SHEPHERD'S CALL

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD

VOL: LIII NO.11 NOVEMBER 2026

Christ the King

15th NOVEMBER, 2026 IS THE BIRTHDAY OF
HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL POOLA ANTHONY
WE THE CLERGY, RELIGIOUS & LAY
FAITHFUL WISH A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY & GOD'S BLESSINGS.

National Day of Intercession and 10th Anniversary of the Eucharistic Miracle at St. Mary's Basilica, Secunderabad

Cardinal Poola Anthony Congratulates Newly Ordained Deacons of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad

Dn Pasala Kalyan Dn Govind Akhil Dn Fabian Sebastian

VOL : LIII NO. 011

SHEPHERD'S CALL

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD

NOVEMBER 2026

Archbishop's Message

CHRIST THE KING

After becoming the promised servant of His Eternal Father by receiving John's baptism 'to give his life as a ransom for the many' (Mk.1:9-11; 10:45; Is.52:13 -53:12), Jesus, as the Son sent by His Eternal Father to give eternal life to all those who will believe in Him, proclaimed to all the people of the Remnant of Israel (Mk.1:15) that the kingdom of God promised by His Eternal Father to their fore-fathers in Babylon through His prophet Ezekiel was about to be established in all its truth and power: "Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among whom they have gone and I will gather them … and make them one nation and one king shall be king over them all…My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in My commandments and be careful to observe My statutes (Ez.37:21-24)." "I will remove from within you the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes and be careful to obey My commandments… and you shall be My people and I will be your God (Ez.26:26-27)." "I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them….I will set My sanctuary in their midst forever more. My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God and they shall be My people. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst for ever more (Ez.37:26-28)." This is the kingdom that the Son our Lord

Jesus Christ brought into existence in our world in Jerusalem on Pentecost day through His sacrificial death on the Cross, His bodily resurrection from the dead in His own Holy Spirit, and His bodily ascension to His Eternal Father in His own Holy Spirit to be definitively enthroned at His Eternal Father's right hand as His promised Lord, Christ and high priest according to the order of Melchisedek:

"Sit at My right hand until I make your enemies a foot stool for you. The Lord sends forth from Zion your sceptre of power. Rule in the midst of all your enemies,,,You are a priest forever, a priest according to the order of Melchisedek (Ps.110:1-4)".

It is a visible kingdom because the keys of this kingdom and the power to bind and to loose was given by Christ to the Petrine office of His Apostolic ministry in the person of Peter. One enters this visible kingdom of God and of His Son our Lord Jesus Christ, by being born of water and the Holy Spirit in our Lord's sacrament of baptism in His one holy Catholic Church in order to obtain God's promised salvation of immortality and divine glory in Christ, by loving God with all one's mind, heart and soul and one's neighbour as oneself, by unrelentingly fulfilling one's baptismal promise to renounce Satan and all his empty promises of attaining happiness by fulfilling the three sinful needs (the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life) created by him for every man's personal life in his or her psychological self. The supernatural nature and dynamics of the internal life of this kingdom is bodied forth in the existence, internal life and works of mercy in the communities of the baptized in the length and breadth of this global ecclesial kingdom.

The citizens of this kingdom presently join in Christ's warfare against the kingdom of the Devil on earth and will join in the glory of Christ in heaven through a holy death at the end of their earthly pilgrimage of faith, hope and charity to Him and to His Eternal Father in their one Holy Spirit. This present kingdom of heaven on earth will become the everlasting kingdom of the Father on the day of Christ's Parousia when He will raise us from the dead to share the glory of His divine Sonship in our human bodies and hand us over the His eternal Father as His everlasting gift. And we express our longing for this day every time Christ exercises His high priesthood of the order of Melchisedek in the daily Mass in order to sanctify us and bear witness to the truth of the Father's promises as He had personally declared to Pilate.

Solemnities and Feasts

November 01

All Saints Day [Feast]

All Saints' Day is a solemn holy day of the Catholic Church celebrated annually on November 1. The day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who have attained heaven. It should not be confused with All Souls' Day, which is observed on November 2, and is dedicated to those who have died and not yet reached heaven.

