



Archdiocese of Bangalore
CIRCULAR



St. Francis Xavier
Patron of Archdiocese
Pray for Us

Archbishop's House, 75 Miller's Road, Benson Town Post
Bengaluru - 560 046, Karnataka, India. Phone : 23330438, Fax : 080-23531600
E-mail : archbishop@bangalorearchdiocese.com, Web : www.bangalorearchdiocese.com

No. 153

FEBRUARY 2017

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

1. WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for the consecrated men and women. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on 2nd February. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day, the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

Those consecrated to God by the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience are expected to live their baptismal promises more intensely and to have the grace to persevere in their commitment to the Lord and serve with open hearts and willing spirits.

Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and also do not forget to thank them for their generous service to all of us in our Archdiocese. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

2. ARCHBISHOP GIAMBATTISTA DIQUATTRO NEW APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO INDIA

His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed His Excellency Most Rev. Giambattista Diquattro, till now Apostolic Nuncio in Bolivia, as the new Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal. This ecclesiastical provision was made public in Rome on Saturday, 21st January, 2017, at noon local time, corresponding to 16:30 hours, Indian Standard Time.

The Most Reverend Giambattista Diquattro was born in Bologna (Italy) on 18 March 1954. He was ordained a priest in Ragusa on 24 August 1981. He received his Master's Degree in civil law from the University of Catania, his Doctorate in

Canon Law (JCD) from the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome, and his Master's Degree in dogmatic theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

He joined the Diplomatic Service of the Holy See on 1 May 1985, serving continuous missions in the Pontifical Representations in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chad, the United Nations (in New York), and later in the Secretariat of State of His Holiness – Section for Relations with States, and in the Apostolic Nunciature in Italy. On 2 April 2005, Saint John Paul II appointed him Titular Archbishop of Giromonte and Apostolic Nuncio to Panama. His Episcopal Ordination took place on 4 June 2005 in the Cathedral of Ragusa, and he began his mission in Panama on 12 July 2005. On 21 November 2008, he was appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Bolivia. Besides Italian, he is fluent in French, Spanish and English.

3. THE 29TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY

The 29th Plenary Assembly of the CCBI will be held in Bhopal from 31 January to 8 February 2017. The Conference will deliberate on the theme of Family with special focus on the Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* given by Pope Francis on 19 March 2016. Let us keep all the participants in our prayers and pray for fruitful deliberations during this meeting so that the Church in India may benefit significantly in her apostolate towards family- the domestic Church.

I will be away from Bangalore from 30th January to 10th February 2017 to attend the CCBI Meeting at Bhopal. Please pray for me and success of the meeting.

4. HOLY SEASON OF LENT

Catholics all over the world will enter into the Holy Season of Lent on 1st March this year in a spirit of prayer, penance, fasting and sacrifice to unite themselves with the sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ who, through His suffering and death, wrought our salvation and through His resurrection has promised us eternal life. In the words of Pope Francis, “Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each communities and every believer. Above all, it is a “time of grace” (2 Cor. 6:2). God does not ask of us anything that he himself has not first given us. “We love because he first has loved us” (1 Jn. 4:19). He is not aloof from us. Each one of us has a place in his heart”. The holy season of Lent therefore invites all of us to enter into the spirit with which Christ suffered for us, died on the Cross and has risen. It also invites us to spend this season in a spirit of prayer, penance, fasting and sacrifice so that by our own inner purification and liberation from evil and sinfulness, we may be able to obtain and experience the mercy of God.

I hereby request all of you, dear Rev. Fathers to announce to your parishioners about the significance of Lent and the spirit behind this holy season. Devotion of the Way of the Cross during Lent is there in all our parishes. Let this be a grace-filled opportunity to meditate on the mystery of the Cross and Salvation. Its shorter form

is also undertaken in many parishes everyday either before or after the daily Mass during Lent, which I appreciate very much and encourage so that this holy season of Lent may become for all of us a sure means of grace and holiness. While Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of penance to be marked by fasting and abstinence from the eating of meat, all Fridays of Lent may also be treated accordingly. It is my prayerful hope that this Lent will prove spiritually fruitful for each one of us.

All the priests in the diocese are expected to be in their respective places/parishes to render Lenten services to the faithful. Of late, there is a lot of awakening in spiritual sphere among the faithful during Lent. I hope every opportunity is made use of to deepen our faith and make our life more authentic.

5. BCCRS – LENTEN PROGRAM – “FAST & PRAY” – 2017 **(40 Days round-the-clock Prayer at the Bridgettine Convent, Bengaluru)**

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way. 3 This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,” (1 Tim 2: 1-3).

“Bangalore Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services, in association with the Proclamation and Evangelisation Commission of the Archdiocese of Bangalore, is organising the sixth annual Prayer and Intercession, running 24 hours of 40 Days of Lent. In the past years, we have had the participation from religious organisations under CRI, Seminarians, School Children, Nurses from various hospitals, Youth and Laity from all language groups.

This year the theme is “Lord, bless the WORLD, our NATION and the CHURCH”. As usual it will be held at the Bridgettine Convent, #10, Brunton Road (off MG Road), Bengaluru - 560 025. The programme will begin at 11:00 a.m. on the 1st of March (Ash Wednesday), with Holy Mass, and will conclude on 9th April at 11:00 a.m. (Palm Sunday) with Holy Mass, both these Masses will be celebrated by His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Bernard Moras, Archbishop of Bangalore.

