

Fatima Vani



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యేసు మరణాన్ని ఓడించాడు, ఉత్తానుడైనాడు

అల్లెలాయా! అల్లెలాయా!



చొగ్గూ మేపనోత్సవ శుభాశీస్సులు



Visit to Divine Mercy Shrine of Our Lady of Banjara, Shanigapuram



Blessing of Chapel, Kummarigudem, Diesel Colony Parish



Ash Wednesday, Fatimanagar



Blessing Deeksha Persons



Blessing of Stations of the Cross, Assisi Parish



Blessing of New Montfort School, CBSC and School Annual Day Celebrations, Fatimanagar



Solemnity of St. Joseph, Fatimanagar



Feast of Annunciation & Special Prayers Offered for Peace in the World, Fatimanagar

కాపరి వాణి

ఈస్టరు పరమార్థ అన్వేషణ
.... భారతదేశ పండుగల నేపథ్యంలో....

భారతదేశం సువిశాలమైన దేశం-ఎంతో చరిత్రతో, వేదాల సంస్కృతితో దైవాన్ని అన్వేషించిన ఆస్తిక దేశమిది. దీనిని ఒక ఉపఖండం అని కూడా అంటారు. జనాభాపరంగా ప్రపంచంలోనే రెండవస్థానం కలిగి ఉన్నది. నేడు 140 కోట్ల ప్రజలతో విరాజిల్లుతున్నది. వీళ్లలో క్రైస్తవులు, ఏనుప్రభుని బహిరంగంగా అంగీకరించిన వారు దాదాపు మూడు కోట్ల మంది ఉన్నారు. ఇక అజ్ఞాత క్రైస్తవులు ఎన్ని కోట్ల మంది ఉన్నారో, ఆ దేవునికే తెలుసు. 'సారే జహాసే అచ్చా' అనూ ఈ దేశవైభవం ఎన్నో రంగాల్లో ప్రకాశిస్తుంది. ప్రతిచోటా వెరసి ప్రతివస్తువులో దేవున్ని చూస్తుంది. వేదాలు వెలసిన ఈభూమి అన్నిమతాలను అంతర్లీనం చేసుకొంటూ జాతి, మత, భాష, ప్రాంతం, సంస్కృతుల వైవిధ్యంతో అద్వితీయంగా రాజిల్లుతుంది. 'మృత్యోర్మ్య అమృతంగమయ' అంటూ తరతరాలుగా అమరత్వానికై, క్రీస్తు ఉత్తానవరమైన నిత్యజీవం కొరకు ప్రార్థిస్తుంది! ఎంతో మంచితోపాటు చెడువైరసు చాయలు కూడా ఈ దేశంలో కనిపిస్తాయి. కొన్నిసార్లు అధర్మమమే రాక్షసరూపాల్లో పైచెయి సాధిస్తుంది. అయినా ధర్మమే గెలుస్తుంది, అధర్మం ఓడిపోతుంది అన్న నమ్మకంతో అటు మతధర్మ పండుగలతో పాటు ఇటు సాంస్కృతిక, జాతీయ వేడుకలనెన్నింటినో కొనియాడుతుంది. 'చెడుపై మంచి యొక్క విజయం తథ్యం' అంటూ సప్తవర్ణాలను ప్రకాశిస్తూ, సప్త స్వరాలను పలికిస్తూ, నవరసాలను ఒలికిస్తూ ప్రజలు ఆనందంలో గానం చేస్తారు. నాట్యమాడుతారు. దేవునికి పూజలు ప్రార్థనలు అర్పిస్తారు. ఇరుగుపొరుగు వారికి శుభాకాంక్షలు, మిఠాయిలు పంచుతారు! 'మానవత్వాన్ని-సమానత్వాన్ని' దైవంముందు, సమాజం ఎదుట ప్రకటిస్తారు!



పాస్క మహోత్సవం-ఇతర పండుగలు

సిలువపై మరణించి, సమాధి చేయబడి, మూడోరోజున మరణాన్నే జయించి ఉత్తానుడైన క్రీస్తు మహోత్సవం 'పాస్క లేక ఈస్టరు వేడుక'. ఈ క్రైస్తవ పండుగ, క్రైస్తవ విశ్వాస పునాది మరియు శిఖరం లాంటిది. ఏను శుక్రవారం మరణించి మూడో రోజున చావును గెలిచిన రోజు ఆదివారం. ఈ ఆదివారోత్సవమే ఈస్టరు మహోత్సవం. ప్రభు క్రీస్తు తన మరణపునరుత్థానాల ద్వారా సర్వలోక మానవులను విమోచించాడు.(1కొరింథి. 15వ అధ్యాయం) క్రైస్తవులను మాత్రమే ఆయన రక్షించలేదు కదా! కాబట్టి ఈస్టరు పండుగ ఇతర ధర్మాలు, మతాలు ఆచరించే వారికి కూడానూ మహోత్సవమే. తెలిసినా తెలియకపోయినా ధర్మజీవితం జీవించే నాస్తికులకు కూడా పర్వదినమే.

భారతదేశంలో కొనియాడు పండుగలన్నింటిలోనూ 'ధర్మవిజయం కొసం, నూతనజీవితం కోసం పడేఆరాటం' కనబడుతుంది. అవి మత పండుగలే కావచ్చు, జాతీయ దినోత్సవాలకావచ్చు లేక సాంస్కృతిక సాంప్రదాయ వేడుకలే కావచ్చును. వాటిలో వివిధ ఆశయాలతో 'ధర్మం జయిస్తుంది సత్యం నిలుస్తుంది' అను ఆశాభావంతోపాటు, నిత్యజీవం పట్లగల నమ్మకం మనకమనకగా నైనా కనబడుతుంది. సుఖ సంతోషాలు, ఆయురారోగ్యాలు, పాడిపంటలు, శాంతి సమాధానాలు లాంటివి ఈ లోక జీవితానికే పరిమితమైనప్పటికీ, నిత్యజీవన చాయలు కూడా కనిపిస్తాయి. జనవరినెల నుండి కొనసాగే మకరసంక్రాంతి, గణతంత్ర దినోత్సవం, మహాశివరాత్రి, హెలాలీ, ఉగాది, గుడ్ ఫ్రైడే, రంజాన్, జన్మాష్టమి, స్వతంత్ర దినోత్సవం, వినాయక చతుర్థి , దీపావళి, బుద్ధ పూర్ణిమ, క్రీస్తు జయంతి, ఇంకా స్థానిక, ప్రాంతీయ పండుగలు ప్రజల్లో దైవచింతనను, మంచి గెలుస్తుంది అన్న నమ్మకాన్ని, సాతాను రాక్షసి వేయిపడగలు విప్పినా చెడు తాత్కాలికమేనను భావనలు, ధర్మమేవ జయతే అను నమ్మకాన్ని ధృఢతరంచేస్తాయి!

సూర్యమాన-చంద్రమాన కాలసూచికలు (క్యాలెండరులు)

ఆదిపాప శాపమైనా మరణాన్ని ఓడించి ఉత్తానుడైన రోజు ఆదివారం. ఆ ఆదివారోత్సవమే పాస్కోత్సవం, ఈస్టరు పండుగ. ఇది మార్చి-ఏప్రిల్ నెలల్లో వస్తుంది. మరణం లేని సూర్యుని వలె దీన్ని రవివారం(sunday) అని కూడా

పిలుస్తారు. క్రీస్తుజయంతి ప్రతి సంవత్సరం డిసెంబర్ 25 వచ్చినట్లుగా, ఈస్టరు పండుగ ప్రతిసంవత్సరం ఒకే తారీకున రాదు. క్రీస్తు జయంతిని సూర్యమానకాలం ప్రకారం కొనియాడుతారు. కానీ హోళి, ఉగాది వేడుకలవలె ఈస్టరుపండుగ చాంద్రమాన కాలసూచిక ప్రకారం కొనియాడుతారు. హైందవకాలసూచికలో చివరి పున్నమి రోజుని 'హోళిగా' సప్తవర్ణాల శోభతో కొనియాడుతారు. చిన్నా-పెద్ద, ధనికా-బీద, స్త్రీ-పురుష, జాతీ-మత, వర్గ-వర్ణ వివక్ష లేకుండా మానవత్వాన్ని-సమానత్వాన్ని ప్రతిబింబించే ఆనంద హేళ ఈ హోళి! ఆవి ఉత్తాన జీవన సంకేతాలు కావా! ఉత్తాన క్రీస్తులో నాటబడిన వారికి ఈలోక తరతమ బేదాలు ఎండమావుల్లాంటివే!