Although millions, or even billions of people may already be saints, All Saints' Day observances tend to focus on known saints —that is those recognized in the canon of the saints by the Catholic Church. All Saints' Day is also commemorated by members of the Eastern Orthodox Church as well as some protestant churches, such as Lutheran and Anglican Churches.

Generally, All Saints' Day is a Catholic Holy Day of Obligation, meaning all Catholics are required to attend Mass on that day, unless they have an excellent excuse, such as serious illness. Other countries have different rules according to their national bishop's conferences. The bishops of each conference have the authority to amend the rules surrounding the obligation of the day.

All Saints' Day was formally started by Pope Boniface IV, who consecrated the Pantheon at Rome to the Virgin Mary and all the Martyrs on May 13 in 609 AD. Boniface IV also established All Souls' Day, which follows All Saints.

source: www.catholic.org

November 02

All Souls' Day

All Souls Day is a holy day set aside for honoring the dead. The day is primarily celebrated in the Catholic Church, but it is also celebrated in the Eastern Orthodox Church and a few other denominations of Christianity. The Anglican church is the largest protestant church to celebrate the holy day. Most protestant denominations do not recognize the holiday and disagree with the theology behind it.

According to Catholic belief, the soul of a person who dies can go to one of three places. The first is heaven, where a person who dies in a state of perfect grace and communion with God goes. The second is hell, where those who die in a state of mortal sin are naturally condemned by their

choice. The intermediate option is purgatory, which is thought to be where most people, free of mortal sin, but still in a state of lesser (venial) sin, must go.

Purgatory is necessary so that souls can be cleansed and perfected before they enter into heaven. There is scriptural basis for this belief. The primary reference is in 2 Maccabees, 12:26 and 12:32. "Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out... Thus, made atonement for the dead that they might be free from sin."

Source: www.catholic.org

November 04

St. Charles Borromeo

The life of St Charles Borromeo can be seen to run between the two poles of "boy bishop" and "giant of sanctity," in a period of time that corresponded to his pastoral action.

The young Charles progressed quickly, even as a child. He was born in Arona in 1538, the second son of Gilbert and Margaret. At the age of 12 he was given the title of "commendatory" of a nearby Benedictine Abbey. The honorific title came with a notable income, but the future Saint insisted on dedicating the revenue to charity, especially the care of the poor.

His pastoral ministry, stimulated by his love of Christ, nonetheless met with hostility and resistance. One group, the so-called "Humiliati" – a doctrinally suspect religious order – organised an attempt on his life. While praying in his chapel, the future Saint was shot at with an arquebus; however, the bullet failed to penetrate his vestments, and his life was saved. This was considered a miracle, and Charles was able to continue his mission because, as Pope Francis said, "he wanted Pastors who would be servants of God and fathers to their people, especially the poor".

Source: www.vaticannews.va

November 09

Dedication Of Lantern Basilica [Feast]

Most Catholics think of St. Peter's as the pope's main church, but they are wrong. St. John Lateran is the pope's church, the cathedral of the Diocese of Rome where the Bishop of Rome presides.

The feast of the Dedication of the Basilica of St. John Lateran is celebrated by the entire Church. It marks the dedication of the cathedral church of Rome by Pope Sylvester I in 324. This church is the cathedra (or chair) of the bishop of Rome, who is the Pope. A Latin inscription in the Church reads: "omnium ecclesiarum Urbis et Orbis mater et caput." Translated, this

means, "The mother and head of all churches of the city and of the world."

The basilica was originally named the Archbasilica of the Most Holy Savior. However, it is called St. John Lateran because it was built on property donated to the Church by the Laterani family, and because the monks from the monastery of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Divine served it.

Source: www.catholicnewsagency.com

November 21

The Presentation of The Blessed Virgin Mary

The Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Temple recalls – according to the apocryphal gospels, the day on which Mary, while still a child, was brought to the temple in Jerusalem to be offered to God. The Church wants to emphasize not so much the historical event in itself, of which there is no trace in the Gospels, but the total gift that Mary made of herself, by listening: "*Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and observe it"* (Lk. 11:28). This experience prepared the young girl from Nazareth to become the "temple of the Son of God".

