

Thatima Vani



News Letter
Diocese of Warangal



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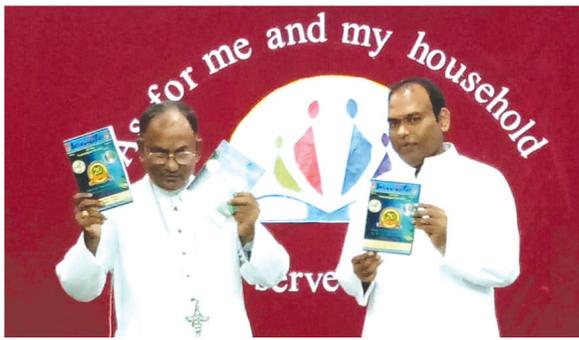
January 2019

No. 01



Mary Mother of God, Pray for Us!

St. Xavier's Seminary 20th Anniversary Feast, Karunapuram



Kapari Vani

I. Let Us Begin the Year in THE One Name of Jesus with Many Titles

Well 2018 is just behind us. For some it was a Blessing, for some others a relief, for many others a regret? Whatever, time passes on, or rather it flies, sometimes at Jet speed. The Person of the Year, the Athletes of the Year, Newsmaker of the Year, Invention of the Year, Science Discovery of the Year and the like are named. Whatever, what name would you give to the year 2018? And with your dreams, aspirations and wishes what name would you like to give to 2019? But what's in a name? A jasmine would be jasmine with any name given to it. In many cultures it is everything, it sets the course of the life of the one named. It did for Israel, its name means 'to strive with God' and they did. Naming reflects aspirations what would you call 2017?



What about Jesus? His naming ceremony as well as the day of His circumcision identified Him as a child of God (Gn 17:10). For Jews ever since the time of Abraham every male child was made acceptable to God by circumcision. Jesus was really named 'Joshua'! 'Jesus' is the Greek transliteration of Joshua, meaning 'God is Salvation'. There were a number of people already named Joshua and we probably didn't think that such a unique man should carry the same name as others, so we adopted the Greek version of His name – Jesus. He was named by the angel Gabriel when he appeared to Mary and Joseph (Mt 1:21, Lk 1:31). Jesus is His personal name and was given to Him because He embodies God and Salvation for us. He does that through His teachings, His miracles, His Death and His Resurrection; Jesus saves us from damnation and death, and grants us life everlasting. Jesus is His personal name everything else is really a title. Christ, is a title, it means 'Messiah' and 'God's Anointed'. Anointed means set aside and chosen by God for a special purpose. And as you know Jesus is often referred to as Christ Jesus or Jesus Christ, which sometimes gets another title added to it 'Lord' as in the 'Lord Jesus Christ' and sometimes that title stands alone as 'The Lord' and everyone knows to whom that refers.

During Advent we have heard Him called 'Immanuel' meaning 'God is with us' (Isaiah 7:14). That has two meanings, first God is physically with us in the Person of Jesus, and second "if God is for us, who is against us" (Rom 8:31). Then 'Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace' (Isaiah 9:6) all titles that we can readily accept. For from whom else should we take counsel other than from Him in His Gospels? Who other than a Mighty God could bring about such miracles as Jesus did? Who else is from Everlasting to Everlasting, and Father because Jesus is One with the Father, the First Person of the Holy Trinity (John 10:30)? Who else gives us Peace? Peace, which passes all understanding because it is peace of mind and heart, a peace that allows us to accept or challenge, as needs must, the things of Life that will occur.

And then consider that He is the 'Saviour of the World', Saviour because He saves us from Death. 'Redeemer of the World', Redeemer because He wipes away our sins

forever. The 'Son of Man' because He was born flesh and blood, just as we are. And the 'Son of God', because He was conceived by the Virgin Mary through the action of the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity. One name many titles. And what do you call Him? Friend? Brother? If friend; Abraham was called a friend of God because of his righteousness, because he believed, because he had faith. We are friends of God and He us, because we believe (Gen 15:6, James 2:23). But even more so you may remember that as Jesus was being arrested He called His betrayer, Judas Iscariot, His 'friend' (Mt 26:50). Why? Because "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 8:38-39). And, lastly, we are His brothers and sisters because we put our belief into action, Jesus said "Whoever does the will of My Father who is in Heaven is my brother and sister" (Mt 12:50). Brothers and sisters that's us!

The Naming of Our Children

"After eight days, they circumcised the Boy, and named him 'Jesus' as the Angel told before he was conceived" (Lk 2:21). A name is of great importance, therefore, naming our children is of great importance. The Israelites of old knew this importance. They took the choosing of names for their children very seriously. They wanted the name they chose to have special significance to the child. As Christians, we should have the same desire when naming our children. We should want the names we give our children to give them a sense of purpose in God. Today, unfortunately, many name their children a certain name because it "sounds nice." Most do not know the meaning of their child's name. They don't see it as relating to their child for any significant purpose. Today many name children almost like they would name their pet animals!

The reason the naming of their children was so important to the Hebrews was because – a name entails all that you are. It declares one's character. And, it relates in some way your purpose in God. Let us smile a while at this joke: Small chicks once asked their Mother, 'Mummy how is that the humans name their children at birth and we are not given any names when we are small? The Mother replied, they are humans and we are chicken. They name their children at their birth and they also name us at our death calling one 'chicken Biryani, another Chicken tikka, and another chilly chicken', etc.

