



SHEPHERD'S CALL

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD

VOL: LI

NO.12

DECEMBER 2024



WE WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY
Merry Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR



**PILGRIMS OF HOPE, JUBILEE PROGRAMME AT
ST. MARY'S BASILICA, SEC-BAD ON 23RD NOV, 2024**



**PILGRIMS OF HOPE, JUBILEE PROGRAMME AT
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL, GUNFOUNDRY ON 24TH NOV, 2024**



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Archbishop's Message



The commencement of the history of the Lord God's promised new creation (of which we have become a part through our baptism 'into Christ Jesus'), begins with the creation of the Blessed Virgin Mary as "the Immaculate Conception" in eschatological fulfilment of the Lord God's word to the Devil, immediately after the sinful fall of the progenitors of the human race, namely 'Adam and Eve': 'I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers (Gen.3:15a).' Her predestined vocation as the Immaculate Conception was to serve, singularly and indefectibly, the Lord God's providence for the eschatological fulfilment of all His prophetic saving promises 'for our adoption as His children' through the incarnation of His consubstantial Son as our Lord Jesus Christ (Eph.1:5). This truth of her divine predestined vocation was manifestly and magnificently unfolded to her by Angel Gabriel at the moment of his annunciation to her from the Lord God. Through the grace of Her Immaculate Conception she had blossomed in the Holy Spirit as the Lord God's perpetual Virgin 'full of grace,' girded by the Lord God's presence and power, ever ready to do His bidding as His humble 'handmaid.' And the first service asked of her by the Lord God was to bring His eternally hidden consubstantial Son to meet us face to face by conceiving Him in a complete and truly human nature in Her own womb and through His own power as 'mother inviolate' and 'mother undefiled,' as the historical Jesus Who saves us from our sins, in exact fulfilment of the promise He had made to David concerning this mystery through the prophet Nathan (read 2 Sam. 7:12-13): 'You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and

will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end....The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Son of God (Lk.1:31-35).’ Accordingly, when the Blessed Virgin Mary brought forth Her divine Son from womb as His Virgin Mother, inviolate and undefiled, and laid him in the manger along with St.Joseph His father in grace, the Lord God, the Eternal Father, announced this advent of His incarnate Son to meet us face to face for our adoption as His children ‘in Christ His Son,’ through His Angel to the shepherds in the surrounding locality: ‘I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Christ, the Lord. This will be a sign for you:you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of goodwill (Lk.2:10-14).” This ineffable loving act of our God, the Eternal Father, should be the substance of our lively and loving meditation during Christmas Mass wherein we not simply meet His Son, but receive Him and eat Him in His very ‘body given up for us’ to receive eternal life from Him in His Holy Spirit. Our Christmas joy is not quite ‘merry christmas’ with one another. Rather, it is holy joy and solemn thanksgiving to the Eternal Father with the Blessed Virgin Mary for all that we have been brought to become by Him ‘in Christ Jesus’ through this great Christmas event

POPE’S INTENTION: DECEMBER, 2024

For Pilgrims of Hope: We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into **Pilgrims of Christian Hope.**



CARDINAL’S INTENTION: DECEMBER, 2024

For Faith in God : Heavenly Father, Restore the faith of those who doubt. Comfort those who feel lost and alone. Remind them of Your love and presence. Help them to trust in Your goodness and mercy. Give them strength to persevere through difficult times. Lord, we pray that You will reignite the flame of faith in their hearts.



Solemnities and Feasts

DECEMBER 03

St. Francis Xavier [Feast]



Jesus asked, “What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?” (Matthew 16:26a). The words were repeated to a young teacher of philosophy who had a highly promising career in academics, with success and a life of prestige and honor before him.

Francis Xavier, 24 at the time, and living and teaching in Paris, did not heed these words at once. They came from a good friend, Ignatius of Loyola, whose tireless persuasion finally won the young man to Christ. Francis then made the spiritual exercises under the direction of Ignatius, and in 1534, joined his little community, the

infant Society of Jesus. Together at Montmartre they vowed poverty, chastity, obedience, and apostolic service according to the directions of the pope. From Venice, where he was ordained a priest in 1537, Xavier went on to Lisbon and from there sailed to the East Indies, landing at Goa, on the west coast of India. For the next 10 years he laboured to bring the faith to such widely scattered peoples as the Hindus, the Malaysians, and the Japanese. He spent much of that time in India, and served as provincial of the newly established Jesuit province of India.

Wherever he went, Xavier lived with the poorest people, sharing their food and rough accommodations. He spent countless hours ministering to the sick and the poor, particularly to lepers. Very often he had no time to sleep or even to say his breviary but, as we know from his letters, he was filled always with joy.

Source: www.franciscanmedia.org

DECEMBER 09

**Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary
[solemnity]**

The Immaculate Conception refers to the dogma that the Blessed Virgin Mary was conceived without any stain of Original Sin in preparation for becoming the Mother of God, the Son Jesus Christ.

Before the creation of the world, God the Father chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the Mother of his Son, Jesus Christ. The Archangel Gabriel announced to her that she was “full of grace” (Luke 1:29)—or God’s “favoured one,” as in some Scripture translations—indicating her unique worthiness to conceive the Son of God; she “was enriched by God with the gifts which befit such a role” (LG 56). From the very beginning the Church has believed not only that the Blessed Virgin Mary was a virgin but also that she was not conceived with any stain of Original Sin into which everyone is conceived after the sin of Adam and Eve. This unique privilege enabled her to fulfil perfectly her unique mission as the Mother of God. God the Father blessed the Mother of his Son more than any other created person “in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places [and chose her] in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before him in love” (Bl. Pius IX, *Ineffabilis Deus* [1854]: DS 2803). (Cf. CCC 966)

The Church has celebrated the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary with a feast since perhaps as early as the fifth century, and it was made a Holy Day of Obligation in 1708.

Source: <https://stboniface-lunenburg.org/>

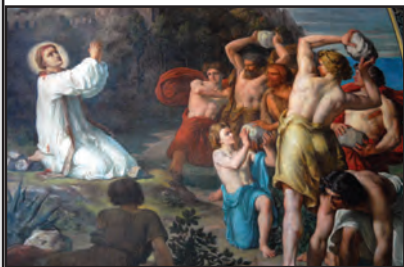


From the very beginning, Christians celebrated what the Lord Jesus accomplished for the salvation of humanity. They did this every Sunday, the day of the Lord's resurrection, and as an annual feast on the Sunday after the first full moon of the spring equinox, Easter Sunday.

At the beginning of the 4th century, the liturgical calendar began to evolve, giving value to the "historical" Jesus as well. Good Friday was added to recall Jesus' death, and the Last Supper.... In that trajectory, the Nativity, the Birth of Jesus, was added. The first evidence of the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord dates back to the year 336. Soon after, in the Eastern Church, the Christmas feast of the Epiphany began to be celebrated on the 6th of January. The date was connected to the civil pagan festival of the birth of the invincible sun (*Natale Solis Invicti*), introduced by the Emperor Aurelian in 274 in honor of the Syrian Sun god of Emesa, celebrated on 25 December. Christmas is the only liturgical celebration with four Masses, the Vigil Mass, the Mass during the Night, the Mass at Dawn and the Mass during the Day. The readings are the same for each of these Masses for all three liturgical years. This choice seeks to demonstrate and enhance, almost in slow motion, that Event that changed the course of human history: God became man.



Source: www.vaticannews.va



Saint Stephen was one of the first ordained deacons of the Church. He was also the first Christian martyr. The Greek word from which we derive the English word martyr literally means witness. In that sense, every Christian is called to bear witness to Jesus Christ, in both their words and their actions. Not all are asked to shed their blood.