ఈ కాలంలోనే తెలుగు సంవత్సరాది అయిన ఉగాది కూడా వస్తుంది. దీన్ని సూర్య-చంద్ర కాలసూచిక ప్రకారం చైత్రమాస మొదటి రోజునఉగాది/ (యుగ+ఆది)గా కొనియాడుతారు. హోళి వలె ఉగాది కూడా ప్రకృతికి సంబంధించిన ఒక సాంస్కృతిక పండుగ. ఇది యూద కాలెండరు సంవత్సరపు మొదటి నెలపొడుపు రోజున వస్తుంది. ఈస్టరు పండుగ సైతం పసంతకాల సూచనగా, మొదటిపున్నమి తర్వాత వచ్చు ఆదివారంనాడు వస్తుంది. ఇలా హోళి, ఉగాది, ఈస్టరు పండుగలలో 'నూతన జీవంతో' కూడిన యుగారంభాన్ని మనం చూడగలం. నిత్య కళ్యాణం-వచ్చుతోరణంలా జీవితం పట్ల ఆశాభావాన్ని రెట్టించు చేస్తాయి. కాని ఈస్టరు మహోత్సవ పరమార్థం వాటిని దాటి పోయే 'నిత్యజీవన' విషయ విశిష్టతను ప్రకటిస్తుంది, ప్రసాదిస్తుంది అనే విషయాన్ని క్రైస్తవులు గమనించాలి, ప్రజలందరి కొరకు అల్లెలూయ గీతాలతో ప్రార్థించాలి!

బైబులు నేపథ్యంలో.....

పరిశుద్ధగ్రంథం ప్రకారం విశ్రాంతి దినము సబ్బాతు, వారంలో ఏడవ రోజు. సంప్రదాయ రోజుల పేర్ల ప్రకారం అది శనివారం. విశ్వ ప్రపంచాన్ని సృష్టించిన తరువాత ఏడవరోజున దేవుడు విశ్రాంతి తీసుకున్నాడు, దానిని పవిత్రదినముగా చేశాడు (ఆది 2:23). దేవుడు ఎన్నుకొన్న పవిత్రప్రజగా, సబ్బాతు కొనియాడుటను ఒక కట్టడిగా కూడా యావే ఆదేశించాడు (లేవి 23:3) అదేవిధంగా పాస్క పండుగ కొనియాడు తేదీ, విధివిధానాల నియమాలను కూడా నిర్దేశించాడు (లేవి 23:5-6). యూదుల క్యాలెండర్ మొదటి నెలగు 'నిస్సాన్' 14వ రోజున పాస్కా పండుగ ప్రారంభమగును. అదే రోజున ఏసుక్రీస్తు పాస్కా గొర్రెపిల్లగా బలి కావడం అబ్బుర పరిచే విషయం. ఇంకో అద్భుత కరమైన విషయం 'సబ్బాతు దినమున యేసు సమాధి చేయబడ్డాడు.' శనివారం, ఏడో రోజున మొదటి సృష్టిలో ఆయన విశ్రాంతి తీసుకున్న విషయం చూశాం కదా! ఇక ఆదివారోత్సవం ఈస్టరు, పాస్కా ఆదివారం, హోళి, ఉగాది పండుగల్లో కనిపించే 'పసంతం-నూతన జీవచ్ఛాయలు' (రెమ్మలు, కొమ్మలు, పండ్లు, పూలు, కొకిల గానస్వరాలు, షడ్రుచుల పచ్చడి) జీవిత పరమార్థాన్ని చాటుతాయి. పాస్కా పండుగ విధివిధానాల ప్రథమ ఫలాలను (First Fruits) (లేవి 23:9-11) ఈ నేపథ్యంలో చూస్తే ప్రకృతిపండుగలు, మత ధర్మపండుగలు నూతనజీవాన్ని ప్రకటిస్తూ, నిత్యజీవం వైపు వారికి తెలియకుండానే ఆకర్షిస్తాయి!

'మృత్యోర్మా అమృతంగమయ'

అమరత్వం కోసం తరతరాల ప్రార్థనాకలను నిజం చేశాడు ఉత్తాన క్రీస్తు. అసాధ్యమనుకున్న దానిని సుసాధ్యం చేశాడు ఆ ప్రభువు! తాను మరణించకుండా దాన్ని సాధ్యం చేయలేదు, సాధించలేదు. తాను నిజంగా మరణించి, మరణ సమాధిని బద్దలు చేస్తూ మరణకోరలను పీకేశాడు. 'మరణాన్ని జయించడం' శత్రువులే కాదు, ఆయన ప్రియశిష్యులు కూడా నమ్మలేదు. ఆదివారం తెలతెలవారుతుండగా కొందరు స్త్రీలు సమాధిని దర్శించి క్రీస్తు ఉత్తానుడైనాడని గ్రహించి, పరుగుపరుగున వెళ్ళి చెప్పినా, ఆ శిష్యులు వాటిని కట్టుకథలుగా కొట్టిపడేశారు. (లూక 24:10). భారతీయ జాతీయ పండుగలు అన్నింటిలో కనిపించే ఆశాభావం, నిరీక్షణను ఈస్టరు పండుగలో చూస్తూ, ఆ నమ్మకాలను మించిన ఈస్టరు ప్రసాదించు నిత్యజీవన పరమార్థాన్ని గ్రహించి, ఈస్టరు క్రైస్తవులకు మాత్రమే పండుగ కాదని, భారతీయ ప్రజలందరికీ, విశ్వమానవాళికంతటికీ అని గర్వించుదాం. ఆ మహోత్సవ వరాలు ప్రత్యేకించి 140 కోట్ల భారతదేశ ప్రజలందరికీ అందాలని, మూడు కోట్ల క్రైస్తవులు సీతాకోకచిలుకల్లా ఉత్తానఆనందాన్ని సప్తస్వరాలలో, స్వప్నవర్ణాల్లో, నవరసాల్లో ప్రకటించుదాం! పండుగలన్నిటిలోనూ ఈస్టరు పండుగ ఎవరెస్టు శిఖరంలాంటిదని ఆనందిద్దాం! హల్లెలూయ గీతాలు పాడుదాం!

+ ఉడుమల బాల
వరంగల్లు పీఠకావలి

II. Holy Father's Intention: For Health care Workers

We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries, may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

III. MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER: Pope calls Ukraine war a 'Perverse Abuse of Power' for Partisan Interests

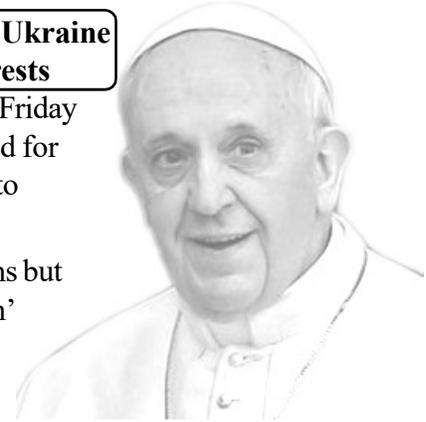
Pope Francis, ramping up his implicit criticism of Russia, on Friday called the war in Ukraine a 'perverse abuse of power' waged for partisan interests which has condemned defenseless people to violence.

The pope has not actually named Russia in his condemnations but he has used phrases such as 'unacceptable armed aggression' to get his point across and on Friday spoke of 'people defending their land' and escaping bombardments. 'The tragedy of the war taking place in the heart of Europe has left us stunned,' he said, adding that few people would have imagined scenes similar to the two world wars in the 20th century. His latest condemnation came in a message to a Catholic Church conference in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, one of the countries bordering Ukraine that has opened its doors to refugees.

'Once more humanity is threatened by a perverse abuse of power and partisan interests which condemns defenseless people to suffer every form of brutal violence,' he said. 'The blood and tears of children, the suffering of women and men who are defending their land or fleeing from bombardments shakes our conscience,' he said. Moscow says its action is a 'special military operation' designed not to occupy territory but to demilitarise and 'de-Nazify' its neighbor. The pope has rejected that term, however, saying previously it could not be considered 'just a military operation' but a war that had unleashed 'rivers of blood and tears'. 'The tragedy of the war taking place in the heart of Europe has left us stunned,' he said, adding that few people would have imagined scenes similar to the two world wars in the 20th century.

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The pope has rejected that term, however, saying previously it could not be considered 'just a military operation' but a war that had unleashed 'rivers of blood and tears'. On Wednesday the pope held a video call with Patriarch Kirill of the Russian Orthodox Church, an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin.



IV. Vatican to Bishops and Episcopal Conferences
On the Celebration of Holy Week 2022

Prot. N. 182/22

During the Easter festivities of past years, marked by the difficult situation of the pandemic, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments offered guidelines to help Bishops in their task of assessing concrete situations and providing for the spiritual good of pastors and faithful in their celebration of Holy Week, the centre of the entire liturgical year.

In view of the ongoing slowdown of the pandemic, albeit at different rates in individual countries, we do not intend to offer any further guidelines for the Holy Week celebrations. The experience that the Episcopal Conferences have gained in recent years is certainly sufficient to deal with the various situations in the most appropriate ways, always taking care to observe the ritual norms contained in the liturgical books.

We would therefore like to urge everyone to be prudent and avoid actions and behaviour that could potentially be a risk. Every assessment and decision should always be made in agreement with the Episcopal Conference, which will take into due consideration the regulations that the competent civil authorities of the various countries adopt.