In Philippians 2:9, the Scriptures declare that God has highly exalted Jesus and "given Him a name which is above every name." Why is the name of Jesus above every name? Because Jesus has revealed all that God is. By the life which He lived and by the words which He spoke, Jesus expressed all that God is. Jesus was also given a name which related to His purpose in God. The name of Jesus means 'Saviour.' We should be convinced that the naming of our children is of great importance, therefore, we give our children names filled with meaning. When we name our children, we give them names which will express their character as we envision it from God. We also give them names which relate the purpose that we see God would have for their lives.

WISH YOU ALL A BLESSED NEW YEAR 2019

II. Through Virtue, Political Life can be a Form of Charity

Pope Francis identified political virtues and vices in his 2019 peace message released Tuesday, offering examples from the “Beatitudes of a Politician.” “If exercised with basic respect for the life, freedom and dignity of persons, political life can indeed become an outstanding form of charity,” Pope Francis wrote in his message for the 2019 World Day of Peace, released Dec. 18.

The pope encouraged international leaders to “practise those human virtues that sustain all sound political activity:

justice, equality, mutual respect, sincerity, honesty, fidelity.” “Blessed be the politician who personally exemplifies credibility. Blessed be the politician who works for the common good and not his or her own

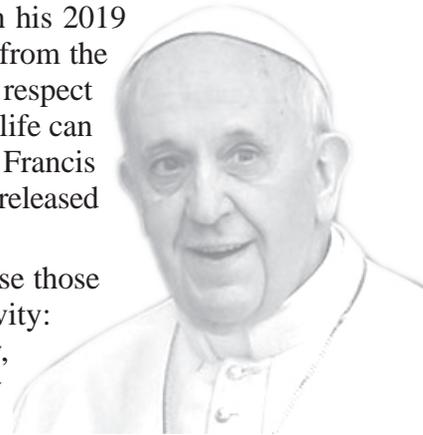
interest ... Blessed be the politician who works for unity,” Francis said, quoting the late Vietnamese Cardinal François-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận’s “Beatitudes of a Politician.” Other blessed “political beatitudes” include working “to accomplish radical change” and being “capable of listening.” Pope Francis warned that “politics also has its share of vices, whether due to personal incompetence or to flaws in the system and its institutions.” “When political life is not seen as a form of service to society as a whole, it can become a means of oppression, marginalization and even destruction,” he said.

Francis stressed that “political addresses that tend to blame every evil on migrants and to deprive the poor of hope are unacceptable,” adding that there is a “need to reaffirm that peace is based on respect for each person, whatever his or her background.” “We think of corruption in its varied forms: the misappropriation of public resources, the exploitation of individuals, the denial of rights, the flouting of community rules, dishonest gain, the justification of power by force or the arbitrary appeal to *raison d’état* and the refusal to relinquish power,” he said.

“To which we can add xenophobia, racism, lack of concern for the natural environment, the plundering of natural resources for the sake of quick profit and contempt for those forced into exile,” Francis continued. The World Day of Peace -- instituted by St. Pope Paul VI in 1968 -- is celebrated each year on the first day of January. The pope provides a special message for the occasion, which is sent to all foreign ministers around the world.

In the 2019 message, signed on the Dec. 8 feast of the Immaculate Conception and published Dec. 18, Pope Francis described peace as being like “a delicate flower struggling to blossom on the stony **ground** of violence.” “Offering peace is at the heart of the mission of the disciples of Christ. And this offer is addressed to all those men and women who hope for peace amid the tragedies and violence of human history,” he said.

Pope Francis added, “One thing is certain: good politics is at the service of peace. It respects and promotes fundamental human rights, which are at the same time mutual



obligations, enabling a bond of trust and gratitude to be forged between present and future generations.”

III. Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Our Christmas Octave would not be complete without paying special attention to the glorious Mother of God! Mary, the mother of Jesus, the mother of the Savior of the World, is properly called the “Mother of God.” It is worth reflecting upon this powerful title of our Blessed Mother. And it’s important to understand that this title says just as much about Jesus as it does about His Blessed Mother.

In calling Mary the “Mother of God,” we especially acknowledge one fact of human life. A mother is not just the source of one’s flesh, she is not just the mother of the body of her children, she is the mother of that person. Being a mother is not just something biological; it is something sacred and holy and is part of the divine order of God’s creation. Jesus was her Child and this Child is God. Therefore, it is proper logic to call Mary the “Mother of God.”



It’s an amazing fact to think about. God has a mother! He has a particular person who carried Him in her womb, nursed Him, raised Him, taught Him, loved Him, was there for Him, and pondered who He was throughout His life. This last fact is especially beautiful to look at.

The Gospel passage above says, “And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” And she did this as a caring mother. Her love for Jesus was as unique as the love of any mother. However, it should be noted that she was a mother in perfection and loved Him with a perfect love, He who was not only her Son, but was also God and was perfect in every way. What does this reveal? It reveals that the motherly love shared between Mary and Jesus was profound, inspiring, mysterious, glorious and truly sacred! The mystery of their love is worth reflecting on throughout our lives, keeping it fully alive in our hearts. She is an example for every mother and is also an example for all of us who seek to love others with a pure and holy heart.

Reflect upon the holy and captivating relationship that Mary would have shared with her Divine Son. Try to fathom what this love would have been like. Imagine the deep emotion and passion that would have filled her heart. Imagine the level of unwavering commitment she would have had. Imagine the unbreakable bond that was forged as a result of her love. What a beautiful celebration this is to conclude this Octave of Christmas Day!