Intercession and Worship at the convent of Brigitta will be in Kannada, Tamil, English, Konkani and Malayalam from 8 AM to 10 PM by the laity and by the Religious from different Congregations from 10 PM to 8 AM. Intentions for Intercession have been listed to help intercessors to pray in a systematic, consistent and efficient manner. The faithful, religious sisters, brothers and priests are encouraged to participate in this Lenten Intercessory Programme and to become the Prayer Warriors.

This year the BCCRS will also collaborate with the CRI as they plan to organise Night Vigils in 18 CRI Zones in the Archdiocese.

For more details, please contact: Mr. Cherian Ramapuram, Mob: 9880433433, E-mail: cherian.ramapuram@orangecounty.in

6. MILLIONS TO MARY: A WORLD CONSECRATION CAMPAIGN

I am happy to inform you that a World Consecration Campaign has been launched to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Apparitions of Mary, the Mother of God at Fatima (Portugal) in 1917, and to respond to her request that the world be consecrated to her Immaculate Heart. The Campaign was inaugurated in the Basilica of the Annunciation at Nazareth (Holy Land) by a group of pilgrims, priests, and religious from India in August 2016. Again, it was inaugurated in different places in India on January 01, 2017.

The World Consecration Campaign invites the children of God all over the world to consecrate / entrust themselves to Jesus Christ, the Son of God, through the Blessed Virgin Mary. As Pope Pius XII says, "Consecration to the Mother of God is a total gift of self, for the whole of life and for all eternity; and a gift which is not a mere formality or sentimentality, but effectual, comprising the full intensity of the Christian life – Marian life." This consecration, the Pope explains, "tends essentially to union with Jesus, under the guidance of Mary."

Pope Francis says, "Mary was able to turn a stable into a home for Jesus, with poor swaddling clothes and an abundance of love" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 286). If so, she is also able to turn our sinful hearts into homes for Jesus. And, therefore, through this consecration, we entrust ourselves to her so that she can transform us into genuine missionary disciples of Christ. We become her children by imitating her virtues.

As preparation for consecration, the faithful are invited to repent of their sins, make a good confession, receive Holy Communion and recite the Creed, and then recite the prayer of consecration. The act of consecration is made fruitful when it is done after due preparation. All details on Consecration will be made available through a website which will be launched shortly.

I am happy to support this campaign initiated by Fr. T.C. George SDB of the Bangalore Province of the Salesians. I wish him and his team God's blessings. I hope and pray that this campaign may spread all over the world and may bring millions to Christ through Mary, his Mother. As we all know, the world needs it at this moment of history.

I encourage all to make use of this opportunity, to consecrate themselves to Mary as individuals, families, groups, parish communities, etc.

For more information, please contact:

Rev. Fr. T.C. George, SDB

Phone: 9448815694

Email: consecration2017@gmail.com

7. FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception in the Apostolic Constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*. A little more than three years later, on February 11, 1858, a young lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous at Lourdes. This began a series of visions. During the apparition on March 25, the lady identified herself with these words: "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Bernadette was a sickly child of poor parents. Their practice of the Catholic faith was scarcely more than lukewarm. Bernadette could pray the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Creed. She also knew the prayer of the Miraculous Medal: "O Mary conceived without sin."

During interrogations Bernadette gave an account of what she saw. It was "something white in the shape of a girl." She used the word *aquero*, a dialect term meaning "this thing." It was "a pretty young girl with a rosary over her arm." Her white robe was encircled by a blue girdle. She wore a white veil. There was a yellow rose on each foot. A rosary was in her hand. Bernadette was also impressed by the fact that the lady did not use the informal form of address (tu), but the polite form (vous). The humble virgin appeared to a humble girl and treated her with dignity.

Through that humble girl, Mary revitalized and continues to revitalize the faith of millions of people. People began to flock to Lourdes from other parts of France and from all over the world. In 1862, Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions and authorized the cult of Our Lady of Lourdes for the diocese. The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes became worldwide in 1907.

Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and healing, to people of faith this is not surprising. It is a continuation of Jesus' healing miracles – now performed at the intercession of his mother. Some would say that the greater miracles are hidden. Many who visit Lourdes return home with renewed faith and a readiness to serve God in their needy brothers and sisters.

There still may be people who doubt the apparitions of Lourdes. Perhaps the best that can be said to them are the words that introduce the film, *The Song of Bernadette*: "*For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe, no explanation is possible.*"

Dear Fathers, please organize the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes in a fitting manner. You may have a rosary procession or Candle light procession, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. You may have special Mass for sick in front of the grotto. Kindly also organize in your parishes and institutions relevant and effective programmes focusing on the gift of healing that Christ has brought and with special attention to all those who afflicted in any way. Visiting the sick in homes and hospitals would be an appropriate act of mercy on this day.

8. HOLY CHILDHOOD DAY

The Holy Childhood Association was founded in France in 1843 by Bishop Charles de Forbin Jansen. Its purpose is to encourage all children to be aware of the needs of children living in mission diocese through the world. Bishop de Forbin Jansen always had a keen interest in the missions. He was a great preacher and traveled throughout France preaching the Gospel. He received letters from missionaries in China requesting his financial help to save starving and abandoned babies there. He did not know how to begin to raise these funds so he met with Pauline Jaricot who had already begun her work to raise funds for mission dioceses. She advised him that no one could understand the needs of children better than children. She gave him the idea to start a children's charity.

