. All the proceeds will be transferred to the Clergy Security Fund after the expenses are deducted.

Priests are encouraged, if they so desire, to make their Will in favour of Clergy Security Fund.

[Refer Pastoral Handbook Chapter 3.18 (Page 221-223)]

v. Archdiocesan Commissions' Meeting

The Archdiocesan Commissions' Meeting will be held on Thursday, 12th November, 2015 at 10.00 a.m. at Paalanaa Bhavana.

All the Secretaries and Joint Secretaries are requested to attend this meeting with the reports, and also to present the plan and the budget for the Year 2016 for their respective commissions.

vi. Archdiocesan Directory

Diocesan Directory 2015-2016 Diocesan Directory 2015-2016 will be available at the following places The price is Rs. 150/- Please don't delay in buying your copy. If there are any mistakes or suggestions, kindly inform the Chancellor.

Archdiocesan Directory will be available at the following places:

Archbishop's House; Asian Trading Corporation – Da Costa Layout; Resource Centre; Paalanaa Bhavana; Holy Ghost Church – Richards Town; Infant Jesus Church – Viveknagar; Liturgical Centre – Guru Yesu Bhavan; Resurrection Church – Indiranagar; Sacred Heart Church – Richmond Road; St. Anthony's Church – T.C. Palya; St. Anthony's Friary Church – Madivala; St. Mary's Basilica – Shivajinagar; St. Paul's Book Centre – Museum Road and St. Vincent Pallotti Church – Banaswadi.

vii. Christanamana

Christa Namana Christmas Programme this year will be held on Saturday, 12th December 2015, at 5 p.m. at Christ University, near Dairy Circle, Hosur Road, Bengaluru. The Christa Namana programme will include messages, carols singing, dance and tableau. Kindly give publicity to this programme in your parishes and institutions.

With every good wish and God's blessings,

Yours sincerely,



✠ **Bernard Moras**

Archbishop of Bangalore

CHAPTER TWO: THE GOSPEL OF CREATION

At the very outset Pope Francis answers the question, why an encyclical addressed to every person on the planet, includes a chapter on the Bible. He justifies the use of Scripture, in saying that if we are serious about resolving the ecological crisis then an inclusive approach of all knowledge, wisdom, cultures and religions is indispensable. Dialogue and cooperation from all walks of life can find solutions; nonetheless, religious belief motivates believers to care for the earth and for the vulnerable. Christians could be able to recognize their duty towards nature and their Creator as an essential part of their faith.

The wisdom of the Biblical account reiterates a firm commitment to the immense dignity, intrinsic to each person, by virtue of every person having the image and likeness of God. Beyond that, the Creator has sought a relationship with every human person conferring on the person infinite dignity. Pope Francis marvels at the biblical understanding that we are not merely a product of chance or an accident, but willed and conceived in the heart of God, even before we were born.

The creation narratives outline three fundamental relationships that are closely intertwined: with God, with neighbour, and with the earth. However, this relationship has been ruptured due to sin. This harmonious relationship is disrupted because we have taken the place of God distorting our obligation to till and care for the earth, instead we seek an absolute dominion to subdue and dominate the earth. War, violence, abuse and poverty are symptomatic manifestations of this rupture in the relationships.

Pope Francis extracts a scriptural basis for a relationship with creation. The Bible places emphasis on relationships among individuals, and other living beings. The claims of a biblical mandate for absolute dominion over the earth is rejected.

Pope Francis corrects the misinterpretation of the biblical texts in Genesis. Human beings are given the mandate to be stewards, to care and cultivate the earth, not to domineer, exploit and subjugate the earth.

The earth belongs to God, to claim an absolute ownership over the earth, and to do as one pleases, is idolatrous because it is usurping God's dominion. In addition, as stewards we are asked to recognize the value of every living creature and creation, respecting the laws of nature and the goodness of every creature. Being created in the image and likeness of God we imitate God who is caring and loving to all creatures.

