

**1. New Year Greetings:** It is with joy great joy that I wish all the Tabor Readers and all the Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese: A Very Happy New Year. May this New Year be a Year of Peace and Prosperity to all of you! I offered special prayers for you during the Holy Season of Advent, Christmas and on the New Year's Day. The Book of Ecclesiastes (3: 1-8) declares that to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven—"A time to be born, and a time to be die; a time to plant , and time to pluck up that which is planted ". Time is a precious gift and an opportunity, so is a new year. It is said, *"If you love life, don't waste time, for time is what life is made up of"*. The New Year is an opportunity to do our best in the promotion of a culture of love, respect, cooperation and achievement, may an opportunity to be our best, let us make the best of it and be our best. Bright New Year to you!

**2. World Day of Peace:** The World Day of Peace is observed on 1<sup>st</sup> January all over the world. In India we observe this on 30<sup>th</sup> January as the Day of Peace. MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE 51<sup>st</sup> WORLD DAY OF PEACE is published in the issue. Please read and reflect on it. It is based on the Theme: *Migrants and Refugees: Men and Women in search of Peace*.

**3. "Mass is not a Show", says Pope Francis.** The Eucharistic Celebration is "to redo Calvary", not theatre. Significant words that emphasize the risks of "do-it-yourself liturgy" and chattering in church, along with the risks of the aesthetic spectacularization of those who end up defining the ritual by the sumptuousness of the garments.

One of the things that strikes the most in observing Pope Francis as he celebrates Mass - whether it be pontifical Masses in St. Peter's, the great celebrations during his journeys, or the weekly liturgy in the chapel of Casa Santa Marta - is his attitude. Such an absorbed attitude that, it might lead to think, the Pope is not in his usual mood because he looks too serious. As it is well known, Bergoglio did not want to change the master of pontifical ceremonies, confirming Monsignor Guido Marini, who had been chosen by Benedict XVI. The papal liturgical celebrations have not undergone significant changes, unless we consider among them the fact that Pope Francis prefers simple garments.

Of "What is Mass and its importance", the Pope said it quite clearly on November 22, 2017 during the general audience. His words sweep away, once again, and after the official denials, all the biased speculation about a phantom commission that would have been tasked with "reforming" the Catholic Rite in order to bring it closer to the Protestant one.

To understand the value of the Holy Mass, Pope Francis explained, "we must first of all understand the biblical meaning of "memorial", which is more than a mere remembrance of a past event; it is the making present of that event, which enables us to share in its saving power. The Eucharist "always brings us to the apex of God's action of salvation: the Lord Jesus, making Himself broken bread for us, pours out his mercy upon us, as he did on the cross, in order to renew our hearts, our lives and our entire world".

**Republic Day of India:** Republic Day in India is celebrated every year with great honour on 26th of January to honour the Constitution of India as it came into force on the same day in the year 1950. It had replaced the Government of India Act, 1935 into the governing document of the India. At this day, a national holiday is declared by the Indian Government. The new Indian constitution was sketched and approved by the Indian Constituent Assembly and decided to celebrate it on 26th of January every year as India became a republic country.

Let us on this day pray very specially for our national leaders and fellow citizens that all of us may become more responsible in building the Nation by promoting unity and solidarity.

**My sincere Thanks:** I appreciate your prayers, best wishes and greetings on the occasion of my 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sacerdotal Ordination. I cherish your love, thoughtfulness and concern for me. I thank you for your wishes and participation in the mass on my golden Priesthood day at the Cathedral. Several of you have participated in the celebration at kuppepadavu Church. I remain grateful to you and promise my prayers for you and I thank you for praying for me. I am very happy to note the abundance of Christmas and New Year Greetings were sent by post and email. I thank each and every one of you personally for your wishes and thoughtfulness in expressing your love and affection.

**Reflection:** There is a story about a father and his young son who were walking through the mountains. Suddenly, the son fell, hurting his leg on a rock. He screamed, 'AAhhhh!' To his surprise, he heard a voice repeating, 'AAhhhh!' This made him even more curious. So, he yelled, 'Who are you?' Back came the same answer, 'Who are you?' Feeling a bit perturbed by this response, he yelled out, 'Coward!' Back came the same reply, 'Coward!' He looked at his father and asked: 'What's going on?' His father smiled and said: 'Son, pay attention.' Looking across the valley, his father yelled to the mountain, 'I admire you!' The voice answered: 'I admire you!' Again the man cried out: 'You are a champion!' The voice replied, 'You are a champion!' The boy was amazed, but he was very confused. So, his father explained... 'You are only hearing an echo, the sound of our voices bouncing back from the mountains. However, this really is how life works. It returns to you what you think, say and do! Our lives are a reflection of our thoughts and actions. If we want more love in our world, we should create more love in our hearts. If we want to be treated with kindness, we must treat others with kindness. If we expect more competence from others, we must try to become more competent. This relationship applies to everything, in all aspects of our lives. Life will give to us, everything we give to it and it will give us even more in return. Our life is not ever a coincidence. Each moment is a reflection of us! The son listened and grew in understanding, and through the following years, he witnessed the truth of these words in his life! The Bible says: "Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." (Luke 6:38)

With best wishes and God blessings,

**✠ Bernard Moras**  
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