In 1843 he called upon the children of France to help save the children of China. He asked them to become Missionary Children, helping to spread the Good News. He asked them to say a Hail Mary every day and give a small coin every month to help feed the Chinese children.

Their motto was "*children helping children*". The French children took up this great work and from then on the work of missionary children has spread across the world. Today it is in 110 countries and helps make Jesus known to children all over the world. Under its banner "*children helping children*", monies raised through schools are directed towards self-help programmes involving the building of schools, the provision of health and nutrition programmes and medications, school fees, and teaching and learning resources.

Children in communities, orphanages, homes for the disabled, refugees, and those living on the streets are assisted by the generosity of children who wish to make the love of Jesus know everywhere.

The Holy Childhood Day will be celebrated on **Sunday, 12th February, 2017**. As usual, the collections made at all the masses will be sent to the Holy Childhood Society. The parish priests are requested to send the Holy Childhood Day collections to the Archdiocesan Finance Office by the end of the month.

9. A PARISH WHERE THERE IS NO GOSSIP IS A PERFECT PARISH! SAYS POPE FRANCIS

Jesus Christ's first disciples were "sinners," like all of us, but they had a great strong point: they never spoke badly of one another and in this they gave a great example, succeeding in spreading the Gospel throughout the world. In his first post-Jubilee parish visit to Setteville of Guidonia in Rome, Pope Francis prayed for a special grace for the community: to never "gossip," to never talk about one another.

The Holy Father took his cue from today's Gospel (*John* 1:29-34), to reflect on the concept of "*testimony*": many of John the Baptist's disciples listened to the prophet's

testimony, chose to follow Jesus and “remained happy,” saying: “We have found the Messiah!” Those first disciples of the Nazarene “felt Jesus’ presence thanks to a man, John, who gave witness of Christ.

Casting a look on today’s reality, the Pontiff noted: “So many Christians confess that Jesus is God,” and among these there are “priests” and “bishops.” A question arises, however: “Do they all give witness of Jesus?”

To be Christians, continued the Pope, is something very different from being “fans of a team” or adhering to a “philosophy. It also goes beyond simple respect for the “Commandments,” of a “I must do this ...”

Those first disciples, the Apostles, did not follow a course,” nor did they “go to university” to give witness of Jesus Christ. Moreover, they were all “sinners,” not “only Judas” of whom, after all, we do not know what happened after his death,” in as much as, perhaps, God’s mercy could have saved him.

The Twelve Apostles, added Francis, were full of defects, they were “envious,” experienced “jealousy between them,” argued about who should “occupy the first place.” They were even “traitors” and it is demonstrated by the fact that “when Jesus was seized, they all fled They were afraid, they hid.” Peter himself, “who was the head,” tried to follow the Master up closer in his final trial but “when a servant recognized him, he denied Jesus.” Thus, St. Peter’s Successor stressed: “The first Pope betrayed Jesus.”

However, all those first disciples “let themselves be saved” and became “witnesses of salvation,” granted to them by Jesus. They committed “so many sins,” including the Lord’s betrayal, but they were great in one aspect: “They weren’t gossipers, they did not talk badly of one another,” as opposed to so many of today’s communities, where they end by “skinning one another.”

Hence, the Pope re-launched a strong point of his preaching: “A community where there are gossipers doesn’t give witness. If you have something to say, say it to the face or, at most, “say it to the parish priest.” From whence the Bishop of Rome drew his recommendation to Saint Mary’s parish: “I would like this community to make the resolution not to gossip.” In face of such a temptation, “bite your tongue!”, he added.

Given that “the Apostles never gossiped about one another, “a parish without gossip is a perfect parish,” made up “of witnesses,” of which one can say credibly “How they love one another!”, said Francis, praying finally to the Lord for the parishioners of Setteville of Guidonia, to be given the grace “never to talk about one another.

10. FR. K. ANTONY WILLIAM APPOINTED AS NEW BISHOP OF MYSORE

His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Rev. Fr. Kannikadass William Antony (52), of the clergy of Mysore, as the new Bishop of Mysore. This provision was

made public in Rome on Wednesday, 25 January 2017, at noon local time, 16:30 hours, IST.

Rev. Fr. Kannikadass William Antony, was born in Pollibetta, in the Diocese of Mysore, on 27th February, 1965. He studied at the St. Mary's Minor Seminary and at St. Philomena's College in Mysore. He completed his philosophical and theological studies and acquired a Master's Degree in Canon Law (1996-1998) at the St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary in Bangalore. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Education and a Master's Degree in Christianity from the University of Mysore. He was ordained a priest on 18th May, 1993 for the Diocese of Mysore and has exercised his priestly ministry in the following assignments: Assistant Parish Priest of St. Thomas Church in Thomayarpalayam (1993-1994); Assistant Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Martalli (1994-1995); Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Gundlupet (1995-1996); Parish Priest of Holy Family Church in Hinkal, Mysore (1998-2003); Financial Administrator and Chancellor of the Diocese of Mysore (2003-2009); Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Cathedral in Mysore and Dean of Mysore (2009-2015).

Since 2015, he has been the Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Church in Jayalakshmiipuram, and Secretary of the Mysore Diocesan Educational Society (MDES). He is a member of the Diocesan College of Consultors, of the Diocesan Financial Council and of the Mysore Diocesan Society (MDS), as well as the Diocesan Public Relation Officer (PRO) and the Defender of Bond at the Diocesan Tribunal, in the Diocese of Mysore.