Since everything in the world is interconnected, a disregard for the relationship with God, with others and with the earth results in endangering fraternity, justice and faithfulness. In the Christian tradition 'nature' has an exalted position because it is 'creation'. Creation came into existence because of God's loving plan, so every creature has a value and significance. Through this book of nature we can come to know the Creator and recognise the worth and fragility of nature. We overcome a false assumption that development can come through unlimited progress and exploitation of the earth. The earth is God's gift to us, full of beauty and wonder. The fruits of the earth belong to everyone. All are equal in the eyes of God, all people are entitled, simply by virtue of their humanity, to what they need to survive. The heart of the problem according to Pope Francis is our rejection of a theocentric view of the world. We have a duty to preserve the earth which sustains life, by exploiting the earth we are indulging in self-destruction. A Christian view upholds a dignity and sacredness of nature, because it is created by God. Nature has an intrinsic value, this is not merely because it has ecological value. "It is not enough to think of different species merely as potential "resources" to be exploited, while overlooking the fact that they have value in themselves".

Although, we postulate an evolutionary process of how things came to be, yet evolution does not answer the question why matter came to be. Besides, in a material world we also have a persons, beings; which presupposes a being who has called us to a relationship out of love. Therefore, no living being ought to be treated as an object. When we consider other living beings as objects, we are impelled to consider them as sources of profit and gain. This breeds inequality, injustice and violence. The ultimate purpose of creation is to reach its fullness in God, in the Risen Christ. As human beings we are endowed with intelligence

and love, and therefore a greater responsibility lies with us to bring all of Creation to fulfilment in Christ.

No living creature is unnecessary or redundant, every creature fulfils a purpose. Even the soil, water and the mountains are symbols of God's love for us. Nature is another book written by God from which we can recognize God with awe and wonder. As we contemplate nature we can hear the Sacred Scripture speak to us about God, our relationships with God, with one another, and with all creation. As we recognize the sacredness of nature, we discover our own sacredness. As creatures we are not self-sufficient, and we cannot hold in one creature the entire magnificence of God. Thus, all creatures complement one another and are in the service of other creatures. This sentiment led St. Francis in his "Canticle of the Creatures" to praise God through all creation. Besides, it also helped St. Francis to recognize creation as brother and sister. "St. Francis communed with all creation, even preaching to the flowers, inviting them to praise God, just as if they were endowed with reason". Pope Francis cautions us that if we approach the earth without such openness to a relationship with nature, then our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, and ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on our own immediate needs. At variance to such an attitude is a relationship with nature which will spontaneously endow in us an attitude of care and respect for all that is created.

The biblical understanding of creation is that all of creation belongs to God. All of creation is called to a communion with God and therefore there are unseen bonds that unite us to all creation. This does not confer equal dignity to all creation, nor is there any divinization of nature. The dignity conferred on us should help us recognize the vulnerability and fragility of all creation. However, we even consider other human beings as less equal. We have become immune to the injustices we cause to creation that has even driven us to accept that some human beings are less human than others. The degrading poverty of some is juxtaposed against the vanity and wastage caused by others. We even tolerate such inequalities. Pope Francis underscores the fact that a deep sense of communion with nature is unreal if it has no concern for the poor or the deprived. Everything on the earth is connected, and therefore, the concern for the environment ought to be combined with the love for fellow

human beings and should lead us to “an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society”.

Following the above thesis, every act of cruelty towards any creature whether human nor non-human, is opposed to human dignity. “We cannot consider ourselves to be fully loving if we disregard any aspect of reality: Peace, justice and preservation of creation are three absolutely interconnected themes, which cannot be separated and treated individually”.

Pope Francis in a radical way critiques the private ownership, at the expense of the common good. God’s gift of the earth is for all, there are no favourites. Yet, twenty percent of the world’s population consumes resources at such a high rate that robs the poor and future generations of their basic needs. The gifts of the earth are benefiting only a few, whilst large populations go without some of the basic necessities. The poor are equal in dignity to the rich and have a right to their basic needs. Catholic social teaching has always held that possession of private property is not absolute or inviolable, but at the service of the common good. Therefore, we need to seriously question our unjust habits.