The celebration of this feast dates back to the 6th century in the East with the dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary the New built by the Emperor Justinian I near the ruins of the temple in Jerusalem. There is evidence that various monasteries in Italy celebrated the feast in the 9th century. It was not until the 15th century that it was included in the Roman Missal.

This is also the on which the Church celebrates the World Day of Cloistered Life, established by Pope Pius XII in 1953.

Source: www.vaticannews.va

November 30

St.Andrew, Apostle [Feast]

St. Andrew, also known as Andrew the Apostle, was a Christian Apostle and the older brother to St. Peter.

According to the New Testament, Andrew was born in the village of Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee during the early first century. Much like his younger brother, Simon Peter, Andrew was also a fisherman. Andrew's very name means strong and he was known for having good social skills.

In the Gospel of Matthew, it is said Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee and saw Andrew and Simon Peter fishing. It is then he asked the two to become disciples and "fishers of men."

In the Gospel of Luke, Andrew is not initially named. It describes Jesus using a boat, believed to be solely Simon's, to preach to the multitudes and catch a large amount of fish on a night that originally was dry. Later, in Luke 5:7, it mentions Simon was not the only fisherman on the boat, but it is not until Luke 6:14 that there is talk of Andrew being Simon Peter's brother.

However, the Gospel of John tells a separate story, stating Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist. When Jesus walked by one day, John the Baptist stated, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" It is then that Andrew and another made the decision to follow Jesus.

Source: www.catholic.org

POPE'S INTENTION: NOVEMBER, 2026

For the proper use of wealth: Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be at the service of the common good and in solidarity with those who have less.

CARDINAL'S INTENTION: NOVEMBER, 2026

Let us pray for all abandoned and forgotten souls, that they may experience God's loving presence, mercy and eternal peace.

LOCAL MASS INTENTIONS

DATE	PARISH/INDIVIDUAL	NO. OF MASSES
26-09-2026	SECUNDERABAD	1000
29-09-2026	REV.FR.DAVID FRANCIS (Sec-Bad)	40
30-09-2026	DAMMAIGUDA	65
06-10-2026	SULTAN BAZAR	90
13-10-2026	MARIAPURAM- ADIBATLA	6
14-10-2026	GUNFOUNDRY	133
19-10-2026	REV. FR. L. MENEZES (Emjala)	10
28-10-2026	METTUGUDA	6000
		7344

Archbishop's Engagements

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

NOVEMBER 2026

01.	Sun	09.00 a.m.	: First Holy Communion & Confirmation at St. John Vianney Church, Bhoiguda
02.	Mon	03.30 p.m.	: All Souls Day Mass at Mettuguda Cemetery
		05.30 p.m.	: All Souls Day Mass at Bhoiguda Cemetery, Secunderabad.
03.	Tue		: In Office
04.	Wed	09.00 a.m.	: Inaugural Session of the National Consultation of the CBCI Office for SC/BC, St. John's Seminary, Ramanthapur
06.	Fri		: Platinum Jubilee Inauguration of Xavier Board, St Joseph's Engineering College, Palai Kerala
08.	Sun	09.30 a.m.	: First Holy Communion & Confirmations at Shrine of Our Lady of Good Health, Khairathabad
09.	Mon		: In Office
10-13.	Tue-Fri		: Occupied
15.	Sun	09.30 a.m.	: First Holy Communion & Confirmations at Holy Family Church, Trimulgherry
		05.00 p.m.	: First Holy Communion, Confirmations and Festive Mass at St Cecilia's Church, Dayanand Nagar
16-17.	Mon-Tue		: In Office
19.	Thu	10.30 a.m.	: Final Profession of Sisters of Charity, Shrine of Our Lady of Good Health, Khairathabad