IV. Epiphany of the Lord

“Epiphany” means manifestation. And the “Epiphany of the Lord” is Jesus’ manifestation not only to these three Magi from the East, but it’s also a symbolic but real manifestation of the Christ to the whole world. These Magi, traveling from a foreign and non-Jewish nation, reveal that Jesus came for all people and all are called to adore Him.

These Magi were “wise men” who studied the stars and were aware of the Jewish belief that a Messiah was coming. They would have been versed in much of the wisdom of the day and would have been intrigued by the Jewish belief in the Messiah.



God used what they were familiar with to call them to adore the Christ. He used a star. They understood the stars and when they saw this new and unique star over Bethlehem they realized that something special was happening. So the first lesson we take from this for our own lives is that God will use what is familiar to us to call us to Himself. Look for the “star” that God is using to call you. It’s closer than you may think.

A second thing to note is that the Magi fell prostrate before the Christ Child. They laid their lives down before Him in complete surrender and adoration. They set a perfect example for us. If these astrologers from a foreign land could come and adore Christ in such a profound way, we must do the same. Perhaps you could try literally lying down prostrate in prayer this day, in imitation of the Magi, or at least do so in your heart through prayer. Adore Him with a complete surrender of your life.

Lastly, the Magi bring gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These three gifts, presented to our Lord, show that they acknowledged this Child as the Divine King who would die to save us from sin. Gold is for a King, frankincense is a burnt offering to God, and myrrh is used for one who would die. Thus, their adoration is grounded in the truths of who this Child is. If we are to adore Christ properly, we must also honor Him in this threefold way.

Reflect upon these Magi and see them as a symbol of what you are called to do. You are called from the foreign place of this world to seek out the Messiah. What is God using to call you to Himself? When you discover Him, do not hesitate to acknowledge the full truth of who He is, lying prostrate before Him in complete and humble submission.

V. Baptism of the Lord

Feast marks the conclusion of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. It’s a feast of transition from Jesus’ hidden life to that of His public ministry. It

also echoes the theme of the Epiphany in that the Baptism of the Lord is another manifestation announcing Jesus' divinity to all of His first followers and to the disciples of John the Baptist. First of all, it needs to be pointed out that Jesus did not need the baptism of John. John was baptizing as a call to and sign of interior repentance. Jesus had no need to repent. But, nonetheless, He comes to John. John resists at first but Jesus insists. Why did He receive baptism?

First, by accepting the baptism of John, Jesus affirms all that John has said and done and affirms his sacred role of preparing the way for Jesus and for a new era of grace. Therefore, the Baptism of Jesus acts as a bridge between the Old Testament prophets (of which John was the last) and the New Testament era of grace and truth.

Second, it has been said that when Jesus entered the waters of baptism, He was not baptized by the waters, rather, His Baptism was one in which all the created waters of this world were, in a sense, "baptized" by Him. By entering into the waters, Jesus sanctified water and poured forth His grace making all water the future source of salvation.

Third, the Baptism of Jesus was an epiphany. It was a moment of manifestation. As He emerged from the waters, "Heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from Heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'" This manifestation of the sonship and divinity of Jesus took place in a physical, audible and visible form so that all present would know, without question, that Jesus was the Son of the Father. Thus, His baptism is a way in which the Father introduced His Son and His Son's mission to the world.

As we prepare to begin Ordinary Time, reflect, today, upon these words of the Father at the Baptism of Jesus. Hear the Father speaking to You about the divinity of His Son. Turn your eyes to Jesus and prepare yourself to follow Him and to heed every word He speaks. He was sent into this world to draw us to the Father, allow Him to fulfill that mission in your own life.

VI. Feast of Conversion of St. Paul

As Paul's life was about to take a radically new direction from violent persecutor of the nascent church to apostle of Christ, words from above were heard: "It hurts you to kick against the goads." Ouch. A goad is a kind of cattle prod, a pointed stick used to guide oxen when plowing or to clean mud and clay from the plowshare. If it hurts, stop doing it, my mother always said.

In Acts 26:14, "goad" is used metaphorically as it often was by the Greek playwrights. Here it refers to Saul's Jewish faith, his fidelity to the tradition of "the prophets and Moses." The voice from Jesus is not saying he is to abandon that past, but to go with where at its best it is leading him and stop resisting. Luke seems to be telling us that the possibility of Saul becoming the single greatest interpreter of Christ to the Gentile world had its roots in his lifelong formation as a faithful Jewish man. We know that his penchant for taking on matters of life in a zealous manner, including his religious life, led to extreme behavior. Yet in his conversion, God's grace took that aberrant personal

extremism and redirected it to Christ's service.

Often conversion is described as an event that takes place in a moment. Over the years, however, my observation of people's religious experience tells me this is not usually the case. It is more a process and there is always a context. To me conversion is more like falling in love than anything else. It can be experienced as momentous, life-renewing and a complete re-direction of energy, yet it occurs out of one's own history and all that has led someone to a particular moment of encounter. For Saul it was his Jewish faith tradition which he was resisting in its fullness, and once he stopped kicking against that goad, he was able to embrace it more fully as it came to him in Jesus. In other words, Saul's journey to becoming St. Paul was not a movement from falsehood to truth, but a transition from truth to truth.

VII. ECUMENICAL WORSHIP SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY - 2019

Jointly prepared & published by Roman Catholic Church (RCC) & World Council of Churches (WCC)

for use during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity & throughout the year 2019

Order of Worship Service

Theme: Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue (Deut. 16:18-20)

Call to Worship

L: Leader: Let us worship the Triune God.