Jesus emphasising the paternal relationship with the Father, recognized the Father’s care for all creatures: just as the five sparrows sold for two pennies are not forgotten by the Father, so also, the Father feeds the birds of the air that neither sow nor reap, and likewise the lilies of the valleys. Jesus was himself in harmony with nature, since all things are created through Christ, all have their destiny in Him, the Word who became flesh and sanctified creation through his participation in creation. He will reconcile all things to the Father, thus creatures are not merely an expendable natural resource, but they are something that the Risen One draws to himself, therefore, precious and ought to be treated with care. Pope Francis assures us that God who is loving and counts on our cooperation without invading our freedom and autonomy can also help us bring good out of the evil and help us correct the past errors.

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2015

1) CLERGY SECURITY FUND

1	06.10.15	Rev Fr Chowrappa Selvaraj	Briand Square	11,500.00
2	24.10.15	Rev Fr Francis Xavier	Indiranagar	7,000.00

2) HOLY LANDS COLLECTIONS dated 03.04.2015 (To be Sent to Rome)

1	14.10.15	St Rock's Church	Chelikere	2,420.00
2	24.10.15	St Thomas Church	H.A.L (Jeevanbhima Nagar)	27,296.00

3) EASTER SUNDAY COLLECTIONS dated 05.04.2015 (Towards extension of Mission works in our Archdiocese)

1	14.10.15	St Rock's Church	Chelikere	3,490.00
2	24.10.15	St Thomas Church	H.A.L (Jeevanbhima Nagar)	23,382.00
3	31.10.15	Church of The Holy Name of Jesus	Rajarajeshwari Nagar	5,000.00

4) VOCATION SUNDAY COLLECTIONS dated 26.04.2015 (For the Maintenance of Major and Minor Seminarians of our Archdiocese)

1	05.10.15	Our Lady of Victories Church	Champion Reefs	5,488.00
2	14.10.15	St Rock's Church	Chelikere	2,505.00
3	24.10.15	St Thomas Church	H.A.L (Jeevanbhima Nagar)	19,694.00
4	31.10.15	Church of The Holy Name of Jesus	Rajarajeshwari Nagar	5,311.00

5) PETER'S PENCE COLLECTIONS dated 28.06.2015 (To be sent to Rome towards Holy Father's Charities)

1	05.10.15	Our Lady of Victories Church	Champion Reefs	5,413.00
2	14.10.15	St Rock's Church	Chelikere	2,173.00

3	15.10.15	Good Shepherd Church	Murphy Town	7,682.00
4	23.10.15	St Paul Church	Nagasandra	4,635.00
5	24.10.15	St Thomas Church	H.A.L (Jeevanbhima Nagar)	21,394.00
6	26.10.15	Holy Cross Church	BEML Nagar	3,910.00
7	31.10.15	Church of The Holy Name of Jesus	Rajarajeshwari Nagar	4,344.00

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

1	05.10.15	Our Lady of Victories Church	Champion Reefs	8,820.00
2	07.10.15	St Pius X Church	Kammanahalli	17,450.00
3	14.10.15	St Rock's Church	Chelikere	3,020.00
4	15.10.15	Good Shepherd Church	Murphy Town	7,273.00
5	23.10.15	St Paul Church	Nagasandra	5,125.00
6	24.10.15	St Thomas Church	H.A.L (Jeevanbhima Nagar)	21,344.00
7	26.10.15	Holy Cross Church	BEML Nagar	4,532.00
8	31.10.15	Church of The Holy Name of Jesus	Rajarajeshwari Nagar	4,550.00