Those who do shed their blood for the faith are the greatest of witnesses. They have been especially honored since the very beginning of Christianity. Stephen was so conformed to Jesus in his holy life that his martyrdom was both a natural and supernatural sign of his love for the Lord. It also inspired the early believers as they faced the first round of brutal persecution.

His behavior, even forgiving those who were taking his life while he was being stoned to death, was a beautiful reflection of how conformed he truly was to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is recorded in Chapter 7 of the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 7:54-60), which immediately follows the Gospels in the New Testament. Source: <https://stboniface-lunenburg.org/>

St. John Apostle & Evangelist [Feast]

When two young Jewish fishermen sat by the Sea of Galilee, mending their nets with their father, a man walked by and said, “Follow me.” Their response reveals the startled glimmer of recognition they must have had in that moment: “Immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him” (Mt 4:22). In this rabbi who was calling them, James and John, the sons of Zebedee – tradition holds that John was the younger of the two – caught a glimpse of something for which, as faithful Israelites, they had been waiting all their lives.

John must have often gone back in his mind to that moment when he left his nets to follow the Messiah. Yet during his three years at Jesus’ side, watching him pray, teach, raise a dead child, and calm the wind and the waves, the fisherman could not have imagined that one day he would watch his Master die on a cross. He could not have known that, as he saw his friend’s body placed in the tomb, the words he had learned as a Jewish child would take on an infinitely greater meaning: “Your face, O Lord, I seek; hide not your face from me” (Ps 27:8-9).

Source: www.vaticannews.va

Holy Innocents, Martyrs [Feast]

Herod “the Great,” king of Judea, was unpopular with his people because of his connections with the Romans and his religious indifference. Hence he was insecure and fearful of any threat to his throne. He was a master politician and a tyrant capable of extreme brutality. He killed his wife, his brother, and his sister’s two husbands, to name only a few.

Matthew 2:1-18 tells this story: Herod was “greatly troubled” when astrologers from the east came asking the whereabouts of “the newborn king of the Jews,” whose star they had seen. They were told that the Jewish Scriptures named Bethlehem as the place where the Messiah would be born. Herod cunningly told them to report back to him so that he could also “do him homage.” They found Jesus, offered him their gifts, and warned by an angel, avoided Herod on their way home. Jesus escaped to Egypt.

Herod became furious and “ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under.” The horror of the massacre and the devastation of the mothers and fathers led Matthew to quote Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children...” (Matthew 2:18). Rachel was the wife of Jacob (Israel). She is pictured as weeping at the place where the Israelites were herded together by the conquering Assyrians for their march into captivity.

Source: www.franciscanmedia.org



If there is a fact that is striking when reading today's Gospel text, it is all the "motion" verbs: depart, arise, flee, take refuge, stay.... There is even a map that is no less impressive: Bethlehem, Egypt, then Nazareth. Certainly, the key to all this "movement" is found in the citation of the Prophet Hosea: *"Out of Egypt I have called my son"* – a place of refuge for the persecuted and the place of departure for Israel's Exodus. The Family of Nazareth thus traces the journey of many persecuted people and refugees down through history. At

the same time, it recalls the powerful hand of God who knows how to liberate His people.

The experience of the family of Nazareth cannot but make us think of the many families today who are also "in movement" – certainly of those families forced to leave their homes and their own land in search of peace, serenity and work, but also of those families who live with the apprehension and anxiety of not making ends meet, of unstable marital situations, the fear of illness...

In the family of Nazareth, our families, as well as the human family, can learn to allow ourselves to be guided by God's powerful hand. If it is true on the one hand that in many situations people feel like "refugees", "strangers in their own homes", or in the heart of a dear one, it is also true that every obstacle, every difficulty can be transformed into an opportunity to "depart", an opportunity for a "journey toward conversion" which alone can lead to serenity, peace, stability.

Source: www.vaticannews.va

RECEIPT OF LOCAL MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Parish/Individual	No. of Masses
28-10-2024	BEGUMPET	200
28-10-2024	BOWENPALLY	420
29-10-2024	GANDHINAGAR	20
29-10-2024	KHAIRTHABAD	427
04-11-2024	SURARAM	100
04-11-2024	BOLARUM	291
07-11-2024	GOLCONDA	49
13-11-2024	TRIMULGHERRY	758
22-11-2024	NIZAMABAD	80
22-11-2024	DHARMARAM	100
23-11-2024	METTUGUDA	5000
26-11-2024	EMJAL	100
27-11-2024	SECUNDERABAD	750
27-11-2024	TRIMULGHERRY	400
	Total	8695

Archbishop's Engagements

N.B.:"In office days", Please call the Secretary before coming. Ph No : 72079 40883

ARCHBISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS

DECEMBER, 2024

01. Sun 9:30 a.m. : First Holy Communion and Confirmations at St Mary's Basilica, Secunderabad.
4:00 p.m. : Healing Hands (Specially Abled), at St Mary's High School, Secunderabad.
05.00 p.m.: Class Awards at St Ann's School, Secunderabad.
02. Mon (Morning): In Office
04.00 p.m.: Deans and Jubilee Committee Meeting at St Vianney Hall, Archbishop's House, Sec-bad.
03. Tue 5:30 p.m. : Festive Mass and First Holy Communion and Confirmations at St. Francis Xavier's Church, Yapral.
04. Wed 3:30 p.m. : HAES 20th Games and Sports Meet Closing Ceremony at Infant Jesus School, Shamshabad.
- 5-10 (Thu-Tue) : Rome
11. Wed 11.30 a.m. : Blessing and Inauguration of Administrative Block, Education Labs and Class Rooms at St. Mary's College of Education, Sec-bad.
6.30 p.m. : 60th Anniversary of St Ann's School at St Ann's Convent, Tarnaka.
12. Thu 09.30 a.m. : Christmas Recollection and Get-Together at Archbishop's House, Sec-bad.

13. Fri : Mumbai
14. Sat 10.00 a.m.: Diamond & Silver Jubilee of Montfort Brothers of St Gabriel at St Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry.
05.30 p.m.: Silver Jubilee of Divine Mercy Centre (SVD), Habsiguda.
16. Mon : In Office
17. Tue (Morning): In Office
06.30 p.m. : LCRI Christmas Celebrations at St Ann's School, Sec-bad.
18. Wed 11.30 a.m.: Christmas Celebrations of HASSS at Our Lady of Fathima Church, Suraram Parish.
19. Thu : In Office
21. Sat : Reception of New Cardinal George Koovakad at Berchmans College, Chenganacherry.
23. Mon : In Office
24. Tue (Morning): In Office
11.45 p.m.: Christmas Vigil Mass at St Mary's Basilica, Sec-bad.
25. Wed 09.15 a.m.: Christmas Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry.
29. Sun 06.00 p.m.: Holy Family Feast Mass (Unveiling of the Jubilee 2025 Cross) at St Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry.
30. Mon 4:30 p.m. : First Holy Communion and Confirmations at St Anthony's Church, Venkatapuram.
31. Tue 11:30 p.m.: Vigil Mass at St Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry.

TENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS: JANUARY

- | | | |
|--------|-----------|--|
| 04. | Sat | 06.30 p.m.: Golden Jubilee Mass at Little Flowers Junior College, Uppal |
| 05. | Sun | 9.30 a.m. : First Holy Communion and Confirmations at St Joseph's Church, Bollaram.

