

# Fatima Vani



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DUBLIN, IRELAND

**WORLD MEETING**  
**of FAMILIES**

# YOUTH SUNDAY CUM HARITHAHARAM



## Kapari Vani...

### I. Love Thy Nature – Kerala Catastrophe

#### Kerala Calamity: Severe National Disaster

The recent floods in Kerala, triggered by heavy torrential rains and landslides were declared a 'national disaster'. The onslaught of rains and floods since August 8 is regarded as the worst floods since 1924. Rainfall in the state during the June-September monsoon season has been more than 40 percent higher than normal, with torrential rains since August 8 forcing authorities to release water from dozens of dangerously full dams, sending surges into rivers that then overflowed their banks. The disaster has claimed at least 430 and the number is likely to rise as waters recede and dead bodies are found. It was not a mere severe calamity but a catastrophe, a devastation, a disaster but it is all the words put together! It reminded people of deluge in the days of Noah (Gen 6 ch).



#### Post Mortem Report: Human Blunder

The post mortem report of the havoc and chaos caused by the Kerala Deluge states that the disaster was not the due to God' fury and anger but the result of human blunder. It reveals modern weakness of greed over need! Kerala was, by nature one of the beautiful states of India. We realized the harmfulness of uncontrolled industrialization, insipid hybrid foods versus organic foods, forestation versus deforestation, terrace/ kitchen gardens, fresh foods versus frozen foods, fresh air, fresh water versus fast foods, and the many like. But the greediness of modern man's touristic mindset domineered and brought curse on itself. The nature wished love and care from humans but domination and destruction was all it got. Thus the consequence is the fury and anger of nature, if one could so say! It opened the eyes of the humans to love, respect and care for nature. Indeed, this understanding was a side-lined biblical teaching.

#### 'Till and Keep' Versus 'Dominate and Subdue'

Thus the entire Kerala occurrence recalls to our minds the commandment of God 'Till and keep it' (Gen 2:15) versus dominate and subdue (Gen 1: 28). The Bible is filled with reflections on the relationship among God, neighbour and nature, and the role of humans in this world. Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'* (Praise be to you) reflects on God, creation, and the role of humanity in the divine plan in order to "show how Bible and Catholic Teachings" teach 'to care and love nature'. Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically." (LS No10)

## **Dominion Theory by Industrial Revolution**

Catholic Social Teaching rejects the “dominion” theory that gives man total domination over creation. This theological view, based on Genesis 1:28, was interpreted during the 19th century to promote the industrial revolution and its desire to use the earth as pliable clay that man could shape into whatever he wants. This interpretation is distorted and it encouraged the unrestrained exploitation of nature. Thus we must strongly reject the notion that Humans were created in God’s image and given dominion over the earth justifies absolute domination over other creatures. The catholic exegesis of Genesis 2:15 tells Adam to till and tend the garden of the world. ‘Tilling’ means ‘cultivating, ploughing or working’, while ‘keeping’ means ‘caring, protecting, overseeing and preserving’. As a result, each can take from the bounty of the earth whatever one needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations.

## **Love Thy Nature: A Serious Commandment**

Sounds crazy or incredible? Yes, the Great, the First and the Greatest Commandment is the name used in New testament to describe the first two commandments cited by Jesus Christ in Mt 22: 35-40, Mk 12:28-34, Lk 13:31-35 and Jn 13: 31-35. These two commandments are paraphrases taken from the Old Testament (Deut 6:4-7) and are commonly seen as important to Jewish and Christian Ethics. The Decalogue is the fundamental principles of Worship and ethics for Israel (Ex 20:1-17). As a follow-up of it the Bible highlights that the Sabbath was a day of rest not only for humans but also for “your ox and your donkey” (Ex 23:12). Thus, the Bible has no place for an autocratic humanocentrism, unconcerned for other creatures and the whole of creation.” In fact, the psalms tell us that creatures by their very existence bless and give glory to God. God loves the work of his hands and saw that it was good even before man and woman were created. Thus human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbour and with the earth itself.

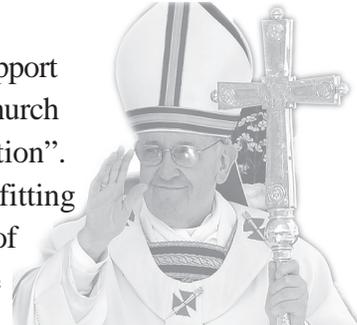
## **Original Nature versus Fallen Nature**

One might say, yes I love nature, meaning the fallen and broken nature. Precisely for this wrong reason, the Kerala deluge took place. But we must remember that the relationships between God-Neighbour-Creation were ruptured by sin, by our presuming to take the place of God and refusing to acknowledge our creaturely limitations. Yes, God created a world in need of development, and counts on our cooperation. Perhaps this requires a revolution in our perspective on the fundamental rights of the nature and the principle teaching of the Church is that humans must care for creation as well as share its fruits with one another. Love of God implies love of neighbour and both of them imply love for Nature! As a commandment!! Let us generously contribute to undo the made-made colossal destruction!

**II. MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE CELEBRATION  
OF THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION  
1 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**Show Mercy to our Common Home**

United with our Orthodox brothers and sisters, and with the support of other Churches and Christian communities, the Catholic Church today marks the “World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation”. This Day offers “individual believers and communities a fitting opportunity to reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live.”



It is most encouraging that concern for the future of our planet is shared by the Churches and Christian communities, together with other religions. Indeed, in past decades numerous efforts have been made by religious leaders and organizations to call public attention to the dangers of an irresponsible exploitation of our planet. Here I would mention Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople who, like his predecessor Patriarch Dimitrios, has long spoken out against the sin of harming creation and has drawn attention to the moral and spiritual crisis at the root of environmental problems. In response to a growing concern for the integrity of creation, the Third European Ecumenical Assembly in Sibiu in 2007 proposed celebrating a “Time for Creation” during the five weeks between 1 September (the Orthodox commemoration of God’s creation) and 4 October (the commemoration of Francis of Assisi in the Catholic Church and some other Western traditions). This initiative, supported by the World Council of Churches, has since inspired many ecumenical activities in different parts of the world. It is also encouraging that throughout the world similar initiatives promoting environmental justice, concern for the poor and responsible social commitment have been bringing together people, especially young people, from diverse religious backgrounds. Christians or not, as people of faith and goodwill, we should be united in showing mercy to the earth as our common home and cherishing the world in which we live as a place for sharing and communion.

**1. The earth cries out ...**

With this Message, I renew my dialogue with “every person living on this planet” (Laudato Si’, 3) about the sufferings of the poor and the devastation of the environment. God gave us a bountiful garden, but we have turned it into a polluted wasteland of “debris, desolation and filth”. We must not be indifferent or resigned to the loss of biodiversity and the destruction of ecosystems, often caused by our irresponsible and selfish behavior. “Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right”.

As an integral ecology emphasizes, human beings are deeply connected with all of creation. When we mistreat nature, we also mistreat human beings. At the same time, each creature has its own intrinsic value that must be respected. Let us hear “both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor” (Laudato Si’, 49), and do our best to ensure an appropriate and timely response.

## **2. ... for We have Sinned**

God gave us the earth “to till and to keep” (Gen 2:15) in a balanced and respectful way. To till too much, to keep too little, is to sin.