God, our Father, you crown your creation with justice and mercy.

C: Congregation: we come to worship you.

L: Jesus Christ, your cross brings new life and justice,

C: we come to worship you.

L: Holy Spirit, you inspire our hearts to act justly,

C: we come to worship you.

L: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and

the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Gathering hymn (will be chosen locally)

Introductory words

L: As Christians from separated communities, we gather here to pray for unity. This year, the theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity chosen by the churches in Indonesia is "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue." This theme is imperative due to the recurring situations that bring divisions and conflicts. As we pray together, we are reminded that our calling as members of the body of Christ is to pursue and embody justice. Our unity in Christ empowers us to take part in the wider struggle for justice and to promote the dignity of life.

Hymn of praise

Prayer of Repentance

L: Beloved sisters and brothers, let us confess before the Lord that we have sinned and ask for forgiveness so that our worship will be pleasing to God.

Reader 1: (read by an ordained minister or a leader of the congregation)

Compassionate God, you have chosen us to shepherd your flock. Jesus, your Son, taught us to act justly. We are aware that in our ministry, we sometimes behave unjustly towards the people whom you have entrusted to us by: prioritizing those who are close to us or those who have higher social status; ignoring strangers, the poor and the least in society; fearing to defend the oppressed; misusing church resources. These deeds have caused some people to turn away from your church. Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy. (This response may be sung.)

Reader 2: (read by a member of the congregation)

Loving God, you have gathered us as members of your flock. Jesus, your Son, taught us to love one another as a sign of being his disciples. We confess that we have failed to live his commandment of love by: regarding those of other churches as rivals; being hostile to each other and slow to forgive; focusing only on our personal interest; ignoring the needs of sisters and brothers; excluding those who do not share our point of view. In these ways, our attitudes strengthen the dividing walls between us. Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.

Reader 3: (read by a different person)

Gracious God, You have commissioned us to make our common home a place of justice for all. In your generous love, you send rain on the righteous and the unrighteous and, in Jesus, teach us to love without discrimination. We confess that we have failed to follow this teaching by: disrespecting our neighbours; spreading falsehoods through various social media; participating in the disruption of social harmony. Our conduct risks making the world a barren field that no longer brings forth your justice for all of creation. Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive our sins and lead us to eternal life.

C: Amen.

Hymn/Song/Meditative music

Proclamation of the Word of God

First reading: Deuteronomy 16:11-20; Responsorial Psalm: 82:1-8 (read or sung)

Second reading: Romans 12:1-13; Alleluia (sung); Gospel reading: Luke 4:14-21

Sermon

Commitment to Justice, Mercy and Unity

L: Jesus Christ prays for the unity of his disciples.

The gift of his life is justice for the world.

Reader 1: As members of the body of Christ, we are called to walk together in his path.

Reader 2: Let us hear his calling.

C: Holy Spirit, unite us in action.

Reader 1: As members of the body of Christ, we are called to keep our lives free from the love of money, and be content with what we have.

Reader 2: Let us break the cycle of greed and live in simplicity.

C: Holy Spirit, unite us in action.

Reader 1: As members of the body of Christ, we are called to proclaim release to captives and victims of all forms of violence.

Reader 2: Let us help them to live in dignity.

C: Holy Spirit, unite us in action.

Reader 1: As members of the body of Christ, we are called to extend hospitality to strangers.

Reader 2: Let us outdo one another in showing honour.

C: Holy Spirit, unite us in action.

Reader 1: As members of the body of Christ, we are called to proclaim the good news to the whole creation.

Reader 2: Let us protect the life and beauty of God's creation

C: Holy Spirit, unite us in action.

L: To make concrete our individual commitment to work together for justice, you are invited to write your commitment on two separate cards. We invite you to keep one of these cards close to your heart. The second one will be collected and brought forward as an offering.

(A song for unity and/or justice may be sung as the congregants write their commitments.)

Offering

L: What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8) We commit ourselves to acts of justice.

(At this point the ushers collect the second card and bring them forward to be put at the foot of the cross.)

L: Gracious God, you have shown us your compassion and care for all creation. Your love inspires us to offer these commitments to act justly by loving others wholeheartedly regardless of their cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. Accept now our offerings and transform them into action for the unity of your Church. We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, who live with you as one God forever and ever.

C: Amen.

Sharing peace (The leader invites the assembly to exchange a sign of peace, so that

together we can proclaim our faith.)

The Nicene Creed

Prayers of the Faithful

L: Let us raise to the Lord our common prayer for the Church and for the needs of all humanity.

R: From the islands and the oceans, we worship you, O God, the Creator of life.

Throughout the mountains and the valleys, we praise you, O God, the Saviour of the world.

With the tongues of all nations, we thank you, O God, the Comforter of bodies and souls.

We come before you bearing our burdens and hopes. Today we ask you:

C: O God, hear our prayer and grant us your love.

R: We pray for those who live in the midst of injustice.

Encourage us to lift up their voices and strengthen their hope.

We pray for those who continue to perpetuate injustice.

May your kindness fill our hearts and make us agents of freedom and peace.

We pray for every institution and person who stands for justice.

Let us act justly according to your words. Today we ask you:

C: O God, hear our prayer and grant us your justice.

R: We pray for the visible unity of the Church.

Lead us to fulfill Jesus' prayer that we may be one and work together to manifest your Kingdom.

Today we ask you:

C: O God, hear our prayer and grant us passion for unity.

R: We thank you for the many colours, cultures, and customs that we share in this world.

