

## The Shepherd Speaks

Greetings to you in Jesus name and our Mother Mary

I am sure you all had a meaningful celebration of Mission Sunday though some may have scheduled celebrations another day. Each of us are part of the Universal Church and this is why we feel a sense of belonging and responsibility in supporting the Church and its Ministry.

The month of November open with the Feast of All Saints, followed by All Souls Day and followed later by the important Feast of Christ the King. Also, for the people of Karnataka, there will be a month long celebration beginning November 1<sup>st</sup> which is Karnataka Rajyotsava Day.

The Holy Father Pope Francis has marked November 18 (33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the year) as 'World day of the Poor'. Pope Francis in his message for this Second World Day of the poor quotes the Psalmist's words "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him" (*Ps* 34:6). The Pope explains that the words of the Psalmist become our own whenever we are called to encounter the different conditions of suffering and marginalization experienced by so many of our brothers and sisters whom we are accustomed to label generically as "the poor".

He explains, "Psalm 34 uses three verbs to describe the poor man in his relationship with God. First of all, "to cry". Poverty cannot be summed up in a word; it becomes a cry that rises to heaven and reaches God. What does the cry of the poor express, if not their suffering and their solitude, their disappointment and their hope? We can ask ourselves how their plea, which rises to the presence of God, can fail to reach our own ears, or leave us cold and indifferent. On this *World Day of the Poor*, we are called to make a serious examination of conscience, to see if we are truly capable of hearing the cry of the poor".

Though India has made significant progress on human development over the decades and earned itself a global voice, the benefits of a growing economy are not often shared equally which is why our country is still home to one-third of the world's poor.

Let us do whatever we can in our own capacities, to alleviate the suffering of the poor and marginalized.

I wish you all a happy feast of All Saints and the feast of Christ the King.

Yours in Christ

**† Most Rev. Dr. Peter Machado**

**Archbishop of Bangalore**