20.	Fri	05.30 p.m.	: Annual Day, Holy Angels CBSE School, Bolarum
21.	Sat	09.30 a.m.	: Perpetual Profession of St. Ann's of Phirangipuram CSSA Sisters, Madinaguda
		07.00 p.m.	: Festival Choristers at St Mary's College of Pharmacy, Secunderabad
22.	Sun	08.00 a.m.	: First Holy Communion & Confirmations at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry
		10.00 a.m	: Festive Mass, First Holy Communion & Confirmations at Christ the King Church, Ramanthapur
23.	Mon		: In Office
24-28.	Tue-Sat		: Plenary Assembly, Rome
29.	Sun		: CLASS Awards

TENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS: DECEMBER 2026

04.	Fri	05.00 p.m.	: Sapphire Jubilee of St. Ann's Junior College for Girls, Mehdipatnam.
05.	Sat		: HAES Sports Meet Valedictory Function, Gagillapuram
06.	Sun	09.30 a.m.	: First Holy Communion & Confirmations at St. Mary's Minor Basilica, Secunderabad
		05.00 p.m.	: Christmas Programme- Healing Hands at St. Mary's School, Secunderabad
08.	Tue	06.00 p.m.	: Festive Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Bandlines
09.	Wed	04.00 p.m.	: Centenary Jubilee Celebrations of St. John's Regional Seminary, Ramanathapur
10.	Thu	9.30 a.m.	: Clergy Recollection and Christmas Get-together

12.	Sat	05.00 p.m.	: Golden Jubilee Celebrations of SFS School, Shanthinagar
13.	Sun	10.30 a.m.	: First Holy Communion & Confirmations at St. Stanislaus Church, Gaddianaram
14.	Mon	09.30 a.m.	: Science Exhibition at St. Joseph's High School, Trimulgherry
24.	Thu		: Christmas Midnight Mass at St. Mary's Minor Basilica, Secunderabad
25.	Fri	09.15 a.m.	: Christmas Day Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry
27.	Sun	09.30 a.m.	: First Holy Communion & Confirmations at St. Joseph's Church, Bolarum
29.	Tue	10.30 a.m.	: Annual Feast of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Basuregadi
30.	Wed	04.00 p.m.	: Holy Matrimony at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Bowenpally
31.	Thu	11.30 p.m.	: New Year Midnight Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry

31st October 2026
Archbishop's House

✠ **Cardinal Poola Anthony**
Archbishop of Hyderabad

Communications

1. MASSES ON ALL SOULS' DAY (02 NOVEMBER) AND INDULGENCES IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

A. Celebration of Masses on All Souls' Day, All Souls Day Liturgy Proper:

Every priest is permitted to celebrate three Masses on *All Souls' Day* (2nd November), accepting a stipend only for one Mass.

- First Mass: May be offered for any intention, and a stipend may be accepted for this Mass.
- Second Mass: Must be offered for all the faithful departed.
- Third Mass: Must be offered for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff.

B. Plenary Indulgence (applicable only to the Souls in Purgatory)

- A Plenary Indulgence is granted to any of the faithful who, on one of the days from 1st to 8th November, devoutly visit a cemetery and pray, even if only mentally, for the deceased.
- A Plenary Indulgence may also be gained by visiting a church or chapel with devotion on All Souls' Day (or, with the permission of the Ordinary, on the preceding or following Sunday, or on All Saints' Day), and there reciting the "Our Father" and the "Creed."

C. Partial Indulgence (applicable only to the Souls in Purgatory)

A Partial Indulgence is granted to any of the faithful who:

- Devoutly visit a cemetery or pray mentally for the deceased; or
- Devoutly recite Lauds or Vespers of the *Office of the Dead*, or the invocation:
  "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord."
  And let perpetual light shine upon them, O Lord.

2. DEANERY LEVEL MONTHLY RECOLLECTION:

All the Deans are here-by requested to conduct the Monthly Recollection at Deanery level in the month of November, 2026. All the clergy are requested to attend the "Deanery Level Recollection" and if anyone is unable to attend the recollection, please inform the respective Deans. All the Deans are here-by requested to note down the minutes of the meetings with the list of the participants and send a copy of the same to the Archbishop's House, Secunderabad.