In our differences, unite us by your love.

Enable us to act together to uphold life and to make this world a just and peaceful household for all humanity.

Today we ask you:

C: O God, hear our prayer and grant us your peace.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn/Song

Dismissal

L: As you leave this gathering you will be given one of the commitment cards. We invite you to pray for the commitment written on the card.

Blessing

L: May God embrace you with love and make kindness flow out from you.
May God ignite courage within you and transform you into agents of his justice and peace.
May God grant you humility and give you perseverance to nurture unity.
C: Amen

(As the congregants leave, the ministers distribute the commitment cards.)

Resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity & throughout the year 2018 are jointly prepared and published by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity of the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) and the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches (WCC).

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VIII. ECUMENISM SUNDAY January 20, 2019 INTRODUCTION

Today is the 2nd Sunday of the Ordinary time and the Church in **India** celebrates it as “Ecumenism Sunday”. Ecumenism is a movement among Christians towards unity. The Church through today’s liturgy calls on us to pray for unity among Christians. We are in “The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity”, January 18-25.

Various reasons in history have separated Christians from each other but Churches today have come to underline the baptismal unity, the fundamental bond that unites us with Christ as one Body. Every Church is sad about the divisions and craves for unity. While the modern ecumenical movement was the initiative of our protestant brethren, Roman Catholic Church is intensively active since Vatican II which declared that “restoration of unity among all Christians is one of (its) principal concerns” (UR.1). Let us join the Christians worldwide during this ‘Week of Prayer for Christian Unity’ and in a special way today in this Eucharistic celebration for the gift of unity, especially in India for the credible witnessing to the Gospel.

The Church in Indonesia is asking for our prayers so that they may all be united to fight the various types of injustice that has beset their country. Let us rise them up in our prayers during this Mass.

Selfishness and pride have divided and fragmented the church. Let us ask forgiveness for our shortcomings that have contributed to the separation and aloofness, and for our failure to take necessary steps to reconcile with our separated Christian brethren.

INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS

Today is the 2nd Sunday in the Ordinary Time. The readings proper of the day are retained except for the First reading where an option is offered (Deuteronomy 16: 18-20) as it is the passage chosen for this year’s biblical theme for “The Week of Prayer for the Christian Unity.”

First Reading: Is 62: 1-5 Today’s first reading is from the Servant’s Song where the

Messiah vows to continue proclaiming salvation and intercede for Jerusalem. The Lord will avenge wrong done to his people. The Lord will forgive his people, give her a new name and marry her – a biblical imagery expressing the covenantal relationship between God and His people – the spousal metaphor. In the New Testament this metaphor is used to describe the relation between Christ who is the bridegroom and the church his bride. Divisions in the church are on account of our sins which have caused violence and bloodshed as Christians fought among themselves and in recent years an unprecedented persecution of Christians. Christians should repent like the people of Israel and reconcile. The Lord will raise his church up. She will then be “a bride beautifully dressed for her husband” as described in the book of Revelations. The relationship between this couple will be very intimate, for the bridegroom will not only be her husband but also builder.

Or Deuteronomy 16: 18-20 Moses appointed judges to administer justice. They were expected to be persons fair and impartial. They were not to pervert justice either by bribe or by influences. They were to follow justice and justice alone. Injustice is one of the serious sins for which the Israelites were punished (Cf. Amos). Injustice is the root cause of most of today’s conflicts. Justice is a requirement for peace in the world. Injustice also feeds our divisions. Christians, especially the leaders in the Church, must unite against injustice and facilitate the ushering in of Peace - the gift of the risen Christ.

Second Reading: 1 Cor. 12: 4-11 In today’s 2nd reading we hear Paul insisting that there are different kinds of gifts, different kinds of services and different kinds of working all for the building up of the Body of Christ. Vatican II in Lumen Gentium 8, recognizes that “many elements of sanctification and of truth are found outside of its (Roman Catholic) visible structure. These elements, as gifts belonging to the Church of Christ, are forces impelling toward catholic unity.” These gifts are from the Holy Spirit, single source, and they are to be shared with each other for the building up of the Body of Christ. Every church has something to offer us. We shall pray for the grace of humility to recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in other Churches and accept His gifts bestowed to other churches, and at the same time, for the generosity to share our gifts with them.

Gospel: Jn 2:1-12 The ‘joy of heaven’ is expressed in the imagery of the wedding feast of the Lamb (Rev. 19: 6-9) and Jesus speaks of the invitation to the wedding feast in the Gospels. He began his ministry with the invitation, “Repent and believe in the Gospel.” His first miracle was at the wedding feast of Cana where he turned water into wine. Wine is the sign of joy. Conversion and reconciliation between churches should precede the proclamation of the Gospel. The “Joy of the Gospel” has to be shared at every cost. The invitation to banquet is open to everyone but we need messengers to reach the invitation.

POINTS FOR HOMILY

Introduction to each reading given above, and the “Forward” in the beginning of this booklet could be developed for the homily. A few more points are given here:

The people of the Old Testament committed sins and broke the spousal covenant with God and brought punishment upon themselves. Sin of selfishness and pride have caused divisions in the church, the spousal relationship is damaged. The weakness that stems from our disunity has emboldened our enemy to hurt us. (Pope Francis says, “Those who kill do not ask to which church we belong, they kill because we are Christians.” We are united in the ecumenism of blood.)