It is my privilege to congratulate him on your behalf and to wish him every success in his episcopal ministry in his diocese. His Episcopal Ordination will take place St. Joseph's Cathedral, Mysore on Monday, 27th February 2017.

11. A RETREAT CENTRE FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE

In our modern life, noise and distractions wrap around us. Too many distractions keep us from serious thinking and making our prayer life more difficult. Hence, we need a place to meet the spiritual and faith education needs of all of us, the priests, religious and lay faithful of the Archdiocese, where one can 'Be still, and know that God is there in quietness (Ps 46: 10)! Amidst our busy schedule, going on a retreat, pilgrimage or quiet day can be a helpful way to make time for God. Although a number of spiritual renewal programmes are being conducted by the BCCRS and other Retreat Centres in the Archdiocese, we do not have our own Retreat Centre that can cater to the spiritual needs of the Archdiocesan parishes and various Commissions and lay Associations as we do not have proper facilities. This need of the Archdiocese was discussed at our meetings and, as a matter of fact, one or two places were identified earlier. But due to some reasons it couldn't be materialized.

Now the Archdiocesan Administration has identified the land at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Halasuru (Cambridge Layout) for this purpose.

This Retreat Centre will be animated by the BCCRS in collaboration with other Commissions and Pious Associations of the Archdiocese.

It is suggested by the Parish Priest and the BCCRS Team to bless the foundation stone for this Retreat Centre on 25th February, 2017 at 3.00 p.m. with the Holy Mass.

As a spiritual preparation and to invoke god's blessings upon this project, the BCCRS, in collaboration with the Archdiocesan Commission for Proclamation and Evangelization, has also planned to organize a Spiritual Convention on 25th February, 2017 from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Please come and participate in this Convention in large numbers.

12. PASTORAL CONSULTATION AND CHRISM MASS

The Annual Pastoral Consultation will be held on **Thursday, 6th April, 2017 from 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at Paalanaa Bhavana.** The topics for the Pastoral Consultation will be published in my next month's Circular. If the Archdiocesan Clergy and the Religious working in our parishes and Institutions have any suggestions for the forthcoming Pastoral Consultation, please send it to me by the 25th February, 2017.

The Pastoral Consultation will conclude with the Chrism Mass at St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral at 5.00 p.m. Please mark this date in your diaries and make it convenient to participate in the Pastoral Consultation. The Archdiocesan Clergy and the Religious Priests working in our parishes and institutions are expected to participate in it.

13. APPOINTMENT OF THE DEAN

Sl. No.	Deanery	Dean	With effect from
1.	Madiwala Deanery	V. Rev. Fr. Amaldass B., ofm Parish Priest St. Anthony's Friary Church	01.02.2017

14. INFORMATION

i. Message of Pope Francis for the 25th World Day of the Sick 2017

Please see Annexure 1.

ii. Hearty Felicitations

Hearty congratulations to Most Rev Dr. Alphonsus Mathias, Archbishop Emeritus of Bangalore who celebrates his 53rd anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination on 5th February. Kindly pray for him. May Jesus the Eternal High Priest, bless the former prelate of our Archdiocese and give him good health and peaceful retirement.
Ad Multos Annos!

iii. 80th Birthday of Fr. T.S. Amruthraj

Fr. T.S. Amruthraj (Clergy Home) will be celebrating his 80th Birthday on 19th February, 2017. May he continue to enjoy good health and peaceful retirement. I wish him a Happy Birthday on your behalf and request all of you to offer special prayers for him on that day. I wish to thank him for his services to the Archdiocese. *Ad Multos Annos.*

iv. Priests' Council (Senate) Meeting

The meeting of the Priests' Council will be held on Wednesday, **15th February 2017** at Archbishop's House at 10.00 a.m. I request all the Senators to attend the meeting without fail.

v. Priests' Recollection

The Archdiocesan Priests and the Religious Priests working in the Archdiocesan parishes and institutions will have a day of Recollection on Tuesday, **21st February 2017** at Paalana Bhavana from 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. It is also an occasion for us to pray for each other, greet each other and experience a true fellowship. I kindly request all of you to participate in this recollection.

vi. Deans' Meeting

The meeting of the Deans will be held on **21st February 2017** at Archbishop's House at 2.00 p.m. I request all the Deans to attend the meeting without fail.

vii. Annual Statistics

Chancery office requested Parish Priests and Heads of Religious Communities of men and women to submit filled-in annual statistical forms to this office by 31 January 2016. There are still some who have yet to respond to my request and as a result there is unnecessary delay in my compliance in submitting it to the Holy See. I request those who have not yet submitted the annual statistical form to submit it latest by 15 February 2016.

viii. The House Blessings and Statistics

Maintaining a proper record of the parishioners in the parish, not only helps us to know the faithful, but it also makes our pastoral ministry more effective. Needless to say, it ensures future reference and growth. Therefore, I request the Parish Priests to get the help of the Members of the Parish Pastoral Council and the Lay Associations in collecting the data and computerizing them. This can be done/revised during the House Blessing during Easter time.

ix. Clergy Retreat

Annual Clergy Retreat for the Archdiocesan Clergy will be held at St. Gasper Retreat Center, Kithaganuru, K.R. Puram, in two batches:

- a) I Batch 24th April to 28th April, 2017
- b) II Batch 1st May to 5th May 2017

I cordially invite all our Archdiocesan Clergy to take part in the annual retreat without fail. Kindly register at the earliest your names with my Secretary, Rev. Fr. Panneer Selva Kumar.

x. Preparation for the Final Examinations

The Heads of the Institutions are requested to focus on the forthcoming examinations and motivate their students to perform well. Please advise the students to concentrate on their studies and do well in their examinations. Kindly remember, among other ministries, the Church considers the educational ministry as an important one as it shapes and molds the character of our children and youth by imparting spiritual and intellectual knowledge to them.