06.00 p.m.: Blessing and Inauguration of Our Lady of Fathima's Grotto at Our Lady of Fathima Church, Dhammaiguda. |
| 09. | Thu | : Episcopal Ordination of the Bishop Elect Msgr. Dr. Pilli Anthony Das, Nellore. |
| 12. | Sun | 11.00 a.m.: Festive Mass and First Holy Communion & Confirmations at Holy Trinity Church, Begumpet

05.00 p.m.: Mass for the Regional Youth at Sanathnagar. |
| 15. | Wed | 05.00 p.m.: Thanksgiving Mass on the occasion of 150 years of SVD Foundation at Arnold Bhavan, Habsiguda. |
| 17. | Fri | 05.00 p.m.: Annual Day of St. Joseph's School & College, Trimulgherry. |
| 18. | Sat | 07.00 a.m.: Inauguration of General Chapter
06. 00 p.m. : Inagural Function of Ecumenical Week, Unity Octave Prayer at Gunfoundry. |
| 19. | Sun | 10.00 a.m.: Festive Mass & First Holy Communion and Confirmations at Infant Jesus Shrine, Gajwel

05.30 p.m.: First Holy Communion and Confirmation at St Sabastian's Church, Sainikpuri. |
| 22. | Wed | 04.30 p.m.: Sports Day at St Mary's High School, Sec-bad. |
| 24. | Fri | : Patna Diocese |
| 26. | Sun | 09.00 a.m.: Festive Mass and Inauguration of the New Church at St John's Parish, RC Puram. |
| 27-31. | (Mon-Fri) | : CCBI 96 th Plenary Assembly at St Xavier University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. |

30th November, 2024
Archbishop's House

+ Cardinal Poola Anthony
Archbishop of Hyderabad

Communications

1. A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS – 2024

On the occasion of the Birthday of Jesus on 25th December, 2024, I wish all the Priests, Religious, Faithful, Brothers and Sisters of other Faiths, a Very Happy Christmas. May Jesus our Lord bless all of us abundantly in every way. May we end the Year 2024, acknowledging God's abundant blessings and praying for a blessed New Year 2025.

2. COMMUNIO SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER:

Communio Sunday is celebrated on 1st December, 2024 to emphasize the unity and fellowship of believers, drawing inspiration from the concept of *communio*, or communion. This theme reflects the shared participation in the life of the Church, both spiritually and practically.

Key Messages for Communio Sunday:

1. **Unity in Christ:** Highlight the call to live as one body in Christ, transcending cultural, social, and individual differences.
2. **Shared Responsibility:** Encourage members to actively support and engage in the Church's mission—locally and globally—through prayer, service, and giving.
3. **Strengthening Fellowship:** Promote activities that build connections within the community, such as shared meals, worship, or outreach programs.
4. **Reflecting God's Love:** Emphasize the call to reflect Christ's love through acts of kindness, support, and hospitality.

Ways to Communicate About Communio Sunday:

- **Sermons and Reflections:** Preach on Bible passages that emphasize unity and fellowship (e.g., 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 or Acts 2:42-47).
- **Announcements:** Use bulletins, emails, and social media to inform the congregation about special services or events related to Communio Sunday.
- **Visuals and Symbols:** Incorporate images of shared meals, circles, or doves to represent community and peace.

- **Testimonies:** Share stories of how fellowship has impacted individuals or groups in the church.
- **Action Items:** Encourage participation in specific activities, such as bringing a friend to church, joining a small group, or contributing to a communal project

3. THE CHRISTMAS RECOLLECTION AND GET-TOGETHER:

- Recollection for all the Archdiocesan and Pastoral Clergy is arranged on 12th December, 2024 at 9:30 am at Vianney Home. All the Archdiocesan and the pastoral clergy are expected to attend the same.
- Christmas Get-together for the Archdiocesan Clergy is arranged at St. Mary's High School Grounds on 12th December, 2024 from 3 pm onwards.

4. JUBILEE - 2025

➤ JUBILEE CROSS:

The Jubilee cross is a symbol of hope and fraternity that will guide pilgrims in the 2025 Holy Year. The cross is a central part of the pilgrimage and will be carried to different deaneries of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad as the Deans will send the crosses to the different parishes, Institutions and Religious Communities of their deanery bringing out the significance of Jubilee year 2025.

The Jubilee Cross calls to mind the various facets of the Lord's act of sacrifice – becoming man and taking the form of a slave (cf. Phil 2:7), taking away the sins of the world (St Jn 1:29). It is in this cross that we are called to celebrate.

The Unveiling of the Cross will be done on 29th December, 2024 at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry. The unveiling will be done during the Holy Mass which will be celebrated at 6 pm.

The 2025 Jubilee Cross is a central symbol of the Holy Year pilgrimage and is significant for several reasons:

- **Symbol of hope:** The cross is shaped like a sail, which is a sign of Christian hope, and ends in the shape of an anchor, which is another symbol of hope.
- **Pilgrim accompaniment:** The cross will be handed to priests to accompany them as they walk with the people in their journey of faith.
- **Symbol of Christ:** The front of the cross depicts Christ, a sign of hope for the world.

- **Symbol of salvation:** The cross is a symbol of Christ and His infinite love for all of us.
- **Symbol of security:** The anchor is a metaphor for hope, and in the most difficult moments, we need to rely on an anchor that gives us security and guarantees salvation.

The theme for the 2025 Jubilee is “Pilgrims of Hope”. The theme emphasizes the importance of pilgrimage as a metaphor for life’s journey, a path of hope toward redemption and inner peace.

- **Features:** The cross is made of fine wood and features a depiction of Christ on it and the 2025 Jubilee logo along with the logo of Archdiocese of Hyderabad.
- **Purpose:** The cross accompanies pilgrims and gives them the hope amidst of difficulties and darkness of sin. Archbishop of Hyderabad deliver the cross to the dean of each deanery before they send them to the parishes of their deanery.

The 2025 Jubilee is a commemoration of the anniversary of the incarnation of Christ, which the Catholic Church celebrates every 25 years. The theme of the 2025 Jubilee is “Pilgrims of Hope”. Other elements of the 2025 Jubilee include:

- **Logo:** The logo features four people embracing each other, representing solidarity and brotherhood. The logo also includes choppy waves to represent the challenges of life’s pilgrimage. The lower part of the cross is elongated into an anchor, which is a metaphor for hope.
- **Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King** – The cross features Jesus as a priest, crowned and anointed by the Holy Spirit, representing his mission as prophet, priest, and king. This image underscores the shared ministry of the archdiocese’s laity, religious, and clergy.
- **Anchor of Hope** – Reflecting the official Jubilee 2025 theme, “Pilgrims of Hope,” an anchor symbolizes the message of Hebrews 6:19: “We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul.” This serves as a reminder of the faith rooted in Christ and upheld through generations, grounding the Archdiocese of Hyderabad in hope as it journeys forward.

As a powerful symbol of faith and hope, **the Jubilee Cross** guides the Archdiocese of Hyderabad toward Jubilee 2025, drawing strength from its rich heritage and the universal call to journey together.

CHANCERY NOTICE:

1. CHRISTMAS VACATION:

All the offices connected with Archdiocese of Hyderabad Society will remain closed (except for emergency) from 23rd December, 2024 till 2nd January 2025 (both days inclusive) in view of Christmas and New Year.

2. ANNUAL RETURNS FOR THE YEAR 2024, FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER:

All Parish Priests, Heads of the Institutions and Religious Superiors are requested to start preparing Annual Returns for the year 2024 from January to December, which are to be sent to Rome in the First Quarter of 2025. Forms of Annual Returns will be sent to you by post or can be collected from Fr. Naveen. If you have not received the forms by 31st December 2024, please contact Chancellor or Secretary. Please send the filled in forms by 15th January 2025 to the Chancellor or Secretary, Archbishop's House. You may forward it to archdiohyd@gmail.com

3. SEMINARIAN FUND:

We must encourage local benefactors for our Seminarians and young priests as foreign funds and benefactors are slowly withdrawn. We already have **"Support a Seminarian"** programme. We have the Brochures and forms regarding the Seminarians Fund. Please encourage the faithful to sponsor the future priests.

