

May Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary

As we begin the month of May our thoughts go to Mother Mary whom we call as May Queen. This month is dedicated to Our Lady with a special devotion to the family rosary. Mother Mary gathers all of us when we recite the family rosary together. Beginning from our religious communities and our rectories and in all families of the parish, the rosary should be recited to invoke the intercession of Mother Mary for peace and unity in the families. Normally we pray for security, safety, happiness in the families. But we should pray, above all, for families who are under stress and difficulties. The estranged relationship between the couple brings about a disastrous situation in the families. As Mother Mary is a source and refuge of the needy, we commend the families in distress to rush to her for help and to pray for her protection. Please instruct your faithful to be ever faithful to the family rosary.

The Catholic Church during the month of May honours Mother Mary as the ‘Queen of May’. The Marian devotion is manifested in pilgrimages, visits to Marian churches, little sacrifices in her honour, and a more attentive recitation of the Rosary. We have a beautiful tradition of reciting Marian Rosary gathering around the Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes in our parishes. Hence I hereby exhort you, dear Fathers, to continue to continue this tradition by inviting your parishioners to gather around the Grotto for the Rosary. May the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for all of us to live a fervent Christian life, following the footsteps of her son, Jesus Christ.

Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker

To foster deep devotion to Saint Joseph among Catholics, and in response to the “May Day” celebrations for workers sponsored by Communists, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker in 1955. This feast extends the long relationship between Joseph and the cause of workers in both Catholic faith and devotion. Beginning in the Book of Genesis, the dignity of human work has long been celebrated as a participation in the creative work of God. By work, humankind both fulfills the command found in Genesis to care for the earth (Gn. 2:15) and to be productive in their labours. Saint Joseph, the carpenter and foster father of Jesus, is but one example of the holiness of human labour.

Jesus, too, was a carpenter. He learned the trade from Saint Joseph and spent his early adult years working side-by-side in Joseph’s carpentry shop before leaving to pursue his ministry as preacher and healer. In his encyclical *Laborem Exercens*, Pope John Paul II stated: “The Church considers it her task always to call attention to the dignity and rights of those who work, to condemn situations in which that dignity and those rights are violated, and to help to guide [social] changes so as to ensure authentic progress by man and society.”

Saint Joseph is held up as a model of such work. Pius XII emphasized this when he said, “The spirit flows to you and to all men from the heart of the God-man, Saviour of the world, but certainly, no worker was ever more completely and profoundly penetrated by it than the foster father of Jesus, who lived with Him in closest intimacy and community of family life and work.”

International Workers’ Day

International Workers’ Day, also known as Labour Day or May Day, is celebrated all over the world on May 1. This day has its origins in the labour union movement, specifically the eight-hour day movement, which advocated eight hours for work, eight hours for recreation, and eight hours for rest., it is an occasion for all those related to the Church to reflect their compassion and commitment on the issues of the poor workers, especially unorganized labourers, domestic and migrant workers in their regions. Work is an integral part of human sustenance and every worker is our companion. May St. Joseph, the Patron of the Universal Church and the workers, help us all in all our efforts to safeguard and protect the rights of the workers!

The Visit of the New Apostolic Nuncio to the Archdiocese

His Excellency The Most Reverend Giambattista Diquattro, Apostolic Nuncio to India, who recently took charge, will be coming to Bangalore to participate in the CBCI Standing Committee Meeting and also to preside over the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the National Biblical, Catechetical and Liturgical Centre (NBCLC), Bangalore.

It is but fitting that we, the Archbishop, Priests, Religious and Lay faithful of the Archdiocese accord him a Warm Welcome and Felicitate him on his visit to the Archdiocese.

We have arranged a Pontifical High Mass on Thursday, 4th May at 6 p.m., at The Infant Jesus Shrine, Viveknagar, which will be presided over by His Excellency the Apostolic Nuncio. And we have also organized a Short Felicitation Function in his honour after the Holy Mass.

