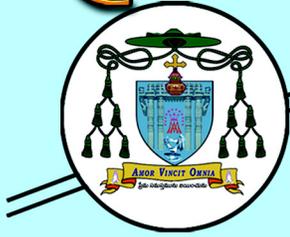


# Fatima Vani



*News Letter*  
*Diocese of Warangal*



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*Centenary Celebrations of Our Lady of Fatima Apparitions*



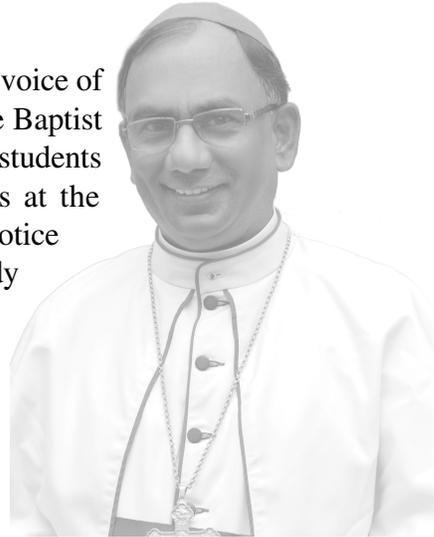
### Catholic Schools are Temples of Liberation, not Business Centres

#### 50% Concession to all Catholic Students: Diocesan Policy

#### Right of every Child to Education

Behold, the entry of the month of June. Listen to the voice of the Shepherd crying out the wilderness like John the Baptist the policy of the diocese in order to protect Catholic students as the reopening of the educational institutions is at the doorstep. Here and there, and everywhere one can notice the running of the parents and children getting ready for the new academic year. The nation owns its citizens by providing education, free and compulsory education up to the age of 14. The state government is all the more earnest to own its children and provide good education by opening different types of schools catering to various sections of its people. The RTE, the Fundamental Right of every citizen to Education

Act of 2009, is a major step in this regard. India joined the group of the few countries making education a fundamental right of every child. And India started implementing it from 2010 onwards to provide free and compulsory education to all children between 6 and 14. The Church is happy about it because it was her dream and Christianity has been trying its best towards that goal since many decades I had appealed to all in Fatimavani June 2016 and reiterate now in June 2017 underling the 50% concession to Catholic Students.



#### Education is a Mission of the Church

We know well that Jesus was a great teacher and people were astonished at his teaching (Mk 1:22, Lk 4:32). At His Ascension, he commissioned His disciples “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Good news” (Mk 16:15, Mt 28:19). Thus Jesus’ Commission had become the Mission and Passion of the Apostles. Thus the Church, by its very nature became a teaching and preaching institution. It has realized its mission from the beginning by teaching and instructing its members and others. The mission of the Church continues to remain the same. The history of the Christianity testifies to the role of the Church in education as very splendid and noble. She has pioneered in areas where no one else would venture. It dared to educate the underprivileged sections and sowed the seeds of empowerment and emancipation.

#### Concern of Diocese of Warangal

From its very inception, education was one of the topmost priorities for the Diocese began with the shepherd-ship of renowned Bishop Beretta. Unheard of schooling for

girls was the time in 1950s, and it was Bishop Beretta, who invited the FMM to open a School for girls, and then a school for boys by inviting Montfort Brothers to provide education. Thus education has been a major concern of Warangal, as she perceives it as an essential tool for the total development of individuals and the Catholic community itself, specifically to deepen them in the Catholic faith and culture. This is the decisive reason why the Diocese of Warangal initiates the policy of special concern in education as an effective instrument for the transformation of its faithful, who experience that the Church does own them in providing especially with regard to education. Therefore many are wandering and running from pillar to post seeking Catholic education but are disillusioned and thereby become indifferent towards the Church and its institutions. The Church has been a pioneer in bringing modern education to Warangal and stands in the front line in providing quality education. But the Catholics do not have their rightful place in these schools established with the means of the Church itself.

### **Warangal Educational Policy, Effective in All Catholic Schools**

Minority institutions are primarily meant for well-being of the minorities. By virtue of the Constitutional provision (under article 30(1) and the clear indication of the Supreme Court, in its 11 bench judgment (October 3, 2002), minorities have been given the right to establish and administer institutions of their choice, precisely in order to preserve and strengthen their distinct culture. By using this provision to foster and deepen the Christian culture and values among Catholic community members, many of whom are among the marginalized, we will realise our Constitutional Right and Ecclesial mandate.

Catholic Minority institutes were established with the spirit of the catholic faith and culture and, by and large, were established by the resources of the Church herself, be it the local Church or the Universal Church. Many schools lose the sight of the purpose, and the stewards of these centres become managers and owners. There is a lot discontent and restlessness among the Faithful regarding the treatment given Catholics in Catholic institutions by the stewards, who themselves once benefitted from such institutions and now behave like kings and queens. Therefore, the Bishop with his Clergy and Faithful strongly believe and promote that the Catholic Community benefits from these institutions, whose roots are Catholic but the fruits, do not sufficiently reach the people.

### **Concern for the Faithful : Catholic and Quality Education**

Though the Missionaries of the past very much cared for their flock, 'smelt the sheep' as the Holy Father repeatedly appeals, the locals gradually forgotten its own people. That is the reason for the CBCI to bring out 'All India Catholic Education Policy 2007'. It has been gradually put into practice in many institutions. Over the years, by force, all the schools started obliging giving seats for Catholics, no more by mercy, but by right. But the challenge today is to own the catholic children to transform them into not only good citizens of the country but, primarily mature and responsible Catholics, some of whom would take the mantle of heading the schools from the current stewards in future! This is challenge has been addressed first by the Diocesan schools for the last two

academic years successfully. Many catholic students are encouraged to take admission in catholic schools by providing 50% concession in the tuition fee in all diocesan schools. Otherwise, many of them were opting for non-catholic schools, which provide only literacy. In this context, our steadfast concern for quality education, firstly for Catholics had to be put into praxis. This is the major step, which the Diocesan Schools took up and fruitfully implemented. And I request the Schools run by the Consecrated to follow the same! And all and only Catholic schools would follow it.

### **Collaborative, not Competitive Paradigm of the Consecrated**

I appeal to look at the policy not merely from financial point of view but also from the view point of fostering a culture of faith among the Catholic students, and the necessity of providing a Catholic and catechetical formation. The process of this policy began 3 years back through consultation, discussion and testing of the policy in diocesan schools. During the academic year 2016-17, a committee consisting of the Diocesan and Consecrated members visited each school, explained the concern of the Diocese, took the statistics of catholic students and requested the managements to admit all Catholics approaching them and to give 50% concessions to Catholic Students. If any school falls into deficit, which should be clear from its annual audit report, because of the concessions, the diocese would reimburse. Most Consecrated responded positively. I hope the good will of the very few rich Consecrated, who did not yet give their consent, would prevail and will follow the policy of the diocese in the academic year 2017-18. I believe that all the Catholic schools, true to their Catholic spirit, would follow the policy in the diocese!

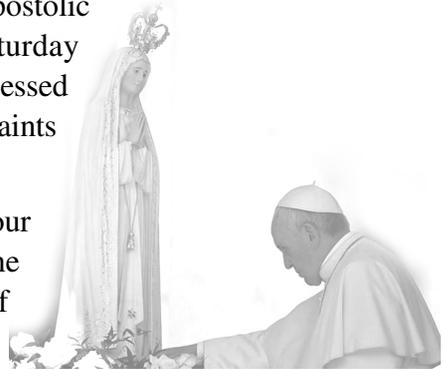
### **Credibility of Catholic Schools**

The Bishop has the obligation to ensure that Catholic institutions do not pursue the narrow goal of academic prestige, with a strong focus on super-marks and medals, but instead aim to foster human values and spiritual maturity among the students and staff. In fact, if a Catholic institution, excellent as an academic institution, does not find it possible to implement the essential characteristics of Christian values and is not committed to Catholic Mission, it would be a radical failure on our part. (Catholic Educational Policy 5.9). Catholic Institutions maintain integrity and remain a credible witness in society: the Church herself maintains a high level of credibility in society. The diocese resolutely focuses on the priority of owning the Catholics and providing good education with a 'preferential option for Catholics' with admission to all and at least 50% concession. While the secular society and the Government own its citizens and provides free and quality education, we, who received such huge help in setting the institutions from the Church, should be proud to offer special care for Catholic students. Besides, it is a scandalous and shameful irony that all Catholic education commissions, committees, offices, etc. fight against the government's saffronization policies and also seek exemption from 25% of admissions to the poor 'IN THE NAME OF MINORITIES' AND DON'T LIKE TO SERVE THE MINORITIES'!

## II. Pope's Fatima Visit, Canonization of Jacinta and Francisco

(Vatican Radio) The highlight of Pope Francis' apostolic visit to Fatima is the canonization Mass this Saturday morning, during which the two shepherd children, Blessed Francisco and Blessed Jacinta are being declared saints in heaven.

During his homily the Pope said, "we can take as our examples Saint Francisco and Saint Jacinta, whom the Virgin Mary introduced into the immense ocean of God's light and taught to adore him."



