

We have just begun the new month. The month of October is popularly known the Holy Rosary Month dedicated to the recitation of the Holy Rosary. Every year the feast of the Holy Rosary is celebrated on 7th October. As is the custom, devotees of Our Lady gather around her Grotto to pray the Rosary all the 31 days of the month for forgiveness of sins and peace in the world through her powerful intercession. Hence, I request you, dear Fathers, to continue this devotion, especially during this month of October by encouraging your parishioners to pray it daily in their homes, and before the celebration of the daily Eucharist in our churches and chapels, and also wherever the custom prevails, before the Grotto of Our Lady. St. John Paul II said “How beautiful is the family that recites the Rosary in the evening”.

The month of October is a good time to commit to praying the rosary every day. There are some great ways to celebrate the month of the Holy Rosary in the following manner:

1. Pray the Rosary every day, especially for Priests and Religious who are in need of our constant prayers, and also for the various intentions of the people and the Archdiocese.
2. Make it a point to attend Mass every day in October, especially on 7th October, the Feast of the Holy Rosary.
3. Encourage children and the youth of your Parish to pray the Rosary and, if need be, distribute it to them so that each one of them has a personal rosary.
4. Wherever possible, the recitation of the decade of the Rosary can be combined with a short reflection of the mystery as narrated in the Gospel.

In this way, let us celebrate the month of the Holy Rosary by honouring our Heavenly Mother so that through her powerful intercession, peace may prevail everywhere and unity and harmony may be promoted among people of all walks of life.

In this month, we also celebrate **The WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**. The Church all over the world will be celebrating Mission Sunday on 16th October on the theme: “Missionary Church, Witness of Mercy.” At a time when more and more threats and hurdles are faced by the Church in its missionary role and activities, and making it difficult to proclaim the Gospel and to evangelize people of all nations, the Church still undauntedly marches forward to realize the command of our Lord Jesus Christ to be His witness to people of all walks of life everywhere. We need therefore to storm heaven with our prayers and sacrifices to support the missionaries, missions and missionary activities so that the Gospel of Christ continues to be proclaimed and witnessed in spite of opposition. It is indeed very disheartening and painful when we hear about the imprisonment and torture of missionaries. Besides our prayers and sacrifices, as we do every year, let us come forward to offer our financial assistance meant exclusively for this purpose.

Closing of the Jubilee Doors and the Year of Mercy: The 2016 Jubilee was first announced by Pope Francis on March 13, 2015. It was declared in the Pope's April 2015 Papal Bull of Indiction, *Misericordiae Vultus* (“*The Face of Mercy*”). It is the 27th Holy Year in history, following the ordinary 2000 Jubilee during St. John Paul II's Papacy.

The Year of Mercy is an invitation—an invitation to love, kindness, and unbounded generosity. Pope Francis is offered us the opportunity to encounter the incredible mercy of God, and encountering mercy means encountering God. It also transforms our lives, our relationships, our work, and our ability to embrace and experience God's eternal presence within and around us.

During the Year of Mercy, as directed by the Holy Father, the Diocesan Cathedral Doors and the other Doors of the Shrines that were designated by the local Ordinaries were solemnly opened worldwide on 13th December, 2015. And the pilgrims entered through these Holy Doors during the past months experienced the Mercy of God and obtained Plenary Indulgence.

On Sunday, November 13, 2016

Closing of the Holy Doors in the Basilicas of Rome and in the Dioceses of the world.

In our Archdiocese, The Three Jubilee Doors will be closed on the following dates:

1. St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral on Saturday 6th November 2016 at 5.00 p.m. followed by the Holy Mass.
2. St. Mary's Shrine Basilica, Shivajinagar on Saturday 12th November 2016 at 5.00 p.m. followed by the Holy Mass.
3. Infant Jesus Shrine Parish on Thursday 10th November 2016 at 5.00 p.m. followed by the Holy Mass.

On Sunday, November 20, 2016 Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Closing of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica and the conclusion of the Jubilee of Mercy.

In our Archdiocese, The Jubilee Year of Mercy will be closed on 20th November, 2016 in all our Parishes.

The Archdiocesan Liturgical Committee is preparing a Special Liturgy for the occasion, and it will be attached to the next month's Circular.

Reflection: "The story is told of a woman who bought a parrot to keep her company, but she returned it the next day.

"This bird doesn't talk," she told the owner. "Does he have a mirror in his cage?" he asked.

"Parrots love mirrors. They see their reflection and start a conversation."

The woman bought a mirror and left.

The next day she returned; the bird still wasn't talking.

"How about a ladder? Parrots love ladders.

The happy parrot is a talkative parrot." The woman bought a ladder and left.

But the next day, she was back. "Does your parrot have a swing?

No? Well, that's the problem.

Once he starts swinging, he'll talk up a storm."

The woman reluctantly bought a swing and left.

When she walked into the store the next day, her countenance had changed.

"The parrot died," she said. The pet store owner was shocked.

"I'm so sorry. Tell me, did he ever say anything?" he asked.

"Yes, right before he died," the woman replied.

"In a weak voice, he asked me, 'Don't they sell any food at that pet store?'"

In life one should have a priority and give importance to only that. What is not important has to be totally discarded and ignored; only by doing this can we lead a happy, contented and fruitful life. If we ignore the essential elements needed for our spiritual and temporal well-being and give priority only to the trivial things, then our life becomes whimsical and paradoxical! Our Blessed Lord has said: "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Mt. 6:33). Yet in another place he has said: "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? (Mk.8:36).

Let us take a moment to do a priority check, and strive for what is most important for us!

I invoke God's abundant blessings upon you and your families.

+ **Bernard Moras**
Archbishop of Bangalore