4. VISITORS TO ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE DURING CHRISTMAS:

Kindly Note:

1. Do not bring any sort of eatables, not even Cakes.
2. Do not bring flowers, Shawls, show case decorative items, wooden/glass or any other mementos.
3. You may give Bibles, Bible Diaries or Spiritual Books that Cardinal can give to others.
4. You may give Cheques for Education Fund to help the poor Children. (You will be given a receipt)

5. MISSION SUNDAY CONTRIBUTIONS:

The Parish Priests/ Priests In-Charge/ Heads of the Institutions are requested to forward the contributions to the Procurator's office, Archbishop's House, Secunderabad, as early as possible. The religious Houses, convents, institutions can handover cheques directly at Archbishop's House and obtain the receipt.

6. SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

All Parish Priests and Heads of the Institutions, who have not yet paid the special collections and Second Sunday Collections, are requested to pay as soon as

possible. Please clear all dues till December, 2024. Please contact Procurator's office for details of your parish/institute dues.

7. ORDO:

ORDO - 2025 for the Archdiocese of Hyderabad is available. You may buy the copies from Procurator's office at the cost of Rs. 50/-.

8. APPOINTMENTS

1. **Rev. Fr. Madanu Joseph (Jr):** Parish Priest of St. Ann's Church, Nizamabad
2. **Rev. Fr. Pasala Mariaraj:** Parish Priest of Lourdu Matha Church, Dharmaram, together with Present Assignment

9. 2ND SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2024

Sl No.	Date	Place	Amount	Sl No.	Date	Place	Amount
1		Aliabad		33	28-10-2024	Garrison (Trimulgherry)	1574
2		Alirajpet		34	08-11-2024	Ghatkesar	800
3	26-11-2024	Ammuguda	2500	35	07-11-2024	Golconda	10135
4		Arogya Nagar (Mission)		36		Gothumakunda	
5		Arul Colony		37		Gunfoundry	
6		Balaji Nagar		38		Jadi Jamalpur	
7		Balaiah Nagar (Old Alwal)		39	28-10-2024	Jagadgirigutta	3500
8	17-10-2024	Band Lines	6000	40		Jahanuma	
9	21-10-2024	Bandlaguda Jagir (Kismatpur)	44000	41		Jogipet	
10	06-11-2024	Banjara Hills	12000	42		Joipet	
11		Basuregadi		43		Kalwakole	
12	22.11.2024	Bayyaram	600	44		Kamareddy	
13		Bazar Ghat		45		Khairatabad	
14	05-11-2024	BHEL - MIG	3170	46		KissanNagar(Armour)	
15	28-10-2024	Begumpet	6350	47		Kukatpally	
16	23-10-2024	Bhoiguda	15000	48		Lallaguda	
17		Bodhan		49	05-11-2024	L. B. Nagar	1871
18		Boduppall		50		Lillipur	
19	24-10-2024	Bolarum	15210	51	25-10-2024	Mahendra Hills	2550
20		Borabanda		52	25-10-2024	Madinaguda	2300
21	28-10-2024	Bowenpally	10000	53		Mallapur	
22		Cherlapally		54		Manikonda Mission	
23		Chintalacheruvu		55	08-11-2024	Mariapuram (Adibatla)	765
24	21-10-2024	Church Colony	2500	56		Medchal	
25		Dammaiguda		57	04-11-2024	Medipally	2650
26	14-10-2024	Dharmaram	1400	58		Mettuguda	
27		Dayanandnagar		59	19-11-2024	Miyapur	3000
28	26-11-2024	Emjala	20000	60		Moul-Ali	
29		Gaddiannaram		61	15-11-2024	Mudfort	6000
30		Gagillapuram		62		Muthangi	
31		Gajwel		63		Nacharam	
32	29-11-2024	Gandhinagar	5000	64		Nandrakal	
				65		Narayankhed	

Sl No.	Date	Place	Amount	Sl No.	Date	Place	Amount
66		Nedunoor		83	18-10-2024	Shanthinagar	2615
67	06-11-2024	Neela Camp	300	84		Shapurnagar	
68	14-10-2024	Nizamabad	2300	85		Siddipet	
69		Pargi		86		Seethaphalmandi	
70		Patancheru		87	14-10-2024	Sultan Bazar	2000
71		Ramachandrapuram		88	23-10-2024	Suraram	3000
72	16-10-2024	Ramanthapur	3200	89		Tandur	
73	29-10-2024	Ramnagar	19195	90		Toopran	
74		Sadasivpet		91	23-10-2024	Trimulgherry	35500
75		Sainikpuri		92		Uminthal	
76	15-11-2024	Sanathnagar	10000	93		Vanasthalipuram	
77		Sangareddy		94		Venkatapuram	
78		Santhoshnagar		95		Vikarabad	
79		Sappers Lines		96	15-10-2024	Yapral	3500
80	16-10-2024	Secunderabad	70860	97	18-10-2024	Yeddumylaram	1080
81		Shabad		98		Yellareddy	
82		Shamshabad		99		Zaheerabad	
						Total	332425

Pastoral News

1. ALL SOULS DAY MASS AT METTUGUDA CEMETERY ON 02ND NOVEMBER, 2024





2. ALL SOULS DAY MASS AT BHOIGUDA CEMETERY, SECUNDERABAD ON 02ND NOVEMBER, 2024



3. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATIONS AT OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH SHRINE, KHAIRATHABAD ON 03RD NOVEMBER, 2024



4. BLESSING OF THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED MULTIPURPOSE HALL AT ST. JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL, DHARMARAM ON 09TH NOVEMBER, 2024



5. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATIONS & BLESSING OF NEW PRESBYTERY AT ST. ANN'S CHURCH, NIZAMABAD ON 09TH NOVEMBER, 2024



6. FESTIVE MASS AT OUR LADY OF GRACE SHRINE, ALIABAD ON 10TH NOVEMBER, 2024



7. FINAL PROFESSION OF SISTERS OF CHARITY AT ST, FRANCIS CONVENT, SEC-BAD ON 12TH NOVEMBER, 2024



8. FESTIVE MASS AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATIONS AT HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, TRIMULGHERRY ON 17TH NOVEMBER, 2024



9. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATIONS AT ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL, GUNFOUNDRY ON 24TH NOVEMBER, 2024



10. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATIONS, GOLDEN JUBILEE OF CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, RAMANTHAPUR PARISH ON 24TH NOVEMBER, 2024

Christ the King Church, Ramanthapur, marked a historic milestone as it joyously celebrated its Golden Jubilee and Annual Feast on 24th November, 2024. The highlight of the celebration was the solemn Holy Eucharist presided over by His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony, with the concelebration of around 60 priests.

During the Eucharistic celebration, 22 children were blessed to receive their First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation, adding a special grace to the occasion.

The celebration continued with a grand felicitation program, where the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Showreddy, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the parishioners, clergy, and well-wishers for their active participation and support in making the event a resounding success. The local MLA, Bandari LaxmareddyGaaru, graced the event with his presence, further enhancing the significance of the day.

The festivities concluded with a vibrant cultural program showcasing the talents



of the parishioners. Around 2800 people gathered for the occasion, sharing a spirit of unity and joy. The celebration ended with a fellowship meal, reflecting the spirit of togetherness that defines the parish community.

This Golden Jubilee celebration was truly a testament to the faith, dedication, and togetherness of the parish, leaving cherished memories for all who attended.

-M. J. Joseph (Parish Council Member)

Archdiocesan News

1. ST. MARY'S CENTENARY JUNIOR COLLEGE FOOT BALL TOURNAMENT, HYDERABAD.

St. Mary's Centenary Junior College has Won Girls Gold Medal and Boys Silver Medal in UNDER 19 SGF Foot Ball tournament at Hyderabad District level.