**7) AFRICAN MISSION dated 16.08.2015
(To help the Mission work in Africa)**

1	05.10.15	Our Lady of Victories Church	Champion Reefs	9,060.00
2	07.10.15	Sacred Heart Church	Sidlaghatta	380.00
3	07.10.15	St Joseph's Church	Chinthamani	959.00
4	07.10.15	St Rita's Church	Kanakapura	750.00
5	07.10.15	St Pius X Church	Kammanahalli	19,972.00
6	07.10.15	St Rita's Church	Kunigal	500.00
7	07.10.15	St Francis De Sales Church	Malur	910.00
8	15.10.15	Good Shepherd Church	Murphy Town	5,912.00
9	23.10.15	St Paul Church	Nagasandra	4,875.00
10	24.10.15	St Thomas Church	H.A.L (Jeevanbhima Nagar)	20,697.00
11	31.10.15	Church of The Holy Name of Jesus	Rajarajeshwari Nagar	5,320.00

8 SOCIETY OF ST PETER, Apostle dated 20.09.2015
(Towards the up keep of Seminarians in the whole world)

1	03.10.15	St Anthony's Church	Guddadahalli	6,170.00
2	03.10.15	Our Lady of Fathima Church	Jalahalli	28,270.00
3	05.10.15	Our Lady of Victories Church	Champion Reefs	6,121.00
4	06.10.15	Infant Jesus Church	Viveknagar	87,525.00
5	07.10.15	Sacred Heart Church	Sidlaghatta	310.00
6	07.10.15	St Joseph's Church	Chinthamani	611.00
7	07.10.15	St Rita's Church	Kanakapura	1,050.00
8	07.10.15	St Pius X Church	Kammanahalli	16,260.00
9	07.10.15	St Theresa's Church	Robertsonpet K.G.F	5,790.00
10	07.10.15	St Rita's Church	Kunigal	500.00
11	07.10.15	St Francis De Sales Church	Malur	815.00
12	08.10.15	Ascension Church	Da Costa Layout	57,430.00
13	14.10.15	St Rock's Church	Chelikere	2,365.00
14	15.10.15	Good Shepherd Church	Murphy Town	6,460.00
15	17.10.15	Annunciation Church	Nandidurga Road	4,770.00
16	20.10.15	Christ the King Church	Byrathi	4,555.00
17	21.10.15	St Anthony's Church	Kadasenahalli	230.00
18	23.10.15	St Paul Church	Nagasandra	5,075.00
19	26.10.15	St John The Evangelist Church	J.C Nagar	10,280.00
20	31.10.15	Church of The Holy Name of Jesus	Rajarajeshwari Nagar	4,616.00

9 MISSION SUNDAY COLLECTIONS dated (18.10.2015)
(Towards universal Mission Works)

1	19.10.15	Archdiocesan Clergy Home for the retired Priest	Archbishop's House	5,000.00
2	19.10.15	Nithya Dhara Mathe Church	Srinivasapura	10,000.00
3	19.10.15	St Theresa's Church	J.C Road	16,362.00

4	20.10.15	Immaculate Conception Church	Railway Colony	1,05,000.00
5	24.10.15	Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church	Mariapura	51,000.00
6	21.10.15	St Michael's Church	Shanthi Nagar	28,910.00
7	21.10.15	St Anthony's Church	Kadasenahalli	4,210.00
8	26.10.15	Holy Cross Church	BEML Nagar	20,555.00
9	27.10.15	Carmelite Convent	Ali Asker Road	11,000.00
10	29.10.15	St Anthony's Church	Gangodanahalli	27,180.00
11	29.10.15	Stella Maris Convent	Malleswaram	12,000.00
12	29.10.15	Jnana Jyothi	Atlibele Road Anekal	5,000.00
13	29.10.15	St Joseph's Church	Lingarajpuram	19,348.00
14	30.10.15	St Patrick'S Church	Brigade Road	2,28,400.00
15	31.10.15	Church of The Holy Name of Jesus	Rajarajeshwari Nagar	25,000.00