My brother, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has courageously and prophetically continued to point out our sins against creation. “For human beings... to destroy the biological diversity of God’s creation; for human beings to degrade the integrity of the earth by causing changes in its climate, by stripping the earth of its natural forests or destroying its wetlands; for human beings to contaminate the earth’s waters, its land, its air, and its life – these are sins.” Further, “to commit a crime against the natural world is a sin against us and a sin against God.”

## **3. An Examination of Conscience and Repentance**

The first step in this process is always an examination of conscience, which involves “gratitude and gratuitousness, recognition that the world is God’s loving gift, and that we are called quietly to imitate his generosity in self-sacrifice and good works... It also entails a loving awareness that we are not disconnected from the rest of creatures, but joined in a splendid universal communion. As believers, we do not look at the world from without but from within, conscious of the bonds with which the Father has linked us to all beings” (Laudato Si’, 220).

Turning to this bountiful and merciful Father who awaits the return of each of his children, we can acknowledge our sins against creation, the poor and future generations. “Inasmuch as we all generate small ecological damage,” we are called to acknowledge “our contribution, smaller or greater, to the disfigurement and destruction of creation.” This is the first step on the path of conversion.

## **4. Changing Course**

Examining our consciences, repentance and confession to our Father who is rich in mercy lead to a firm purpose of amendment. This in turn must translate into concrete ways of thinking and acting that are more respectful of creation. For example: “avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices” (Laudato Si’, 211). We must not think that these efforts are too small to improve our world. They “call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread” and encourage “a prophetic and contemplative lifestyle, one capable of deep enjoyment free of the obsession with consumption”.

## **5. A new Work of Mercy**

“Nothing unites us to God more than an act of mercy, for it is by mercy that the Lord forgives our sins and gives us the grace to practice acts of mercy in his name.”

To paraphrase Saint James, “we can say that mercy without works is dead ... In our rapidly changing and increasingly globalized world, many new forms of poverty are appearing. In response to them, we need to be creative in developing new and practical forms of charitable outreach as concrete expressions of the way of mercy.”

The Christian life involves the practice of the traditional seven corporal and seven spiritual works of mercy. “We usually think of the works of mercy individually and in relation to a specific initiative: hospitals for the sick, soup kitchens for the hungry, shelters for the homeless, schools for those to be educated, the confessional and spiritual direction for those needing counsel and forgiveness... But if we look at the works of mercy as a whole, we see that the object of mercy is human life itself and everything it embraces.”

## **6. In Conclusion, Let Us Pray**

Despite our sins and the daunting challenges before us, we never lose heart. “The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us... for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward” (Laudato Si’, 13; 245). In a particular way, let us pray on 1 September, and indeed throughout the year:

“O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, who are so precious in your eyes... God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth”, God of mercy, may we receive your forgiveness and convey your mercy throughout our common home. Praise be to you! Amen.

### **III. Pope’s Visit to Ireland for World Meeting of Families**

Pope Francis has just completed his 24th apostolic visit outside Italy, which took him to Ireland, August 25-26. We bring you glimpses of this 2-day visit. Pope Francis visited Ireland this weekend on the occasion of the Catholic Church’s 9th World Meeting of Families (WMOF) which took place in Dublin, August 21-26. He also flew west to County Mayo on day 2 to visit the national Marian Shrine of Knock. The theme of the WMOF was on “The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World”. The highlights of the 5-day event were the Festival of Families Saturday evening at Croke Park Stadium and the concluding Holy Mass on Sunday at Phoenix Park. The Holy Father also condemned the abuse of children and adults by members of the Catholic Church in Ireland, asked Forgiveness and met and listened to 8 of the abuse victims.

### **IV. Celebrate the Family**

The World Meeting of Families which began on 21 August in Dublin Ireland, concluded this evening (26 August) with a Eucharist presided over by Pope Francis. The meeting had for its theme, ‘The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World’, underlying the importance of the family in our world today. The Concluding Eucharist was a moving and joyful experience to the

thousands gathered at the massive Phoenix Park there and to the many more across the world who watched the proceedings live on TV. Inclement weather in Dublin did not deter the crowds from this once-in-a-lifetime experience. For it is in joy, we celebrate the family.

In March 2016, following the Synods on the family held in 2014 and 2015, Pope Francis gave to the Church and to the world, his Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia* ('The Joy of Love'). The Dublin meeting revolved very much around this pathbreaking document. Prior to the meeting, Pope Francis sent the Organisers a preparatory letter, stating among other things, "I wish to underline how important it is for families to ask themselves often if they live based on love, for love and in love. In practice, this means giving oneself, forgiving, not losing patience, anticipating the other, respecting. How much better family life would be if every day we lived according to the words, "please", and thank you" and "I'm sorry. Every day we have the experience of fragility and weakness, and therefore we all, families and pastors, are in need of renewed humility that forms the desire to form ourselves, to educate and be educated, to help and be helped, to accompany, discern and integrate all men of good will." We need to celebrate the fact that it is in the family where one can truly nurture these values.

Faith is always nurtured in the family. This is exactly what the powerful icon of the Holy Family very vividly displayed during the Meeting and Mass, represent. The Icon of the Holy Family, commissioned for the 2018 World Meeting of Families was written by iconographer Mihai Cucu, who comes from Romania. Mihai was assisted by the Redemptoristine Sisters of the Monastery of St Alphonsus, Iona Road, Dublin. It was truly a work of their prayer and of love. "We were drawn to an image of the Holy Family at table, sharing a meal and sharing their faith, as suggested by the Gospel of Luke chapter 2. An obvious Gospel text reflecting God's concern for marriage is the Wedding at Cana in the second chapter of the Gospel of John. And finally, the other Gospel that came to mind was the Raising of Jairus' daughter as found in chapter 5 of Mark's Gospel. There we see Jesus' response to a family with a sick child and how he respected that family's privacy in the midst of emotional turmoil when it came to the moment of healing".

It is in faith we celebrate family. During the concluding Eucharist, Pope Francis focused on the 'Family and Forgiveness'. In his opening prayer (which apparently came straight from his heart) he said, "We ask forgiveness for the abuse in Ireland. Abuses of power, conscience and sexual abuse perpetrated by members with roles of responsibility in the Church. In a special way we ask pardon for all the abuses committed in various institutions run by male or female religious members of the church and we ask for forgiveness for those cases of exploitation through manual work that so many young women and men were subjected to. We ask forgiveness for the times that as a church we did not show survivors of whatever kind of abuse compassion and the seeking of justice and truth through concrete actions. We ask for forgiveness." A prayer which drew spontaneous applause from the huge crowd. For it is in forgiveness we celebrate the family!

Speaking of forgiveness within the family, one is reminded of Saint Mother Teresa. She once said, "Jesus taught us how to forgive out of love, how to forget out of humility. So let us examine our hearts and see if there is any unforgiven hurt-any unforgotten bitterness! It is not always easy to love those who are right next to us. It is easier to offer food to the hungry than

to answer the lonely suffering of someone who lacks love right in one's own family. The world today is upside down because there is so very little love in the home, and in family life." Mother Teresa hits the nail on the head. Today is also her 108th birth anniversary. As we celebrate her memory, let us celebrate our own family, by praying to her and asking her to intercede for us!

Our world today is becoming more and more fragmented. A far cry from that of yesteryears when what mattered most was one's family. In that comfort zone we were nurtured and grew in faith, we found forgiveness and acceptance, warmth, joy and above all, love.