In recent days the Holy Father has repeatedly invited us to pray, asking God for the gift of peace for Ukraine, so that this “repugnant war” may come to an end. Together with Ukraine we would also like to recall all the other conflicts, which are unfortunately always numerous, in many countries of the world, a situation that Pope Francis has described as a *piecemeal third world war*. In the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday, the liturgy invites us to raise our petitions to God for the Church and for the whole world. In the Solemn Intercessions we will invoke the Lord for those in public office (prayer IX) *that our God and Lord may direct their minds and hearts according to his will for the true peace and freedom of all*, and for those in tribulation (prayer X) *that all may rejoice, because in their hour of need your mercy was at hand*. Let us now make these prayers our own for all our brothers and sisters who are experiencing the horror of war, particularly in Ukraine. We would point out that “in a situation of grave public need, the Diocesan Bishop may permit or order the addition of a special intention” (*Missale Romanum, editio typica tertia*, p. 314, n. 13). Let the celebration of Easter bring to all peoples the hope that comes solely from the resurrection of the Lord

From the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 25 March 2022, Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord.

‘ Arthur Roche
Prefect

‘ Vittorio Francesco Viola, O.F.M.
Archbishop Secretary

V. Congregation for Clergy: Letter to Priests on Synodal Journey



CONGREGATIO PRO CLERICIS



SYNODUS EPISCOPORUM

Vatican City, 19 March 2022

Prot. n. 220083

Dear Priests,

Here we are, two priests and brothers of yours! May we ask for a moment of your time? We would like to talk to you about a topic that touches us all.

"The Church of God is convoked in Synod." The preparatory document for Synod 2021-2023 begins with these words. For two years the entire People of God is invited to reflect on the theme "For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission". This is a novelty that can arouse enthusiasm as well as perplexity.

Yet "in the first millennium, 'walking together', that is, practicing synodality, was the Church's habitual way of proceeding." The Second Vatican Council highlighted this dimension of ecclesial life, so important that St. John Chrysostom affirmed: "Church and Synod are synonymous" (*Explicatio in Psalmum 149*).

It is well known that today's world is in urgent need of fraternity. Without realizing it, the world yearns to meet Jesus. But how do we make this encounter happen? We need to listen to the Spirit together with the whole People of God, so as to renew our faith and find new ways and languages to share the Gospel with our brothers and sisters. The synodal process that Pope Francis proposes to us has precisely this objective: to set out, together, in mutual listening, in sharing ideas and projects, to show the true face of the Church: a hospitable "house", with open doors, inhabited by the Lord and animated by fraternal relationships.

So that we do not fall into the risks highlighted by Pope Francis — that is, formalism, which reduces the Synod to an empty slogan; intellectualism, which makes the Synod a theoretical reflection on problems; and immobilism, nailing us to the security of our habits so that nothing changes — it is important to open our hearts and listen to what the Spirit suggests to the Churches (cf. Rev. 2:7).

Obviously, in the face of this journey, some fears may assail us.

First of all, we are well aware that priests in many parts of the world are already carrying a great pastoral burden. And now – it may seem – one more thing "to do" is added. Rather than inviting you to multiply your activities, we would like to encourage you to look at your communities with that contemplative gaze of which Pope Francis speaks to us in *Evangelii gaudium* (no. 71) so as to discover the many examples of participation and sharing that are already taking root in your communities. In fact, the current diocesan phase of the synodal

LETTER TO THE PRIEST ABOUT THE SYNODAL JOURNEY

process aims to "gather the wealth of experiences of lived synodality" (*Preparatory Document*, 31). We are certain that there are many more of these experiences than what might appear at first glance, perhaps even informal and spontaneous experiences. Wherever we listen deeply to each other, learn from each other, value the gifts of others, help each other and make decisions together, there is already synodality in action. All this should be emphasized and appreciated, so as to increasingly develop that synodal style which is "the specific *modus vivendi et operandi* of the Church, the People of God" (*Preparatory Document*, 10).

But there may also be another fear: if so much emphasis is placed on the common priesthood of the baptized and on the *sensus fidei* of the People of God, what will become of our role as leaders and of our specific identity as ordained ministers? Without a doubt, it is a matter of progressively discovering the fundamental equality of all the baptized and of stimulating all the faithful to participate actively in the journey and mission of the Church. In this way we will have the joy of finding brothers and sisters who share with us the responsibility for evangelization. But in this experience of the People of God, the special charism of ordained ministers to serve, sanctify and animate the People of God can and should also come to the fore in a new way.

In this sense, we would like to ask you to make a threefold contribution to the current synodal process:

- Do everything so that the journey rests on listening to and living the Word of God. Pope Francis thus recently exhorted us, "let us be passionate about Sacred Scripture, let us allow ourselves to be dug into by the Word, which reveals the newness of God and leads to loving others without tiring" (Francis, *Homily for Word of God Sunday*, January 23, 2022).

Without this grounding in the life of the Word, we risk walking in the dark and our reflections risk becoming an ideology. Instead, by basing ourselves on the Word put into practice, we will build the house on rock (cf. Mt 7:24-27) and we will be able to experience, like the disciples of Emmaus, the surprising light and guidance of the Risen Lord.

- Let us strive to ensure that our journey is marked by mutual listening and mutual acceptance. Even before any concrete results, deep dialogue and true encounters are already a value. In fact, there are many initiatives and potentials in our communities, but too often individuals and groups run the risk of individualism and self-referentiality. With his new commandment, Jesus reminds us that "this is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:35). As pastors, we can do much so that love might heal relationships and heal the wounds that often affect the fabric of the Church, so that the joy of feeling that we are one family, one people on a journey, children of the same Father and therefore brothers and sisters to one another may return, beginning with the fraternity of priests.

- Take care that the journey does not lead us to introspection but stimulates us to go out to meet everyone. In *Evangelii gaudium*, Pope Francis has given us the dream of a Church that is not afraid to get its hands dirty by involving itself in the wounds of humanity, a Church that walks in listening to and serving the poor and the peripheries. This "outgoing" dynamism towards our brothers and sisters, with the compass of the Word and the fire of charity, fulfills the Father's great original plan: "that all may be one" (Jn 17:21). In his latest Encyclical *Fratelli tutti*, Pope Francis asks us to commit ourselves to this unity, together with our brothers and sisters of other Churches, the faithful of other religions and all people of good will: universal brotherhood and love without exclusions, which all and everything must embrace. As servants of the People of God, we are in a privileged position to ensure that this does not remain a vague and generic guideline, but is made concrete where we live.

Dear brother priests, we are certain that starting from these priorities you will find ways to give life to specific initiatives, according to local needs and possibilities because synodality is truly God's call for the Church of the third millennium. Setting out in this direction will not be free of questions, fatigue and setbacks, but we can be confident that it will return to us a hundredfold in fraternity and in fruits of evangelical life. We need only think of the first Synod of Jerusalem (Acts 15). Who knows how much effort there was behind the scenes! But we know how decisive that moment was for the nascent Church.

We conclude this letter with two passages from the *Preparatory Document* that can inspire and accompany us almost like a *Vademecum*.

"The ability to imagine a different future for the Church and her institutions, in keeping with the mission she has received, depends largely on the decision to initiate processes of listening, dialogue, and community discernment, in which each and every person can participate and contribute." (n. 9).

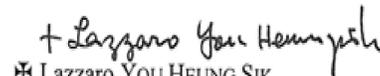
"We recall that the purpose of the Synod, and therefore of this consultation, is not to produce documents, but "to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands"" (n. 32).

Thanking you for your attention, we assure you of our prayers and wish you and your communities a joyful and fruitful synodal journey. May we be close to you and journey with you! And welcome, through us, the gratitude also of Pope Francis who feels very close to you.

Entrusting each of you to the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Good Way, we cordially greet you in the Lord Jesus.



Mario Card. GRECH
*Secretary General
of the Synod of Bishops*



+ Lazzaro YOU HEUNG SIK
✠ Lazzaro YOU HEUNG SIK
Archbishop-Bishop em. of Daejeon
Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy

VI. Conference of Catholic Bishops of India: Canonization of Martyr Devasahayam

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

1. The Church in India is eagerly looking forward to have a new saint in Martyr Devasahayam. As we all know, our beloved Pope Francis will canonize Blessed Devasahayam on 15th May 2022, at the Vatican, together with six others. In Martyr Devasahayam we have the first Indian who is acknowledged to have won the crown of martyrdom on Indian soil. He is also the first lay person and the first married person from India to be conferred sainthood. This Canonization, therefore, has a special significance for the Church in India.

2. During its 21st Plenary Assembly held in 2009 at Mysore, the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) resolved to request the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to speed up the process of the Beatification, which fittingly came during the Year of Faith in 2012. The Bishops of the 25th Plenary Assembly of the CCBI held at Vailankanni in 2013 voted to include the Martyr's commemoration as a Memorial in the Liturgical Calendar for India.