"[There] appeared in heaven a woman clothed with the sun". So the seer of Patmos tells us in the Book of Revelation (12:1), adding that she was about to give birth to a son. Then, in the Gospel, we hear Jesus say to his disciple, "Here is your mother" (Jn 19:27). We have a Mother! "So beautiful a Lady", as the seers of Fatima said to one another as they returned home on that blessed day of 13 March a hundred years ago. That evening, Jacinta could not restrain herself and told the secret to her mother: "Today I saw Our Lady". They had seen the Mother of Heaven. Many others sought to share that vision, but... they did not see her. The Virgin Mother did not come here so that we could see her. We will have all eternity for that, provided, of course, that we go to heaven.

Our Lady foretold, and warned us about, a way of life that is godless and indeed profanes God in his creatures. Such a life – frequently proposed and imposed – risks leading to hell. Mary came to remind us that God's light dwells within us and protects us, for, as we heard in the first reading, "the child [of the woman] was snatched away and taken to God" (Rev 12:5). In Lucia's account, the three chosen children found themselves surrounded by God's light as it radiated from Our Lady. She enveloped them in the mantle of Light that God had given her. According to the belief and experience of many pilgrims, if not of all, Fatima is more than anything this mantle of Light that protects us, here as in almost no other place on earth. We need but take refuge under the protection of the Virgin Mary and to ask her, as the *Salve Regina* teaches: "show unto us... Jesus".

Dear pilgrims, we have a Mother. Clinging to her like children, we live in the hope that rests on Jesus. As we heard in the second reading, "those who receive the abundance of the grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ" (Rom 5:17). When Jesus ascended to heaven, he brought to the Heavenly Father our humanity, which he assumed in the womb of the Virgin Mary and will never forsake. Like an anchor, let us fix our hope on that humanity, seated in heaven at the right hand of the Father (cf. Eph 2:6). May this hope guide our lives! It is a hope that sustains us always, to our dying breath.

Confirmed in this hope, we have gathered here to give thanks for the countless graces bestowed over these past hundred years. All of them passed beneath the mantle of light that Our Lady has spread over the four corners of the earth, beginning with this land of Portugal, so rich in hope. We can take as our examples Saint Francisco and Saint Jacinta, whom the Virgin Mary introduced into the immense ocean of God's light and taught to adore him. That was the source of their strength in overcoming opposition and suffering. God's presence became constant in their lives, as is evident from their insistent prayers for sinners and their desire to remain ever near "the hidden Jesus" in the tabernacle.

In her Memoirs (III, 6), Sister Lucia quotes Jacinta who had just been granted a vision: "Do you not see all those streets, all those paths and fields full of people crying out for food, yet have nothing to eat? And the Holy Father in a church, praying before the Immaculate Heart of Mary? And all those people praying with him?" Thank you, brothers and sisters, for being here with me! I could not fail to come here to venerate the Virgin Mary and to entrust to her all her sons and daughters. Under her mantle they are not lost; from her embrace will come the hope and the peace that they require, and that I implore for all my brothers and sisters in baptism and in our human family, especially the sick and the disabled, prisoners and the unemployed, the poor and the abandoned. Dear brothers and sisters, let us pray to God with the hope that others will hear us; and let us speak to others with the certainty that God will help us.

Indeed, God created us to be a source of hope for others, a true and attainable hope, in accordance with each person's state of life. In "asking" and "demanding" of each of us the fulfillment of the duties of our proper state (Letters of Sister Lucia, 28 February 1943), God effects a general mobilization against the indifference that chills the heart and worsens our myopia. We do not want to be a stillborn hope! Life can survive only because of the generosity of other lives. "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (Jn 12:24). The Lord, who always goes before us, said this and did this. Whenever we experience the cross, he has already experienced it before us. We do not mount the cross to find Jesus. Instead it was he who, in his self-abasement, descended even to the cross, in order to find us, to dispel the darkness of evil within us, and to bring us back to the light.

With Mary's protection, may we be for our world sentinels of the dawn, contemplating the true face of Jesus the Saviour, resplendent at Easter. Thus may we rediscover the young and beautiful face of the Church, which shines forth when she is missionary, welcoming, free, faithful, poor in means and rich in love.



### III. Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults

“Guidelines” and “Norms”: FABC Seminar on May15-19, 2017.



“Pope Francis has made it clear that the Church must hold the protection of minors amongst

her highest priorities.”

#### **Prevention of Abuse**

“All institutions, without exception, must be held to exacting standards in the protection of children and young people.”

Pope Benedict XVI, Ad limina visit of U.S. bishops, 2011

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith Circular Letter May 2011

**Purpose :** To assist Episcopal Conferences and Conferences of Religious in developing Guidelines for dealing with cases of sexual abuse of minors perpetrated by clerics.

**Goal :** “The appropriate response to the cases of sexual abuse of minors by clerics entails the development of suitable procedures.”

“Circular Letter to assist Bishops’ Conferences developing Guidelines”

1. Assisting the victims of abuse; 2.Cooperating with civil authorities; 3.Support for all priests and for those accused; 4.Formation for future priests and religious; 5. Educating community on protection of minors

#### **1. Assistance for victims/survivors :**

A priority and a clear commitment; personal meetings, genuine willingness to listen ;spiritual and psychological; healing, with experts ;reconciliation if the person is willing; help with canonical process

## **2. Cooperation with Civil Authorities :**

Sexual abuse is a crime prosecuted by civil law; diversity of situations around world; legal, moral obligation to notify civil authorities; rights, responsibilities of Church and members respect for sacramental internal forum

## **3. Support for all priests :**

Pope Benedict XVI, Letter to the Church in Ireland:

“Be attentive to the spiritual and moral lives of each one of your priests”

“Set them an example by your own lives, be close to them, listen to their concerns, offer them encouragement at this difficult time”

“Stir up the flame of their love for Christ and their commitment to the service of their brothers and sisters.”

### **3.1. Support for Accused Clergy :**

Provisions for appropriate care, fit sustenance; process accusation promptly, thoroughly ;limits on ministry placed correctly, clearly ;priest receives necessary information; ordinarily an opportunity for an initial response

## **4. Formation Future Priests, Religious :**

Principles for discerning a vocation; specific criteria for screening candidates healthy, sound human formation spiritual formation for youth today exchange of information when candidates transfer

## **5. Education and Prevention :**

Safe environment programs and protocols victim assistance coordinators child protection teams advisory board strained, experienced canonical personnel Issues for Discussion on Guidelines and Education.

### **Two Types of Documents :**

-- Policies, programs for safeguarding

Legal norms for abuse of a minor by a cleric

-- implement Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela

-- require recognition by Congregation for Bishops

### **Guidelines may Include :**

Establishing “safe environment programs” providing expert assistance, such as “victim assistance coordinators” child protection teams in dioceses, schools, etc. codes of behavior for priests, pastoral workers protocols for communications ; obligation to notify civil authorities? Transparency? Auditing compliance, accountability? Monitoring of offenders? Resolution of “damages” in civil, canonical fora?

### **Pope Francis, Chirographer (2014) :**

“The Commission’s specific task is to propose to me the most opportune initiatives for protecting minors and vulnerable adults, in order that we may do everything possible to ensure that crimes such as those which have occurred are no longer repeated in the Church.”

“During our meetings, each of us have been able to share our thoughts, experiences, and our aspirations for this Commission...”

... Our conversations included many proposals for ways in which we might collaborate with experts from different areas related to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.” Statement of the Commission, 2015.



### **Issues for Discussion on Canonical Norms in Guidelines**

#### **Norms May Include :**

Processing accusations promptly, thoroughly; placing limits on ministry correctly, clearly; providing appropriate care, fit sustenance, sharing information, opportunity to respond, canonical secrecy of trials, communications; “administrative leave” ; sentencing guidelines when accused is guilty of a lesser offense, but is “unassignable”; “transparency” in decisions “zero tolerance” for those found guilty.

“It is personal and moral damage, but carried out by men of the Church. And we do not want to take one step backward in dealing with this problem and the sanctions that must be imposed. On the contrary, I believe that we have to be very firm.”

- Pope Francis, 11 April 2014

“Only decisive action carried out with complete honesty and transparency will restore respect and good will.”

Pope Benedict XVI, 2010

#### **Our Church’s Priorities :**

“To establish the truth of what happened in the past, to take whatever steps are necessary to prevent it from occurring again, to ensure that the principles of justice are fully respected, and above all, to bring healing to the victims and to all those affected by these egregious crimes” Pope Benedict XVI, Address to Bishops of Ireland.

## IV. Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost Sunday is one of the most ancient feasts of the Church, celebrated early enough to be mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles (20:16) and Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (16:8). It supplants the Jewish feast of Pentecost, which took place 50 days after the Passover and which celebrated the sealing of the Old Covenant on Mount Sinai.



A. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit On Pentecost Sunday, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles, they were granted the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Those gifts helped them to fulfill their mission to preach the Gospel to all nations. For us, too, those gifts—granted when we are infused with sanctifying grace, the life of God in our souls—help us to live a Christian life.