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### **V. Reconciliation in Kandhamal after 10 years by Rev. Tapan Baliarsingh (CNUA)**

Bishops, Priests, Religious and lay faithful gathered in large numbers on August 25 2018, in Bhubaneswar to celebrate a Solemn Eucharist to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the terrible and painful tragedy which Kandhamal went through ten years ago.

In the last week of August, 2008 following the killing of Swami Lakshmanananda Saraswati and four of his disciples, hate filled mobs targeted and attacked Christians. What was heartbreaking was that the massacre of the innocents continued unabated for months. The attackers snuffed out human lives, destroyed and demolished churches, homes, schools, hospitals, dispensaries, offices, and centers working for the uplift and development of the poor and marginalized people especially the tribals, dalits, OBC and others. Women and young girls were gang raped and thousands had to flee to the jungles in fear and despair.

During the thanksgiving Eucharist, jointly organised by CBCI and the archdiocese of Cuttack - Bhubaneswar, Archbishop John Barwa reminded the people that God works in our lives and in the life of the Church through mysterious ways. The blood of the martyrs of Kandhamal has brought many blessings upon the Church in Odisha and in the Country.

Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas SFX, the Secretary General of the CBCI in his Homily energized the congregation that like the people of Israel we are very often helpless but the power of God gives us such strength that no human clout can give. He confessed that we feel the pain but no anger towards anyone, as Christ teaches us to forgive. He said the Mass was being celebrated to thank God for the gift of the faith of our martyrs who show us the way to continue living our faith with courage and conviction. He exhorted the people to pray for those still suffering the pain of the tragedy, for justice for the victims but also for those who indulged in violence that God may convert their hearts and minds. The people were called upon to pray for peace and harmony in our country.

On the occasion of this gathering, the Decree of the opening of the Process of Beatification of Fr. Marian Zelazek SVD a Polish Priest who served in India and died peacefully in the

Archdiocese of Cuttack- Bhubaneswar on 20th April 2006 was read by Fr. Prasana Pradhan the Vicar General. A book “Flames of Faith in Kandhamal, by Rev. Dr. Udayanath Bishoyi was released after the Holy Mass.

### **VI. Feast of St. Theresa of Culcutta**

“Mother Teresa imitated Christ and her life was a lesson in love. As she personally tended the sick and the dying in Calcutta’s slums, she helped people there and beyond see the material and spiritual poverty that confronts modern society. She taught all from youth groups to governments through piety and charm, wisdom and simplicity. As small and soft-spoken as she was, her reach was large and her message heard around the world. She saw Jesus in everyone from the child in the womb, to the sick and vulnerable, especially those afflicted with AIDS, to the aged and dying abandoned in the streets of Calcutta.



She urged people everywhere to reach beyond themselves to heal those hurting about them. Mother Teresa transcended cultures and politics as she spoke of God’s call to love and assist the poor. She had a profound realization that anyone she was with immigrant, alien, president or prime minister, was first of all a Child of God and intrinsically worthy of respect. Her life will stand as a reminder to all of us that we are called to care for one another and especially that we are called to respect and aid the poorest among us. God blesses the world with wonderful treasures certainly Mother Teresa has been one of the finest of our century.”

### **VII. Teachers’ Day**

#### **Honoring Teachers for their selfless Contribution towards Society**

The first Teachers' Day was celebrated in India in 1962. This is the year when Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan began serving as the second president of India. To celebrate his esteemed position, his students suggested that his birthday be celebrated as 'Radhakrishnan Day'. Teachers' Day is celebrated as a tribute to the valuable contribution made by teachers to the society by imparting knowledge and enlightening and shaping the career of students. Celebration of Teachers' Day is fairly popular in many countries across the world and is even acknowledged by UNESCO

For students, Teachers' Day is an occasion to pay reverence and gratitude to teachers for their selfless effort in shaping their career and enriching the education system in the process. When is Teachers' Day celebrated? The date for celebrating this special event varies from country to country across the world. In India, Teachers' Day is celebrated on the 5th of September every year, whereas, China celebrates this event on 10th September every year. The celebration in each country is generally correlated to either significant personalities or

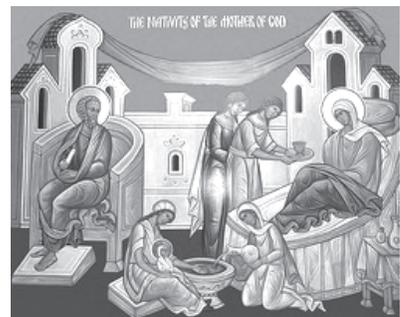
achievements of milestone in the field of education. India celebrates Teachers' Day on September 5 since 1962 as it is the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, a prominent thinker, philosopher and an educator. Across the nation tributes are paid to noted scholar and former president Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan to celebrate his birth anniversary. Dr Radhakrishnan believed that "teachers should be the best minds in the country".

Most of the schools and institutions make elaborate preparations for the celebrations. The ceremony usually kicks off with a warm Teachers' Day speech paying respect and thanking teachers for their contribution. This is often followed by a range of colourful cultural programs, feast and other activities which make the event special and memorable. A few traditional ways of celebrating the event include presenting colourful flowers, beautiful Teachers' Day cards or gifts to the teacher as tokens of love and admiration. But students often try innovative ways and ideas to celebrate Teachers' Day. Some rely on creative and attractive Teachers' Day greeting cards adorned with captivating and touchy quotes and messages to convey the indebtedness unfailingly and also to capture the wonderful moments of the event. Others select lovely and popular Teachers' Day quotes to convey their inner feeling of love for their teacher. Sending animated or e-greeting card is also a rage in the contemporary times. Available absolutely free of cost, these Teachers' Day Greetings e-cards have become a preferred way to send warm wishes and shower emotions on teachers.

Another modern and popular mode of wishing teachers today is the Teachers' Day SMS. The advantage of sending SMS is that the message reaches its destination promptly and rarely goes unnoticed. For the celebration of Teachers' Day, the text messages are available in varied languages allowing users to send SMS according to his/her preferred language. All of us have been students at some stage of our life and have benefited from our teachers. Celebration of Teachers' Day is a wonderful opportunity especially for all of us to show our gratitude and appreciation to our teachers.

### **VIII. Feast of Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary**

Who is this Mary? How is it that she is the mother of the Christ? What privilege that God's own Son should rest upon her knees? Matthew wrestled with these questions. He could resolve the matter only in terms of grace. And the mystery of that favor had led us to call Mary theotokos (the God-bearer), or the Immaculate Conception (never touched by sin), or the Queen of Heaven.



Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth. However, the apocryphal Protoevangelium of James fills in the gap. According to this account, Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child that

will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story (like many biblical counterparts) stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning.

Down through the centuries, we may have done Mary a disfavor. How often she is presented in a Mariology of passiveness, submission, docility, and abject meekness. We remember Mary said yes to the angel's announcement, but overlook her questioning, "How can this be?" We remember Jesus' seeming refusal to respond to her concern about a lack of wine at the wedding in Cana, but forget that she forged on by telling the waiters, "Do whatever he tells you." We remember Jesus' seeming indifference when he was told, "Your mother and brothers are outside asking for you," but discount her presence beneath his cross on Calvary. In many works of art Mary looks so one-dimensional and other-worldly that it is hard for us to imagine her as our mother, to think of her as energetic, to be inspired by virtues useful for living in the real world.