3. The canonization of Martyr Devasahayam comes as a significant blessing for the Church in India, as it is engaged in a Synodal Journey, seeking to make a genuine discernment of the pastoral challenges of today. We have here a wonderful opportunity to tell the heroic story of our Martyr especially to our young people, who will be helped by it to face courageously the exigencies of Christian life and witness today.

4. The events connected with the Canonization of Martyr Devasahayam have been scheduled as follows: (1) Vespers on 14 May 2022 in St. Peter's Basilica, at 5p.m. (Italian time), followed by a public meeting with a cultural programme at the Paul VI Hall. (2) The Mass of the Canonization celebrated by Pope Francis on Sunday 15 May at 10 a.m. (Italian time).

5. To celebrate this unique ecclesial event, the Church in India will be holding the following programmes at the national level:

(a) National Quiz Competition: The CCBI will organize a seven-step national quiz competition on the life and message of the martyr, in collaboration with the Canonization Committee of the Diocese of Kottar.

(b) National Essay Competition: conducted by the Canonization Committee of the Diocese of Kottar, under the auspices of the CCBI. This will be held separately for High School/Higher Secondary School students, College/University students, youth in general and married laity.

(c) A National Hour of Prayer: Akin to the nationwide one-hour prayer service organized during the pandemic period, an Hour of Prayer will be held on Friday, the 24 June 2022, Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, during which we shall consecrate all our families to the Sacred Heart. It is our earnest desire that all our faithful, whether residing in India or living abroad, may join in to pray as one family during that Hour and plead for the intercession of Martyr Devasahayam for our country.

(d) National Thanksgiving Celebration: The Church in India will join in the celebrations taking place in the very place of the martyrdom of Devasahayam, organized by the Dioceses of Kottar and Kuzhithurai on Pentecost Sunday, 5 June 2022 at 4p.m.

6. As the Church in India prepares itself to celebrate this great event, we thank God for the gift of a new saint for our country and express our deep gratitude to all who worked tirelessly, along the years, for the fulfilment of the long process of Canonization.

May the Blessed Martyr Devasahayam intercede for us.
CCBI General Secretariat, February, 16, 2022.

+ Filipe Neri Ferrão
President, Conference of Catholic Bishops of India
Archbishop of Goa and Daman

Martyr Devasahayam (1712-1752): A Biographical Sketch

The Church in India has today another cause to rejoice: Martyr Devasahayam is to be canonized on 15 May 2022, by Pope Francis, at St. Peter's Basilica, Rome. He is the first Indian to obtain the crown of martyrdom on Indian soil and the first lay person in India to be canonized.

Birth and Family: Martyr Devasahayam was born on 23 April 1712, in a hamlet called Nattalam of the former Kingdom of Travancore, present district of Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu. His father, Vasudevan Namputhiri, was a Brahmin. His mother, Devahi Amma, was a Hindu Nair. The Martyr's original name was Neelam, expanded to Nilakandan.

An Official Loved by All: Neelam was brought up as a devout Hindu. Besides mastering Tamil and Malayalam, the languages of the people, he also trained himself in the ancient Varma Sastra, archery and the use of weapons of war. Nilakandan started his career as a soldier. Later on, he was an official in the Nilakandaswamy temple at Padmanabhapuram. Additionally, he was also a much appreciated palace official, working in the King's treasury. Nilakandan married Bhargaviammal, of the village of Mekkodu.

Evangelized by a Catholic Lay Person: While performing his duties as a palace official, Neelam came in contact with a Catholic layman, Eustachius Benedictus De Lannoy, a Dutch military officer, arrested by King Marthandavarma after the Dutch army was defeated at the Port of Colachel in 1741. Nilakandan was, at that precise juncture, overcome by a wave of sadness which was quite visible on his external appearance. When De Lannoy enquired about the reasons for his sadness, Neelam narrated a series of tragedies that had overtaken his family, one after the other. De Lannoy then narrated to him the Old Testament story of Job and explained how God could test the faith of a good man through suffering. Experiencing a healing touch through the narration of the Dutch officer, Nilakandan expressed his desire to become a Christian and requested De Lannoy to instruct him in the Catholic faith. De Lannoy sent him to Vadakkankulam, a hamlet outside the limits of the Kingdom of Travancore, with a letter to Fr. Giovanni Battista Buttari, a Jesuit Missionary, requesting him to receive Nilakandan in the Catholic Church. For nine months, Fr. Buttari instructed Neelam in the Catholic faith and baptized him in the Church of the Holy Family, Vadakkankulam, on 14 May 1745. At Baptism, Nilakandan was given the name of *Devasahayam*, a Tamil rendering of the biblical name Lazarus, which means "God has helped."

A Fervent Catholic Layman and a Lay Missionary: Having joined the Catholic community, Devasahayam soon began to evangelize others and brought some to the Christian faith, starting with his own wife, who took the name of *Gnanapu*, a Tamil rendering of "Theresa." The neophyte Devasahayam mingled with people of all status and castes; he repudiated the symbols of his 'high' caste and ate and lived with people of 'low' birth. Noticing the marked changes in Devasahayam, the high caste people accused him of the crime of betrayal and contempt of religious practices and of insult to gods, to Brahmins and to the royal throne.

A Witness to Catholic Faith: Although various persons of the high caste tried to woo him away from his newly-embraced Christian faith, Devasahayam showed extraordinary fortitude in remaining firm in his decision, to the point of preferring to be tortured or even put to death for the sake of Christ. Having heard of this, the King got Devasahayam arrested on 23 Feb. 1749 and locked him up in a very narrow cell, where he was tortured in many ways. He was finally incarcerated in the prison of Aralvaimozhi, on the border between the Kingdoms of Madurai and Travancore.

A Candidate Worthy of Martyrdom: During the years of his captivity, Devasahayam led a life truly worthy of a candidate for sainthood. Every morning and night he would spend a considerable time in contemplative prayer; he fasted on all Fridays and Saturdays, in honour of the death of Christ and of the sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary, respectively. Whenever a priest visited him, he would make his confession and receive the Holy Eucharist with utmost devotion. He always exuded deep joy and love and respect for everyone.

A Witness by Blood: The people visiting Devasahayam in the prison kept increasing in numbers, leading the King to order that he should be executed secretly. A little before the midnight of 14 January 1752, they took him to the place of execution. Before being shot dead by the soldiers, he knelt and prayed with great recollection. His body was thrown on the rocks and left there to be eaten by wild animals. His mortal remains were discovered by the Christians, who buried them in front of the main altar of the Church of St. Francis Xavier, which is now the Cathedral of the Diocese of Kottar.

Martyrdom Celebrated: The Bishop of Cochin, under whose jurisdiction most of the Latin Catholics of South India were placed, declared the death of Devasahayam as a martyrdom and wrote a pastoral letter to all the people of his large Diocese, exhorting them to celebrate the martyrdom by ringing church bells and by singing the *Te Deum* in all the churches. The same Bishop, Clemente José Colaço Leitão, S.J. had the report on the life and martyrdom of Devasahayam included as part of his *Ad Limina* visit report, dated 15 November 1756.

A Permanent Presence in the Memory of the People: From the day of his death to this very day, Blessed Devasahayam continues to live in the memory of the people of the region and indeed of the entire South India. The story of his martyrdom is narrated year after year through dramas, poems and folklore throughout the Tamil speaking world, including Jaffna in Sri Lanka. Places connected with the life and death of the Martyr became increasingly important places of pilgrimage for people of all castes and creeds.

Prayer to Martyr Devasahayam

O Blessed Devasahayam, the first layman to receive the palm of martyrdom in our Indian soil, you patiently bore torments and tortures and willingly sacrificed your life for the love of Christ and thus obtained the joy of eternal life. We praise and thank God for you. Leaving behind all worldly pleasures, wealth, status, name, fame and glory, you dedicated your life for the preaching of God's Kingdom. As a true disciple of Christ, you faithfully put into practice the values of the Gospel, particularly equality and fraternity of all people on earth. Assist us to imitate you in leaving behind all worldly pleasures and help us to live as children of the Kingdom, putting into practice faithfully the values of the Gospel, so that we may one day enter into the eternal Kingdom, to be in your company forever. Amen. **Blessed Martyr Devasahayam, Pray for us**

VII. Fifth Gospel: The Story of the Holy Land

Pope Francis has urged journalists in the Middle East to keep telling stories from the Holy Land, calling it the **“Fifth Gospel.”** “Making the Holy Land known means transmitting the ‘Fifth Gospel,’ that is, the historical environment and geographical area in which the Word of God was revealed and then made flesh in Jesus of Nazareth, for us and for our salvation,” the pope said in the Apostolic Palace on Jan. 17. “It also means making known the people who live there today, the life of the Christians of various Churches and denominations, but also those of Jews and Muslims, to try to build, in a complex and difficult context like that of the Middle East, a fraternal society.”