Wisdom; Understanding; Counsel; Fortitude; Knowledge; Piety; Fear of the Lord

B. The Fruits of the Holy Spirit After Christ's Ascension into Heaven, the Apostles knew that He had promised to send His Spirit, but they didn't know exactly what that would mean. Granted the gifts of the Spirit at Pentecost, however, they were emboldened to speak the Good News to all men. On that first Pentecost Sunday, over 3,000 people were converted and baptized. The example of the Apostles shows that the gifts of the Holy Spirit lead to the fruits of the Holy Spirit- works that we can only perform through the assistance of the Holy Spirit.

## V. Solemnity of Trinity

Trinity Sunday - the day when we celebrate the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three persons in one God - yet interestingly this is the one festival in the Christian year that does not relate to events that have happened or that will happen in time. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Passiontide, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost all relate to specific events in Christ's life on earth. But Trinity Sunday is different - it refers to a reality that has no date and it leads us to ask - when did God become the Holy Trinity? Was he always the three-in-one creator, redeemer and sustainer - was he always Father Son and Holy Spirit? What we do know is that Trinity Sunday is the essential reminder, coming round once every year, that we cannot manage God - we cannot even imagine him. How can three be one? It defies both logic and understanding for if we could understand God - contain him - then he would cease to be GOD. When we are dealing with theology and faith we are always dealing with something more than we can cope with. We are dealing with

things too wonderful for us to know - and we speak of things which we do not understand. God will always be beyond the capacity of our human minds. As Rowan Williams has said - we can but “let God be God”. However this does not really let us off the hook! We live by faith as well as knowledge and it is FAITH that teaches us that God is indeed three in one, Father Son and Holy Spirit. This is spelt out clearly in our collect this morning when we pray that we may be led ‘by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity’ we can acknowledge it by faith even when we cannot understand it.

## VI. Feast of St. Antony Padua

“Who was St. Anthony of Padua?” One of the first surprises we learn about St. Anthony is that he was not Italian and not from Padua. St. Anthony was born in Lisbon, Portugal in 1195. He was ordained a priest for the Augustinian Order at age 24, but after seeing the bodies of the newly formed Franciscans who had been martyred in Africa preaching to the Moors, he joined the Franciscans with the hope of becoming a martyr. His missionary days in Morocco did not last very long, because of his poor health. His superiors called him to Italy, where he became the first Franciscan to teach theology to his brothers in the Order. St. Anthony was known to be an extraordinary preacher. There is one story of his attending an



ordination at a monastery when it was discovered that they had forgotten to pick someone to give the homily. They asked St. Anthony, without any preparation, to give the homily, and all in attendance were amazed at the words, filled with the Holy Spirit, which came from his mouth. His preaching demonstrated his great learning, but also his great gentleness. Sadly, his health was never very good, and at the age of 36 he died in Padua, Italy in 1231.

St. Anthony, a profound Scripture scholar, allowed his entire being to be formed by the Word of God. In truth he could say, with the Prophet Isaiah, “The spirit of the Lord God is upon me...” While he had his own plans and ambitions for his life, he always submitted them to the will of God. He wanted to preach to the Moors in Africa and to die a martyr. God called him to preach to Christians, mostly in France and Italy, including his only confreres in the Franciscans, and to die not a martyr’s death, but one filled with illness. Yet in it all, St. Anthony took great joy in giving glory to God.

In one of his homilies, St. Anthony proclaimed, “The man who is filled with the Holy Spirit speaks in different languages. These different languages are different ways of witnessing to Christ, such as humility, poverty, patience, and obedience; we speak in those languages when we reveal in ourselves these virtues to others. Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak.”

## VII. Corpus Christi

In this celebration we proclaim our belief in the Real presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. We also proclaim that same Jesus lives within each one of us who are baptized into His Body, the Church. Through our Baptism he has taken up residence within each one of us. We carry Him into the real world just as we carry the monstrance into its streets today. When we process we proclaim that the Lord continues to come into the world, through us.

The celebration of this Solemnity goes back to the thirteenth century. Pope Urban IV instituted it in 1264 for the entire Church. He wanted it to be filled with joy and accompanied by hymns and a festive procession. He asked the great Western Church father, St. Thomas Aquinas, to compose two Offices of prayer. St Thomas did so- along with five hymns - and they have nourished the piety of Christians for centuries. In one of them St. Thomas noted: "Material food first of all turns itself into the person who eats it, and as a consequence, restores his losses and increases his vital energies. Spiritual food, on the other hand, turns the person who eats it into itself, and thus the proper effect of this sacrament is the conversion of man into Christ, so that he may no longer live for himself, but that Christ may live in Him. And as a consequence it has the double effect of restoring the spiritual losses caused by sins and defects and of increasing the power of the virtues".



In this celebration we proclaim our belief in the Real presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. We also proclaim that same Jesus lives within each one of us who are baptized into His Body, the Church. In fact, the entire Trinity takes up residence within us and, through that life in the Church and participation in the Sacraments we can live in the Trinity. This is the mystery of what we call communion. The Christian faith and life is about relationship, with the Father, in and through His Son Jesus and in Jesus Christ with one another for the sake of the world. The world into which we process is the world that God still loves so much that He continues to send His Son to save, recreate and transform it from within. The Corpus Christi procession symbolizes the ongoing redemptive mission of Jesus Christ and our participation in it.

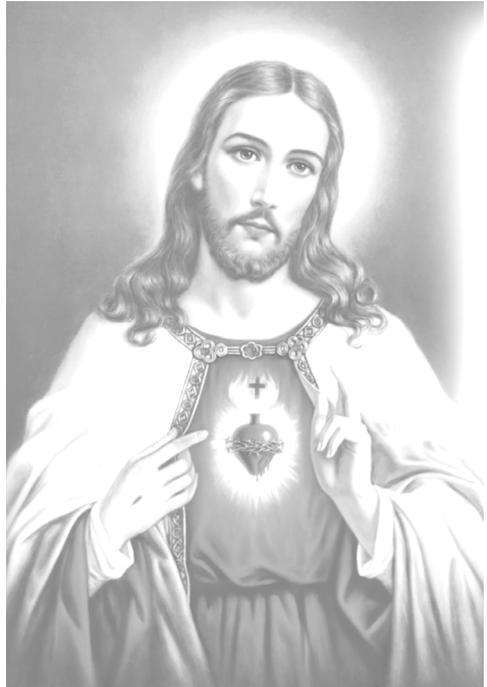
As we march the Monstrance into the cities of the whole world today we participate in a profoundly prophetic act. The early Eastern Church Fathers referred to the Church as the "world transfigured" and the "world reconciled." That reconciliation and transfiguration continues through the Church. Jesus has been raised and he walks into the world. St. Paul, in his letter to the Christians in Philippi, reminds us our true "citizenship" is "in heaven." While we live in this current age we participate in bringing heaven to earth and earth to heaven. We who are Christians now live in the Church and go into the world. Our mission is to bring this world back to God in and through Jesus Christ.

## VIII. Solemnity of Sacred Heart of Jesus

**See my heart – it's on fire with love for you**

Today is the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, the enduring icon of God's abiding love for all of us. The pierced side of Jesus as well is the fountain of sacramental life in the Church. Jesus was sent by the Father to be ransom for man's bondage to sin. Jesus died on the Cross for all of us, not only because of His obedience and love for the Father but because He loved us as well and His love was stronger than death itself.

Jesus nailed on the cross is a powerful image of the unconditional love of God for us. His Sacred Heart captures and we can imagine Him saying, "See my heart. It is on fire with love for you and for the whole world. My heart bears the wounds of my becoming completely one with you."



Jesus portrays his love for us in the images of the Sacred Heart but He also does this in the Gospels, in the Eucharist, and in the community of those on fire with His Spirit.

The Gospels bring us his tender compassion and mercy, his joy at being with the poor and marginal, the hopeless. In the Eucharist, we are able to experience His self-sacrificing love – broken and poured out for us; we are purified and sanctified to share our lives with the whole world. And, in His community, enkindled with the fire of His love, we are renewed and empowered by the Holy Spirit so that we may be bring His love to all as we become the salt of the earth and the Light of the world.

Our Lord is presently searching for his lost coins, his lost people, in the dark house of the world. He has lighted a lamp through the gospel, to show us the way to him. In John 8:12 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. No follower of mine shall ever walk in darkness." Jesus Christ is the lamp that is lit in the darkness of the present world and He is like a city set on a hill, a lighthouse that can be seen from miles away. He shines his light so that we might find our way to Him in the dark and dusty night. God sent His only Son, our Lord Jesus, into the world for a reason. He walked among the dirt and filth of the world. He lived among the sinful in order to bring back the lost to God, in order to shift the good from the bad.

All heaven will rejoice when God finds those who are to be his: "Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you; in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance."

Today, Jesus is asking each of us to show the world our hearts which He has filled with love and grace. As a way of showing our gratitude to Jesus, our Lord, let our lives proclaim the He is our God and Savior, our Courage and Strength and from whom we draw water at the fountain of salvation.

## **IX. Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist**

Church celebrates the great feast of the Birth of the one who was "Precursor", "Friend of the Bridegroom", "the voice of one crying out in the wilderness," John the Baptizer. He was truly the Servant made ready and fit for the preaching of God's word. John was identified with the people of Israel and his vocation as ultimately not only the restoration of Israel, but also the conversion of the world. John was the sharp-edged sword who pointed out the true light to the nations, the one whose salvation would reach to the ends of the earth.