Eucharistic banquet that we participate in is the foretaste of the wedding banquet of the Lamb in heaven. No meal is a joyful experience if our dear ones are not present. The absence of our separated brethren at the Eucharistic table should hurt us – if it does not, we lack something vital. Wounds stop hurting when dead, but we are emphatically alive. The nostalgia for our separated brethren who are not with us here at Eucharist should grow stronger. The wedding feast is ready but our joy is incomplete – our brethren are not at table.

Mother Mary senses the situation at the wedding and instantly rushes to help. This reveals our Heavenly Mother. Her natural response was to turn to her Son for help in addressing a crisis. Jesus heeded to her by turning water into wine. Isaiah and Jeremiah speak of messianic banquet where there would be abundant wine, superior wine (Is 25: 6; Jer 31:12).

IX. Bishop’s Engagements in the Month of January, 2019

- 01 : Mid-night Mass- New Year & Visit to Sick & suffering
- 02 : Holy Matrimony, Hyderabad
- 03 : Holy Matrimony, Hyderabad
- 04 : Lodi Exco Meet, Fatimanagar
- 05 : Office
- 07-14 : CCBI Meet at Joe Beach
- 16 : Silver Jubilee of Rosa Mystica Convent, Kamalapuram
- 17 : Office
- 18 : Office for Consecrated
- 19 : Office
- 20 : Silver Jubilee of Immaculate Sisters Presence in Warangal and
Water plant blessing at Dharmasagar
- 21-22 : Classes at St.John's, Hydrebab
- 23 : Blessing of FCN Sevashram, Shadnagar, Nalgonda Diocese
- 24 : School day Celebrations and Blessing at Choppadandi
- 25 : Office
- 26 : St. Paul’s High School Computer lab and Water Plant Blessing at Jangaon
- 27 : First Holy Communions and Confirmations at Fatima Cathedral,
Fatimanagar

28-30 : TCBC Ordinary Meeting,Hyderabad

February, 2019

01 : Office

02 : Office

03 : Village Feast Grotto Blessing at Edulapusapally, Mahabubabad Parish

04-06 : Classes in St. John's Seminary, Ramanthapur

07-08 : TCBC ARMS Meeting at Kondadaba,Vizag

09 : Silver Jubilee Celebration of St.Augustine High School, Seva Sadan
Convent, Maripeda

09-12 : Visit of Bishop Kopacz of Diocese of Jackson, MS,USA

X. Communications

1.Special Year of Youth: The Diocese of Warangal dedicates an year of prayer and programs to foster the youth Ministry beginning from January 12, 2019, the National Youth Day on the Birthday of Swami Vivekananda. The Youth forms around 60% of the total population. The Church needs to appreciate their energies and talents and animate them to grow in faith, discern their vocation and to face challenges of their lives to serve the Church and Society.

A Pastoral Letter would be sent soon to read out to people on any Sunday in January 2019.

2. Deanery Level Recollection in January: Deans are requested to organize the January month recollection on Deanery level in 2nd week. All Priests are requested to attend and grow in holiness and Priestly Ministry.

3. Marriage Preparation Course (MPC), Diocese of Warangal: I warmly and joyfully wish all the Priests, Men & Women Religious and the Faithful of the Diocese a Holy and Joyful Christmas and a blessed New Year 2019.

Marriage Preparation Course began in our Diocese of Warangal December 2017. It was promulgated by Most Reverend Dr. Udumala Bala in October and November Fatima Vani 2017. The Bishop has made it Mandatory MPC CERTIFICATE for the Clergy and the Religious Priests to bless any Marriage with the guidelines of the Universal Church. Hence the Course started in December 2017.

I am happy and pleased to inform you that the Course is conducted very successfully as the Bishop said by the Family Commission. I attribute the credit to our Bishop Dr. Udumala Bala and all the Priests of our Diocese for their wonderful cooperation and support to make the MPC a great success. I request all the Priests to continue the same to guide our Youngsters and cooperate with the Diocesan Mandatory Regulation of the Certificate of attendance to bless a Catholic marriage.

In principal the marriage preparation course to be conducted mostly by the Lay People. Hence we are planning to build up a Lay Peoples Team who can handle such Courses.

May I request you if anybody you think can deliver a talk to our Youngsters appreciate you let me know. Once we have a handful of Laity they can be sent for Training. If any of you interested to deliver a Talk or Celebrate Mass for our Youngsters you are most welcome.

In consultation with the Bishop the Fees enhanced from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 300/- from January 2019 for two full days and overnight stay the amount remains the same Rs. 500/-. In order to plan the Marriage Preparation Course One Year in advance, we are publishing the dates for the entire Year 2019 from January to December. You might stick it on the Parish Notice Boards keeping a Copy for your ready reference and a Copy available in the Bishops House with the Bishops Secretary. The dates are as follows Second Saturdays and Sundays:

January-12 & 13; February- 9 & 10; March - 9 & 10; April - 13 & 14; May-11 & 12; June - 8 & 9; July- 13 & 14;

Off Season

August - no MPC; September -no MPC

October -12 & 13; November - no MPC; December -14 & 15

NB: The MPC Certificate is valid for three Years. Candidates planning to get married in OFF Season months they need to plan at least couple of months ahead. We are aware of the difficulties of the NRIs and very emergency cases which we always considered. For such cases please contact the Director and he will arrange at least One Day Course (Mandatory) at Hyderabad or elsewhere. For the NRIs the Fee Rs. 2000/- and the Locals Rs. 1000/- to be paid to the Professor.