I request all the Parish Priests and institutional heads to conduct special prayer service for the students who are appearing for the final examinations.

xi. Death of Rev. Fr. Camille Cornu, MEP

Rev Fr. Camille Cornu was born on March 1935 at Clessa. He did his elementary education at Clessa. When he was 18 years old he realized his vocation to priesthood and joined MEP Missionary Society. After a long military service he was ordained a Priest on 27th December 1964. Soon after his ordination he was sent to Mysore Mission on 4th May 1965. He was appointed Parish Priest of Kamagere Parish from 1965-1975. Then he went to Kurnool Diocese at the request of the then Bishop, Most Rev. Joseph Rajappa, and worked as Parish Priest at Adoni in Andhra Pradesh from 1976-1989. In 1989 he was called back to Paris for service of MEP Society. In 1990 he was elected and appointed as the Regional Superior of MEP in India at the same time he was also the Spiritual Director of St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore. In 2014 he had to go back to France and he was appointed as assistant to the Superior General of MEP. He was diagnosed with a cancer tumor in the brain. He was treated for it and underwent chemotherapies, but there was no improvement in his health. Just two weeks before his death he was unable to move around and even to express himself. He breathed his last on 7th January 2017. He spent his last days at Montbeton, which is a home for retired Priests of MEP and was also buried there in the MEP Graveyard.

On behalf of all of us, I express my heartfelt condolences to the MEP Fathers. May the Lord grant them strength and courage to bear this irreparable loss. May the soul of the late Fr. Cornu, MEP, rest in peace.

xii. Appointment of the New President of St. Peter's Pontifical Institute

Rev. Fr. Titus Perianayagam is appointed as the new President of St. Peter's Pontifical Institute with effect from 30th January 2017 for a period of 3 years. On behalf of the Board of Administration of Bishops of St. Peter's Pontifical Institute and Seminary, I congratulate and wish him all the best in his work.

At the same time I would like to express my thanks to Rev. Fr. Rayappan, the outgoing President for his committed and dedicated service to the Institute for the past 7 years.

15. TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF MY EPISCOPAL ORDINATION

On 25th February, I will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of my Episcopal Ordination. While assuring you of my special prayers for all of you on that day, I request you to pray for me so that God may grant me the necessary graces to shepherd the flock entrusted to my pastoral care in this Archdiocese.

With best wishes and God's blessings,

Yours sincerely,



✠ **Bernard Moras**

Archbishop of Bangalore

ANNEXURE 1

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 2017

Amazement at what God has accomplished: “The Almighty has done great things for me...” (Lk 1:49)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On 11 February next, the Twenty-fifth World Day of the Sick will be celebrated throughout the Church and in a special way at Lourdes. The theme of this year’s celebration is “*Amazement at what God has accomplished: ‘The Almighty has done great things for me....’ (Lk 1:49)*”. Instituted by my predecessor Saint John Paul II in 1992, and first celebrated at Lourdes on 11 February 1993, this Day is an opportunity to reflect in particular on the needs of the sick and, more generally, of all those who suffer. It is also an occasion for those who generously assist the sick, beginning with family members, health workers and volunteers, to give thanks for their God-given vocation of accompanying our infirm brothers and sisters. This celebration likewise gives the Church renewed spiritual energy for carrying out ever more fully that fundamental part of her mission which includes serving the poor, the infirm, the suffering, the outcast and the marginalized (cf. John Paul II, *Motu Proprio Dolentium Hominum*, 11 February 1985, 1). Surely, the moments of prayer, the Eucharistic liturgies and the celebrations of the Anointing of the Sick, the sharing with the sick and the bioethical and theological-pastoral workshops to be held in Lourdes in those days will make new and significant contributions to that service.

Even now, I am spiritually present at the grotto of Massabielle, before the statue of the Immaculate Virgin, in whom *the Almighty has done great things* for the redemption of mankind. I express my closeness to all of you, our suffering brothers and sisters, and to your families, as well as my appreciation for all those in different roles of service and in healthcare institutions throughout the world who work with professionalism, responsibility and dedication for your care, treatment and daily well-being. I encourage all of you, the sick, the suffering, physicians, nurses, family members and volunteers, to see in Mary, *Health of the Infirm*, the sure sign of God’s love for every human being and a model of surrender to his will. May you always find in faith, nourished by the Word and by the Sacraments, the strength needed to love God, even in the experience of illness.

Like Saint Bernadette, we stand beneath the watchful gaze of Mary. The humble maiden of Lourdes tells us that the Virgin, whom she called “the Lovely Lady”, looked at her as one person looks at another. Those simple words describe the fullness of a

relationship. Bernadette, poor, illiterate and ill, felt that Mary was looking at her as a person. The Lovely Lady spoke to her with great respect and without condescension. This reminds us that every person is, and always remains, a human being, and is to be treated as such. The sick and the those who are disabled, even severely, have their own inalienable dignity and mission in life. They never become simply objects. If at times they appear merely passive, in reality that is never the case.