St. Mary's Junior College also conducted Arts and Science Fair on 30th October. Students showed wonderful zeal, there were 152 Projects, 32 Food Court counters, about 400 parents, Students and



visitors visited and appreciated very much the spellbound advanced demos, fluency of their language and Students Subject Knowledge. Students also won Medals in inter College Competitions. -Fr. P. Gnana Reddy, Principal

2. EXSULTATIO SPORTIVA – 2024 REPORT

Exsultatio Sportiva, meaning “Rejoicing in Sports,” is a sports meet organized by the Youth Commission of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad on November 9th and 10th at Don Bosco Navjeevan, Ramanthapur. The event aimed to bring together young Catholics to promote teamwork, discipline, and a spirit of healthy competition through various athletic and team-based games

The day began with a short prayer service followed by a creative march past and the declaration of the opening of the Sports Meet which was graced by Rev. Fr. Arogya Reddy SDB the administrator of Don Bosco Navjeevan.

The day was filled with exciting and competitive events. The activities covered a wide range of sports, including: Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Throwball, Kho Kho, Tug of War, badminton, 100m Race & Relay, Each game was carefully organized, with teams competing fiercely yet maintaining respect for one another. Several teams from various parishes joined in the spirit of healthy competition. Coaches and volunteers actively supported their teams, emphasizing discipline, fair play, and the joy of participation over winning. The unity among teams was evident as players and coaches alike encouraged one another across all games.

Key games like the finals of football and basketball were crowd favorites, with thrilling moments and exceptional performances by standout athletes. Teams had their cheering squads, creating a lively and encouraging atmosphere. The event formally ended by a closing ceremony which was graced by Rev Fr. Bala showry the Vicar General or the Archdiocese of Hyderabad, Rev. Fr. Bali SDB, the Rector of Don Bosco Navjeevan and Rev. Fr. Arogya Reddy SDB administrator of Don Bosco Navjeevan. Winning teams were honored, and participants received certificates and medals, celebrating their efforts and sportsmanship.

The closing ceremony celebrated the accomplishments of each participant, with an emphasis on gratitude and blessings for their athletic and spiritual growth. Trophies and medals were awarded to top teams and outstanding players, recognizing their dedication and skills. Exsultatio Sportiva successfully combined faith and sports, allowing young Catholics to strengthen their bonds, strengthen faith-based friendships and leadership through sports, celebrate their talents, and experience the joy of community. Overall Championship - St Ignatius Church, Gagillapur.

3. PRISON MINISTRY TELANGANA, A UNIT OF PRISON MINISTRY INDIA

CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION (NOVEMBER 14TH 2024)

Children's day celebration with inmates' children at Asha Kiran Home, Gandhi Nagar on 14th November 2024, at 5.00pm. God gave us a wonderful opportunity to us to celebrate children's day with inmates' children specially girls at Asha Kiran Home, Gandhi Nagar.

As we reached Asha Kiran Home entrance gate, the children were so excited to welcome us with big smile on their faces. Sr. Christine Ronaldo, greeted us and gathered all the children and introduced to us. After 15 minutes interaction with children we were served tea and snacks.

Sr. Anitha, the in charge of Asha Kiran Home organized a short prayer followed

by prayer songs and Hymns taught by the sisters. The children sang God's Action songs and some danced on various songs. Sr. Anitha who has very good relationship with neighbors and children called some to Asha home to join the celebration with the inmates' children. Sr. Anitha conducted games for children and arranged gifts for the children. All the children participated in the celebrations which turned out to a grand happy children's day celebration. Sr. Anitha assured us (prison ministry, Telangana) in receiving the inmates children from and through us too in their home. She assured her support and cooperation with the prison ministry Telangana. Distribution of biscuits were done to the children. The secretary, Ms. Regina, gave vote of thanks to Sr. Anitha, Sr. Christine, neighbors and the children for their performance and discipline and cooperation.

Fr. Dion concluded the programme with prayers and blessed the sisters, children and neighbors and wished them happiness and good health.

-Fr. Dion Isaac, State Coordinator P.M.I. Telangana

4. PILGRIMS OF HOPE, JUBILEE PROGRAMME AT ST. MARY'S BASILICA, SECUNDERABAD & AT ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL, GUNFOUNDRY ON 23RD & 24TH NOVEMBER, 2024

We, the Daughters of St Paul for the first time networked with Fr. Dusi Ravi SJ, the Pauline Cooperators and the Archdiocesan Jubilee committee to organize a 90 minute colourful presentation on the Jubilee theme, "Pilgrims of Hope." It was organized at the Deanery level beginning with St Mary's Basilica, Secunderabad. The program began at 7 pm where over 500 people were present including His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony, priests of the Deanery and many religious priests and sisters. The LED screen led beauty to the program of Music, Dance, Drama and visual clippings.

The gathering was welcomed by Sr. Claudette Miranda FSP who also introduced the main theme of the Jubilee Year, "Hope does not disappoint", in an audio-visual presentation prepared by her. The program began with a prayer dance. It was followed by the miracles of Jesus and short dramas of the present day social evils in dance with apt visual clippings. The Cardinal was present till the end of the program and in his message expressed his appreciation of the program and also thanked the community of the Daughters of St Paul.

All the Bharatnatyam dancers were Catholics and hailed from Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, and were tutored by Fr. Dusi Ravi SJ ten years ago at Kaladarshini institute run by the Jesuits in Vijayawada. This program was the brain child of Fr. Dusi Ravi SJ on the theme of the Jubilee Year 2025.

The end of the program was very touching when each dancer brought

liberation to those in bondage with a lighted lamp one by one in dance. The whole program was very captivating as the audience was glued to their chairs and was not aware of how the 90 minutes passed.

At the end, Sr. Nancy D'souza FSP gave the vote of thanks and felicitated the guests and the big donors. She also thanked the Cardinal and the Procurator for their support and also the Dean and the Parish Priests of the Secunderabad Deanery for their collaboration. She also expressed her gratitude to all those who contributed in small ways towards the realization of the program.

The program was very well appreciated by all: the religious and the laity. We will be having the programme in other three Deaneries as well on 29th, 30th and 1st of Dec.
-Srs. Claudette and Vimala, Daughters of St Paul

5. PILGRIMS OF HOPE: CRIB & CAROLS COMPETITIONS, 2024

YOUTH COMMISSION
ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD

Theme: *Pilgrims of Hope*

Crib & Carols 24

List of Competitions

Crib & Carols
Reel Making

Star Making
Drawing & Painting

PARTICIPATE AND WIN EXCITING PRIZES

Save the Date
@ST. ANTHONY'S
CHURCH
SAPPERSLINES

DEC
7th
2024

Last day to register
DECEMBER 1ST

Contact details:

FR. PRANTHI
(DYD)
89787 40848

FR. BARTHOLOMELO
(PARISH PRIEST)
91821 85254

MARIO KEVIN (PRESIDENT): 79952 06361

[youthcomm_hyd123](#)

Regional News

1. STATEMENT OF THE 15TH GBM OF THE CATHOLIC COUNCIL OF INDIA (CCI)

(15th – 17th November 2024)

To the Church of India, The CBCI and the World

The Catholic Council of India (CCI), is the National Pastoral Council of India under CBCI (Catholic Bishops' Conference of India) which has 174 dioceses in 14



regions belonging to the 3 sui juris churches – Latin, Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara. The CCI, as the Indian Church in Council, met from 15th to 17th November 2024 at the Alphonsian Pastoral Institute, Pala, Kerala for the 15th GBM. 175 members representing Catholic Bishops, Priests, Religious, Laity, National Institutions and Offices attended the GBM.

The Theme for the GBM was 'The Vital Role of the Laity in the Socio-Political Context of India'. In light of the Synod on Synodality, the CCI reaffirmed the critical role of the laity in shaping the mission of the Church. The GBM reflected on the role of the laity which is key for a synodal missionary church as exhorted by Pope Francis.