The phrase “the Fifth Gospel” has been invoked by popes from Paul VI to Benedict XVI to describe the Holy Land. In his speech, Pope Francis quoted Benedict XVI’s description of the Holy Land as the place where the history and geography of salvation meet. “There ‘we can see, indeed, tangibly feel the reality of the history that God brought about with men and women; beginning with the places of Abraham’s life and including the places of Jesus’ life, from the Incarnation to the empty tomb, the sign of his Resurrection. Yes, God entered this land, he acted with us in this world,’” Pope Francis said, quoting Benedict’s Regina Coeli address from May 17, 2009.

“And the Paschal Mystery also illuminates and gives meaning to today’s history, to the journey of the peoples who live in the Holy Land today, a journey unfortunately marked by wounds and conflicts even today, but which God’s grace always opens to hope, the hope of fraternity and peace,” Francis said. The pope met with a group of journalists from the Jerusalem-based Christian Media Center as it celebrates the 100th anniversary of its flagship Italian magazine, “La Terra Santa.” Franciscan Father Francesco Patton, the Custos of the Holy Land, led the delegation.

“The service you carry out today is on the line of continuity with the communicative intuition that 100 years ago guided the Custos Ferdinando Diotallevi, and consists - as he wrote in the first issue of the magazine - in ‘making the Holy Land better known, the Land of God, the cradle of Christianity, the venerable sanctuaries where the Redemption of mankind was accomplished,’” Francis told the journalists. “Through the means of social communication you can enrich the faith of many, even of those who do not have the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the holy places,” he said.

Both the media center and the magazine are affiliated with the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land founded by St. Francis of Assisi in 1217. Before his speech, Pope Francis apologized that he had to speak while sitting because his leg was in pain.

“Excuse me if I stay seated, but I have a pain in my leg today ... It hurts me, it hurts if I’m standing,” the pope said. The 85-year-old pope has suffered from sciatica for a number of years. He spoke about it during an in-flight press conference returning from a trip to Brazil in July 2013. Pope Francis thanked the journalists in particular for telling the stories of people from Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Gaza, where the realities are “most difficult.

“I know that you try to present stories of the good – those of active resistance to the evil owar, those of reconciliation, those of restoring dignity to children robbed of their childhood, those of refugees with their tragedies but also with their dreams and hopes,” the pope said. “Thank you because, in order to work in this way, you have not spared the soles of your shoes, and I know that you will not spare them in the future either, in order to be able to tell all of this.” “When you tell the story of the Holy Land, you tell the ‘Fifth Gospel,’ what God continues to write in history,” Pope Francis said.

VIII. Synodality: A Style Guided by Holy Spirit

Pope Francis, in an address to a delegation of French Catholic Action groups at the Vatican on January 3, said that Synodality is not a search for majority consensus like a parliament but rather a path of engagement that makes room for the Holy Spirit, not a plan or a program to be implemented but a style to be adopted that listens to the Spirit through the word of God, prayer and adoration. ‘The Church as a whole is also engaged in a Synodal process, and I count on your contribution,’ he said. “Let us remember, in this regard, that Synodality is not a simple discussion. It is not an ‘adjective.’ Never ‘adjectivize’ the substantiality of life.”

“Synodality is not even the search for majority consensus, this is done by a parliament, as is done in politics. It is not a plan, a program to be implemented.” ‘No. It is a style to be adopted, in which the main protagonist is the Holy Spirit, who expresses himself above all in the Word of God, read, meditated upon, and shared together.”

Pope Francis had formally launched a two year global consultation process, leading to the 2023 synod on Synodality, last October. Members of the French Catholic Action movement were taking part in a Jan. 11-16 pilgrimage to the Vatican to raise awareness of their work, accompanied by Archbishop Francois Fonlupt of Avignon. France’s Catholic Action groups include bodies such as Action catholique des enfants, for children, Action catholiqueouviere, focused on workers, and the Mouvement rural de jeunessechrétienne, for young people living in the countryside.

ACI Stampa, CNA’s Italian-language news partner, reported that the pilgrimage includes not only an audience with the pope, but also meeting as with Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin and Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary general of the Synod of Bishops, as well as other senior curial officials. The pilgrimage’s theme is “Being apostles today,” the title of a 48-page document describing the groups’ activities. In his address in the Vatican’s Clementine Hall, Pope ‘Francis spoke about “our call to be effective apostles today.” He drew on the See-Judge-Act” method formulated by the Belgian cardinal Joseph Cardijn and incorporated into Catholic social teaching by Pope John XXIII in his 1961 encyclical *Mater et Magistra*.

“This first stage is fundamental; it consists in of stopping to observe the events that shape our lives, so that the renewal of consecrated life may come about, first and fore most, from there. A second question: What do our eyes see? Simeon, moved by the Spirit, sees and recognizes Christ. And he prays, saying: “My eyes have seen your salvation” (v. 30). This is the great miracle of faith: it opens eyes, transforms gazes, changes perspectives. As we know from Jesus’ many encounters in the Gospel, faith is born of the compassionate gaze with which God looks upon us, softening the hardness of our hearts, healing our wounds and giving us new

eyes to look at ourselves and at our world. New ways to see ourselves, others and all the situations that we experience, even those that are most painful. This gaze is not naive, fleeing reality and refusing to see problems, but one that can “look within” and “see beyond”. A gaze that does not stop at appearances, but can enter into the very cracks of our weaknesses and failures, in order to discern God’s presence even there.

The eyes of the elderly Simeon, albeit dimmed by the years, see the Lord. They see salvation. What about us? What do our eyes see? What is our vision of consecrated life? The world often sees it as “a waste”, a relic of the past, something useless. But we, the Christian community, men and women religious, what do we see? Are our eyes turned only inward, yearning for something that no longer exists, or are we capable of a farsighted gaze of faith, one that looks both within and beyond? I am greatly edified when I see older consecrated men and women whose eyes are bright, who continue to smile and in this way to give hope to the young. Let us think of all those times when we encouraged such persons, and bless God for this. For their eyes are full of hope and openness to the future.

Dear brothers and sisters, the Lord never fails to give us signs that invite us to cultivate a renewed vision of consecrated life. We cannot pretend not to see them and then go on as usual, doing the same old things, drifting back through inertia to the forms of the past, paralyzed by fear of change. Let us open our eyes: the Spirit is inviting us amid our crises, decreasing numbers and diminishing forces, to renew our lives and our communities. Let us look at Simeon and Anna: although they were advanced in years, they did not spend their days mourning a past that never comes back, but instead embraced the future opening up before them. Let us not waste today by looking back at yesterday; instead, let us place ourselves before the Lord in adoration and ask for eyes to see goodness and to discern the ways of God.

Finally, a third question: what do we take into our own arms? Simeon took Jesus into his arms. It is a touching scene, full of meaning and unique in the Gospels. God has placed his Son in our arms too, because embracing Jesus is the essential thing, the very heart of faith. Sometimes we risk losing our bearings, getting caught up in a thousand different things, obsessing about minor issues or plunging into new projects, yet the heart of everything is Christ, embracing him as the Lord of our lives.

IX. Paschal Triduum

The Latin word Triduum means a period of three days. The Easter Triduum unfolds the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. It is the culmination of all liturgical celebrations during the year. During the Easter Triduum, Christians commemorate the central events of their Salvation. Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday with the Easter Vigil run through the essential core of Christian faith: the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. By participating in the Easter Triduum, Christians want to



awaken in them the living memory of the sufferings that the Jesus Christ endured for them. They prepare their hearts to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. For Christians, Easter is the biggest day in the liturgical year.

On **Holy Thursday**, Christians enact the Last Supper, in which the Lord Jesus, on the eve of his Passion and Death, instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of the ministerial Priesthood. The traditional English name for this day, Maundy Thursday, comes from the Latin phrase *mandatum novum* – a new command – which comes from Jesus' words : “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another” (Jn 13: 34). On Maundy Thursday, Jesus established the new commandment of love. During the Mass on Maundy Thursday, Christians remember that Jesus Christ gave his body and blood to them as a remedy for immortality. Therefore, the Eucharist became the source and Summit of Christian life. With the humble and expressive gesture of the washing of the feet, Christians are invited to recall what the Lord Jesus did for his apostles: by washing their feet he concretely proclaimed the primacy of love. He also anticipated the supreme sacrifice of his life which would be consumed the next day on the Calvary.

Good Friday is a day to commemorate the Passion, Cross, and death of Jesus Christ. It's a day of fasting. The liturgy of Good Friday consists of three parts: the liturgy of the Word, the veneration of the Cross and the reception of the Holy Communion. On Good Friday, there is no Mass because Christians keep the somber and mournful atmosphere of the day. The Body of Christ distributed on Good Friday is consecrated on Maundy Thursday. On Good Friday, Christians remember the humiliation that Christ Jesus undertook for the entire humanity. By dying on the Cross, Jesus takes the suffering and sin of the entire humanity upon him. The veneration of the Cross recalls to the Christians that Cross of Jesus Christ became a sign of victory on Good Friday. The participation in the Way of Cross helps Christians to associate themselves with the sufferings of Christ.