## IX. Prayer and Reflection for GIRL CHILD DAY

**8<sup>th</sup> of September 2018.**

**Theme: 'Every girl is a precious gift'**

### **Introduction**

On the birthday of our Beloved Mother Mary, the Church in India dedicates this day to the Girl Child. Where would we be without Mother Mary! Where would we be if our mother was not allowed to be born? Every girl is a precious gift. She is born in the image and likeness of God, equal in dignity as much as a boy. However we live in a culture where sons are preferred over daughters. The elimination, discrimination and atrocities meted out to girl children must



be condemned as such crimes disfigure the image and likeness of God in human persons. Empowering girls recognizing their potentials bring changes in the world. During this prayer, we remember all those millions of missing girls who were murdered before and after their birth. We thank God for every girl child in our family neighborhood, parishes, institutions and society

### **Thoughts for shared Reflection**

The Olympics is the most watched multi sporting event in the world. What is noteworthy is the rise of Indian women in the field of sports, in particular the rise of Saina Nehwal, a Haryanvi girl, where the sex ratio is the lowest; and Mary Kom from Manipur, one of the 7 States of the Northeast India, that is deprived of the nation's attention it deserves. Both these women have made India proud winning Bronze medals in Olympics 2012.

Behind the stories of both these women, lies a story of grit, determination and discipline that very few in the country can boast of. It also reflects the struggles they would have encountered

fighting despite the system and society at large. This is what Saina has to say: “I was really surprised when I was told that my grandmother did not come to see me till a month after my birth. I was born seven years after my only sister and my birth was a big disappointment for her. In it there is a message that I understand very well now about the discrimination against the girl child. My uncles and other relatives are against encouraging girls in every aspect and that includes sports. I hardly interact with them. My parents are more open. They back me all the way.” (Saina Nehwal in her interview to The Times of India in 2010)

Yes, it is the family support they received that made their success possible. Behind Saina were her parents who supported her to pursue her goal. And in the case of Mary Kom, a mother of two young children, it was her husband who has been the pillar of strength in helping her pursue her dreams. He takes care of the children, the house and is also a supporting partner for the 5-time world champion.

To bring out the best in girls one needs to go beyond the cultural bias that is deeply rooted in our society. Discrimination against girls begins in the womb itself and is motivated by socially accepted devaluation of females. The problem of a declining sex ratio is located at the complex interface of the status of women in Indian society, patriarchal social mores and prejudice, spread and misuse of medical technology, the changing aspirations of urban and rural society, the unprecedented rise of a consumer culture, changes in family structure and reproductive decision-making, as well as other factors, and requires a complex but coherent and holistic national response at multiple levels by multiple stakeholders. India’s current responses, consisting in the name of implementation of the Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (prohibition of sex selection) Act, 1994, a range of ad-hoc media messages on the girl child, and conditional cash transfer schemes, fall short of such a holistic vision for action.

What can we do?

We can take pride that the Catholic community has a favourable sex ratio. The educational status among females is also better. The Catholic Church in India has contributed towards the humanization of the society through its educational, health-care outreach and socio-economic interventions.

As followers of Christ and as citizens of our country, we must spread the message of equality between girls and boys concretely by sensitization and awareness programmes. India’s young population be specifically targeted through tools of mass media, event based advocacy, and reaching out to them through schools, colleges, and similar networks. Holding of competitions and participation in campaigns for promoting the rights and dignity of the girl children, analyzing with the young the personal experiences, events and occurrences reported in the media, and enhancing their ability to stand for their rights with self confidence are some of the ways by which we can make a difference. In the context of great social change taking place in India, Advocacy strategy would need to identify fault lines where devaluation of women and conformity to traditional roles.

**The Gender Policy of the Catholic Church of India 2010 prioritizes the dignity and survival of the girl child as one of the special areas of concern. It clearly shows us the way to address this problem:**

The Church's love for children stems from Christ's teachings and example. Children hold the hope for the future and must be nurtured. They form one of the largest vulnerable groups in society and hence the Constitution of India has laid special emphasis on their wellbeing and protection.

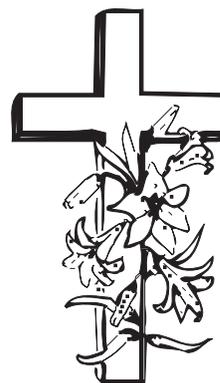
Among children, the girl child is particularly vulnerable. In recognition of this, international and national communities have special provisions for the development of the girl child and adolescent girls, particularly with regard to their survival, health, nutrition, education, protection and participation in family and society. The Church supports and commits herself to these ideals. Strategies All forms of discrimination and violation of the rights of the girl child needs to be eliminated, within and outside the family. Strictly enforce laws against prenatal sex selection, female feticide, female infanticide, child marriage, child abuse, child prostitution, child trafficking and child labour. Promote girl child's right to life, education, nutrition, health and development.

Protect the girl child from discriminatory neglect and all forms of abuse including sexual abuse. Project a positive image of the girl child among girls themselves, boys, parents, teachers and society at large.

Church institution should avoid gender stereotyping in extra-curricular activities, and provide training in skills, use of playgrounds, choice of optional subjects, handling of sexual harassment/abuse issues, gender profile of decision-making bodies including parent-teacher associations. Promote awareness about the government schemes for the girl child through homilies, dispensaries, hospitals, health centers, grass-root social and educational institutions and catechism classes. Let us be the instruments of change to give each girl the dignity she deserves specially the Right to Live.

### **X. Feast of Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

In 326 A.D., the Emperor Constantine sought to recover the Cross by whose sign he had conquered and claimed the Roman Empire for Christ. To this end, he commissioned his mother Helen to travel to the Holy Land and find the relic of the wood upon which our Lord was crucified. After some investigation, Helen located the true Cross buried under a temple dedicated to Venus. According to the traditional story, the authenticity of the relic was confirmed when it was touched to a corpse and the dead man sprung back to life, after which the Patriarch of Jerusalem raised the Cross up in the Church temple, and everyone bowed before it.



Celebrated at what was the beginning of the Roman civil new year (and what is still the beginning of the school year), the Exaltation of the Cross celebrates a constitutional moment in the life of the Roman Empire. The hymn for the feast—“O Lord, save Your people”—may well be described as the “Imperial Anthem” of the Byzantine world—a proclamation that a new people had been gathered into unity under the authority of the crucified One.

**XI. Jericho prayer for India (Ending on 18 November 2018)  
Organized by the national service Team of the Catholic Charismatic  
Renewal in India**

**Theme : ABBA, BLESS OUR LAND (2 Chronicles 7: 14)**

### **Introduction**

St. Paul exhorts us : “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.” (1Tim 2; 1, 2). The Word of God teaches us clearly that intercession is the responsibility of every believer. The history of the church is replete with examples of men and women, canonized saints and others, who have interceded for their fellow men and brought many blessings to our world. It is considered to be a serious omission to stay unconcerned and not to intercede: “far be it from me that I should sin against the lord by ceasing to pray for you” (1Sam 12: 23).

The Chairman of the National Service Team, Cyril John, during his presentation to the 33rd General Body meeting of the CBCI in Bangalore on 7 February 2018 had apprised that the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in India intends to organize Nation-wide Intercession for the country from May 2018 to May 2019. During a subsequent meeting of leaders of the Charismatic Renewal held in India in 7 regions in such a way that it culminates with PUSH 2018 (National Prophetic Intercessors Meet) for about 4000 participants being planned in Divine Retreat Centre, Muringoor, Kerala from Sunday, 18 to Wednesday, 21 November, 2018. The Jericho Prayer is patterned after the march of Jericho in Joshua chapter 6 led by Joshua as instructed by the Lord.