The members declared that we will journey together with all people of goodwill, sharing in each other's joys and sorrows. We want to ensure that our families, communities and institutions continue to imbibe and promote the values of the

Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Indian Constitution. We will also focus on continuous formation of the laity.

We, as baptised Christians, are aware of our duties mandated to us by Jesus Christ to be missionaries in the modern world, witnessing to the Gospel under the guidance and in collaboration with the hierarchy, listening, sharing and discerning under the guidance of the Holy Spirit

Key Commitments and Resolutions:

1. Promoting Constitutional Values, we are proud that we have been at the forefront in our Nation building, especially in the areas of education, health care and social uplift and we commit ourselves to continue this. We are aware that we have to protect human rights, constitutional rights and the rights of women, children and the marginalized.

2. Encouraging Active Participation of the Faithful

- a. The faithful are encouraged to engage actively in the governance of the state.
- b. Members of the CCI are urged to address social, economic and political issues in their neighbourhoods.
- c. The laity should be organized at various levels including youth and other stakeholders, ensuring that the Church's strength is built on their active involvement

3. Strengthening Media and Legal Support

A strong media presence and the establishment of a legal cell are essential for addressing challenges and providing legal advice to the community.

4. Concerns for Vulnerable Communities

We are concerned about the issues pertaining to Manipur, Munambam and other places where our communities are at risk and our institutions are attacked. We pray for an immediate restoration of peace and appeal to the government and all concerned persons to bring in an early and just solution to these matters.

5. Resource Optimization and Economic Empowerment

- a. The Church should leverage institutional structures and human resources effectively.

- b. Entrepreneurship should be encouraged to make the laity self-sufficient and create job opportunities.
- c. The pooling of resources, such as land and financial initiatives, and the creation of laity-led professional organizations at the national level are strongly recommended.
- d. Setting up of databases for networking and employment opportunities need to be initiated.

6. Justice for Dalit Christians and Tribals

- a. The Government must grant Scheduled Caste status and all Constitutional Rights to Dalit Christians.
- b. The CCI opposes any attempts to strip Christian Tribals of their Scheduled Tribe status or delist tribal populations.

7. Constitutional Rights

As law-abiding and responsible citizens of India, we demand the protection of our Fundamental and Minority Rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

8. Care for Creation

- a. In collaboration with our Heavenly Father, we commit to safeguard the earth as our common home, through a culture of 'Care for Creation'.
- b. We will encourage our Parishes to leverage the use of solar energy.

9. Synodality and Jubilee 2025

With Pope Francis approving the final document of the Synod on Synodality, the Church of India commits to embrace the principles of communion, participation, and mission as we move forward towards the Jubilee 2025 – A Journey of Faith.

Spiritual Entrustment: We entrust the Church of India to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as envisioned by Pope Francis in his encyclical *Dilexit Nos* (He Loved Us). We invoke the intercession of our Heavenly Mother Mary and pledge to continue listening, sharing, and discerning, ensuring that our actions are guided by the Holy Spirit.

-Fr. Raju Alex

2. 10TH REGIONAL YOUTH CONVENTION - TELUGU CATHOLIC YOUTH MOVEMENT (TCYM)

Theme: “Those who hope in the Lord, walk without becoming weary” (Isaiah 40:31)

Tagline: “Empowered by Hope, United in Faith”

As we approach the auspicious Jubilee of Youth, that will be celebrated from 28th July to 3rd August 2025, and to which young people aged 18 to 35 years are particularly invited by His Holiness Pope Francis to Rome, TCBC Commission for Youth is honoured to organise the 10th Regional Youth Convention from 11th to 14th January, 2025. At St. Theresa’s Girls High School, Sanathnagar in the Archdioceses of Hyderabad.

The 10th Regional Youth Convention, organized by the Telugu Catholic Youth Movement (TCYM), stands as a crucial platform for the spiritual, social, and personal growth of Catholic youth in the Telugu-speaking region. Drawing inspiration from the profound theme, “Those who hope in the Lord, walk without becoming weary” (Isaiah 40:31), this convention seeks to ignite a deep sense of hope, faith, and perseverance among young Catholics, equipping them to face the challenges of today’s world with unwavering trust in God.

Aim:

The primary aim of this convention is to create a nurturing and empowering environment where Catholic youth can:

- **Deepen their faith:** Foster a stronger connection with God, rooted in the Scripture and teachings of the Church, especially focusing on hope as a central Christian virtue.
- **Build unity and fellowship:** Unite young Catholics from diverse backgrounds to form a supportive community that shares in faith, worship, and mission, strengthening bonds of friendship and solidarity.
- **Empower leadership and social responsibility:** Encourage the youth to be leaders of positive change in their families, communities, and society, living out their faith through service, compassion, and integrity.

- **Provide guidance and mentorship:** Offer spiritual guidance, moral direction, and practical tools for young Catholics to navigate the complexities of modern life, including issues like career, relationships, and social justice, while staying anchored in Christian values.

Importance:

The convention carries immense significance for both the participants and the broader Catholic Church community. Key areas of its importance include:

1. Spiritual Renewal: In an age where many young people are experiencing spiritual fatigue, the convention emphasizes the importance of rekindling hope in God's promises. The theme, drawn from Isaiah 40:31, reminds participants that through faith and hope in the Lord, they can find strength to overcome weariness and challenges.

2. Strengthening Youth Identity: As young Catholics face cultural, societal, and moral pressures, this convention provides a space to affirm and celebrate their identity as followers of Christ. The tagline, "Empowered by Hope, United in Faith," reflects the mission to instill confidence in their Catholic identity and to unite them under a common purpose.

3. Fostering Unity Across Dioceses: The regional nature of this event brings together youth from various dioceses and parishes, promoting inter-community solidarity. This unity is essential for building a cohesive and vibrant Catholic community that can stand as a witness of hope and love in the larger society.

4. Holistic Development: Through workshops, discussions, and spiritual activities, the convention seeks to address the holistic development of youth—spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and socially. The participants will be empowered to live out their faith in every aspect of their lives, becoming agents of transformation in their communities.

5. Inspiring Future Leaders: As the Church looks to the future, the youth are seen as key to its growth and mission. The convention serves as a training ground for nurturing future leaders who are equipped with strong faith, hope, and a deep sense of service, capable of guiding the Church and society towards a more just and compassionate world.

The Jubilee 2025 Regional Youth Convention representing a significant

opportunity for young individuals to engage in a transformative experience that aligns with the broader objectives of the Jubilee of Young People. This program, constitutes a challenge to the youth of the Telugu region to become protagonists of hope and trust in increasingly desperate times. The gathering of 1000 young people will be an opportunity to bond, share their faith, and exchange encouragement through involvement in this historic moment in the life of the Church.

Hence, we invite your participation to enable yourself equipped in Faith and Hope.

Thanking you in anticipation for all your valuable support in our ministry of service.

With Prayerful Regards,

Most Rev. Rayarala Vijaya Kumar
Bishop of Srikakulam &
Chairman - TCBC Commission for Youth.

Rev. Fr. Sagili Praveen Kumar
Regional Secretary
TCBC Commission for Youth

3. AGBM OF FTC HELD ON 27th November, 2024.

The Annual General Body Meeting (AGBM) of Federation of Telugu Churches (FTC) took place on 27th November 2024 at St John's Regional Seminary, Hyderabad. And it was chaired by Most Rev. T. Raja Rao, R.C. Bishop of Vijayawada and Chairman of FTC. There were about 40 participants in all which included Cardinal, Bishops, Heads of various Christian Churches and special invitees from Independent churches and Pastors' Fellowships. Sri Deepak John, the Chairman of the Telangana Christian Minorities Finance Corporation was also present as a special invitee, and he was felicitated by the office-bearers of FTC.



