

Bishop Peter Machado: The New Archbishop of Bangalore

As communiqué received from Rome through the Apostolic Nuncio, I am pleased to inform you that His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Peter Machado, until now Bishop of Belgaum, as the new Archbishop of Bangalore. This announcement was officially made known in Vatican on March 19, 2018 (Feast of St. Joseph) at 4.30 p.m. (IST).

At the outset, on behalf of all of us, I am delighted to extend our prayerful congratulations to Archbishop-designate Peter Machado as the new Archbishop of Bangalore. May I also wish him every success in his Archiepiscopacy in this Archdiocese. May Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest and Mary our Dearest Mother and St. Francis Xavier, Patron of our Archdiocese, guide him in his Pastoral Care in the Archdiocese. The date of the canonical taking possession of the new Archbishop will be intimated to you later.

Further, The Holy See has also asked me to continue as the Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese till the Archbishop-Designate officially assumes office. May I assure you of my selfless service, and also seek your continued prayerful support and cooperation.

The Archbishop-Elect Peter Machado was born on May 26, 1954, in Honavar, which at the time was in Belgaum Diocese. He did his Philosophy and Theology Studies in Papal Seminary, Pune, and was ordained a Priest on Dec. 8, 1978, for the Diocese of Karwar that was separated from Belgaum diocese and made into a new diocese in 1976. He completed his doctoral studies in Rome in Canon Law and served the diocese of Karwar as Procurator, Judicial Vicar, Consultor. He was appointed Bishop of Belgaum on Feb. 2, 2006, and was ordained Bishop on March 30 that year.

Presently, he is the Member of the Karnataka Region Catholic Bishops' Council (KRCBC), and Member of the Board of Administration of St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary and Institute, Bengaluru, and Member of All Karnataka United Christian Forum for Human Right (AKUCFHR).

Presently, he is the Chairman of the Karnataka Regional Bishops' Laity

Commission and also the Vice-President of the Catholic Council of Karnataka (CCK).

Feast of the Divine Mercy is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter. It is based on the private revelations of St. Faustina Kowalska, which recommended a particular devotion to the Divine Mercy.

In 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized St. Faustina and, during the ceremony, he declared: “It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church will be called “Divine Mercy Sunday”. In the various readings of the day, the liturgy seems to indicate the path of mercy which, while re-establishing the relationship of each person with God, also creates new relations of fraternal solidarity among human beings.

To ensure that the faithful would observe this day with intense devotion, Pope John Paul II himself established that this Sunday be enriched by a plenary indulgence, as will be explained below, so that the faithful might receive in great abundance the gift of the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

“Don’t be “Parked Christians”: Pope Francis says true Christians don’t stop going forward after receiving the first gift of grace. They are always advancing, seeking after the joy of being with the Lord.

“Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.” That was the complaint Jesus made to the official who asked Him to heal his son. The people knew that Jesus had already performed great miracles; and in Monday’s Gospel reading, the Lord seemed to lose patience, because His miracles seemed to be the only thing that mattered to them. In his homily at the morning Mass, Pope Francis reflected on this passage: “Where is your faith? Seeing a miracle, a wonder, and saying, ‘You have power, you are God.’ Yes, it is an act of faith, but so small. Because it is

evident that this man has a strong power; but faith begins there, but then it has to go forward. Where is your desire for God? Because this is the faith: to have the desire to find God, to encounter Him, to be with Him, to be happy with Him.”

Admissions to the Minor Seminary: Those candidates who wish to discern a vocation to ministerial priesthood in the Archdiocese are requested to apply on time for admissions to the Minor Seminary. . 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 Saturday, 12th May 2018. After careful scrutiny, the candidates will be invited to an interview at the Archbishop’s House on Monday 14th of May 2018 at 9.00 a.m

Diaconate and Priestly Ordinations: Bros. Arokia Anthony D., Chowrappa A., Mervyn Manuel Savio L., Rajesh R., and Vivek Lionel Basu will be ordained Deacons on *Wednesday, 9th May, 2018 at St. Francis Xavier’s Cathedral at 10.00 a.m.* Please pray for these candidates who are preparing for their diaconate.

The Karnataka Assembly Elections-2018 will be held in May. As citizens of this State, it is our sacred duty to exercise our voting right to elect candidates who are secular, value-based and known to serve the people, irrespective of caste and creed. Before that, please ensure that all the people in the parishes/missions are registered in the Voters’ List and then further assist them with the help of those that are capable of finding the details of the voters, booth for voting etc. in particular constituencies with the mobiles and other web devices.

I request all the Parish Priests / Parish Council / Finance Council / Pious Associations to take an active interest in ensuring the enrolment of all the eligible persons and also motivating them to exercise their franchise.

Reflection: A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life. Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite -- telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink.

What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups... And then you began eyeing each other's cups. Now consider this," he continued... "Life is the coffee. The jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us."

The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything they have. Live simply. And, therefore, let us love generously; care deeply; speak kindly... and leave the rest to God.

With best wishes and God's Blessings,

+ **Bernard Moras**
Apostolic Administrator