Holy Saturday is marked by profound silence. The Churches are stripped and no special liturgical celebration is foreseen except the Easter Vigil. Waiting for the great event of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, Christians persevere with Mary in praying and meditating. On Holy Saturday, great importance is given to participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, an indispensable way to purify the heart and prepare to celebrate Easter. Saturday of silence, meditation, forgiveness and reconciliation will lead Christians to the Easter Vigil. At the heart of the night, the Paschal candle, the symbol of Jesus Christ in glory, is lit from the new fire. Jesus Christ, the light of humanity, dispels the darkness of heart and mind and illuminates every human being who comes into the World. All the faithful gathered join in procession back to the main sanctuary. The Priest carries the Paschal candle, lifting it three different times and chanting: “Christ our Light”. The people respond by singing: “Thanks be to God”. All people in the Church light their candles from the Paschal candle and then they process into the sanctuary. Then, the Exultet is sung by the deacon or cantor. It is a hymn of praise to God for the light of the Paschal candle from 4th century, from the time of Saint Ambrose.

The Easter Vigil affirms that Christ is truly Risen and death has no power over Him. By his death he has conquered evil forever and has given to all humans the very life of God. The Bible readings during the celebration give an overview of salvation history and God's interventions into time and space from the time of Creation till today. From the ancient time, the Easter Vigil was also the celebration for adult converts to be baptized and enter the Church. The catechumens received the Sacrament of Baptism and all faithful renewed their baptismal promises.

Easter Sunday is a day of joy and celebration. Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The time of fasting and penance is over! Christians sing Alleluia to glorify God for all marvelous things that happen in their life. They fill their life from the life of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ. Thousands of pilgrims come to the Churches during the Easter Triduum to participate in different celebrations. They come from different walks of life. Rich and poor, healthy and sick, big and small, belonging to different cultures and backgrounds, people come to participate in the Divine Mystery of Jesus Christ.

X. Solemnity of Easter- April 17

The life of our Lord on earth did not end with the Resurrection. There still remained the important and difficult task of convincing these fearful, doubting apostles of his that he had risen as he said he would. It wasn't easy. It took forty days and many appearances to do this. The Gospels during this Easter Season have been about these appearances. The important lesson for us in all of these appearances of the Risen Jesus is that the joy and the power of the Resurrection is not to be found in the empty tomb or in the testimony of someone else. It is to be found only in a personal encounter, with the Risen Jesus. The empty tomb did nothing for Mary Magdalene. She thought that the gardener or someone else had taken the body away, and there was only tears, disappointment and sorrow. It was when Mary recognized and embraced the Risen Jesus that she experienced the joy and the power of the Resurrection.



XI. Divine Mercy Sunday (April 24)

In the Jubilee Year 2000, Pope John Paul II proclaimed that from that year forward the Second Sunday of Easter would be celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. This was proclaimed at the Canonization Mass of St. Faustina Kawalska, who worked throughout her life to make all aware of the merciful love of God. St. Faustina (1905–1938) was born and raised in Poland. Following a vocation to religious life, she was accepted by the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. As a member the Congregation, she worked as a cook, gardener, and porter. In her spiritual life, her contemplation on the Mercy of God led her to develop a childlike trust in God and deep love for her neighbor.



In her years in the convent, St. Faustina heard a call from God to make God's mercy known to the world so that the world may more fully receive God's healing grace. St. Faustina promoted the Chaplet of Divine Mercy which consists of the recitation of prayers to the Eternal Father with the use of the rosary for the sake of Christ's sorrowful passion. When celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday, the faithful are called to reflect more personally on the graces won through the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In this way their hearts may be more fully aware of the mercy of God for them personally and for the sake of the world.

XII. Feast of St. Mark (April 25)

St. Mark, the author of the second Gospel, was the son of Mary whose house at Jerusalem was the meeting place of Christians. He was baptized and instructed by St. Peter. In about the year 42 A.D. he came to Rome with the Prince of the Apostles. There at the request of the faithful he wrote his Gospel about the year 50 A.D. His Gospel is a record of St. Peter's preaching about Our Lord and pays special attention to the head of the Apostles. The Gospel was written for Roman Gentile



converts. It rarely quotes the Old Testament, and is careful to explain Jewish customs, rites and words. It excels in portraying the emotions and affections of both Christ and His hearers. St. Mark preached in Egypt, especially in Alexandria and was martyred there by the heathen. According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the Feast of St. Mark, and the Major Rogation Day. While no longer required after Vatican II, Rogation Days can still be observed by the faithful. Fasting and penance were required, and there were special liturgy and litanies for this day.

XIII. Ugadi Festival (April 2)

The word "Ugadi" is a combination of two words—"Yuga" (age) and "Adi" (beginning). An auspicious occasion, the day is celebrated with much pomp and gusto. People from every sphere of the society enjoy the day by wearing new clothes and gorging on delicious delicacies. Prayers are offered in temples to welcome the new year while people clean their homes and decorate them with Rangolis—a traditional way to decorate floors by creating various patterns with coloured rice or flower petals. Preparations for Ugadi begin a week in advance and include customs common to many spring festivals such as house cleaning



and buying new clothes. On the day of Ugadi, a tradition is to get up before dawn for an Abhyang - a head bath an after massaging with sesame oil. Ugadi heralds the arrival of Spring and warmer weather. As such it is a joyous festival signifying growth and prosperity and as with all New Year festivals, it is a chance to put the errors of the past behind, make predictions and a good time to start new ventures. A customary food prepared during Ugadi is Bevu Bella, a paste made from jaggery (sugar), neem buds, tamarind juice, and raw mango. The paste combines several sweet and sour tastes. These different tastes are intended to remind anyone tasting the paste that life is a mixture of happy and sad events.

XIV. Bishop's Engagements in April, 2022

- 1 : 3.30 pm Requiem Mass for Bishop Mathew Cheriakunnel, PIME at Vijayawada
- 3 : am Holy Mass at Peddapally
5:30 pm Divyavani Live: Special Lenten Prayers, Witness, Way of the Cross, Songs, Holy Mass, etc.
- 4 : Blessing & Inauguration of St. Mother Teresa International School, Fatimanagar
- 5 : Blessing of Tailoring Centre at Balapala Parish and
Dedication of Sts. Peter & Paul Church, First Holy Communion & Confirmation, Dornakal
- 7 : Chrism Mass, Preceded by Recollection, from 9:30 am Fatimanagar: Preacher Fr. S. Aloysius, Hyderabad
- 10 : Holy Week: Palm Sunday-Passion Sunday
- 14 : Maundy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper:
Paschal Triduum Begins
- 15 : Good Friday: 10 am Banjara Good Friday Celebrations
5:30 pm Fatima Cathedral: Adoration of the Cross
Collections are towards the maintenance of the Holy Land
- 16 : Holy Saturday: Run for Jesus
- 17 : Easter Sunday: Easter Vigil, Fatimanagar
- 20 : Final Profession of Presentation Sisters, Fatimanagar
- 21 : Holy Matrimony at Bandlaguda
- 23 : Grotto Blessing at Pegadapally, Pallevelpula Parish
- 24 : Blessing & Inauguration of St. Francis Xavier Church, Devnoor, Dharmasagar Parish
- 27& 29 : Divyavani AGM Meet & Board of Directors Meeting, Ramanthapur
- 28 : Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Manthani Parish Church
- 30 : All India Jubilarians Retreat Holy Mass, Bangalore

May-2022

- 1 : Solemnity of St. Joseph: the Worker
- 2-3 : CCBI EXCO Meeting -Virtual

XV. Communications

1. Meeting Bishop in Person: As the Covid-19 variants threat has decreased, for urgent works, Clergy & Consecrated can meet the Bishop in person with Covid Protocol on days when he is at Bishop's House.

2. Chrism Mass and Recollection

Chrism Mass preceded by Clergy Recollection is on April 7, 2022. The Recollection begins at 9:30 am with a talk and another talk at 3:30pm and concludes with Chrism Mass which begins at 5:30 pm in Fatima Cathedral. All the Clergy are expected to come and participate in Chrism Mass. All the Religious and the Faithful are invited to participate in Chrism Mass. The Parish Priests are requested to announce the same in the parishes especially in Tri-cities and encourage the faithful to attend the Chrism Mass.

3. Fatima Feast Celebrations: Report

The Diocese of Warangal was delighted in Veneration to Our Lady of Fatima through the Celebrations of Fatima Feast on March 12-13, 2022. The Diocesan Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala, the General Convener and Council member were behind the very solemn Celebration of Feast. Unceasing prayers and deep Faith on the Triune God were the weapons used for the success of Diocese Feast. Thousands of people flocked to Fatima Cathedral Campus on these two days which was a clear proof that Warangal people's Faith is alive, active and dynamic!

