

The Shepherd Speaks

Feast of St. Joseph the Worker and International Workers' Day: The Feast of St Joseph the Worker and International Workers' Day, also known as Labour Day/ May Day, is celebrated all over the world on May 1. May Day gives us the beautiful remembrance of the events and endeavours contributed to the solidarity of workers, dignity of labour and prosperity, unity and harmony. The workers toil for the betterment of others through their sweat and toil. It is eminently fitting that St Joseph, a worker, who became the foster father of Jesus is the Patron of the universal Church. The feast of St Joseph the Worker was established by Pope Pius XII in 1955 in order to Christianize the concept of Labour and give to all workmen a model and a protector.

Let us earnestly pray to St Joseph the Worker to bless all the workers, especially those who are employed in India and abroad and those people who are doing manual labour. Let us pray for them and also try our best through the Small Christian Communities in the parish to help them to live in good working condition and with human dignity.

May Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary: A number of traditions link the month of May to Mary. Alfonso in the 13th century wrote in his Cantigas de Santa Maria about the special honouring of Mary during specific dates in May. Eventually, the entire month was filled with special observances and devotions to Mary.

The origin of the conventional May devotion is still relatively unknown. Herbert Thurston identifies the seventeenth century as the earliest instance of the adoption of the custom of consecrating the month of May to the Blessed Virgin by special observances. It is certain that this form of Marian devotion began in Italy. Around 1739, witnesses speak of a particular form of Marian devotion in May in Grezzano near Verona. In 1747 the Archbishop of Genoa recommended the May devotion for the home. Specific prayers for them were promulgated in Rome in 1838. The tradition of honoring Mary in a month-long May devotion spread eventually around the Roman Catholic world in the 19th century together with a month-long devotion to Jesus in June and the Rosary in October.

In his 1965 encyclical, *Mense Maio*, Pope Paul VI identified the month of May as an opportune time to incorporate special prayers for peace into traditional May devotions.

May I request the Parish Priests and the Superiors of the Religious Communities to promote Marian Devotion during this month. Please organize Rosary Recitation in homes and at the Grottos, and also share with the people her role in the history of salvation and her powerful intercession with God for all of us.

The Installation of Archbishop-Designate Peter Machado: As informed in my previous Circular, **the Installation Ceremony of Archbishop-Designate, The Most Rev. Dr. Peter Machado, as Archbishop of Bangalore will be held at The St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral on Thursday, 31st May, 2018 at 4.30 p.m.**

At this Installation Ceremony, the Bishops of Karnataka and a few other Bishops, a large number of Priests, Religious and lay faithful, and Relatives and Friends of the Archbishop-Designate are expected to participate.

We, in the Archdiocese, are pleased to organize this Installation Ceremony at the Cathedral Grounds, and are also extremely happy to welcome, greet and pray for our New Archbishop.

May I request the Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese to come in large numbers to participate in this Installation Ceremony.

We have formed few Sub-committees under the leadership of Msgr. Jayanathan and Msgr. C. Francis to plan and to organize these functions more meaningfully, spiritually and joyfully. Kindly extend your full support and cooperation to the members these Committees.

Karnataka Election 2018: The Election Commission has announced the dates for Karnataka Assembly elections. Elections will be held in a single phase on May 12 and the results will be announced on May 15. May I request the Parish Priests, Heads of the Institutions and Religious Communities to take note of this information and exhort the members to exercise their franchise and to elect worthy candidates who would safeguard the fundamental rights of the minorities. Let us remember that it is also our Christian and Religious duty to have and to instill patriotic spirit and civic responsibility in us and in others. This is an integral part of our Christian life and witnessing.

Admissions to the Minor Seminary: “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field” (Lk 10:2). We are all aware of the need of priests for our Archdiocese and, therefore, we must strive our best to promote vocations to the Archdiocese.

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 Saturday, 12th May 2018. For more information, the candidates can contact their respective Parish Priests.

Reflection: A marine biologist was involved in an experiment with a shark. He placed a shark in a tank along with other small bait fishes. As expected, the shark ate every single fish.

The marine biologist then inserted a clear fiberglass to create two sections within the tank. He placed the shark in one section and smaller fished in the other section.

The shark quickly attacked, but then he bounced off the fiberglass. The shark kept on repeating this behavior. It just wouldn’t stop trying.

While the small fish in the other section remained unharmed and carefree. After about an hour, the shark finally gave up.

This experiment was repeated several dozen times over the next few weeks. Each time, the shark got less aggressive. Eventually the shark got tired and simply stopped attacking altogether. The marine biologist then removed the fiberglass. The shark, however, didn't attack. It was trained to believe in the existence of a barrier between it and the bait fish.

Many of us, after experiencing setbacks and failures, emotionally give up and stop trying. Like the shark, we chose to stay with past failure and believe that we will always be unsuccessful. We build a barrier in our heads, even when no 'real' barrier between where we are and where we want to go. Don't give up. Keep trying because success may be just a try away. The Scripture very beautifully says: "... we triumph even in our troubles, knowing that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope—a hope which never disappoints us, since God's love floods our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us" (*Romans 5:3, 5*).

✠**Bernard Moras**
Apostolic Administrator