3. THE CHRISTMAS RECOLLECTION AND GET-TOGETHER ON 10th DECEMBER, 2026:

Archdiocesan level Recollection for all the Pastoral Clergy and the Christmas Get-together for the Archdiocesan Clergy is arranged at Archbishop's House on 10th December, 2026 from 9:30 am to 1 pm and from 3 pm onwards respectively.

4. ALL SOULS DAY CELEBRATION

I sincerely appreciate the Parish Priests, the Graveyard Committees and all the faithful of various Cemeteries in the Archdiocese who worked together to make the All Souls' Day celebration meaningful, prayerful and dignified. Your dedication, careful arrangements and active participation reflect our deep love and respect for the departed and our enduring hope in the Resurrection. May God bless you abundantly for your commitment and service.

CHANCERY NOTICE

1. THE INTERIM AUDIT OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD SOCIETY:

Please follow the guidelines and Instructions from the Auditors, sent through Email and WhatsApp.

2. MISSION SUNDAY CONTRIBUTIONS 2026:

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, which will be forwarded as per the instructions of National Office. The religious Houses, convents, institutions can handover cheques directly at Archbishop's House and obtain the receipt.

3. 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 October, 2026. Please contact Procurator's office for details of your parish/institute dues.

4. ORDO:

This is to inform you that the ORDO 2026–2027 of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad will be released on **Monday, 16th November 2026**, on the occasion of the Birthday of His Grace, the Archbishop. As 15th November falls on a Sunday this year, the Birthday celebration has been moved to 16th November. Copies of the ORDO may be purchased from the Archbishop's House office after the release, at a cost of **Rs. 50 per copy**.

2ND SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2026

Sl No.	Date	Place	Amount	Sl No.	Date	Place	Amount
1		Armoor		54		Lillipur	
2		Aliabad		55		Mahendra Hills	
3		Alirajpet		56	21-09-2026	Madinaguda	2500
4	16-09-2026	Alwal	12440	57	21-09-2026	Mallapur	998
5		Ammuguda		58		Manikonda Mission	
6		Arogya Nagar (Mission)		59	13-10-2026	Mariapuram (Adibatla)	1000
7	09-10-2026	Arul Colony	9962	60		Medak	
8		Balaji Nagar		61		Medchal	
9		Band Lines		62	24-10-2026	Medipally	2500
10	22-09-2026	Bandlaguda Jagir	35000	63		Mettuguda	
11	07-10-2026	Banjara Hills	14700	64		Miyapur	
12		Basuregadi		65		Moul-Ali	
13		Bayyaram		66		Mudfort	
14		Bazarghat		67		Muthangi	
15	21-09-2026	BHEL - MIG	6000	68		Nacharam	
16	26-10-2026	Begumpet	5850	69		Nandrakal	
17		Bodhan		70		Nedunoor	
18		Boduppal		71		Neela Camp	
19		Bhoiguda		72	24-08-2026	Nizamabad	1500
20		Bolarum		73		Nizampet	
21	16-09-2026	Bolligudem	1500	74		Pargi	
22		Borabanda		75		Patancheru	
23	09-09-2026	Bowenpally	10000	76	21-09-2026	Ramachandrapuram	8200
24		Cherlapally		77		Ramanthapur	
25		Chintalacheruvu		78	24-09-2026	Ramnagar	15000
26		Church Colony		79		Sadasivpet	
27	30-09-2026	Dammaiguda	11200	80		Sainikpuri	
28		Dharmaram		81	29-09-2026	Sanathnagar	19000
29		Dayanandnagar		82		Sangareddy	
30		Emjala		83	21-09-2026	Santhoshnagar	2000
31		Gaddiannaram		84		Sappers Lines	
32		Gagillapuram		85		Secunderabad	
33		Gajwel		86		Shabad	
34	24-09-2026	Gandhinagar	7127	87	21-09-2026	Shamshabad	2500
35		Garrison (Trimulgherry)		88	09-09-2026	Shanthinagar	2960
36	21-09-2026	Ghatkesar	800	89		Shapurnagar	
37		Golconda		90		Siddipet	
38	01-10-2026	Godumakunda	800	91		Seethaphalmandi	
39	15-09-2026	Gunfoundry	16400	92	06-10-2026	Sultan Bazar	4000
40	21-09-2026	Jadi Jamalpur	250	93	16-09-2026	Suraram	3000
41	15-09-2026	Jagadgirigutta	3500	94		Tandur	
42		Jahanuma		95		Toopran	
43		Jeedimetla		96	23-09-2026	Trimulgherry	32500
44		Jeeva Jala		97		Uminthal	
45		Jogipet		98		Vanasthalipuram	
46		Jojipet		99		Venkatapuram	
47		Kalwakole		100		Vikarabad	
48		Kamareddy		101	10-09-2026	Yapral	10000
49		Khairatabad		102	21-09-2026	Yeddumylaram	400
50		Kissan Nagar		103		Yellareddy	
51	21-09-2026	Kukatpally	30000	104	17-09-2026	Zaheerabad	800
52	15-09-2026	Lallaguda	12000			**Total**	**287189**
53	03-10-2026	L. B. Nagar	802				