March 03-11, 2022: Novena Prayers and Masses- The Holy Feast began with the hoisting of Marian Flag by Most Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala, Bishop of Warangal Diocese on March 3 followed by Novena Prayers and Masses, which lasted for nine days represented by all the deaneries as well as Silver Jubilarian Rev. Fr. Gade Prakash..

March 12, 2022: Making of New Theru, decorated with glittering illumination specialty of this Year

a. Procession with OLF, Eucharistic Adoration and Candle-lit Procession & Benediction: 4.00 pm-8.00 pm: The procession with the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, praying for all Families followed by Eucharistic Adoration, Candle-lit witness cum Eucharistic Benediction was the Crux of the day because 4000 lay people gave witness by candle lit in their hands, which was amazing and the ambience was prayerful & devotional as we see at Lourdes. This year New *Theru of Fatima Matha* was centre of attraction and highly decorated as well as venerated.



b. **Cultural Programs: 8.30 pm–12.00 am:** The Climax of the day was the cultural program. Our Children made the night as bright as the day by their amazing performances.

Pontifical High Mass: 9.00 am: Pontifical High Mass presided Most Rev. Jaya Rao Polimera, Bishop of Eluru. The solemn Mass was attended in great number inspite of Covid-19 threat with faith-devotion. Thousands more visited the Cathedral and venerated Our Lady of Fatima praying for their witness. The festival attracts more and more devotees year after year turning into a big Jataru, incultured celebrations without superstitious practices. Whole day Blessing of the sick, suffering and needy was held by different teams of Priests.

Soul Elevating Choir: Pontifical Eucharist was solemn, harmonious and melodious because of the Solemn Soul Elevation Choir: Pontifical Eucharist was the solemn, harmonious and melody unison of the choir lead by Fr. Marreddy, Fatima Cathedral Parish Priest.

Blessings & Offering of Prayers, Coconuts, Candles by Devotees : Thousands of Christians and non-Christians visited the shrine of our Lady of Fatima, paid their veneration to the Mother and prayed for their needs, offered gifts, lighted candles and flowers, and had the *Darshan* of the special statue of our Lady of Fatima in the Cathedral waiting in queue for long hours. All Two days, the number of the people who offered prayers and sought Blessings was countless. Thus Our Lady of Fatima attracts people of all creeds, castes, languages and regions and leads them through Repentance, Penance and Prayer to Jesus.

Gratitude: The celebrations of 2022 at Warangal were a living proof of the apparitions and Miracles of Mother Mary all over the Globe especially at Fatima, Portugal. Thanks to all the Faithful, Clergy and Consecrated represented by various committees. Special thanks to all Committees and all donors of money, time and trouble. Special thanks to Divyavani for live telecast and also recorded telecast.

Fr. Anukiran, Secretary to Bishop

4. Gratitude for OLF Feast: by Chief Shepherd

As the Covid 19 and its variants receded, this year we could have assessment of Fatima Feast. Everyone opinioned that the Celebrations were exceptionally went on well. Everyone was happy and content of the Celebrations. Prayers, Planning and Perfect Execution were the factors of the Success of Fatima Feast.

I thank profusely: All who prayed devoutly, All who participated Joyfully, All who labored Committedly, Fr. K. Marreddy, General Convener, All Committees and Youth, which organized very ably and orderly, all Heads of Committees who took extra trouble to execute well, All Fatima Parishioners, Parish Priest & Associate, All Priests who believe in “Unum Prebyterium” All Faithful and Non-Christians who contributed and attended. Synodality was very tangible in all events faithfully committed by lay-people, youth & women, parish council, consecrated and clergy. Hats off to our dynamic Laity!

+ Udumala Bala,

Bishop, Warangal Diocese

5. News from WADES: Science Fest at St. Joseph’s High School, Husnabad

17 March, 2022 was a memorable day in the history of St. Joseph’s High School, Husnabad. Science Fair was held with 300 exhibits prepared by the students. Students were longing for the Science Fair as no programme was conducted from the onset of Covid Pandemic. Science Fair was an opportunity for the students to exhibit their innate and creative talents. **“Give us an opportunity, and we will prove what we are”** was the motto of the students. Indeed, with the support of parents and teachers, they proved themselves with a variety of innovative and creative exhibits which are of immense help in the present day society. Students put of exhibits on Integrated Farming, Drip Irrigation, Rain Water Harvesting, Solar Irrigation, Hydro Electricity, Electricity Generator, Smart Devices to avoid Road Accidents, Oil Palm Cultivation, Terrace Gardening, etc



Mrs. Akula Rajitha, Municipal Chairperson of Husnabad and First Ward Councillor Mrs. K. Nalini Devi were the Chief Guests of the programme and inaugurated the Science Fair. Parents and students from other schools too have visited Science Fair and appreciated the hidden talent of our students. The programme was a great success due to the untiring efforts of students, ably guided and assisted by the teachers. *Kudos* to all of them.

Fr. S. Inna Reddy, HM & Correspondent, Husnabad

6. News from the Pastoral Centre

1. On March 1st Rev. Fr. K. Vijay Kumar invited Pastoral Centre team for **Parish Level Synod** program to Palakurthi Parish. We conducted parish level synod program with a theme of family life and Church and at the end we ended with Eucharist celebrations and common lunch provided by parish people. We appreciate the affect taken by Rev. Fr. K. Vijay Kumar, Sisters and Church Elders.

2. **Marriage Preparation Course and Counseling** was conducted on Fourth Saturdays of this month that is on 26th of March. In these classes spouses explained about marital life and family life. The group shared and expressed their feelings about this MPC programme. It was really fruitful. During this Pandemic i.e. Covid 19 situation we are following SMS (Social distancing, Mask, Sanitization) in pastoral center

3. **Animators meeting** was conducted on 3rd March and during Lent Pastoral Centre team rendered their services in different parishes as per the need expressed by the Parish Priests.

4. **Women's day** was conducted on 8th March in Malkapur Parish by the Sisters and Women in the parish through the encouragement of Rev. Fr. P. Dasaiah. There were many programs and competitions on this day for all women. Pastoral centre team with Teacher Jyothi went as special guest with the invitation of the parish priest Rev. Fr. P. Dasaiah.

5. Since Covid 19 virus fast spreading in these days, we began ministry of Prayer in Pastoral centre, for the speedy recovery of Covid patients and for the destruction of Corona Virus.

NB:

- Dear Parish Priests, Heads of the institutions and Superiors of the Convents as it is informed through last issue of Fathimavani (News Letter) and through Diocesan and CRI What App group please do conduct synod meeting by April 10th 2022 and send the report to Fr.G.Kamal Pastoral Centre Director. Cell: 8897736960. Email ID: wglpastoralcentre@gmail.com.

- MPC (Marriage Preparation Course) and counseling is Organized in every month on second and fourth Saturdays. Please do not bless the marriage without certificates.

- This year summer Ministry for the Diocesan Brothers is allotted by Fr. G. Kamal, Director of Pastoral Centre with the permission of Most. Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala, Bishop of Warangal and in consultation with Seminary Rector Rev. Fr. S. Balashowry. So please do contact Fr. G. Kamal for the services of Brothers.

**Fr. G. Kamal, Director
Pastoral Centre, Cell: 8897736960.**

7. Report on Synodal Program in Warangal Diocese

Warangal Diocese strictly following the Proposed New Roadmap for the Synodal journey sent by Conference of Catholic Bishops of India.

1. First phase, on 16th of December, 2021 Warangal Diocese had diocesan Synod meeting to explain and motivate all for the Synodal program in the diocese. This program is organized by our bishop Most. Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala and Synod Team of the diocese. Bishop had appointed a synod team for the diocese. In this meeting all the Priests of the diocese, CRI members of the diocese and Lay Synod members from all the Parishes attended this diocesan synod program.

2. Second phase, we had Denary level synod meeting in all the Denary which was organized by Deans and Synod team of the diocese. The main resource persons for Synod denary meeting is Rev. Fr. Solomon Raj and his team (Regional Synod Team). Janagam Denary synod meeting was on 10th, Fatimanagar Denary synod meeting was on 11th, Karunapuram Denary synod meeting was on 12th, Karimnagar Denary synod meeting was on 17th. Ookal (Mariapuram) Denary synod meeting was on 19th. All the Parish synod team members attended the Denary Level Synod meeting.

3. Third phase, a circular was sent to all Parish Priests, Superior of the Convents and Head of the Institutions to organize synod meetings in the parish, Convents and Institutions. Diocesan synod team is visiting the places where ever required and called. By 10th of April all of them will submit the report and the report will be consolidated by the synod meeting with synod team and send report to the regional office with the approval of our Bishop Most. Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala, Bishop of Warangal. Thanks to everyone who are taking part of this program.

Fr. G. Kamal, Diocesan Synod Team Incharge

8. News from Youth Centre:

1. Appreciation

The Youth of the Diocese and especially the Youth of Fatima Cathedral helped in many ways for the Success of our Diocese Feast held on 12 and 13 of March, 2022. I thank and Appreciate each one of you for your dedicated Services.