There is no Gospel that begins the story of Jesus' public ministry without first telling the reader about the life and mission of John the Baptist. John's preceding Jesus was clearly fixed in the Christian tradition, so much, that in two of the three Gospels that begin their story before the public ministry with Jesus' first appearance on earth, John the Baptist is brought forth to precede the appearance as well. His role in salvation history and in announcing the coming of the Messiah is beautifully described in the Advent preface of the Roman liturgy: "John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came."

John the Baptist was a man of the desert and began his preaching in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his path" (Mk. 1:3; Mt. 3:3). His long years in the desert before his appearance as a preacher and teacher of repentance (Lk. 1:80) were the source and time for many possibilities. It must be the same for all who would follow Jesus. Each and every ministry and service in the Kingdom of God that involves communication with others requires first a period of preparation in the wilderness and loneliness of our own human deserts. Only in those moments of solitude can we be attentive to God's word in our lives. When do we go to listen to the Word of God? Where is that holy ground in our own life where God's word is unbound and totally free to be heard, experienced and lived? Do we allow our deserts to speak to us and form us?

## **X. Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul**

June 29th marks the great solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. Peter's journey was from the weakness of denial to the rock of fidelity. He gave us the ultimate witness of the cross. Paul's pilgrimage was from the blindness of persecution to the fire of proclamation. He made the Word of God come alive for the nations.

To be with Peter means to preserve the unity of the Christian Church. To speak with Paul is to proclaim the pure Word of God. Their passion was to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. Their commitment was to create a place for everyone in Christ's church. Their loyalty to Christ was valid to death. Peter and Paul are for us a strong foundation; they are pillars of our church.

### **The Final Earthly Moments of Peter and Paul**

According to the ancient tradition, on the morning of June 29, Peter and Paul were taken from their common cell at Rome's Mamertine prison and separated. Peter was taken to Nero's Circus where he was crucified upside down, while Paul was taken east of Rome to the area now known as Tre Fontane. The name records the legend of the saint's beheading, when his severed head reportedly bounced three times, creating three fountains. Artists through the ages have dwelt on their goodbye, often depicting the last embrace between the two friends. The Golden Legend records their parting words:

Paul to Peter: "Peace be with you, foundation stone of the churches and shepherd of the sheep and lambs of Christ!"

And Peter to Paul: "Go in peace, preacher of virtuous living, mediator and leader of the salvation of the righteous!"

The connection between the two saints is also evident in their respective basilicas. Emperor Constantine built the first six Christian churches in Rome from 313 to 328, and among them were St. Peter's Basilica and St. Paul's "outside the walls." Five of the churches face east, as was common in orienting churches at the time. St. Paul's faces west, so that across the city, both basilicas watch over the sheep and lambs of their city.

## **Together they Built the Church**

As ordinary men, Peter and Paul might have avoided each other from time to time. Peter was a fisherman from the Sea of Galilee and Paul a Greek-educated intellectual. But Jesus brought them together as a sign for his Church in which the entire spectrum of humanity would find a new place to call home. Together they worked to build the church. Together they witnessed to Christ. Together they suffered the death of their Lord, death at murderous hands. Paul died by the sword and Peter was crucified head-down. They had a unity that transcended all differences. They teach us about the depth of Christian commitment. For Peter and Paul, insight into Jesus' true identity brought new demands and responsibilities.

At the close of the Year of St. Paul, Pope Benedict XVI invited each Catholic to hold up a mirror to his or her life and to ask, "Am I as determined and as energetic about spreading the Catholic faith as St. Paul was?" "Is spreading the faith both by example and by my conversations with friends, colleagues and acquaintances even a concern for me?" "What do I perceive to be my responsibilities following upon my own declaration of faith in Jesus?"

## **XI. Bishop's Engagements for Month of June - 2017**

### **Month of Sacred Heart of Jesus**

- 1 : Office
- 2 : Chapel Blessing and Holy Communion and Confirmations: Katur and Agnipalli Mallaram, Kamalapuram Parish
- 3 : Sons of Divine Providence : Blessing of Minor Seminary: Formation of Mission of Vangalapally, Karunapuram Parish
- 5 : Office
- 6 : CRI General Body Meeting, Fatimanagar
- 7 : MSSS Novitiate Blessing : Nalgonda Diocese
- 8 : Kurnool Diocese: Golden and Silver Jubilees
- 11 : Ghanpur : Nirmala Matha Church Feast: Confirmations and Holy Communion
- 12 : Office
- 16 : Curtain raiser for B.Th & D.Th. of St. John's Regional Seminary, Hyderabad
- 25 : Laity Sunday
- 29 : Sts. Peter & Paul

## XII. ఫాతిమామాత దర్శనాల శతవత్సర మహా వేడుకలు

**ఓరుగల్లు పీఠం : మే నెల 3-13, 2017**

ఫాతిమామాతకు అంకితమివ్వబడి, ఫాతిమామాతను పాలక పునీతులరాలుగా పొందిన ఓరుగల్లు పీఠంలో మే 3 నుండి 13, 2017 వరకు ఫాతిమామాత దర్శనాల శతవత్సర ప్రత్యేక వేడుకలు ఎంతో వైభవంగా భక్తి శ్రద్ధలతో నిర్వహించడమైనది. మే 3న, ఓరుగల్లు పీఠకాపరి శ్రీశ్రీశ్రీ ఉడుమల బాల ఉత్సవ పతాకావిష్కరణ గావించి నవదిన ప్రార్థనలు ప్రారంభించారు. పాకిస్తాన్ నున్నియో సెక్రటరీ మోన్సిగ్నోర్ మారంరెడ్డి మరియు జోసఫ్, ఫాతిమా కిథిడ్రల్ విచారణ గురువులు ఫా|| ఎస్. బాలశౌరి పాల్గొన్నారు.



ప్రతిరోజు ఒక్కొక్క డీనరి 4-5-2017న ఏకశిలానగర్ విచారణ, 05-05-2017న జనగాం డీనరి, 06-05-2017న ఊకల్ డీనరి, 07-05-2017న ఫాతిమా కెథిడ్రల్, 08-05-2017న అస్సిస్సిన్ నగర్ విచారణ. 09-05-2017న మహబూబాబాద్ డీనరి, 10-05-2017న కరీంనగర్ డీనరి, 11-05-2017న కాజీపేట విచారణ, ఈ నవదిన ప్రార్థనలు 9 రోజులు ఒక్కొక్క అంశంపై ధ్యానిస్తూ ఎంతో భక్తి పూర్వకంగా నిర్వహించారు.

ఫాతిమామాత దర్శనాల శతాబ్ది ఉత్సవాలను పురస్కరించుకొని మేత్రాసన స్థాయిలో అన్ని స్థాయిలలోని భక్తులకు వివిధ రకాల మహాసభలను నిర్వహించారు. ఈ మహా సభలు మే 3 నుండి మే 11, 2017 వరకు ఎంతో ఘనంగా నిర్వహించబడ్డాయి. ప్రతిరోజు మహా సభ ఉదయం శ్రీమతి, శ్రీ ప్రేమ, ప్రణీల్ బృందంచే ప్రార్థన విచ్చేసిన అతిథులచే జ్యోతి ప్రజ్వలనలతో ప్రారంభమై, సాయంత్రం పీఠకాపరి మహా పూజ్యశ్రీ ఉడుమల బాల పూజ సమర్పణతో ముగిసాయి.

**03-05-2017 :** దైవాంకితుల మహాసభ గురువులు, మరవాసులు పాపుగారి విశ్వాలేఖలు ఎలా విశ్వాసపరమైన ఆచరణలో పెట్టాలి అని పాకిస్తాన్ నున్నియో సెక్రటరీ మోన్సిగ్నోర్ మారంరెడ్డి మరియు జోసఫ్ గారు వివరించారు.

06-05-2017 : ఈ రోజు యువతా సదస్సు యువతీ, యువకుల కొరకు నిర్వహించబడింది. FCT వారి ఆధ్వర్యంలో దాదాపు 2000కు పైగా యువత ఈ మహాసభలో పాల్గొన్నారు. మొదటి అంశంగా 'క్రీస్తులో యువత ఎదుగుదల' గురించి Jesus - Youth కు చెందిన Mr. Vijay & Udaya తమ వ్యక్తిగత అనుభవాలను జోడించి వివరించారు. రెండవ అంశంగా యువతలో ఆర్థికాభివృద్ధి, నైపుణ్యాల పెంపుదల, వ్యాపారాభివృద్ధి మెళకువల గురించి బాలవికాస Executive డైరెక్టర్ Mr. Showreddy గారు వివరించారు. యువతలో మెరుగైన జీవన ప్రమాణాల సాధనకు బాలవికాస సంస్థ చేపట్టిన వివిధ సామాజిక మాధ్యమాల చెడు ప్రభావం గురించి Mr. Murali, Ex. Army Officer ఎంతో స్పూర్తిదాయక విషయాలను అందించి, యువతలో మంచి అవగాహనను పెంచి స్పూర్తిని కలిగించారు.