After her visit to the Grotto, thanks to her prayer, Bernadette turned her frailty into support for others. Thanks to her love, she was able to enrich her neighbours and, above all, to offer her life for the salvation of humanity. The fact that the Lovely Lady asked her to pray for sinners reminds us that the infirm and the suffering desire not only to be healed, but also to live a truly Christian life, even to the point of offering it as authentic missionary disciples of Christ. Mary gave Bernadette the vocation of serving the sick and called her to become a Sister of Charity, a mission that she carried out in so exemplary a way as to become a model for every healthcare worker. Let us ask Mary Immaculate for the grace always to relate to the sick as persons who certainly need assistance, at times even for the simplest of things, but who have a gift of their own to share with others.

The gaze of Mary, *Comfort of the Afflicted*, brightens the face of the Church in her daily commitment to the suffering and those in need. The precious fruits of this solicitude for the world of suffering and sickness are a reason for gratitude to the Lord Jesus, who out of obedience to the will of the Father became one of us, even enduring death on the cross for the redemption of humanity. The solidarity shown by Christ, the Son of God born of Mary, is the expression of God's merciful omnipotence, which is made manifest in our life – above all when that life is frail, pain-filled, humbled, marginalized and suffering – and fills it with the power of hope that can sustain us and enable us to get up again.

This great wealth of humanity and faith must not be dissipated. Instead, it should inspire us to speak openly of our human weaknesses and to address the challenges of present-day healthcare and technology. On this World Day of the Sick, may we find new incentive to work for the growth of a culture of respect for life, health and the environment. May this Day also inspire renewed efforts to defend the integrity and dignity of persons, not least through a correct approach to bioethical issues, the protection of the vulnerable and the protection of the environment.

On this Twenty-fifth World Day of the Sick, I once more offer my prayerful support and encouragement to physicians, nurses, volunteers and all those consecrated men and women committed to serving the sick and those in need. I also embrace the ecclesial and civil institutions working to this end, and the families who take loving care of their sick. I pray that all may be ever joyous signs of the presence of God's love and imitate the luminous testimony of so many friends of God, including Saint John of God and Saint Camillus de' Lellis, the patrons of hospitals and healthcare workers, and Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta, missionary of God's love.

Dear brothers and sisters – the sick, healthcare workers and volunteers – I ask you to join me in praying to Mary. May her maternal intercession sustain and accompany our faith, and obtain for us from Christ her Son hope along our journey of healing and of health, a sense of fraternity and responsibility, a commitment to integral human development and the joy of feeling gratitude whenever God amazes us by his fidelity and his mercy.

Mary, our Mother, in Christ you welcome each of us as a son or daughter. Sustain the trusting expectation of our hearts, succour us in our infirmities and sufferings, and guide us to Christ, your Son and our brother. Help us to entrust ourselves to the Father who accomplishes great things.

With the assurance of a constant remembrance in my prayers, I cordially impart to all of you my Apostolic Blessing.

8 December 2016, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Francis

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2017

1) CLERGY SECURITY FUND

1	30.11.16	Rev Fr John Solomon	Indiranagar	4,000.00
2	31.12.16	Rev Fr Arun Bala Raj A	Da Costa Layout	30,000.00
3	31.12.16	Rev Fr Gilbert Raj A	Rayapuram	12,000.00
4	02.01.17	Rev Fr Francis Billemane C	Akashanagara	4,000.00
5	03.01.17	Rev Fr Amarnath Dinesh Roy	Ramamurthy Nagar	15,000.00
6	03.01.17	Rev Fr Bala Francis	Brigade road	10,000.00
7	05.01.17	Rev Fr Edward David	Brigade road	4,000.00
8	09.01.17	Rev Fr Terence Mathew	J C Road	5,000.0
9	13.01.17	Rev Fr Sebastian R	Sahakar Nagar	5,000.00
10	20.01.17	Rev Fr Kiran Kumar B	Champion Reefs	30,000.00

2) HOLY CHILDHOOD COLLECTION Dated 14.02.2016

(To be Sent to PMS Towards up keep of deprived children)

1	03.01.17	St John the Baptist Church	Vijayanagara	5,252.00
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3) HUNGER AND DISEASE CAMPAIGN Dated 20.03.2016

(To be sent to Caritas, Delhi)

1	03.01.17	St John the Baptist Church	Vijayanagara	6,188.00
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4) HOLY LANDS COLLECTIONS Dated 25.03.2016

(Towards Holy Land maintenance)

1	03.01.17	St John the Baptist Church	Vijayanagara	7,135.00
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5) EASTER SUNDAY COLLECTIONS Dated 27.03.2016

(Towards extension of Mission works in our Archdiocese)

1	03.01.17	St John the Baptist Church	Vijayanagara	9,312.00
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6) VOCATION SUNDAY COLLECTIONS Dated 17.04.2016

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

1	02.01.17	Infant Jesus Church	Moodalapalya	6,115.00
2	03.01.17	St John the Baptist Church	Vijayanagara	6,023.00
3	17.01.17	St Joseph's Church	Sira	350.00
4	24.01.17	St Francis of Assisi Church	Kengeri	5,290.00
5	27.01.17	Holy Ghost Church	Richards Town	20,000.00

7) SOCIETY OF ST PETER, APOSTLE Dated 26.06.2016**(Towards the up keep of Seminarians in the whole world)**