Nation-wide intercession for the country and Jericho Prayer for India were launched by Bishop Francis Kalist, Bishop of Meerut and Episcopal Advisor to the CCR on 17 March during REVIVE 2018 (Prophetic Intercession Growth Retreat) organized by the national service Team in Jeevan Jyothi Ashram, Delhi from 14 to 18 March, 2018 which was attended by 110 intercessors from across the country. Bishop Francis Kalist and Cyril John met Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay and President of the CBCI regarding this on 28 March 2018 and discussed the details of intercession drive throughout the country.

## **Nation-wide Intercession for the Country**

A special intercession drive for the country will be organized across the country from May 2018 to May 2019. This will include teachings/retreats on intercession, chain rosary, fasting prayer, perpetual adoration, night vigils and networking of chain intercession. A letter in this regard is being sent to all Bishops and Leaders of the CCR in the country. This will be organized in each diocese by the Regional/Diocesan Service Team where the Renewal leadership is networked and elsewhere by the dioceses concerned.

## **Jericho Prayer for India**

Jericho Prayer for India will be organized simultaneously in 7 Regions as follows:

North Zone I – Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh & Delhi

North Zone II – Uttar Pradesh, Uttarkhand & Rajasthan

South - Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh & Telangana

East - West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar & Jharkhand

West - Maharashtra, Goa & Gujarat

Central - Madhya Pradesh & Chhattishgarh

North East - Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland & Sikkim

• The THEME of the Jericho Prayer will be ABBA, BLESS OUR LAND based on 2 Chro 7:14. “If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

• A prayer card with intentions for Jericho Prayer and prayer for the success of Jericho is being printed in the vernacular by each diocese. A broad format of the prayer card will be circulated.

• Each region is expected to identify 2 persons to accompany the Jericho Prayer to cover the entire region/state.

• A route map touching each diocese under the region will be worked out for the Jericho journey. It is proposed to organize the Jericho Prayer in the Cathedral in each diocese at a convenient time in the evening so that more number of people could participate. It is requested that Priests, religious and lay faithful in the diocese may be invited to the intercession gathering on the designated day. Accordingly, if there are 24 dioceses in a region, it will take 25 days to complete the Jericho journey. The diocese is expected to provide board and lodging to the visiting team (which may consist of 6 to 12 persons) till the time they depart on the next day for the next destination.

• The program of Jericho Prayer at the Cathedral might include a brief input on nation-wide intercession for the nation, Eucharistic Celebration by the Archbishop/Bishop or in his absence by a nominee, Intercession before the Blessed Sacrament and conclude with Benediction.

This opportunity could also be used for praying for special intention of the diocese as well. A crucifix (minimum 30 inches height) is to be blessed by the Archbishop/Bishop during the Jericho Prayer which will be brought to Divine Retreat Centre for PUSH 2018 in November. At PUSH 2018 all the blessed crosses brought from the diocese would be installed around the intercessory map of India.

- Whereas the Regional Jericho Prayer will be confined to one evening of prayer at the Cathedral, each diocese is expected to organize intercession for the nation in all its parishes either (1) simultaneously on the same evening when the diocesan Jericho Prayer is being held in the Cathedral, (2) by rotation in the parishes prior to the Jericho Prayer in the Cathedral so that it would in one way become culmination of the diocesan intercession, or (3) by rotation from the day following Jericho Prayer held in the Cathedral.
- All dioceses/regions are exhorted to send their intercessors/representatives to participate in PUSH 2018 (National Prophetic Intercessors Gathering) in Divine Retreat Centre, Muringoor, Kerala from Sunday, 18th (4 pm) to Wednesday, 21st (1 pm) November 2018. More than 4,000 intercessors are expected to participate in the gathering. The nation will be dedicated to Jesus through the powerful intercession of Mary at this gathering.

## XII. Program for Jericho Prayer September 14-15, 2018

### September 14, 2018

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 1:00 to 1:30 pm. | Reception of Jericho India March Team and Teams from Parishes/<br>Villages |
| 1:30 to 2:00 pm. | Praise and worship by (lay person)   |
| 2:00 to 3:00 pm. | Word of God Service by Bishop/ Priest                                      |
| 3:00 to 4:00 pm. | National Intercession by (lay person)                                      |
| 4:00 to 4:30 pm. | Tea Break and Teams from Parishes could return                             |
| 4:30 to 5:30 pm. | Eucharistic Adoration  |
| 5:30 to 6:00 pm. | Prayer and talk by Jericho Team  |
| 6:00 to 7:00 pm. | Holy Eucharistic Celebration   |
| 7:00 to 8:00 pm. | Divine Mercy Chaplet with Jericho March around the Cathedral               |

### September 15, 2018

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 6:15 am. | Holy Eucharistic Celebration by Most Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala |
| 8:00 am. | Final Blessing to India and departure of Team              |

**Note: Confessors are available from 1:30 to 6:00 pm. on September 14.**

### **XIII. Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows**

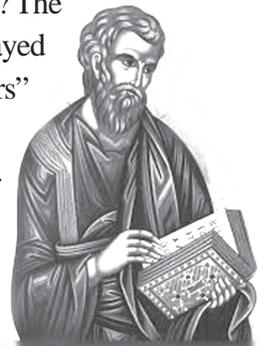
This feast, Our Lady of Sorrow (September 15) celebrates the spiritual martyrdom of the Blessed Virgin Mary, particularly in the Passion and death of her son Jesus Christ. By the 14th century her sorrows were fixed at seven: 1) the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, 2) the flight into Egypt, 3) Jesus' being lost in Jerusalem, 4) the encounter with Jesus on the way to Calvary, 5) the Crucifixion, 6) the taking of the body down from the cross, and 7) Jesus' burial. And what does this feast signify for us today?



In the spring of this year, a young mother named Jenn wrote letters and made cards for each of her children for the major occasions of their lives in the years to come. Jenn knew she wouldn't be with them in person for graduations, wedding, and births of children. She was dying of cancer and had only few weeks to live. For some of us, death comes like a sudden thief in the night. Others of us like Jenn, are given a period of time, whether a few days or a few months, to prepare. Our most pressing concern is the welfare of the loved ones we are leaving. We want somehow to ensure that they'll be OK. This is the scene we have in today's Gospel. Looking down from the cross at the only people who did not abandon him in his hour of greatest need, Jesus sees his mother and places her in the care of "the disciple whom he loved."

### **XIV. Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist**

Why would Jesus want to accept an invitation to dinner from Matthew? The Pharisees were shocked that he would associate with sinners and dismayed by his explanation: "I have come to call not the self-righteous, but sinners" (Mt 9:13). What is the message of Jesus?



Here's the story for us to reflect. A man was preparing to throw himself over a cliff. On the way he stopped at the house of a friend to say goodbye. He told him the story of his sad life: how little he had loved God and served his family. How he had broken every commandment there was. And now his guilt was too great even for God to forgive.

His friend reasoned with him, "But you know that the mercy of God is immeasurably great. And he always offers us his love. We must only accept it." But the man was still inconsolable. "My soul," he said, "is like a bucket full of holes. As soon as God fills it with forgiveness, it leaks out." His friend took him by the hand and said, "Perhaps your soul is like a bucket full of holes. But when it is thrown into the ocean of God's mercy, it does not matter how many holes are in it. The mercy of God, like the sea water, will be inside and outside the bucket, surrounding it from all sides."