The meeting began with an ecumenical prayer service for Christian unity. The members paid homage to Most. Rev. Thumma Bala, the Catholic Archbishop emeritus of Hyderabad, and Rev. Dr. Ravela Joseph of Telugu Baptist Church who were called to their eternal glory. The Minutes of the previous general body meeting, the Annual Report, and the Statement of accounts were presented by the Secretaries and members discussed on various points arising from the minutes, and the annual report.

The General body appreciated the various activities of FTC in the Telugu region for the last two decades. However, it is important to strengthen the FTC and its activities at the grass roots, by forming the District Action Committees. Hence the General Body decided to speed up the formation of DACs, and in the process to forge partnership and collaboration with different district pastors' fellowships and independent churches. Thus, we will be able to achieve the unity of all Christians and at the same time work together for all Christians in the Telugu region. The meeting concluded with a prayer and benediction.

*-Rev. Fr. Dr. Kondaveeti Anthaiah &
Rev. Dr. U. Daniel, Secretaries of FTC*

4. THE EXTRAORDINARY TCBC MEETING AT ST. JOHN'S REGIONAL SEMINARY RAMANTHAPUR FROM 27TH TO 29TH NOVEMBER, 2024



International News

The Spirit and the Bride. The Holy Spirit guides the people of God towards Jesus our hope.

1. A LETTER WRITTEN WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD: MARY AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

Dear brothers and sisters,

Among the various means by which the Holy Spirit implements His work of sanctification in the Church – the Word of God, the Sacraments, prayer – there is one in entirely particular, and it is Marian piety. In the Catholic tradition there is this motto, this saying: “Ad Iesum per Mariam”, that is, “to Jesus by means of Mary”. Our Lady lets us see Jesus. She opens the doors to us, always! Our Lady is the mother who leads us by the hand towards Jesus. Our Lady never points to herself, Our Lady points to Jesus. And this is Marian piety: to Jesus by the hands of Our Lady. The true and only mediator between us and Christ, indicated as such by Jesus Himself, is the Holy Spirit. Mary is one of the means the Holy Spirit uses to bring us to Jesus [1].

Saint Paul defines the Christian community as “a letter of Christ administered by us, written not in ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets that are hearts of flesh” (2 Cor ;3:3). Mary, as the first disciple and figure of the Church, is also a letter written with the Spirit of the living God. Precisely for this reason, she can be “known and read by all” (2 Cor 3:2), even those who do not know how to read theology books, those “little ones” to whom Jesus says that the mysteries of the Kingdom, hidden to the wise, are revealed (cf. Mt 11:25).

By saying her “Yes” – when Mary accepts and says to the Angel, “Yes, let the Lord’s will be done” and accepts to be the mother of Jesus – it is as though Mary said to God: “Here I am, I am a tablet to be written on: let the Writer write what he wants, make of me what the Lord of all wishes” [2]. At that time, people

wrote on waxed tablets; today we would say that Mary offers herself like a blank page on which the Lord can write whatever He wants. Mary's "Yes" to the Angel – as a renowned exegete wrote – represents "the apex of all religious behaviour before God, since she expresses, in the highest manner, passive availability combined with active readiness, the deepest emptiness that accompanies the greatest fullness" [3].

This, then, is how the Mother of God is an instrument of the Holy Spirit in His work of sanctification. In the midst of the endless profusion of words said and written about God, the Church and holiness (that very few, or no-one, is able to read and understand fully), she suggests a few words that everyone, even the simplest, can say on any occasion: "behold" and "let it be done". Mary is the one who said "Yes" to the Lord, and with her example and by her intercession urges us to say our "Yes" to Him too, whenever we are faced with an act of obedience to perform or a trial to overcome.

In every age of our history, but in particular at this time, the Church finds herself in the same situation as the Christian community in the aftermath of Jesus' Ascension to heaven. It had to preach the Gospel to all nations, but was awaiting the "power from on high" in order to be able to do it. And let us not forget that, at that time, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles, the disciples were gathered around "Mary the mother of Jesus" (Acts 1:14).

It is true that there were also other women together with her in the Upper Room, but her presence is different and unique among them all. Between her and the Holy Spirit there is a unique and eternally indestructible bond that is the very person of Christ Himself, "who was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary", as we recite in the Creed. The evangelist Luke deliberately highlights the correlation between the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Mary in the Annunciation and His coming to the disciples at Pentecost, using some identical expressions in both cases.

Saint Francis of Assisi, in one of his prayers, greets Our Lady as "daughter and handmaid of the heavenly Father, the almighty King, Mother of our most high Lord Jesus Christ, and Spouse of the Holy Spirit" [4]. Daughter of the Father,

Spouse of the Holy Spirit! The unique relationship between Mary and the Trinity could not be illustrated in simpler words.

Like all images, this one of the “Spouse of the Holy Spirit” must not be rendered absolute, but taken for that amount of truth it contains, and it is a very beautiful truth. She is the bride, but before that, she is the disciple of the Holy Spirit. Bride and disciple. Let us learn from her to be docile to the inspirations of the Spirit, especially when He suggests to us to “arise in haste” and go to help someone who needs us, as she did straight after the angel left her (cf. Lk 1:39). Thank you!

Special greetings:

I greet all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today’s Audience, especially the groups from England, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, the Philippines, and the United States. In a particular way, I greet the priests, consecrated persons and seminarians from Tanzania, who have come to Rome for their studies. Upon all of you, and upon your families, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you!

Summary of the Holy Father’s words:

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

In our continuing catechesis on the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church, we now consider the Spirit’s unique relationship with the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the Spirit’s work of leading us to Jesus, Our Lady plays a privileged role. Saint Francis of Assisi once described Mary as the Spouse of the Holy Spirit, since by her fiat – her “yes” to the Father’s plan – she became the Mother of the incarnate Son of God. Filled with the Spirit, Our Lady became the first disciple of the Lord and the model of all Christian discipleship. Through her maternal presence and intercession, may she teach us to be docile like her to the promptings of the Spirit, to seek God’s will in prayer and to go forth in charity to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters.

2. THE BRIDE'S GIFTS. THE CHARISMS, GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT FOR COMMON USE

In the last three catecheses, we talked about the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit which is implemented in the sacraments, in prayer and by following the example of the Mother of God. But let us listen to what a famous text from Vatican II says: "It is not only through the sacraments and the ministries of the Church that the Holy Spirit sanctifies and leads the people of God and enriches it with virtues, but, 'allotting his gifts to everyone according as He wills'" (cf. *1 Cor* 12:11) (*Lumen gentium*, 12). We too have personal gifts that the Spirit gives to each one of us.

Therefore, the moment has arrived to talk also about this second way the Holy Spirit works, which is charismatic action. Two elements contribute to defining what charism is. A somewhat difficult word, I will explain it. First, the charism is the gift given "for the common good" (*1 Cor* 12:7), to be useful to everyone. It is not, in other words, destined principally and ordinarily for the sanctification of the person, but for the "service" of the community (cf. *1 Pt* 4:10). This is the first aspect. Secondly, the charism is the gift given "to one", or "to some" in particular, not to everyone in the same way, and this is what distinguishes it from sanctifying grace, from the theological virtues and from the sacraments, which instead are the same and common to all. The charism is given to a specific person or community. It is a gift that God gives you.

The Council explains this too. The Holy Spirit, it says, "distributes special graces among the faithful of every rank. By these gifts He makes them fit and ready to undertake the various tasks and offices which contribute toward the renewal and building up of the Church, according to the words of the Apostle: 'The manifestation of the Spirit is given to everyone for profit'" (*1 Cor* 12:7).