**07-05-2017** : ఈ మహాసభ గ్రామ పెద్దలకు, ఉపదేశుల కొరకు నిర్వహించబడింది. మొదటి అంశంగా సాంఘిక దురాచారాల గురించి, ముఖ్యంగా వితంతు వివక్ష గురించి, వితంతులు తమ స్వీయ అనుభవాల ద్వారా అందరికి అవగాహన కల్పించారు, బాలవికాసకు చెందిన శ్రీమతి లత, మంజుల మరియు వారి బృందం, రెండవ అంశంగా 'క్రీస్తు నాయకత్వం విలువలు' గురించి రెవ. ఫా. తాటికొండ జోసెఫ్ పవిత్ర బైబిల్ గ్రంథ ఉదాహరణలతో స్వీయానుభావలతో చక్కటి వాక్చాతుర్యముతో అర్థవంతంగా వివరించారు 3వ అంశంగా "ఆదర్శగ్రామ ఏర్పాటు, నిర్వహణ కార్యాచరణ" గురించి తెలియజేశారు. బాలవికాస బృందం వారు.

**08-05-2017** : ఈ సదస్సు ప్రత్యేకంగా మహిళల కొరకు నిర్వహించారు. 'కుటుంబంలో మహిళ యొక్క విశిష్ట పాత్ర' గురించి శ్రీమతి రాజశ్రీ తనదైన శైలిలో చక్కని వాక్య పరిచర్యతో విశదీకరించారు. రెండవ అంశంగా స్త్రీల పై జరుగుతున్న అత్యాచారాలు ముఖ్యంగా వితంతు వివక్షను శ్రీమతి లత మరియు బాలవికాస బృందం వారు వివరించారు. ఈ దురాచారాన్ని రూపుమాపటాని తీసుకోవలసిన చర్యలను ఈ మహాసభలో చర్చించారు. తదుపరి 3వ అంశంగా శ్రీసభలో "మహిళలు - మహిళా సాధికారత" గురించి చక్కగా వివరించారు. తరువాత మేత్రాసన స్థాయిలో మహిళా కమీషన్ ఏర్పాటు కార్యాచరణపై చర్చించారు.

**10-05-2017** : ఈ మహాసభకు విద్యార్థిని, విద్యార్థుల కొరకు నిర్వహించారు. "కుటుంబానికి, శ్రీసభకు పిల్లలు ఆశీర్వాదాలు" అనే అంశం గురించి శ్రీమతి జసంతారాణి ప్రార్థనా పూర్వక సందేశాన్ని బైబిల్ ఆధారంగా చక్కగా వివరించారు. రెండవ అంశంగా "ప్రపంచాన్ని గెలిచే సమయం" అనే అంశం గురించి Mr. Joy, JS - Youth నుండి వివరించారు. మూడవ అంశం "నిన్ను నీవు తెలసుకో" అనే అంశం గురించి Mr. Girish & Rupesh, JS. Youth నుండి ఆట పాటలతో పిల్లలను ఉత్సాహపరుస్తూ తమ సందేశాన్ని అందించారు.

**11-05-2017** : ఈనాటి సదస్సును ప్రత్యేకంగా దంపతుల కొరకు నిర్వహించారు. మొదటి అంశంగా "భార్యగా కుటుంబంలో మహిళ యొక్క ప్రముఖ పాత్ర" గురించి శ్రీమతి భాను తన యొక్క వ్యక్తిగత విశేష జీవితానుభావలను క్రీడికరించి వివరించారు. 'పవిత్ర బైబిల్ ప్రకారం' వైవాహిక బంధం - విలువలు' గురించి పవిత్ర గ్రంథ ఉదాహరణలతో చక్కని గాన మాధుర్యంతో వివరించారు. రెవ. ఫా. డానియల్ గారు. మూడవ అంశంగా "దంపతులు తమ వ్యక్తిగత వైవాహిక జీవిత సాక్ష్యాలను" సదస్సులో ఇతర దంపతులతో పంచుకున్నారు.

మే 12, శుక్రవారం సాయంత్రం 4.30 గం||లకు ఓరుగల్లు పీఠకాపరి మహా ఘన శ్రీశ్రీశ్రీ డా|| ఉడుమల బాల పీఠాధిపతులు, బెల్గాం పీఠాధిపతులు మహా ఘన శ్రీశ్రీశ్రీ పీటర్ మచాడో గార్ల మార్గదర్శకత్వంలో, ఫాతిమా కథిడ్రల్ విచారణ గురువు మరియు ఉత్సవ కమిటీ కన్వీనర్ గురుశ్రీ ఎస్. బాలశౌరిగారు, ఫాతిమా విచారణ కమిటీ మరియు ఉత్సవ కమిటీ ఆధ్వర్యంలో, గురువులు, కన్యామణులు క్రైస్తవ విశ్వాసులు పాల్గొనగా ఫాతిమానగర్ పురవీధులలో ఫాతిమామాత స్వరూపంతో జపమాలను జపిస్తూ ప్రదక్షణ నిర్వహించారు. తదుపరి బెల్గాం పీఠాధిపతుల చక్కని వాక్య పరిచర్యతో

దివ్య సత్రప్రసాద ఆరాధన, ఆశీర్వాదము మరియు ఫాతిమా మాత గౌరవార్ధం కథిడ్రల్ ఆవరణలో క్రొవ్వత్తుల ప్రదక్షణ జరిగింది. తదుపరి సాయంత్రం 8.30 గం||లకు సాంస్కృతిక కార్యక్రమాలలో భాగంగా రెవ. ఫా|| టి. జోసఫ్ గారి రూపకల్పనతో “ఫాతిమామాత దర్శనాలు” నృత్య రూపకాన్ని బిషప్ బెరట్టా H.S. ప్రిన్సిపాల్ రెవ. ఫా|| యూగాగారి ఆధ్వర్యంలో ఎంతో అర్థవంతంగా ప్రదర్శించారు. నల్లబెల్లి విచారణ గురువు రెవ. ఫా|| వై. జోజి గారి ఆధ్వర్యంలో కారుణ్యజ్యోతి H.S. విద్యార్థినులచే, రక్షణ చరిత్రలో పవిత్ర గ్రంథంలోని వనితల పాత్ర అనే చక్కని నృత్యరూపకం ప్రదర్శింపబడింది. ఈ సాంస్కృతిక కార్యక్రమాలకు ఓరుగల్లు పీఠకాపరి మహా ఘన శ్రీశ్రీశ్రీ ఉడుముల బాల, బెల్గాం పీఠాధిపతులు మహా ఘన శ్రీశ్రీశ్రీ పీటర్ మచాడో గార్లతో పాటు స్థానిక వరంగల్ వెస్ట్ MLA శ్రీ దాస్యం వినయ భాస్కర్, స్థానిక కార్పొరేటర్ శ్రీ అబు బక్కర్, విచారణ గురువులు గురుశ్రీ శ్రీ ఎస్. బాలశౌరిగారు, విచారణ కమిటీ సభ్యులు పాల్గొన్నారు.



మే 13 ఉదయం 8.30 గం||లకు మేత్రాసణ స్థాయి సత్యోపదేశ మరియు బైబిల్ క్విజ్ విజేతలకు బహుమతులు ప్రధానం జరిగింది. పిదప దేవాలయ ఎదురుగా నిర్మించిన ఫాతిమామాత దర్శనాల శతవత్సర ఫైలాన్ ని ఓరుగల్లు, ఏలూరు, గుంటూరు పీఠకాపరులు, పాకిస్తాన్ నున్నయో సెక్రటరీ ఆశీర్వదించి భక్తులకు అంకితమిచ్చారు. గుంటూరు మేత్రాణులు మహా ఘన శ్రీశ్రీశ్రీ చిన్నాబత్తిని భాగ్యయ్య గారు మహోత్సవ పూజ నిర్వహించగా, ఏలూరు, పీఠకాపరి మహా ఘన శ్రీశ్రీశ్రీ పొలిమేర

జయరావు గారు ఫాతిమామాత దర్శనాల విశిష్టతను తెలుపుతూ మన జీవితాలలో మరియు తల్లి ప్రార్థన అవసరతలను చక్కని వాక్యపరిచర్యను అందించారు. పూజానంతరం ఉనికిచర్ల విచారణకు చెందిన 100 మంది బాల బాలికలచే ఫాతిమామాతను స్తుతిస్తూ నృత్యాన్ని ప్రదర్శించారు. మధ్యాహ్నం నుండి సాయంకాలం వరకు ఫా|| గాలి రాయప్ప బృందం స్వస్థతా ప్రార్థనలు దేవాలయంలో, దేమాత గృహ వద్ద నిర్వహించారు. సాయంకాలం 5.30 గం||కు నూతన గురువులైన ఫా|| గోపు థామస్ గారు పతాక అనవరతం చేసి కృతజ్ఞతా పూజ నిర్వహించారు. రాత్రి 7.30 గం||లకు మేత్రాసన స్థాయి యువతా సాంస్కృతిక పోటీలు నిర్వహించి విజేతలకు బహుమతులు ప్రధానం చేయటంతో ఉత్సవాలు ముగిసాయి. ఈ ఉత్సవాలు విజయవంతంగా నిర్వహించడానికి తోడ్పడి. సహాయ సహకారాలను అందించిన ప్రతి ఒక్కరికి హృదయపూర్వక కృతజ్ఞతలు ఆశీర్వదాలు అందిస్తుంది. ఓరుగల్లు పీఠం.