Here's another story. During World War II in a cave in Okinawa, Japan an American Sergeant named Ponich, was holding a 5 year old Japanese boy in his arms. The child had been shot through both legs. Ishibashi was one of two Japanese snipers hiding in a dark corner of the same cave. Suddenly, Isibashi and his comrade leaped from their hiding place, aimed their rifles at Ponich, and prepared to fire point blank. There wasn't a thing Ponich could do. He simply put the 5 year old boy on the ground and began to wash the child's wounds. If he had to die, he thought, what better way to die than performing an act of mercy. The two snipes watched in amazement. Then, slowly, they lowered their rifles. Minutes later, Ponich did something Ishibashi never forgot.

### **XV. Feast of the Archangels**

The Holy Scripture mentioned the angels beginning from the Book of Genesis up to the Book of Revelation. Our faith teaches that angels are a part of God's invisible creation and we refer to angels in the Creed at Mass when we pray: "We believe in one God... Maker... of all that is seen and unseen." We refer to them at the start of the Mass when we pray at some occasions, "I ask blessed Virgin Mary, ever Virgin all angels and saints, and you my brothers and sisters to pray for me to the Lord our God."

The word angel means messenger and the bible portrays them as God's messengers to His people. They are spirits who serve God and whom He sends to help them, guard them and keep them away from danger.

The bible states that it was an angel (Gabriel) whom God sent to Mary to bring her the good news that she was to be the mother of Jesus. It was an angel whom God used to advise Joseph that Mary had conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. It was also an angel who came upon Joseph to alert him that he had to flee to Egypt with Jesus and Mary. It was an angel who appeared to the shepherds and said not to fear for in David's city a savior was born, the Messiah and Lord. It was also an angel that announced the birth of John to his father Zechariah.

### **XVI. Bishop's Engagements**

#### **September, 2018**

- 01: Office
- 02: Jesus Youth Meet: Holy Mass
- 03: CCAT Meeting, Hyderabad
- 04-06: TCBC Extraordinary Meet, Hyderabad
- 07: Office

- 08: Pontifical High Mass at Our Lady of Vailankanni Shrine, Diesel Colony Parish,  
Celebration of Girl Child Day  
6:00 pm. Centennial of Salvatorians India: Solemn Mass and Mela
- 10: Office
- 11: Office
- 13-14: ARMS Meet, Bangalore
- 14-15: Jericho Prayer March: Warangal Prays for India
- 15: Mass in Cathedral at 6:15 am. Conclusion of Jericho Prayer March in Warangal
- 16: Guests from Talladega Parish, USA Shobhan's
- 17: Office
- 18: Office for Consecrated
- 19: CJITS Financial Committee Meeting, Bishop's House
- 20: Nellikuduru Parish Feast Mass and Blessing of Science and Computer Lab and Water Plant
- 23: Year of Family Meet of Fatimanagar Deanery, Fatimanagar
- 24: CCBI National and Regional Chairmen Meet, Bangalore
- 25: CCBI Exco-Meet, Bangalore
- 26: CJITS Governing Body Meeting, Colombonagar, Jangaon
- 28: Office for Laity

### **October, 2018**

- 01: Office
- 02-5: North- East Priests Association Meeting, Imphal, Manipur
- 08: Office
- 09: Office
- 11: Office
- 13: Office
- 14: Mass for College Students, FCT at Jeevadhara
- 14-19: Clergy Annual Retreat
- 21-27: Aero-Retreat for Senior Clergy in Sri Lanka
- 28: Karimnagar Deanery Celebration of Family Year

## **XVII. Communications**

### **1. Bharathamithram Sunday (07-10-2018)**

I am pleased to bring to your knowledge that this year 'Bharathamithram,' Telugu Catholic fortnightly, celebrates its Platinum Jubilee. Telugu Catholic Bishop's Council (TCBC) has decided to make use of this occasion for three purposes. Firstly, to thank God for such a resourceful Magazine for our Region all through these 75 years. Secondly, to promote the magazine to all Catholic families, knowing the fact that even in its 75th year of existence, many Catholics still do not know about it. Thirdly, to raise the financial sustainability of the Magazine, as it struggles to maintain itself financially.

#### **To fulfill these three purposes, following things are to be observed.**

- To celebrate Bharathamitram Sunday on the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (7th, October 2018) in selected parishes of every diocese of Andhra and Telangana,
- To thank the Lord for the Magazine and for its service to the Telugu-speaking Catholics.
- To encourage our faithful to read Bharathamithram and request every family to subscribe for their spiritual enrichment (Subscription forms will be supplied in advance to all selected parishes for promotions).
- In all selected parishes, the promotions will be done in the manner of Mission Sunday.
- Bharathamithram Donation covers will also be supplied to the Parish Priests of the selected parishes in advance, so that they may be able to distribute them to each family a week before. The covers will be collected on Bharathamithram Sunday and be deposited to the Procurator of the diocese.
- Details of individual donations be given to the Procurator and they will all be published in Bharathamitram.

#### **Selected Parishes in the Diocese of Warangal**

1. Fatimanagar, Fathima Cathedral, 2. Warangal-Kazipet, St. Joseph's Church, 3. Narmetta, St. Peter's Church 4. Timmaraopet, St. Peter's Church, 5. Subedari, St. Marys's Church 6. Karimnagar, Lourdamatha Church, 7. Karunapuram, Arogyamatha Church 8. Deisel Colony, Velangani Church 9. Waddepalli, St. Peter's Church 10. Jangoan, St. Paul's Church 11. Godavarigani, Sacred Heart Church 12. Assisinagar, Catholic Church 13. Dharamasagar, St. Anthony's Church 14. Kumarapalli, St. Joseph's Church 15. Mariapuram, Bonbosco Mission 16. Hanamkonda, Infant Jesus Church.

I request the kindness and understanding of all the parish priests and to collaborate in this venture. May God bless you. Yours sincerely,

+T. Joseph Raja Rao, S.M.M., Bishop of Vijayawada and Chairman of Bharathamithram.

**2. Annual Retreat :** All the priests are requested to take note of the Annual Retreat for 2018 would begin from evening of October 14 till noon of October 19, 2018. Please block the dates in your calendar and attend the retreat without fail, unless other arrangements are made with Bishop's permission.

**3. Deanery Level Recollection in September :** Deans are requested to organize the September month recollection on Deanery level in 2nd week. All Priests are requested to attend and grow in Holiness and Priestly Ministry. The Procedure should be;

1. Spiritual Conference/ Talk preferably by one of the Priests of Deanery
2. Individual Confessions
3. Holy Eucharistic Adoration
4. Discussion on one theme each month. This month "Warangal Year of Family Celebrations: programs, prayers etc.
5. All priests are expected to attend and contribute towards Fellowship and Ministry
6. Deans are requested to give a report on the day's proceedings with the names of the Priests attended.

**4. Enclosing Tribal and Dalit Girl Children under BPL:**

The CBCI Council for Women along with the CBCI Offices for Dalits and Tribals are planning to encourage the Dalit and Tribal Catholic Girl students who come **under the BPL** category and scored highest marks in SSC and Intermediate in State (The application is enclosed).

Students from the following boards would be honored :

1. State Board; 2. CBSC or ICSE.

**Eligibility:**

- Candidate should be Dalit or Tribal Catholic Girl.
- The student should be under the BPL category.
- Should have written Secondary or Senior Secondary exams in the Year 2017-2018.