2. Regional Youth Convention

Regional Youth Convention is arranged in the Diocese of Eluru, Janampet from 15-18 May, 2022. Theme for the convention is “Wake up and take up the Mission”. Regional Youth committee is requesting to send 100 Youth Participants from each Diocese so I request the Parish Priest to motivate the Youth and those interested to Participate kindly enroll the names with Fr. Simon @ 9989720406

Note: Travel expenses and the registration fee Rs 200 should take care by the Participants.

IV. Project Title: Sustainable Livelihood Based Food Security program for the Marginalized Communities of 20 villages of Raikal Mandal of Jagityal district

1. 116 – Vermi compost pits constructed for 116 small & marginalized farmers for promotion of organic cultivation methods in 20 villages of Raikal Mandal. 2. 20-Village level committee meetings organized and discussed about the village level issues especially on agriculture market issues

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

11. The Inaugural Ceremony of St. Mother Teresa International ICSE School

Warangal diocese Catholic society consists of many Districts Like, 14: Jangaon, Karimnagar, Hanamkonda, Jagityal, Mahabbubad, Bhupalapatnam, Narsamapate, Peddapalli, Dornakal, Kesamudram, Thorrur, Siddipet, Warangal etc.

In many of these districts, we are running schools mostly in the rural areas to cater the Educational needs of poor and downtrodden sections of the society with a very nominal school fee but with best infrastructural facilities.

We are running the schools and colleges (KG to PG, Engineering and B. Ed) under the banner of: “Warangal diocese Education Society.” For many years “Warangal diocese Education Society” has been rendering services producing excellent citizens with best standards in Education.

Our Christu Jyothi Engineering College situated at Jangaon has produced hundreds of quality Engineers and Fatima B.Ed College prepared many hundreds of excellent teachers. Our Colleges and schools have been top among other educational institutions in and around the areas. Our Society is committed to give quality and standard Education with best infrastructural facilities.

Now we are opening up a new school named after St. Mother Teresa an icon of love and service:

“St. Mother Teresa International ICSE High School”.

We request your kind cooperation to support our society so that we may give more of ourselves in the formation of a new society which is possible only with quality and standard education.

Hence we humbly request your gracious and most valuable presence at the inauguration of our new school to be held on 04.04.2022 at 5pm in Fatima B.Ed college grounds.

Fr. M. Jaya Paul. DM

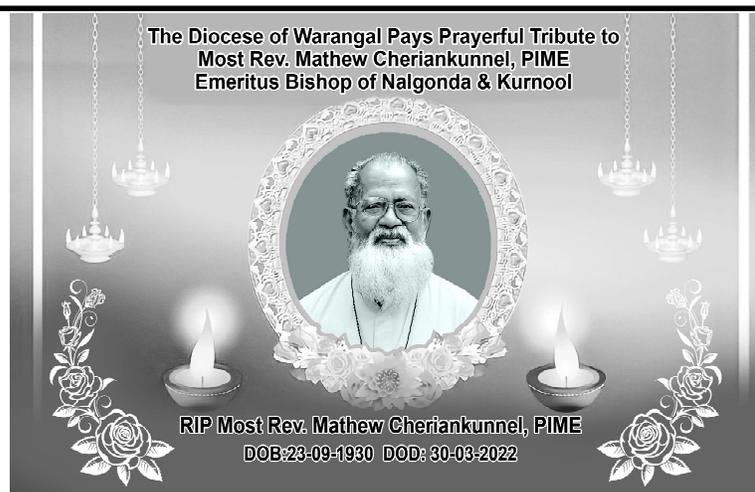
Prayers on Anniversary of Birthdays in Month of April

Fr. Salibindla Arogya Reddy	09/04/1972
Fr. Thirumalareddy Tharunkumar	10/04/1975
Fr. Nagothu Vinod Kumar	10/04/1979
Fr. Thumma Ashok	12/04/1985
Fr. Pentareddy Johnpaul	14/04/1967
Fr. Yeruva Lourdu	20/04/1961
Fr. Golamari Ranjith Kumar	20/04/1987
Fr. Allam Shraavan	22/04/1985
Fr. Thumma Sharan Teja	22/04/1992
Fr. Marapalli Praveen	24/04/1980



Congrats & Blessings on the Anniversary of Priestly Ordination

01. Rev. Fr. D. Vijaypaul	02-04-1992	36. Rev. Fr. Thatikonda Joseph	18-04-2005
02. Rev. Fr. Kasu Showreddy	02-04-1992	37. Rev. Fr. T. Kiran	18-04-2006
03. Rev. Fr. Basani Prakash	03-04-1983	38. Rev. Fr. Ch. Ravi Joseph	18-04-2006
04. Rev. Fr. Y. Papi Reddy	03-04-1995	39. Rev. Fr. Gangarau Suresh	19-04-2012
05. Rev. Fr. G. Rayappa	04-04-1995	40. Rev. Fr. K. Marreddy	19-04-2012
06. Rev. Fr. T. Rayappa	06-04-1992	41. Rev. Fr. N. Surender	19-04-2012
07. Rev. Fr. G. Prakash	07-04-1992	42. Rev. Fr. S. Prabhakar	19-04-2012
08. Rev. Fr. K. Vijay Kumar	08-04-1985	43. Rev. Fr. T. Ashok	19-04-2012
09. Rev. Fr. P. Dasaiah	09-04-2007	44. Rev. Fr. Y. Kiran Kumar	19-04-2012
10. Rev. Fr. E. Vijay Kumar	09-04-2013	45. Rev. Fr. B. Anthony	20-04-1966
11. Rev. Fr. T. Santhosh	09-04-2015	46. Rev. Fr. A. Bala	20-04-1993
12. Rev. Fr. A. Shravan	10-04-2013	47. Rev. Fr. M. Naveen Kumar	20-04-2006
13. Rev. Fr. T. Pradeep	10-04-2007	48. Rev. Fr. N. Maria Joseph	20-04-2009
14. Rev. Fr. D. Prashanth	11-04-2007	49. Rev. Fr. G. Anand	21-04-2006
15. Rev. Fr. P. Papireddy	12-04-1966	50. Rev. Fr. Basani Kishore	21-04-2008
16. Rev. Fr. Y. Sebastian	12-04-1966	51. Rev. Fr. M. P. Joseph	22-04-1963
17. Rev. Fr. S. Innareddy	12-04-1999	52. Rev. Msgr. M.M. Joseph	22-04-2001
18. Rev. Fr. M. Raju	12-04-2010	53. Rev. Fr. Sharan Teja	22-04-2019
19. Rev. Fr. P. Suresh	12-04-2010	54. Rev. Fr. Yeruva Inna	24-04-1989
20. Rev. Fr. G. Kamal	13-04-2010	55. Rev. Fr. Yeruva Lourdu	24-04-1989
21. Rev. Fr. T. Yaga Reddy	13-04-1998	56. Rev. Fr. N. Bala Swamy	25-04-2002
22. Rev. Fr. T. Augustine	13-04-1993	57. Rev. Fr. Y. Thomas Kiran	25-04-2002
23. Rev. Fr. T. Sunil	13-04-2009	58. Rev. Fr. M. Jaya	25-04-1994
24. Rev. Fr. G. Joseph	13-04-2015	59. Rev. Fr. T. Jerome	25-04-1988
25. Rev. Fr. G. Thomas	14-04-2008	60. Rev. Fr. Polumari Anil	25-04-2011
26. Rev. Fr. N. Sampath	14-04-2015	61. Rev. Fr. K. Joseph	26-04-2011
27. Rev. Fr. M Praveen	15-04-2008	62. Rev. Fr. B. Joseph Praveen	26-04-2011
28. Rev. Fr. Gali Rayappa	15-04-1991	63. Rev. Fr. Gopu Thomas(Jr.)	26-04-2017
29. Rev. Fr. G. Naveen	16-04-2008	64. Rev. Fr. G. Bala Martin	27-04-1994
30. Rev. Fr. A. Inna	16-04-1993	65. Rev. Fr. V. Simon	27-04-2018
31. Rev. Fr. T. Anthony	17-04-2008	66. Rev. Fr. A. Raja	27-04-1988
32. Rev. Fr. N. Vinod	18-04-2009	67. Rev. Fr. Yeruva Inna	28-04-1988
33. Rev. Fr. T. Joji	18-04-1996	68. Rev. Fr. T. R. Tharun	28-04-2003
34. Rev. Fr. Gopu Suresh	18-04-2005	69. Rev. Fr. Allam Vincent	29-04-1994
35. Rev. Fr. T. Manohar	18-04-2005	70. Rev. Fr. P. Kiran	30-04-2003



Flag Hoisting : Fatima Feast Novena Begins



Candle Lit -Eucharist Procession & Benediction



Cultural Programmes



Cultural Programmes



Pontifical High Mass





"ARIAL VIEW OF CATHEDRAL CAMPUS AS ADYATHMIKAKENDRAM"