### **XIII. Implications of Message of the CCBI Plenary Assembly to the Church in India**

1. Pastoral plan for families will always include the “culture of life”: Prolife
  - a) Diocesan Level: Prolife Committee, which comprises Doctors, Nurses, prolife workers, sisters etc.
  - b) NEP (Natural Family Planning) TEAM(S): what is NEP? Ill effects of contraception, abortion, Church Teaching, Theology of Body etc.
  - c) Prolife issues: from womb to tomb >IVF (in vitro Fertilization), Surrogate mother, substance abuse, euthanasia etc.
2. Immediate/Proximate preparation for Marriage & Remote Marriage preparation: Christian Family education Programmes in our schools and colleges:
  - a) Immediate/Proximate preparation for Marriage: Follow- up, Evaluation, Review (introspection) “Quality is more important than quantity...”(AL 207)  
CCBI MPC Manual: not lecture method but interactive
  - b) Remote Marriage Preparation: Christian Family Education Programmes (Life is Beautiful- a book by CCBI Family Commission) Family life education (Sex education), PTA (parents teachers association) meetings- Seminars on different topics relevant to family life e.g. parenting.

#### **Part or full time counselor in the schools/colleges**

3. Priests and religious accompanying couples: regular family visits, Parish Family Cell, Family Movements, establish Family Service centers with counseling facilities:
  - a) Diocesan Level: Family Service Center: counseling, de-addiction Centre, Family Social issues, for Marriage Formation.
  - b) Parish Level: Regular (quality) family Visits by Priests and sisters  
Parish Family Cell: constituted of animator couples and concerned individuals, preferably from the various zones, with their priest and religious guides
  - c) Family movements: CFC: Couple, Youth, children For Christ, Me: Marriage Encounter weekend, Jesus Youth (couples), CFM: Christian Family Movement, Couple- to- Couple League etc.

4. Priests, religious, catechists and pastoral workers to receive better training for family ministry, Seminarians “to receive a more extensive interdisciplinary and not merely doctrinal formation in the areas of engagement and marriage” (AL 203):
  - a) Priests, Religious, catechists and pastoral workers: Basic Counseling skills, How to do home visits? Family Catechesis etc.
  - b) Seminarians (a study showed 60-70% of seminarians have family –related issues): Basic counseling skills, family and child psychology, family spirituality and Ministry, home visits, prolife issues, involvement of a couple/family/family movements in their formation
5. With a careful process of discernment reach out to divorced, divorced and civilly remarried, cohabiting partners, etc.:
  - a) Diocesan Level: Family Mercy- Cell: Identify cases/survey/coordinate
  - b) Parish: Priest to visit and accompany, identify problem, Parish family Cell to create avenue for listening their stories
  - c) Zonal or Village: BCC/ community to support and invite them to be active in the Church according to their respective expertise
6. Families that need special care (cf. AL 247-253):
  - a) Families living in dire poverty. Vincent De Paul association and Basic Christian communities – adopt a family child, scholarship, Networking with different Government and social services offices, Building Homes
  - b) Families with differently- abled children Social Welfare Centre-Empowerment (Skills, talents), support structure
  - c) Families sick and elderly Senior citizens association – Healing Mass or sessions, Home visits
  - d) Single Parent Families women’s sodality or association- Emotional and Spiritual support
  - e) Migrant families Commission for Migrants – Home – visitation, Mass, Recollection once a month
  - f) Families with spouses of two different religious traditions Parish Family Cell (Seminar for interfaith couple)
7. Adequate pastoral care: Trans genders, people with different orientations, etc.:

- a) Diocesan Mercy Cell: offer counseling or therapy
- b) Family with transgender and people with different orientations: Catechesis or Q&A
- c) Acceptance of their talents and allow to contribute in church

-CCBI Commission for Family

**XIV. Laity Sunday: 25-06-2017**  
**Laity Commission to wakeup**  
**Parish Priest to make the Sunday Meaningful**

**Helps and Hints**

St. Thomas More is the patron saint of the non-ordained members of the church. His feast day (22nd June) or Sunday close to it is celebrated as laity Sunday in the church.

In this ‘era of the laity’ is highly relevant to celebrate this day meaningfully, during the liturgy and outside. A brief life-sketch of the saint, few points for reflection, and prayer intentions are given as a help. The liturgy could be planned out with the liturgical committee or a group of lay people.

A public gathering could be organized in order to felicitate lay people who are very active in the church as well as in the wider society in various fields. They could share their life- experience of challenges, achievements, lessons learned, etc. a brief talk on the role of the Laity in the Church and in the Society, power-point presentations. And cultural items could also be included.

**Liturgy**

(One Holy Mass could be designated to be a special celebration. All the people could be welcomed with ‘ticka’ or flower, or at least have a ‘solemn entrance procession’ with representatives. A picture of St Thomas More could be placed somewhere in front and it could be garlanded.)

**Introduction :**

(by a lay person) Today we celebrate Laity Sunday, as it is the Sunday close to the feast of St. Thomas More, the patron of the Laity. This is a day to reflect on the irreplaceable role of the Laity in the church. Where there is Laity, there the Church is, even if by chance there is no clergy. The all-important mission of the kingdom that Jesus gave to the church can never be achieved without the active participation of the Laity. Theirs is a vocation, as or more important than that of the clergy, received at the time of our Baptism. St. Thomas More is a great example of taking this vocation seriously, even to the point of giving up one’s life for the kingdom.

## **Brief Biography**

Thomas more was born in London, on 7th February 1468. His parents were Sir John More (a Judge) and Agnes. He studied in St. Antony's school, London, and then in Oxford University. He became a Lawyer at the age of 24.

Being of Person of spiritual orientation, he used to attend the devotional exercises in the Carthusian Monastery near his home, and used to do penance like flagellation and wearing of 'hair-shirt'. He also was a member of the Third Order of the Franciscans.

More married Jane Colt at the age of 27, and had four children. He taught her music and literature. After 6years Jane died. He married an older widow with a girl child, mainly to take care of the children. More wrote letters to the children whenever he was away from home, and encouraged them to write to him. He provided good education to the children.

He was elected to the parliament in 1504, and was much sought after for his political advice. King Henry VIII made him secretary and personal advisor. More was elected Speaker of the parliament.

In 1529 he was made Lord Chancellor, the person next to the king. He staunchly opposed protestant reformation and its heretical teachings. Even at the height of his political career, More decided not to approve king's plan to divorce his wife and marry Anne Bolevn, and his move to make himself the supreme head of the church in England.

In 1532 More resigned from his post. Two years later he was falsely accused of bride-taking, and was arrested and imprisoned in the Tower of London. He was executed on 6th July 1535. He died saying, 'I die king's good servant, and God's first'.

As a writer, he is known for his novel UTOPIA. It is the story of an imaginary ideal country with good order and discipline, transparency and good behavior, gender-equality, and communal ownership of property.

In 1935 Pope XI declared him Saint. Pope John Paul in 2000 declared him patron of politicians and statesmen. He is considered patron saint of all the lay members of the Church.

Homiletic Points

### **St Thomas More:**

- God first. No allurement or threat could make him disobey God.
- Death, rather than sin. He found meaning in death due to loyalty to God.
- Prayer and spiritual exercises/penance made him strong and courageous.

- Politics and job was for doing good to the society, not for power and riches for oneself.
- Family as domestic church. He was a loving husband and a caring father.
- Thy kingdom come. It may look Utopian, yet Jesus has called us to bring God's reign.
- Talents for God. He used leadership and literary abilities for society/ Church.

### **Prayer Intentions**

1. That the Pope, bishops, priests and all others who serve the church may fearlessly stand for values of the kingdom, accepting consequences as one's true crosses, we pray,
2. That every lay member of the church recognize their mission as the mission of Jesus, and make their profession not just a means of livelihood, but as opportunity for service to the society and the church, We Pray,
3. That the bishops and priests invite and empower the laity to be participants in all the 'non-priestly' activities and administrative responsibilities in the church, we pray,
4. That the clergy and the laity grasp the meaning of the Vatican II teaching that in the church there is "equality of dignity, and diversity", and learn to bridge the gap between them in order to live as equal brothers and sisters of Jesus, we Pray,
5. That the laity discover their God-given talents, and use them by involving in social, Political, art and cultural, literary and other areas of life, we pray,
6. That those Christian political leaders, bureaucrats and those involved in local governance bodies may, like St. Thomas More , use their influence to transform the society, courageously stand for values of the Kingdom, and may not succumb to temptations and pressure, we pray,

Thank you Abba Father! for giving us exemplary leader like St. Thomas More to us in the Church. On this day dedicated to the empowerment of the Lay members of the Church on the occasion of the feast of this great saint, we offer these and all other intentions of our people to you. Send us the same Holy Spirit who empowered St. Thomas More that we may do our part in making these intentions come true, and in working for your kingdom, however Utopian/idealistic that may appear. We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus our risen Lord.

## **Offertory**

Lay people representing some professions and ministries they are involved in may bring in some gifts/ offerings.