**Procedure:**

- Eligible candidates should fill in the prescribed form attached
- The form should be signed with seal by the Parish Priest or the Diocesan Secretary of SC/ST/Women Commission or the Regional SC/ST/Women Secretary.
- Last date for the application to reach the office is 12th October, 2018.

**Documents to be attached:**

- Attested Photocopy of the mark list (SSC and Intermediate),

- Copy of Baptism certificate
- Copy of Community Certificate
- BPL Proof (in case Govt Proof is not available, the Parish Priest can also certify)
- Two passport size Photos.

The application of the topper for SSC and Intermediate of one Dalit and one Tribal girl from each Diocese will be collected at the National Office, from which the topper for each State will be selected. The State Topper will be honored with a cash award together with a shield and a certificate. The decision of the selection board will be final.

- The forms of the Toppers from Each Diocese could be sent to the following address:

CBCI Council for Women, CBCI Center, 1, Ashok Place, Gole Dak Khana, New Delhi-110001.

**APPLICATION FORM (FILL IN WITH CAPITAL LETTERS)**

1. FULL NAME OF THE STUDENT: -----
2. ADDRESS: -----  
-----  
-----
3. CATEGORY (DALIT OR TRIBAL): -----
4. MOTHER’S NAME: -----
5. FATHER’S NAME: -----
- 6.NAME OF SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_
- 7.NAME OF EXAMINATION PASSED: \_\_\_\_\_
8. MARKS SCORED WITH PERCENTAGE IN 10TH/12TH : -----
- 9.NAME OF THE BOARD (STATE OR CBSE/ICSE): \_\_\_\_\_
10. NAME OF DIOCESE: .----- PARISH:-----
11. NAME OF PLACE: -----STATE : -----
12. CONTACT E-MAIL : -----
13. PHONE NOS.: -----

SIGNATURE AND SEAL OF THE AUTHORITY

## **5. Fearful Raging Waters Rampage Kerala Appeal for Solidarity and Contributions**

**Cir No: 2018/PR1**

**Dear Clergy/Consecrated/Faithful of Warangal Diocese,**

### **Sub: Appeal for Solidarity and Contribution towards National Disaster victims of floods and landslides in Kerala**

The Catholic Church in India and Warangal Diocese expresses her solidarity with the people of Kerala and offers condolences to all those families who have lost their dear ones. We pray for the repose of the souls of those who have lost their lives. We are distressed by the extensive damage to the life and property through a disaster of this magnitude.

The state of Kerala is being battered by torrential rains, overflowing rivers, release of dam waters and a series of landslides. This unprecedented havoc caused by floods has wrought immeasurable misery and devastation. Declared as the worst flood in a century, the people of Kerala have never faced such a terrifying deluge before. Thousands of people are rendered homeless, as houses and roads are collapsing due to floods and landslides. 35 of the 36 dams have been forced open, releasing nearly 7 lakh liters of water per second. This has ingrained fear and panic amongst the communities. While the official death toll is 106 as on date, the figure are still rising. More than 200,000 people are homeless and taking refuge in the around 718 Relief Camps. The whole state has become like a huge lake and the water level continues to rise. To make matters worse, occurrence of a series of cloudbursts and heavy landslides has made the situation even more grave.

There is a strong urgency to reach out to more communities who are stranded and isolated in the most remote and unreached villages. Our timely assistance will help meet the needs of the affected and reduce the sufferings of our brothers and sisters of Kerala. There is a huge need emerging to rebuild the lives of the people and communities with rehabilitation and restoration of livelihoods.

On behalf of the Catholic Church in Warangal, I am making this fervent appeal to all in church leadership, to come together in solidarity and encourage the community of faithful, institutions and people of goodwill to contribute generously to this humanitarian call and express our solidarity at this crucial moment.

The funds mobilized to this cause from the Diocese and Institutions may please be sent to Account Title: Warangal Diocesan Society; Name of the Bank: Andhra Bank, Fatimanagar Branch; Account Number: 009410011000002; IFSC: ANDB0000094

**Note:** Kindly do not deposit by cash, above Rs. 2000/- for the account provided. If it is above Rs. 2000/-, make a payment by Cheque or by NEFT.

+ Udumala Bala, Bishop of Warangal

## XVIII. Informations

### 1. News from Ldi MSSS

#### 1. Project Name: NRM program, Devarappula mandal.

##### Achievement of the Project Activities:

- Distributed pheromone traps and yellow pates for integrated pest management to 120 farmers and applied in 120 acres of paddy and cotton field to control pest.
- 90 farmers doing natural farming in 90 acres of land in paddy, cotton, red gram, green gram and vegetables fields with growth promoters like Jeevaamrutham, waste decomposer etc.
- Distributed loans of Rs.2,30,000 for promotion of IGP programs for 23 women in 3 villages of Devarapula mandal.
- Distributed loans of Rs.12,00,000 for promotion of milk animals for 50 women in 8 villages of Devarapula mandal.

#### 2. Title of the Project: Care and Support to HIV infected children.

##### Achievement of the Project Activities:

- Nutrition support is distributed to 150 HIV/AIDS infected children.
- Education support is provided to 176 HIV/AIDS infected and affected children.
- Helping Hand society has provided 25 quintals of rice to HIV/AIDS infected widows and the same rice is distributed to 100 HIV/AIDS infected widows.

Note: With the kind permission of Rt.Rev.Dr. Udumala Bala, I will be visiting Europe & USA to meet the donors of Lodi from 4th September to 12th October, 2018. Fr. S. Balashowry will be in-charge in my absence.

Fr. D. Vijaya Paul, Director – Lodi MSSS

### 2. News from Youth Centre

Dear Fathers, I thank each and everyone for celebrating the National Youth Sunday in your respective parishes and also for giving importance to youth in Liturgy on this special day. Please continue to encourage the youth of your respective parishes to bring out the hidden talents in them.

My special thanks to our beloved Bishop Most Rev Dr Udumala Bala for being with the youth the whole day and for participating in various programs held in 5 different parishes. Bishop's Program started with the Mass at 8.30am at Assisinagar Parish and Ended with Final Blessing at Mother Teresa Home for the Disabled People at 9.30pm.

**Assisinagar Parish:** The Holy Eucharistic Celebration began at 8.30am in which our Bishop offered the Mass for the Youth of this Parish.

**Our Lady of Fatima Cathedral:** All the youth welcomed our Bishop Most Rev Dr Udumala Bala from Bishop's House to Cathedral in procession with Traditional drums called as "DAPPULU". After reaching Cathedral, Bishop hoisted the National Youth Sunday Flag. Special Youth Mass was celebrated by our Bishop.

**Unikicherla Parish:** Under direction of Fr.G.Suresh, the youth welcomed Bishop with Bike Rally and the Harathi. On the eve of National Youth Sunday a Star was created by the Youth on which Our Bishop Most Rev Dr Udumala Bala gave the Quote for Youth, "YOUTH FOR CHRIST AND CHRIST FOR YOUTH". In the same way Our Youth Director, Fr.Anil, Fr.Raju and Fr.Suresh gave their quotes for the Youth. Bishop spoke about the Importance of Donating Blood and Inaugurated the Blood Donation Camp. Later on Plantation Program began with Bishop, Priests and one each plant by the Youth representatives from different villages of different parishes.

**Station Ghanpur Parish:** Fr.N.Surender Parish Priest arranged Bible Quiz, Singing and Dance Competitions for all the Youth of the Parish at Chagal. Bishop took part in the Plantation program and spoke about the Importance of Youth.