Pastoral News

1. ANNUAL FEAST OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS CHURCH, JAHANUMA BOYS TOWN ON 13TH SEPTEMBER 2026.

His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony, Archbishop of Hyderabad, inaugurated the new wooden church door and Holy Mass, and celebrated the Annual Feast of our Lady of Sorrows Church, Jahanuma, Hyd.

Our Lady of Sorrows Church came alive with vibrant celebrations as the local community and faithful of twin cities gathered to welcome our Archbishop with a welcome dance. Our parish children with the Jharkhand women and men dance, along with our parish priest Rev. Fr. A. S. Tony along with other priests of Rev. Fr. Rajulu, Rev. Fr. Dominic Savio, Rev. Fr. Daniel Selvaraj, Rev. Fr. Vijay Joseph, Rev. Fr. Joseph with council members went in procession to the church.Our Archbishop inaugurated the new wooden door, then followed by a welcome dance.

Our parish priest Rev. Fr. A. S. Tony welcomed the Archbishop, priests, religious, parishioners and all the faithful, followed by Solemn High Mass led by Bishop with co-celebrants of priests.

The Liturgy was filled with special readings, hymns and prayers that paid tribute to our Mother Mary.The congregation devotees joined together in procession in the Boys Town campus, and returned to the church. The celebrations concluded with a Benediction, marking the day with joy, healing and spiritual reflections.Rev. Fr. A. S. Tony felicitated the Archbishop and all the priests with a shawl and mementos for the token of love and appreciation.

Council Secretary Mr. A. Lawrence proposed a vote of thanks, making this year's feast a memorable and meaningful event, followed by fellowship lunch for all the faithful.

Archdiocesan News

1. REPORT ON MARRIAGE AND FAMILY COUNSELLING TRAINING PROGRAMME

The Marriage and Family Counselling Training Programme was successfully conducted over a period of four months, comprising 72 hours of training, under the aegis of Peyton Institute for Families, Bengaluru with the collaborative effort of Family Apostolate, Archdiocese of Hyderabad. All sessions were held on Saturdays at Jeevan Jyoti, Begumpet. A total of 11 participants successfully completed the programme and were awarded certificates.

The programme provided participants with valuable theoretical knowledge and practical, hands-on experience in marriage and family counselling. Experienced professionals from various counselling disciplines facilitated the sessions, sharing their expertise, insights and real-life experiences. The participants' attendance, involvement and progress throughout the programme were closely monitored by the Peyton Institute for Families, ensuring meaningful engagement and learning.

The certificate presentation ceremony was graced by Rev. Fr. Y. M. Joseph; a senior priest of the archdiocese. Mr. Joseph Raju and Ms. Tamara Nausheen, experienced counsellors, representing the Resource Persons Team, were also present on the occasion.