## **Thanks..... Thanks**

This is the day for the priests/bishop to thank the people of God for their active role in and outside the church. The church is there because of the laity. The number of church servants and the quality of their dedication depends on Christian families (and not on formation houses!) this is also the day to remind the laity each and every one of the baptized members of the body of Christ is an active, contributing member, an apostle for the kingdom.

-CCBI Commission for Laity

## **XV. Informations**

### **1. Conference of Religious India, Warangal Unit**

Dear Friends,

Affectionate greetings to you from CRI Unit of Warangal. Trust and pray that this letter finds you all in good health and much happiness. As we begin the new scholastic year 2017-2018 after the summer vacation. Let us wish one another a happy and fruitful year ahead and abundant showers of blessings on all of us and on all those who are entrusted to our care.

### **A Word of Gratitude and Welcome**

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the members who have moved out of the diocese on transfer, for the valuable contributions they made to enrich the local Church through their respective fields of apostolate. We are warmly welcome all those who have come into the diocese this year and wish them a lot of happiness and much fulfillment in their newly assigned responsibilities. The Local CRI is delighted to have you as valuable members of our Religious fraternity.

### **Recollection and General Body Meeting**

We will start our first Recollection of the scholastic year 2017-2018, with the theme "Humility of God." Incredible mystery of Love- solidarity. The Holy Mass on the occasion will be celebrated by Most Rev.Udumala Bala D.D. our Bishop. The Recollection will follow the ANNAUL GENERAL BODY MEETING. All the superiors of communities are requested to take part in this recollection with as many members of the community as possible. The Registration fee will be Rs.200/- per person.

## Membership Fee for 2017-2018

The Warangal CRI Unit has no source of income other than the contribution made by the member Institutions. It is customary for all the Religious Communities to pay a membership fee of Rs. 150/- per person in the community. Thus a community with six members is expected to pay a membership fee of 6 x Rs.150/- All are kindly requested to bring with you the annual membership fee for the year 2017 -2018.

**Programme :** Date - Tuesday, 6th June 2017 ; Time - 09.30 a.m. - 03.30 p.m. ; Venue - Divya Deepthi, Fatimanagar ; Theme - “Humility of God” Incredible mystery of Love - Solidarity

**Resource Person :** Most Rev.Udumala Bala D.D. Our Bishop.

Yours fraternally,

Sr. Selvipillai F.m.m.

## 2. News from SC, ST & BC Commision

### భారత దేశ కథోలిక శ్రీ సభవారి దళిత సాధికారత విధానము

భారత కథోలిక శ్రీ సభ పరిధిలో “దళిత సాధికారత” విధాన పత్రం అమలుకు తీసుకోవాల్సిన చర్యలపై SC, ST, BC కమీషన్ TCBC ఆధ్వర్యంలో మే 20, 21 తేదీలలో సికింద్రాబాద్లోని జ్యోతిర్మయి పాస్టరల్ సెంటర్లో జరిగిన వర్క్ షాప్ లో కమీషన్ సభ్యులు కులంకుషంగా చర్చించారు.

ఈ ప్రాంతీయ వర్క్ షాప్ కు SC, ST, BC కమీషన్ చైర్మన్ ఏలూరు పీఠాధిపతులు శ్రీశ్రీశ్రీ జయరావు పొలిమెర అధ్యక్షతన జరిగింది. ఈ వర్క్ షాప్ లో వివిధ మేత్రాసనాల నుండి 60 మంది ప్రతినిధులు హాజరయ్యారు, దళిత క్రైస్తవులనుర కథోలిక శ్రీ సభ పరిధిలో విద్యాపరంగా ఉపాధిపరంగా, ఆధ్యాత్మికపరంగా ఎదిగేందుకు కమీషన్ చర్యలు తీసుకోవాలని నిర్ణయించింది. విద్యా సంస్థల్లో ప్రవేశాలు, నియామకాలలో ప్రాధాన్యత ఫీజుల విషయంలో 50 శాతం మినహాయింపులకు చర్యలు తీసుకోవాలని విధాన పత్రం సూచించిన ప్రతి పాదనలను వర్క్ షాప్ లో ప్రతినిధులు బలపరిచారు. CBCI దళిత విధాన పత్రాన్ని జాతీయ కార్యదర్శి ఫాదర్ దేవసగాయరాజ్ ప్రవేశ పెట్టి. వివరించారు. వర్క్ షాప్ లో పలువురు మేధావులు, నిపుణులు పాల్గొన్నారు. ఈ వర్క్ షాప్ లో వివిధ మేత్రాసనాల నుండి హాజరైన కమీషన్ సెక్రటరీలు కార్యచరణ ప్రణాళికలను రూపొందించి సమర్పించారు. ఈ వర్క్ షాప్ లో వరంగల్ మేత్రాసనం నుండి SC, ST, BC కమీషన్ సెక్రటరీ ఫాదర్ కె. విజయ్ కుమార్, సభ్యులు బోక్కా దయాసాగర్, ల్యాడెల్ల జాన్సన్, బొక్కా విజయం, కె. మేరి, తదితరులు పాల్గొన్నారు.

Fr. K. Vijay Kumar, Secretary, SC, ST & BC Commision.

### 3. News from Lodi MSSS

1) **Project Name** : Community Based Rehabilitation Program for Differently Able Children.

**Supported by** : CHAI – LF, Secunderabad.

- Lobbying and Advocacy on Health Issues of Children with Disability at Mahabubabad Mandal conducted on 25/05/2017 and 25 members were participated in this program.
- Linkages made between Lodi MSSS and Government Area Hospital, Mahabubabad District to medical support to Disable Children.



2) **Project Name** : Improving Livelihood for Marginalized Communities in LingalaGhanpur; 10 Village level CBOs meetings organized on village development process; 4 Farmers meetings conducted on promotion of internal mixed crops. Tank Desiltation program was done in Nellutla and Nagaram villages

3) **Project Name** : NRM program, Devarappula Mandal

- Constructed 300 stone gullies were constructed in 150 acres of land over the small streams , farmers agricultural lands in Peddamaddur, Dharmagadda and Chowdur villages; 545 samples of soil of 545 farmers were tested and given recommended manures in the soil testing report; 19,995 tractor trips of tank silt from 5 irrigation tank and applied in 502 acres of agriculture land of 272 small and marginal farmers.



4) **Lodi MSSS Revolving Fund** : 272 women group members received Rs.46, 13,000/ - for income generation programs in the month of May, 2016.

Rev. Fr. D. Vijayapaul, Director of Lodi MSSS

#### **4. News from Youth Centre**

##### Visiting and Strengthening the Youth Groups

After taking the Charge of the Diocesan Youth Centre, Fr. Anil Polimera, the newly appointed Youth Director had visited the villages Paidipally (May 7th), Deshaipet (May 21st) and Iloni (May 22nd) in order to motivate the youth and strengthen them. Father spoke to the youth about the Roles and Responsibilities of the youth in the Catholic Church quoting the words of our Pope “Youth are the pillars of the Catholic church”.

##### **1<sup>st</sup> Centennial Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima**

On the eve of the 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima, the Diocesan Youth Center in collaboration with the Our Lady of Fatima Cathedral, had conducted the Cultural competitions namely Group Dance, Skit and Elocution on 13th May, 2017 at 7.30pm in order to bring out the talents of our youth from various parishes all over our Diocese. Our Diocesan Youth Chairman Most Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala, had attended the program as the Chief Guest. Fr. Anil and all the Diocesan committee members welcomed our Bishop, Fr. Vinod and Fr. Bala Showry.

Our Bishop felicitated the former youth Director Rev. Fr. Vinod Kumar for his services to the Diocesan Youth Center and also welcomed Fr. Anil. There was felicitation to Mr. Sagar Gabbeta, Regional Youth President as he was given the National Youth Award - 2016, in Mangalore during the National Youth Convention held in January 2017. After this felicitation the cultural competitions had begun.

On the whole there were 29 programs which include the dance, skit and the elocution. Based on the performances the judges had declared the results and the following youth groups had won the Mementos as well as the Cash Prize. After distributing the prizes, there was felicitation for the Judges which concluded with vote of thanks.

**Dance :** 1st Prize : Nashkal with 164 marks ; 2nd Prize : Unikicherla with 161 marks; 3rd Prize : Battupally with 160 marks; 3rd Prize : Somidi with 160 marks.

**Skit :** 1st Prize : Chinnapendyal with 161 marks; 2nd Prize : Komatipally with 160 marks; 3rd Prize : Nashkal with 159 marks.

**Elocution :** 1st Prize : Station Ghanpur with 102 marks; 2nd Prize : Komatipally with 94 marks; 3rd Prize : Bheemaram with 91 marks

**Rev. Fr. Anil Polimera,** Director, Youth Centre.

## 5. News from WADES

Dear Heads of the Educational Institutions!

Hearty congratulations for getting good results during 2016-17 academic year. It is heartening to note that quite a few schools made a positive impact on the mindset of the parents and officers that our Catholic Christian schools running with an affordable fee are in no way lagging behind for their academic excellence compared with the so called corporate schools.

