

The Shepherd Speaks

Teachers' Day:

Jesus is universally recognized as a great teacher. From the very start of His ministry until the present time, those who have listened to Jesus have been amazed at His teaching. When He spoke, Jesus attracted huge crowd of people who were captivated by his words. On many occasions, His teachings healed the people who listened to Him.

Many teachers of our time are good teachers because of their methods and techniques they use in imparting knowledge to the students. What can make a real difference is the way that good teachers teach those old facts to a new generation in an effective manner with love and care. Teaching with value will heal the students of their personality disorders. Let us specially pray for all the teachers, who are tirelessly working in our educational institutions and inspiring many young people to be citizens with good values. May the eternal Teacher shower His blessings upon them.

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

Let us make this birth of Mother Mary very special, as we are celebrating her centenary of Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima. Let us encourage the faithful to participate every day in the novena and get the maternal blessings and protection of Mother Mary. Mary has three very important messages for us. The three kinds of actions are: to be joyful, to help without hesitation and to persevere.

Reflection: Imagine you had a bank account that deposited \$86,400 each morning. The account carries over no balance from day to day, and allows you to keep no cash balance, and every evening cancels whatever part of the amount you had failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out every dollar each day!

We all have such a bank. Its name is Time. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever time you have failed to use wisely. It carries over no balance from day to day. It allows no overdraft so you can't borrow against yourself or use more time than you have. Each day, the account starts fresh. Each night, it destroys an unused time. If you fail to use the day's deposits, it's your loss and you can't appeal to get it back.

There is never any borrowing time. You can't take a loan out on your time or against someone else's. The time you have is the time you have and that is that. Time management is yours to decide how you spend the time, just as with money you decide how you spend the money. It is never the case of us not having enough time to do things, but the case of whether we want to do them and where they fall in our priorities.

National Youth Sunday:

The Conference of Catholic Bishops in India has decided that the youth of India will celebrate 'National Youth Sunday' in the month of August. The National Office has fixed the First Sunday of August as 'National Youth Sunday' for uniformity. However, in our Archdiocese this year, 2017 we will celebrate Youth Sunday in all our parishes on October 1st 2017. On this day, all youth of the parish will come together to celebrate a special Youth Mass. Introduction and Prayers of the faithful prepared by the Archdiocesan Youth Office is sent to you as a help. On the Youth Day, please invite and involve all the youth of the parish in celebrating meaningful liturgies and youth activities following the mass. I urge all parish priests to start youth groups, if you require any assistance please contact Fr. Divya Paul who will arrange for youth animators to

come and assist you in the formation of Youth Groups. Pope Francis has chosen "Young people, faith and vocational discernment" as the theme for the synod gathering, which will be held in October 2018. Young people are already contributing a lot through the synod questionnaire which was sent to them. I am happy to inform you that in our Archdiocese we have already started work in the light of this invite of the Holy Father and held our First Career and Vocational Guidance Seminar for over 320 youth on July 22nd at Paalana Bhavan. More such programs will follow all over the Archdiocese. I hope and pray that every parish in the Archdiocese will have a vibrant youth group that will contribute positively to the growth of the church in our country.

The Fatima Apparitions' Centenary Concluding Celebrations in the Archdiocese

i. Youth Bike Rally: Our Lady of Fatima Jalahalli to Our Lady of Fatima Hoskote

The Archdiocesan Youth Commission together with the Parishes of Jalahalli and Hoskote is planning a massive Bike Rally for Peace and Harmony in honour Our Blessed Mother of Fatima during this centenary year of the apparitions.

- Registrations will begin at 10:00 am at O L of Fatima Church Jalahalli.
- 11:00 Special Rosary by the Youth of the Archdiocese, followed by the Consecration of the youth of the Archdiocese to our Blessed Mother. Inaugural Ceremony and Keynote Address by His Grace the Archbishop followed by the formal 'Flag Off' of the Bike Rally.
- The Rally will reach Our Lady of Fatima Church, Hoskote at 1:30 pm.
- Lunch will be served for all.

ii. Time for Private Devotions and Rosary

iii. The Solemn Centenary Holy Mass at 3:30 p.m. which will be officiated by me along with priests, religious and the pilgrims.

iv. Concluding Celebrations

Come in large numbers to receive the grace of God and maternal blessings of Mother Mary.

Honouring of Children of the of the Archdiocese of Bangalore

The Archdiocesan Board of Education (ABE), as in the past, will honour all the Catholic boys and girls who have secured more than 80% marks in 2017 SSLC/ICSE/CBSE and XII/II PUC examinations.

The Holy Mass will be at St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Coles Park on Sunday, 17th September 2017 at 4.00 p.m., and thereafter the Felicitation Function will be held at St. Germain's Educational Institutions.

I request all the meritorious students to compulsorily attend this programme and, if possible, along with their parents.

Please pray for me on that day as I complete 13 years of my Archiepiscopacy in the Archdiocese.

Reflection: High on a hilltop overlooking the beautiful city of Venice, Italy, there lived an old man who was a genius. Legend had it he could answer any question anyone might ask of him. Two of the local boys figured they could fool the old man, so they caught a small bird and headed for his residence. Two of the local boys figured they could fool the old man, so they caught a small bird and headed for his residence.

One of the boys held the little bird in his hands and asked the old man if the bird was dead or alive. Without hesitation the old man said, "Son, if I say to you that the bird is alive, you will close your hands and crush him to death. If I say the bird is dead, you will open your hands and he will fly away. You see, son, in your hands you hold the power of life and death."

This short episode teaches us that in our hands we hold the seeds of failure or the potential for greatness. Our hands are capable but they must be used and for the right things to reap the rewards we are capable of attaining.

With best wishes and God blessings

+ **Bernard Moras**
Archbishop of Bangalore