Timings:

Venue	Pastoral Center, Fatimanagar
Registration Begins	8.00 am and closes at 10 am
Duration	two days mandatory, one day attendance not acceptable
Classes Begin	9 am to 5 pm on both the dates.

The Family Commission requests to instruct the candidates to bring their Passport Size Photo.

For any queries and suggestions you are welcome to contact me at 9392719991/ 9100445055. We are trying to improve the quality of the Course as much as possible. Thanking you once again and Soliciting your Cooperation I remain,

Fr. Chinnappareddy Yeruva, Director, Family Commission
Email: frycreddy@gamil.com; Contact: +91 9392719991



XI. Informations

1. News from Jangoan Deanery

The Deanery of Jangaon has marked “The Year of the Family” on 2nd of December 2018. The special prayer service and the preaching in view of this had been arranged by Rev. Fr. Augustine Reddy, the Dean. The programme began at 9.00 am. Fr. Benny had led the faithful during the prayer service during which the priests who attended the service also had administered the sacrament of penance. The Holy Mass and the liturgical celebration was officiated by Most Rev. Dr. Udumula Bala, the Bishop of Warangal. During the homily his Lordship preached on the importance of family with good relations. He exhorted that the families are the stars and Mary mother of Jesus has changed the manger into holy family. God is the builder and sustainer of the families. He has built 4 pillars on the earth. First one is family 2 Christu sangham 3 Christians and other people in the community and 4. Government. Among all these, Family is the prominent one. Jesus, Mary and Joseph are the best model for all the families. He said that Year of the Family will help and strengthen all our families in living out our Christian faith, virtues and values.

At the end of the Mass, Bishop was felicitated by the dean and faithful, after which he had thanked the dean and the priests who organized this great event. He thanked also the sisters and the faithful for their good participation.

This event had been attended by a good number of priests, sisters, the catholic families. All the faithful were provided meals. Towards the end of the programme Rev. Fr. Augustine Reddy, the Dean thanked all the priests of the denary, sisters and the faithful for their cooperation and support to have had such a successful and meaningful celebration. After the Mass, the cultural programme also had been conducted based on the theme year of family to give a message to the faithful and all the people enjoyed the cultural gala. Around 2500 faithful participated in the celebrations. Final blessings were given by Fr. Dasaiah.

Rev. Fr. Augustine Reddy, Dean, Jangaon

2. News from LODIMSSS

Mega Christmas Celebrations

Glory to God in the Highest & Peace to His People on Earth

Every year, we celebrate World’s AIDS day on 1st December and World’s Disabled Day on 3rd December and Christmas on 25th December. Lodi MSSS clubbed these three celebrations and celebrated Semi Christmas with the most vulnerable children who are affected and infected with HIV and Physically & Mentally able children on 10th December, 2018. We gathered 550 children in the Lodi premises and organized program for them and by them. On 10th December we held Mega celebration of Christmas at Lodi premises for Children with HIV and Physically Challenged rehabilitated in various institutes and in the communities with disabilities and epidemics in Warangal diocese.

Most Rev.Dr.Udumula Bala, Bishop of Warangal chaired the function. The presence of Mrs. Annie Rose Christian, DLSA, Secretary cum Senior Civil Judge, Fr. Vijaya Paul, Director of LMSSS, Mrs. Sabitha, DWO of Warangal Rural, Dr. Bhavani, Program Manager- CHAI, Mr. Parusharamulu, CWC Chairman, Mr. Mahander Reddy DCPO Mr.



Krupakar, Andra Bank Manager, Fathimanagar, were the guest of honor. Able children from rehabilitation institutes of Warangal diocese performed cultural programmes, children shared their successful experiences and expressed their gratitude and love towards LMSSS. A day is set apart for these most vulnerable children with HIV and Physically challenged for celebration of Christmas and a pair of dress as Christmas gifts distributed for 550 children.

NUTRICIOUS SUPPORT to 150 HIV children :

Lodi MSSS has adopted 150 HIV affected and infected children for the last two years and once in two months, the children are invited to Lodi Office. They are given nutritious food sufficient for two months , counseling and medical care. On 10th December, 2018, Lodi gave the nutritious food packets, a pair of clothing as Christmas gift .

Fr.D.Vijaya Paul, Director of Lodi MSSS.

3. News from the Pastoral Centre

PASTORAL CENTRE YEARLY PLAN- 2019

MONTH	ACTIVITIES
January	: Bible training Camp for two days (Sankranti holidays 15th and 16th)
February	: Catechism teachers meeting
March	: Animators meeting
April	: Church Elders
May	: Music and Skills development training program Brothers summer meetings
June	: Catechist meeting
July	: BCC members meeting
August	: Charismatic renewal meeting
September	: Pius association leaders meeting
October	: New mission leaders meeting

November : Diocesan and Jyothirmai Bible Quiz Competition
December : Catechists meeting

OUTREACH PROGRAM

(From Pastoral Centre in the Diocese – 2019)

THEME: EVANGILISATION AND NEW MISSION

AIM:

1. TO STRENGTHEN THE FAITH OF THE FAITHFUL

(EVANGILIZATION)

2. TO INCREASE CATHOLIC POPULATION IN THE DIOCESE

(SIXTY FIVE NEW MISSION STATIONS IN THE DIOCESE)

(Each parish one or two Mission Stations)

PLACE: TO ALL THE PARISHES IN THE DIOCESE

TIME DURATION: TWO YEARS (Four Parishes each Month)

PROGRAM IN THE PARISH:

1. Charismatic prayer meeting for all the Parishners
2. Encouraging Catechist in all the village
3. Catechism Teachers and Catechism for Children and altar boys
(Visiting Schools and College in the Parish)
4. Encouraging Sing group
5. Encouraging Pious women group
6. Encouraging Animators
7. Encouraging Church Elders
8. Encouraging New Mission team for Mission work

Fr.Gopu Kamal Kumar, Director of Pastoral Centre

3. News from Youth Centre

Semi Christmas Celebrations

On 15th December, Semi Christmas Celebrations took place in Pastoral Center organized by Arunodaya Youth Center. The Celebrations started with prayer and talk by Fr.M.Jaya Paul. Later on small games were conducted group wise followed by lunch. Fr.Kamal celebrated the Holy Eucharist. Our Bishop Most Rev Dr Udumala Bala addressed the Youth and distributed the prizes to the winners. The Celebrations got over with cake cutting and Final Blessings from our Bishop. 150 youth from various villages participated in this program.

United Christmas Celebrations

Fr.Anil and the Committee members along with the youth of other villages had participated and rendered their services like distributing water, cakes and maintaining

discipline at the United Christmas Celebrations held at Missionary Hospital Grounds, Hanamkonda on 15th December, 2018.

United Christmas Youth Rally

On 20th December, 60 of our Diocesan youth participated in the Youth Rally. Earlier the rally started with the Prayer by our Bishop Udumala Bala from Manna Church Warangal. Fr.Anil and National Youth Vice President Mr.Sagar and Mr.Prashanth, our Diocesan Youth President participated in the rally from Warangal to Fatimanagar. The youth participated with lots of enthusiasm by Christmas Carols, Dancing, Preaching Word of God, Cake Cutting at various junctions in tricities. It is really a witnessing youth rally. The rally concluded at Fatima Complex in the presence of Bishop Udumala Bala, Fr,Vijaya Bhaskar, Fr.Anil, Fr.Joseph.K and Fr.Joseph.G. The Concluding Prayer was done by Pastor Isaac and final blessings were given by Bishop Udumala Bala.

Installation of Statue of Mother Mary

On 22nd December, Mr.Pembarthy Ramakrishna, Our Diocesan Youth Secretary of Kothagattu Singaram of Atmakur Parish had donated the statue of Mother Mary, worth of 8500/- in his church. Mr.Sagar, Mr.Prashanth.D, Mr.Vishal and Mr.Prashanth.A had participated in the Holy Eucharist in the evening celebrated by Fr.Anil and Fr.Ranjith. The Youth of Kothagattu Singaram also collected nearly 17000/- and with the help of Fr.Ranjith they had purchased the Sound system for their Church on the same day. Fr.Anil appreciated the works of the Youth for their contribution to the church.

Fr.Anil, Director of Youth Centre

4. News from WADES:

WADES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

His holiness Pope Francis calls up and urges very much to encourage lay participation in to the church administration and faith activities.

It is in this view that the president of WADES Most Rev.Dr.Udumala Bala, DD., has constituted committees involving the lay Catholics to take their services in our diocesan Educational institutions as well.

For the convenience and easy administration two committees are formed as for the zones :

1. Fatimanagar and Janagoam area :

Members : Fr. T. Augustine Reddy : Director - CJITS

Fr. T.Joseph : H.M & Correspondent of Bp Thumma Bala-H/s

Fr.G. Thomas Reddy : H.M & Correspondent of St.John's H/s

Fr.Y.Chinnapu Rerddy : Dean, Parish priest-Vardganapate

Rev.Sr. Shyamala – H.M, St. Ann's High school, Kazipet

Mr.M.Rayappa : Fatimanagar; Mrs.Fatima Mary: Hanamakonda

2. Dornakal and Karim nagar area :

Members : Fr. Y.Joji Reddy : Dean, Parish priest-Narsumpate

Fr.R.Thomas : Dean, Parish priest-Karimnagar

Fr.B.Praveen : H.M& Correspondent of St.Mother Teresa school

Rev.Sr.Innalu, H.M- St.John's High school, Karimnagar

Mr. P. Fatima Reddy, MA, Bed, Chairman of Paradise high school and St. George Public school (CBSC)-Karimnagar

Mr. Ambati Joji Reddy, Director Matha Model H/S, Karimnagar

Mrs. Elisha, H.M & Correspondent of St.Mary's, H/s

Finance Committee: Heads of all the institution,Deans from above two areas

General body: Heads of all the institution, Deans from above two areas

Pastoral centre director,Lay faithful representation from two areas

We wish all the best and request the members, their cooperation to take our diocesan educational institutions a step forward in the years to come.

We wish all the best and request the members, their cooperation to take our diocesan educational institutions a step forward in the years to come.

Fr. M.JayaPaul, DM

Birthday Babies in January

Fr. Polumari Anil	01/01/1983
Fr. Gopu Anand	03/01/1978
Fr. Thirumala Reddy Joji	05-01-1970
Fr. Annapareddy Raja	08/01/1962
Fr. Duggimpudi Vijayapaul	08/01/1965
Fr. Gopu Suresh	08/01/1977
Fr. Pothireddy Papi Reddy	13/01/1938
Fr. Kommareddy Joseph	26/01/1984



United Christmas Celebrations, Hanamkonda



St. Augustine Convent Blessing, Nekkonda



Banjara Christmas Celebrations



Christmas Celebrations at Rapakapally, Unikicherla Parish



Blessing of Parish Church, Confirmations at Nashkal, Vangalapally



Bishop Meets Seminarians at Karunapuram