**Waddepally Parish:** The youth of Waddepally parish had a different thought of celebrating the National Youth Sunday at Mother Teresa Home for the Differently Aabled, Kashibugga under the guidance of Rev.Fr.D.Joseph, The Youth performed Skits and Dances to entertain the inmates in the house. All the Youth of the Parish contributed small amounts of money and donated Clothes worth of Rs.10,000/- as well as 6 Rice Bags. Bishop spoke about the Hidden Talents of our Youth and also about their contribution to the church as well as the Society with service oriented mindset. The program concluding with cake cutting and Final Blessing by our Bishop.

Rev. Fr. P. Anil, Director of Youth Centre

### **3. News from WADES**

#### **St. Paul's High School Independence Day Celebrations**

Independence day celebrations were held in our school campus with unprecedented patriotic favour and great pomp and show. The gamut of activities held on this day consisted of flag hoisting, impressive march past, investiture ceremony, prize distribution and cultural show. Smt. M. K. Padmavathi, Principal Junior Civil Judge, Jangaon has presided over the function as the Chief guest and unfurled the tri color Flag. Followed by the investiture ceremony where the school cabinet was officially conferred with powers. The esteemed Chief Guest of the day administered the oath to the members of the cabinet. In her address to the students she urges the students to be SMART and insisted that the students should use the technology in a constructive way.

#### **Haritha Haram – Seed Ball Preparation**

As part of efforts for promoting and adopting green and clean environment, we too become shareholders in an initiative taken by the Govt of Telangana, Haritha haram. We have gone a

mile a head in this regard and prepared more than 5000 seed balls on 8-8-2018 and dropped those seed balls nearby hills. This is to show by example that we not only plant the saplings but also we are responsible in making the saplings.

#### **4. News from SC/ST/BC Commission**

On 10th of August, 2018 SC, ST, BC commission of CBCI called for a Nationwide Mourning Day in protest against the presidential order 1950 para 3 of not providing scheduled caste status to Dalits who converted to Christianity and Islam. Responding to the call SC, ST, BC commission Warangal Diocese along with Tri City Christian Fellowship Which is the Organising Committee of all the Protestant Denominations of Warangal District Observed a Day of Mourning at Ambedkar Junction, Hanamkonda, Warangal in support of Dalit Christians and Muslims.

On this Occasion Most Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala, Bishop of Warangal addressing the Protestors said that "when Right to follow any religion is provided in the constitution, why a person from Dalit origins denied their benefits just because they chose Christianity or Islam for his or her spiritual satisfaction?". Rev. Dr. Damera Isaac, President, Tri City Christian Fellowship questioned the hypocrisy of providing benefits to Dalits who have converted to Buddhism and Sikhism, while those converting to Christianity and Islam are denied the same. At 1.00 noon a memorandum was submitted to Sri S. Dayanand, Joint Collector, Warangal District Warangal Diocese SC, ST, BC Commission members Fr. T. Jerome, Fr. N. Surender, Mr. Dayasagar, Mrs. Mary and Fr. P. Anil and youth (AYC) and Bishop Markandeya, Pastors and more than 200 hundred people from various Parishes and denominations participated. Fr. K. Vijay Kumar, Secretary, SC, ST, BC Commission

#### **5. News from Pastoral Centre**

##### **Year of Family Programs**

1. During last month with the invitation of Fr. P. Chinniah Parish Priest of Palakurthi we had conducted a special program on 12th of August. This program really enriched the families in the parish. Whole parish came together had a day prayer and meals.
2. I also visited Sagaram parish with the invitation of Fr. Y. Lourdu Parish Priest of Sagaram. Parish Priest and the people really took lot of risk for organizing and arranging meals for all the people. People shared their spiritual experience that they felt.

##### **Services Available:**

- a. Jyothirmai Bible Quiz is on 4th November 2018. All those who would like to participate has to enroll their names before 30th September 2018, and the entrance fee is Rs: 10. Please collect the Quiz enrolment books from Pastoral Centre and encourage all the faithful to participate in this Quiz so that their Bible knowledge is improved
- b. All the heads of the educational institutions are expected to teach Catechism and Value education in Schools. Catechism is mandatory for our catholic students.

- c. New catechism and value education Books are Available at Pastoral Center for classes 1 to 10. All the schools have to collect from the Pastoral Centre.
  - d. All religious articles are available in pastoral centre stall.
  - e. You are welcome to invite me for spiritual and year of Family programs
- Rev. Fr. G. Kamal, Director of Pastoral Centre

### 6. News from CDPI Warangal Unit

In honor of St. John Maria Vianney, the Patron saint for priests, a day of recollection and socialization was held on 09.08.2018, at St. Savior major seminary and Don Bosco seminary premises for the clergy in the diocese.

The day began with breaking of the word of God by Fr. Y.Bala Rreddy, followed by Eucharistic adoration and individual confessions. There after sports & games were organized like: 100mtrs run, slow cycle race, fast walk, Tug of war and volley ball, basket ball games.

Many priest including our bishop participated with great enthusiasm and there was a very good competition for all the events. Prizes were distributed to all the winners at lunch. It was a great memorable day with all the fun and relaxation, building bond among Priests. It is said that, “Coming together as one family is an opportunity to know each other for better collaborative work in the vineyard of the Lord”. Hence we extend our sincere thanks to his Lordship Most Rev. Uduamala Bala,DD., Bishop of Warangal, for making this day possible. We also acknowledge the services of all the collaborators like Procurator of the diocese, institutional heads and CDPI members.

Fr. M. Jaya Paul, President – CDPI Warangal Unit

#### Masses Remitted in Bishop’s House

Date	Parish	Masses	Amount
11/05/2018	Fatima Cathedral Parish	250	25,000/-
04/07/2018	St. Peter’s Colony Parish	40	4,000/-
10/07/2018	Singaram Parish	810	81,000/-
17/07/2018	Waddepalli Parish	113	11,300/-
16/08/2018	St. Peter’s Colony Parish	50	5,000/-

#### *Birthday Babies in the Month of September*



Rev. Fr. Thumma Kiran	16-09-1977
Rev. Fr. Duggimpudi Prashanth	16-09-1977
Rev. Fr. Vatti Albeen Reddy	29-09-1971
Rev. Fr. Narisetti Balaswamy	29-09-1969



**BLESSING OF NEW KG BLOCK OF St. JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL, KESAMUDRAM**



**SACERDOTAL DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF Fr. VARGHESE KARIYIL**

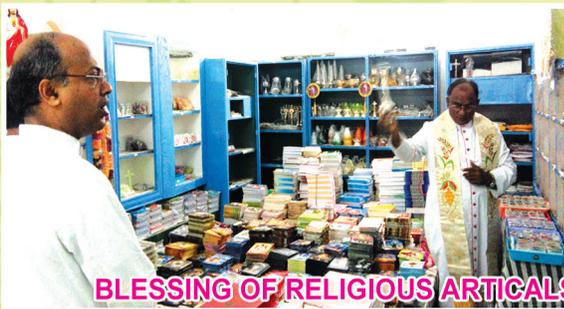


**OBSERVING MOURNING DAY**

# PRIESTS DAY : RECOLLECTION CUM PRAY & PLAY



**FEAST OF St. PIUS X CELEBRATIONS at Karunapuram**



**BLESSING OF RELIGIOUS ARTICLES, PASTORAL CENTER, Fathimanagar**



**MAXIMILIAN KOLBE FEAST, VIDHYANIKETHAN JUNIOR COLLEGE, KARUNAPURAM**