The charisms are the "jewels" or the ornaments that the Holy Spirit distributes to make the Bride of Christ more beautiful. One can thus understand why the Conciliar text ends with the following exhortation: "These charisms, whether they be the more outstanding or the more simple and widely diffused,

are to be received with thanksgiving and consolation for they are perfectly suited to and useful for the needs of the Church” .s

Pope Benedict XVI affirmed: “Anyone who considers the history of the post-conciliar era can recognize the process of true renewal, which often took unexpected forms in living movements and made almost tangible the inexhaustible vitality of the holy Church”. And this is the charism given to a group, through a person.

We must rediscover the charisms, because this ensures that the promotion of the laity, and of women in particular, is understood not only as an institutional and sociological fact, but also in its biblical and spiritual dimension. Indeed, the laity are not the least, no, they laity are not a form of external collaborator or auxiliary troops of the clergy, no! They have their own charisms and gifts with which to contribute to the mission of the Church.

Let us add another thing: when we talk about the charisms, we must immediately dispel a misunderstanding: that of identifying them with spectacular or extraordinary gifts and capabilities; instead, they are ordinary gifts – each one of us has his or her own charism – that assume extraordinary value if inspired by the Holy Spirit and embodied with love in situations of life. Such an interpretation of the charism is important, because many Christians, when they hear talk of charisms, experience sadness or disappointment, as they are convinced that they do not possess any, and feel they are excluded or second-class Christians. No, they are not second-class Christians, no, each person has his or her own personal, and also community charism. Saint Augustine responded to these in his time with a very eloquent comparison: ‘If you love,’ he told his people, “If you love, it is not nothing that you have: if you love unity, whoever has anything in that unity has it also for you. In the body, the eye alone sees; but is it for itself alone that the eye sees? It sees both for the hand and the foot, and for all the other members”.

This reveals the secret of why charity is defined by the Apostle as “a still more excellent way” (*1 Cor* 12, 31): it makes me love the Church, or the community in which I live and, in unity, all charisms, not just some, are “mine”,

just as “my” charisms, little though they may seem, belong to all and are for the good of all. Charity multiplies charisms; it makes the charism of one, of one individual person, the charism of all. Thank you!

Special greetings:

I extend a warm welcome to the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today’s Audience, especially those coming from Norway, Australia, South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines and the United States of America. Upon all of you, and upon your families, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ! God bless you!

Summary of the Holy Father’s words:

Dear brothers and sisters: In our catechesis on the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church, we now turn from the Spirit’s work of sanctification to his building up the Body of Christ through the outpouring of charismatic gifts. Charisms, in all their rich variety, are special graces bestowed on individuals for the upbuilding of the Church in unity and holiness. The Second Vatican Council spoke of the importance of the particular charisms granted to the laity, by which they, and women in particular, contribute to the Church’s mission. Saint Paul reminds us that these gifts, great and small, are at the service of charity, the love of Christ which is their source and to which they are directed. Let us thank the Spirit for adorning the Church with these manifold gifts and ask him to continue to bestow them in abundance.

ANNOUNCEMENT AND APPEAL

On the occasion of the International Day of the Rights of Children and Adolescents, held today, I wish to announce that next 3 February the *World Meeting on Children’s Rights*, entitled “Love them and protect them”, will take place here in the Vatican, with the participation of experts and figures from various countries. It will be an opportunity to identify new ways of assisting and protecting millions of children who are still without rights, who live in

precarious conditions, who are exploited and abused, and who suffer the dramatic consequences of wars.

There is a group of children preparing for this Day, thanks to all of you who are doing this. And here, there is a brave girl who is coming here... now they are all coming! Children are like that: one starts and then they all come” Let us greet the children! Thank you! Good morning!

I want to say that next year, during the Jubilee for Adolescents, I will canonize Blessed Carlo Acutis, and that on the Jubilee for Young People, next year, I will canonize Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati.

Yesterday marked one thousand days since the invasion of Ukraine, a tragic milestone for the victims and for the destruction it has caused, but at the same time a shameful catastrophe for the whole of humanity! However, this must not discourage us from continuing to stand beside the tormented Ukrainian people, nor from imploring for peace and working to make weapons give way to dialogue and confrontation to encounter.

The other day I received a letter from a university student from Ukraine, which said: “Father, when on Wednesday you remember my country, and will have the opportunity to speak to the entire world about the thousandth day of this terrible war, I beg you, do not speak only of our sufferings, but also bear witness to our faith: although it is imperfect, its value does not diminish, it paints a picture of the Risen Christ with painful brushstrokes. These days there have been too many deaths in my life. Living in a city where a missile kills and injures dozens of civilians, witnessing so many tears is difficult. I would have liked to escape, I would have liked to go back to being a child embraced by my mother, I would have liked to be in silence and love, but I thank God because through this pain, I learn to love more. Pain is not just a path to anger and despair; if it is based on faith, it is a good teacher of love. Father, if pain hurts, it means that you love; therefore, when you speak of our pain, when you remember the thousand days of suffering, remember also the thousand days of love, because only love, faith and hope give true meaning to the wounds”. This is what was written by this Ukrainian university student.

Dates & Events to Remember

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| 03. St. Francis Xavier [Sol] | 13. St. Lucy, Vg & Mrtr, [M] |
| 04. St. John Damascene, Pr& Dr [M] | 14. St. John of the Cross Pr& Dr [M] |
| 06. St. Nicholas [M] | 25. Nativity of the Lord [Sol] |
| 07. St. Ambrose, Bp& Dr [M] | 26. St. Stephen, Mrtr, [F] |
| 09. Immaculate Conception of BVM [Sol] | 27. St. John Apostle & Evangelist [F] |
| 10. Our Lady of Loretto [OP. M] | 28. Holy Innocents, Mrtr [F] |
| 11. St. Damascus I, Pope [OP.M] | 29. The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph [F] |
| 12. Our Lady of Guadalupe [OP.M] | |

Happy Birthday Dear Fathers

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 01. Fr. T. Lourdu | 16. Fr. Madanu John |
| 05. Fr. Allam Arogya Reddy | 16. Fr. Madanu Anthony (Jr.) |
| 06. Fr. Bandanadam Showry Prabhakar | 21. Fr. Madanu Chinnaiah |
| 07. Fr. Golamari Louis Reddy | 25. Fr. Polisetty Balaswamy |
| 11. Fr. Mayaluru Jeevan Kumar | 26. Fr. Madanu Hruday Kumar |
| 13. Fr. Gangarapu Balaswamy | 26. Fr. Madanu Balashowry |
| 13. Fr. Thirumalareddy Anthony | 31. Fr. Daniel Selvaraj |



Happy Ordination day Dear Fathers

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 09. Fr. Bandanadam Showry Prabhakar | 19. Fr. T. Lourdu |
| 15. Fr. Vedamuthu Kulandai Swamy | 29. Fr. David Francis |
| 18. Fr. Yeddanapalli M. Joseph | 29. Fr. Golamari Arogya Reddy |



Necrology

19. Fr. C. Arogyam
 25. Fr. T. C. Rayappa
 28. Most Rev. Daniel Murphy

MAY ALL THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED, THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE. AMEN.

Local news items, which might be of interest to the Archdiocese may be addressed to :

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**BLESSING OF NEW PRESBYTERY
AT ST. ANN'S CHURCH, NIZAMABAD
ON 09TH NOVEMBER, 2024**



**FOUNDATION OF NEW PRESBYTERY AT
ST. MATHIA'S PARISH, JOJIPET ON 23RD NOVEMBER, 2024**





*Feast Day
3 Dec, 2024*

*St. Francis Xavier
Pray for us*

Hearty Congratulations

His Holiness Pope Francis Appointed
Msgr. Pilli Anthony Das
as the Coadjutor Bishop of Nellore

His **Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony**,
Clergy, Religious & Faithful of
the Archdiocese of Hyderabad
Wish **Msgr. Pilli Anthony Das**
All the Best and God's Blessings.

Episcopal Ordination: 09th January, 2025