Celebrating the achievements of the past year poses new challenges before us to do better in the coming academic year. Amidst all these challenges let us not forget that the Catholic and the economically deprived students need occupy a special place in our hearts and the education ministry. Further we all have the responsibility of catechizing our students in the traditions of the Church. God bless all your endeavors in the coming academic year. I take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your hospitality and cooperation when I visited the schools with CRI members.

**Fr. Basani Prakash**, Deputy Manager, WADES.

## 6. Warangal Seminarians Get Together

Individual Meeting with the Bishop on 25 & 26 of May 2017

As the part of the Annual programme of the Seminarians of Warangal Diocese Seminarians arrived to St. Xavier's Major seminary, Karunapuram on 25th of May by 4 pm, and refreshed themselves and had general cleaning and preparations for the meeting. In the



evening from 5pm to 6.30 pm had a friendly cricket match and had adoration from 7pm to 8pm, conducted by theology brothers, in thanksgiving for the blessings that the seminarians have received in the last scholastic year 2016-17.

The epitome of the evening was causal family gathering wherein the seminarians introduced themselves and shared experiences their stay in various seminaries. The interesting and encouraging part was their summer ministry experience which was challenging and practical. It was followed by the night prayer and the day ended with the delight of getting to know each other and prayer.

The 2nd day began with Morning prayer and Meditation at 6.30am and we welcomed his lordship Most Rev. Udumala Bala, the bishop of Warangal and had breakfast. At 8.30am started the main event of our annual get-together that is the individual meeting of seminarians with the bishop.

At 11:30am was the Solemn Eucharist presided by our Lordship, Fr. Thomas Kiran the Rector, Fr. Prakash the Spiritual Director and Fr. G. Prashanth, the associate formator of St. Xavier and St. Pius X Minor Seminary, concelebrated and prayer for the Seminarians. During the homily, His Lordship emphasized the importance of the vocation to the priesthood by saying that this call to priesthood is an extraordinary call given to ordinary people. His Lordship encouraged the Seminarians to discern and thrive to be faithful to the Lord amidst our trials and tribulations. Priestly vocation is not a dependent on luck but truly on the will of God. His Lordship took the Example of St. Paul's Strength and his dependence on the Lord.

26 Seminarians in different levels of Formation including 8 newly selected candidates from the recently organized vocation camp 2017 took part in the meeting. A special word of Thanks to Most Rev. Udumala Bala, the bishop of Warangal and Patron of the seminarians, Fr. Thomas Kiran the vocation Director of the diocese of Warangal, Fr. Prakash and Fr. G. Prashanth for having facilitated for the meeting. The meeting ended with an agape.

**Fr. Thomas Kiran,** The Rector

## **7. News from Pastoral Centre**

Karimnagar Mission : Karimnagar mission being the brain child of Bishop Most Rev. Udumala Bala, is bearing fruits gradually. Mulkanur - Ratnagiri new mission center bears witness for its growth. 3 of new mission villages have been handed over to the Capuchin congregation. There are about 35 families for baptisms. There are 4 more mission villages evangelized responding for baptism. Still preparations are going on.

Recently, the Lord Jesus led us to a new mission villages called Suraram 4 K.M. before Shantipuram. There are nearly 24 families ready to get initiated into Catholic faith some of the elders are strong in faith. Thanks for the cooperation of Basani Rayapureddy of Shanthipuram Parish and Mrs. Komala of Surram village. All mission village people are expressing the need of chapels / prayer sheds for better growth and the strength of faith. We are going to begin the mission work in Suraram on 4th June, the Pentecost Sunday.

**Fr. D. Joseph,** Director of Pastoral Centre.

## XVI. Communications

### 1. Think Green, Eat Green, Drink Green, Sleep Green : Plant Trees

What an experience of scorching, boiling, baking, sizzling, blistering and flaming heat during the summer of 2017. With this sweltering experience, nobody needs to tell others the need of eco-friendly thinking and acting. If care for the earth, it will care for us and if we do not, it does not! Therefore, not one day in a year but 'Everyday should be 'Earth day'!



The sun, the moon and the stars are happy because humans cannot fly to pollute them! Otherwise, they would have disappeared long ago, had they happened to be within the reach of greedy human hands. And we know that economic advance is not the same thing as human progress.

The Church is always in the forefront in all fields of Human welfare. So, therefore let us go green in a big way! Let us join hands and legs with those eco-friendly people including the government. Let us first of all, make our hearts and minds green in Being and Praxis. Then let us make the Compounds of Churches, Schools, colleges green and clean. Let us make Catholic thinking green and clean so that our villages go green. There are many Projects and guides to be and to do green. Let us plant and nourish the trees, vegetable/ fruit gardens in and around our houses, or simply go for forestry! Let us teach our children in schools, give them a plant each student or each class or group. Teach them to own a tree or plant and thus you would green their minds and hearts, which would go for green in their houses/ villages. Let us practice water harvesting by going for, inkudu guntalu around every house or institution. The oil industry does not allow us to go for solar energy that easily! But let look at that powerful resource and go against nuclear/ atomic energies.

Our notion of life should not commercial. Let us daily kiss the earth by walking barefoot. We must thank God for the deserts, forests and mountains on earth. They have their own purpose in God's plan. A human being is part of the whole "Universe," a part limited in time and space. Let us not only go for green but also go against polluting the earth especially by avoiding usage of any type plastic goods such as carry-bags, chemicals, etc.

I appeal to all Heads of Parishes and institutions to transform our campuses into green abodes of peace. Let us place bill-boards with slogans in our campuses. Let us set apart some budget for this GREEN CALL and achieve results this year. Those who have the zeal (jila), and do not have sufficient resources, kindly approach the forest department or even the diocese or WADES! I am serious about this project. Let us ensure that the Parish or institution is left greener than when you took over! Jai Green and Clean!

## **2. Profuse Gratitude to All Fatima Centennial Celebrants**

The Centennial Celebrations of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima were not only historical but made historic in the diocese of Warangal. The sun was merciless but the faith of the Faithful and Clergy was equally shining. I took note of the fact that most Parish Priests and Heads of Institutions cooperated full-heartedly! Therefore, I would like to thank very abundantly all those who were leaders and guides and all those who were mere followers or devotees. Needless to say that Fr. S. Balashowry, the Parish Priest, his Assistant Fr. Kiran, Fatimanagar Consecrated and Clergy and the different teams that were set up to celebrate the Mahotsavam solemnly and meaningfully deserve our appreciation and gratitude. We need to acknowledge some limitations and assess all aspects and programs, especially regarding the change of dates from March to May, in order to improve in the years to come. Jai Fatima Matha, Jai Jai Japala Matha!!

## **3. Mission USA and Jamaica**

I shall be leaving to USA and Jamaica on the work of the Mission Warangal Diocese from probably the 2nd half of June for about six weeks. I would be meeting Warangal-priests-USA. Please pray for a fruitful Mission. In my absence, Rev. Fr. K. Joseph, the Chancellor would be in-charge of the diocese.

## **4. 50% Concessions to Catholic Students in Catholic Institutions :**

From this academic year 2017-2018. The Diocesan policy of 50% concessions in all Catholic Schools is to be implemented. I thank the WADES for implementing Successfully for the last TWO YEARS. I ask all the Schools run by the Consecrated, if they are genuinely Catholics, to implement the Diocesan policy by the order of the Bishop.

## **5. Laity Sunday :**

Church is the people of God and 99% of them are the laity. The role of laity was generally practiced as 'pray, pay and obey'. But it had radically changed this concept from passive listeners to active collaborators. The laity has a great number of responsibilities and also

rights. Bishops and Priests need to make them aware of them and awaken them from the slumber of passivity. Therefore, the Laity Commission of CCBI asks us to celebrate Laity Sunday, falling on June 25. Along with Liturgical celebration, kindly arrange talks/seminars to facilitate leadership after the model of Jesus Christ. Hints and guidelines are provided in this issue of Fatima Vani to help priests.



## *Birthday Babies in the Month of June*

**Celebrate your birthday today. Celebrate being Happy every day.**

Rev. Fr. Gangarapu Naveen	05-06-1976
Rev. Fr. Madanu Jaya	07-06-1968
Rev. Fr. Macharla Raju	08-06-1983
Rev. Fr. Pudota Chinnaiah	08-06-1959
Rev. Fr. Kommareddy Vijay Kumar	10-06-1955
Rev. Fr. Dasari Joseph	11-06-1963
Rev. Fr. Reddimasu Thomas	11-06-1963
Rev. Fr. Polumari Suresh	25-06-1981



## *Ordination Anniversary*

Rev. Fr. D. Jaya Prathap 03-06-1999

On the occasion of the Ordination Anniversary of our dear father, I wish him hearty congratulations, prayerful wishes and fruitful ministry.



*Seminar on the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults:  
The Accountability of Bishops in Asia  
Kua Hin, Thailand 15-19 May 2017*



*4th Anniversary Episcopal Consecration Day of Our Lord Bishop  
Most Rev. Udumala Bala*



*Golden Jubilee Celebrations of  
St. Peter's The Chair Church at ThimmaraoPET Parish*



*Happy Birthday to Most Rev. Udumala Bala*

*Warm greetings and fervent prayers on the  
happy occasion of the Birthday of our Bishop on June 18.*

*We would offer special prayers for  
God's Choicest Blessings on his Lordship.*