May I request the Parish Priests to make announcement about this special programme at all the Sunday Masses on 30th April and to encourage the Parishioners to come in large numbers to participate in the Holy Mass and to felicitate our beloved Apostolic Nuncio.

Admissions to the Minor Seminary

We invite applications from those candidates who wish to discern a vocation to ministerial priesthood in the Archdiocese. The applicants are expected to obtain the requisite application forms, either from the Rector, Bhakti Bhavan, or from the Reception Desk at the Archbishop's House. The application forms are to be duly filled by the candidate in his own handwriting. The filled in and signed application form, a passport size photograph, along with a recommendation letter from the Parish Priest are to be personally handed in, or securely posted to Rev. Fr.

Christopher Vimalraj, Rector, Bhakti Bhavan before Tuesday, 10th May 2017. After careful scrutiny, the candidates will be invited to an interview at the Archbishop's House on 16th of May 2017. For more details, please contact: **Rector, Bhakti Bhavan, Da Costa Square, St. Thomas Town Post, Bengaluru -560 084.**

Reflection: There once lived a rich businessman who had a lazy and fun loving son. The businessman wanted his son to be hard-working and responsible. He wanted him to realize the value of labour. One day he summoned his son and said: "Today, I want you to go out and earn something, failing which you won't have your meals tonight."

The boy was callous and not used to any kind of work. This demand by his father scared him and he went crying straight to his mother. Her heart melted at the sight of tears in her son's eyes. She grew restless. In a bid to help him she gave him a gold coin. In the evening when the father asked his son what he had earned, the son promptly presented him the gold coin. The father then asked him to throw it into a well. The son did as he was told.

The father was a man of wisdom and experience and guessed that the source of the gold coin was the boy's mother. The next day he sent his wife to her parent's town and asked his son to go and earn something with the threat of being denied the night meals, if he failed. This time he went crying to his sister who sympathized with him and gave him a rupee coin out of her own savings. When his father asked him what he had earned the boy tossed the rupee coin at him. The father again asked him to throw it in a well. The son did it quite readily. Again the father's wisdom told him that the rupee coin was not earned by his son. He then sent his daughter to her in-laws' house. He again asked his son to go out and earn with the threat that he shall not have anything for dinner that night.

This time since there was no one to help him out; the son was forced to go to the market in search of work. One of the shopkeepers there told him that he would pay him two rupees if he carried his trunk to his house. The rich man's son could not refuse and was drenched in sweat by

the time he finished the job. His feet were trembling and his neck and back were aching. There were rashes on his back. As he returned home and produced the two rupee note before his father and was asked to throw it into the well, the horrified son almost cried out. He could not imagine throwing his hard-earned money like this. He said amid sobbing: "Father! My entire body is aching. My back has rashes and you are asking me to throw the money into the well."

At this the businessman smiled. He told him that one feels the pain only when the fruits of hard labour are wasted. On earlier two occasions he was helped by his mother and sister and therefore had no pain in throwing the coins into the well. The son had now realized the value of hard work. He vowed never to be lazy and safe keep the father's wealth. The father handed over the keys of his shop to the son and promised to guide him through the rest of the life.

Hard work is the key to success. Nothing can be achieved without hard work. Work, work, ever work, is a great panacea. Edison worked for twenty-one hours a day. He slept only for two or three hours on the laboratory tables with his books as his pillow. It is said that our former Prime Minister late Pt. Nehru, worked for seventeen hours a day and seven days a week. There were no holidays in his calendar. Mahatma Gandhi worked ceaselessly day and night and won freedom for his country. Many great men and women who achieved great things in their lives worked hard to climb the ladder of success. Hard work is the price that we pay for success and all the gifts of life. May we, especially in this month which is dedicated to workers, realize this fact and put forth our best efforts to achieve positive results from our daily work, for our overall development growth, and also for the welfare of our brothers and sisters in the society.

With best wishes and God's blessings,

+ Bernard Moras
Archbishop of Bangalore