1	30.11.16	Holy Cross Church	B E M L Nagar	1,502.00
2	02.01.17	Infant Jesus Church	Moodalapalya	4,124.00
3	03.01.17	St John the Baptist Church	Vijayanagara	5,052.00
4	04.01.17	Church of the Holy Name of Jesus	Rajarajeshwari Nagar	2,613.00
5	11.01.17	St Francis Xavier's Church	Somanahalli	2,620.00
6	17.01.17	St Joseph's Church	Sira	400.00
7	17.01.17	St Mary's Minor Basilica Church	Shivajinagar	46,370.00
8	24.01.17	St Francis of Assisi Church	Kengeri	7,687.00
9	27.01.17	Holy Ghost Church	Richards Town	20,000.00
10	31.01.17	Christ The King Church	Byrathi	4,194.00

8) CATHOLIC INFORMATION BUREAU (C.I.B) Dated 10.07.2016**(For the spread of Good News in the Archdiocese of Bangalore)**

1	30.11.16	Holy Cross Church	B E M L Nagar	2,444.00
2	02.01.17	Infant Jesus Church	Moodalapalya	6,213.00
3	03.01.17	St John the Baptist Church	Vijayanagara	6,219.00
4	04.01.17	Church of the Holy Name of Jesus	Rajarajeshwari Nagar	3,750.00
5	11.01.17	St Francis Xavier's Church	Somanahalli	2,735.00
6	17.01.17	St Joseph's Church	Sira	1,500.00
7	24.01.17	St Francis of Assisi Church	Kengeri	9,100.00
8	27.01.17	Holy Ghost Church	Richards Town	20,000.00
9	31.01.17	Christ The King Church	Byrathi	4,512.00

9) AFRICAN MISSION Dated 14.08.2016**(Towards Mission work in Africa)**

1	30.11.16	Holy Cross Church	B E M L Nagar	1,240.00
2	02.01.17	Infant Jesus Church	Moodalapalya	6,372.00
3	03.01.17	St John the Baptist Church	Vijayanagara	6,421.00
4	04.01.17	Church of the Holy Name of Jesus	Rajarajeshwari Nagar	5,600.00
5	16.01.17	St Anthony's Church	Kaval Byrasandra	22,745.00
6	17.01.17	St Joseph's Church	Sira	430.00
7	24.01.17	St Francis of Assisi Church	Kengeri	5,090.00
8	27.01.17	Holy Ghost Church	Richards Town	20,000.00
9	31.01.17	Christ The King Church	Byrathi	5,215.00

10) PETER'S PENCE COLLECTIONS Dated 18.09.2016**(Towards Holy Father's Charity)**

1	30.11.16	Holy Cross Church	B E M L Nagar	1,500.00
2	02.01.17	Infant Jesus Church	Moodalapalya	4,310.00
3	03.01.17	St John the Baptist Church	Vijayanagara	6,103.00
4	04.01.17	Church of the Holy Name of Jesus	Rajarajeshwari Nagar	4,900.00
5	09.01.17	St Anne's Church	Marathahalli	15,050.00
6	11.01.17	St Francis Xavier's Church	Somanahalli	2,150.00
7	13.01.17	Annunciation Church	Nandidurga Road	6,611.00
8	16.01.17	St Anthony's Church	Kaval Byrasandra	16,155.00
9	17.01.17	St Joseph's Church	Sira	470.00
10	17.01.17	St Mary's Minor Basilica Church	Shivajinagar	68,110.00
11	24.01.17	St Francis of Assisi Church	Kengeri	5,814.00
12	27.01.17	St John Paul II Church	K Chanasandra	3,308.00
13	27.01.17	Holy Ghost Church	Richards Town	20,000.00
14	28.01.17	Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church	Mariapura	5,510.00
15	31.01.17	Christ The King Church	Byrathi	5,400.00

11) MISSION SUNDAY COLLECTIONS Dated (16.10.2016)**(Towards World Mission Works)**

1	30.11.16	Resurrection Church (2nd Installment)	Indiranagar	4,33,737.00
2	30.11.16	Holy Cross Church	B E M L Nagar	25,560.00
3	30.11.16	St Joseph's Church	Anekal	66,535.00
4	02.01.17	Infant Jesus Church	Moodalapalya	31,549.00
5	03.01.17	St John the Baptist Church	Vijayanagara	38,000.00
6	03.01.17	Holy Rosary Church	Venkatala	4,01,000.00
7	04.01.17	Church of the Holy Name of Jesus	Rajarajeshwari Nagar	50,000.00
8	05.01.17	Nativity Church	Vidyaranyapura	1,12,355.00
9	05.01.17	Our Lady of Lourdes Church	Whitefield	3,83,165.00
10	06.01.17	St Anthony's Church	Yadavanahalli	44,777.00
11	13.01.17	Annunciation Church	Nandidurga Road	1,53,471.00
12	14.01.17	Holy Rosary Church	Harobale	7,500.00
13	16.01.17	St Anthony's Church	Kaval Byrasandra	2,00,000.00
14	17.01.17	St Joseph's Church	Sira	6,000.00

15	20.01.17	St Francis Xavier Cathedral (2nd Installment)	Cathedral	2,00,230.00
16	24.01.17	St Anthony's Friary Church	Madiwala Check Post	10,27,590.00
17	24.01.17	Our Lady of Compassion Church	Mulbagal	1,020.00
18	25.01.17	St Patrick's church	Brigade Road	7,09,150.00
19	27.01.17	St. Francis De Sales Church	Malur	11,800.00
20	27.01.17	St John Paul II Church	K Chanasandra	88,501.00
21	28.01.17	Infant Jesus Church	Viveknagar	11,17,615.00
22	28.01.17	St. Mary's Basilica	Shivajinagar	8,73,910.00
23	31.01.17	Christ The King Church	Byrathi	40,000.00

12) HOLY SEE MAINTENANCE Dated 20.11.2016
(Towards the Maintenance of the Holy See)

1	30.11.16	Holy Cross Church	B E M L Nagar	1,900.00
2	02.01.17	Infant Jesus Church	Moodalapalya	3,450.00
3	03.01.17	St John the Baptist Church	Vijayanagara	6,219.00
4	04.01.17	Church of the Holy Name of Jesus	Rajarajeshwari Nagar	2,100.00
5	05.01.17	St Anthony's Church	Kadisenahalli	230.00
6	06.01.17	St Joseph's Church	Chinthamani	866.00
7	06.01.17	St Anthony's Church	Yadavanahalli	675.00
8	09.01.17	St Anne's Church	Marathahalli	10,146.00
9	09.01.17	St Anthony's Church	Uttarahalli	4,000.00
10	11.01.17	St Joseph's Church	Briand Square	14,743.00
11	16.01.17	St Rita's Church	Kanakapura	750.00
12	16.01.17	St Anthony's Church	Kaval Byrasandra	16,025.00
13	17.01.17	St Joseph's Church	Sira	330.00
14	17.01.17	St Mary's Minor Basilica Church	Shivajinagar	49,440.00
15	18.01.17	St Teresa of Kolkata Church	Boopasandra	8,565.00
16	21.01.17	St James Church	Marianna Palya	10,200.00
17	24.01.17	St Francis of Assisi Church	Kengeri	6,559.00
18	24.01.17	Our Lady of Compassion Church	Mulbagal	100.00
19	24.01.17	Our Lady of Lourdes Church	Whitefield	35,685.00
20	27.01.17	St. Francis De Sales Church	Malur	1,020.00
21	27.01.17	St John Paul II Church	K Chanasandra	4,150.00
22	27.01.17	Holy Ghost Church	Richards Town	20,000.00
23	31.01.17	Christ The King Church	Byrathi	6,060.00

13) CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS Dated 25.12.2016
(Maintenance of Retired Priests of Archdiocese)

1	31.12.16	St Anthony's Church	Gangondanahalli	15,000.00
2	31.12.16	Ss Peter and Paul Church	Rayapuram	5,000.00
3	02.01.17	Infant Jesus Church	Moodalapalya	11,225.00
4	03.01.17	Our Lady of Vailankanni Church	Yelahanka New Town	12,780.00
5	03.01.17	St John the Baptist Church	Vijayanagara	8,680.00
6	03.01.17	St Anthony's Church	Guddadahalli	6,008.00
7	03.01.17	Holy Family Church	Ramamurthy Nagar	60,180.00
8	03.01.17	Holy Rosary Church	Venkatala	13,430.00
9	03.01.17	St Thomas Church	Kanakanagar	8,220.00
10	05.01.17	St Anthony's Church	Kadisenahalli	728.00
11	06.01.17	St Joseph's Church	Chintamani	1,552.00
12	06.01.17	St Anthony's Church	Yadavanahalli	4,478.00
13	09.01.17	Sacred Heart Church	Sidlaghatta	950.00
14	09.01.17	St Anne's Church	Marathahalli	12,250.00
15	09.01.17	St Anthony's Church	Uttarahalli	11,500.00
16	11.01.17	St Joseph's Church	Briand Square	40,610.00
17	11.01.17	Ascension Church	Da Costa Layout	1,77,484.00
18	13.01.17	Our Lady of Fatima Church	Jalahalli	39,040.00
19	13.01.17	Annunciation Church	Nandidurga Road	16,112.00
20	14.01.17	St Teresa's Church	Robertsonpet	10,850.00
21	16.01.17	St Rita's Church	Kanakapura	3,200.00
22	16.01.17	Our Lady of Lourdes Church	Ramanagara	1,340.00
23	16.01.17	St Anthony's Church	Kaval Byrasandra	41,135.00
24	17.01.17	Assumption Church	Rajajinagar	27,493.00
25	17.01.17	St Joseph's Church	Sira	500.00
26	17.01.17	St Mary's Minor Basilica Church	Shivajinagar	1,52,430.00
27	20.01.17	Stella Maris Convent	Malleshwaram	6,200.00
28	20.01.17	St Francis Xavier Cathedral	Cathedral	2,38,523.00
29	21.01.17	St James Church	Marianna Palya	13,980.00
30	24.01.17	St Anthony's Friary Church	Madiwala	
			Check Post	1,26,502.00
31	24.01.17	St Francis of Assisi Church	Kengeri	7,137.00
32	24.01.17	Our Lady of Campassion Church	Mulbagal	210.00
33	24.01.17	Our Lady of Lourdes Church	Whitefield	96,770.00

34	27.01.17	St. Francis De Sales Church	Malur	2,533.00
35	27.01.17	St John Paul II Church	K Chanasandra	14,110.00
36	27.01.17	Holy Ghost Church	Richards Town	25,000.00
37	28.01.17	Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church	Mariapura	9,185.00
38	30.01.17	St. Joseph's church	Gerahalli (Soosaipalya)	700.00
39	31.01.17	St. Joseph's church	Solur	900.00
40	31.01.17	St. Paul's Church	Nagasandra	14,425.00
41	31.01.17	St. Peter's Church	Rustum Bagh	13,760.00
42	31.01.17	Christ The King Church	Byrathi	6,412.00