In his inspiring address, Fr. Joseph encouraged participants to reflect on their competence and purpose as counsellors. He emphasised that the aim should be "to become the beautiful person you would like to be." He highlighted three essential qualities of an effective counsellor: knowledge, counselling techniques and a genuine willingness to serve. He also stressed the importance of continuous learning through group meetings, regular updating of skills and practical experience.

Fr. Joseph particularly encouraged the newly trained counsellors to become visible and actively involved in their parishes, offering their services willingly without waiting for an invitation from the Parish Priest.The programme concluded with a renewed commitment among participants to support individuals, strengthen marriages and promote healthy family relationships through compassionate and competent counselling.

- Abhijit Kakumanu, for Family Apostolate

2. CCBI FAMILY COMMISSION BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2026

Theme: "Spreading the Joy of Love" | Hyderabad, Telangana | October 22–24, 2026

The Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) Family Commission held its Biennial Conference from October 22 to 24, 2026, at the Don Bosco Provincial House and BIRDY, Bandlaguda Jagir, Hyderabad, in the Archdiocese of Hyderabad. Based on the theme *"Spreading the Joy of Love,"* inspired by Pope

Francis' Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, the conference brought together over 100 delegates, including diocesan and regional secretaries, priests, religious, and lay leaders from across India.

The conference began with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Most Rev. Bishop Barthol Barretto, Chairman of the CCBI Family Commission. In his keynote address, he highlighted the importance of families in the life of the Church and society, emphasizing the need for inclusive, compassionate, and effective family ministry. The inaugural session included the traditional lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the unity and shared mission of the Church.

Regional secretaries presented reports on their pastoral activities and achievements since the previous Biennial Meeting in Goa. These presentations, facilitated by Mr. Raja Shanmugham, were reviewed in relation to the CCBI Family Commission's Pastoral Strategic Plan 2030. Group discussions enabled delegates to reflect on their experiences, challenges, opportunities, and future priorities for family ministry.

The second day began with the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Most Rev. Bishop Sagili Prakash of Khammam. His reflection on St. John Bosco and Salesian spirituality emphasized love, collaboration, and the family as the foundation of society. Rev. Fr. Dr. Emmanuel, SDB, delivered a theological input on *Amoris Laetitia*, highlighting pastoral accompaniment, marriage preparation, support for families in crisis, outreach to families distant from the Church, and the integration of families in complex situations into the life of the Church. The sessions helped delegates identify practical ways to implement these principles in their dioceses and regions. The presentation of the Telugu translation of

Amoris Laetitia to Bishop Sagili Prakash and representatives of the Telugu Region was another significant moment.

Fr. Arul Raj Gali presented the CCBI Family Commission's Pastoral Plan 2027–2029, outlining its goals, objectives, activity matrices, and key performance indicators. Delegates also participated in practical training on online resources for family visits and developed regional action plans for future implementation. Prayer and Rosary sessions led by regional delegates enriched the spiritual dimension of the gathering.

The concluding session acknowledged Fr. Arul Raj Gali's dedicated service as the outgoing Executive Secretary and welcomed Fr. Pratap Kumar Maripi as the incoming National Secretary designate. The organisers expressed gratitude to all delegates and especially to the Don Bosco community and the Archdiocese of Hyderabad for their generous hospitality. On October 24, delegates also visited Charminar and the Salar Jung Museum.

The conference concluded with a renewed commitment to strengthen family ministry across India through collaboration, pastoral accompaniment, and the practical implementation of *Amoris Laetitia*, so that every family may experience and share the joy of love.

- Roger & Jessy for the Family Apostolate Team

3. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION AT ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH, VENKATAPURAM

St. Anthony's Church, Venkatapuram, celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion for 22 children on Sunday, 25 October 2026. With 25 priests in attendance, it was a uniquely memorable occasion in the history of our parish. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Dr. V. K. Swamy, delegated by His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony."The celebration began with "The Journey to the Altar," a moving procession in which

each child walked to the altar holding the hand of a priest. It was a sign that no child walks alone and that the Church accompanies each soul by name."Confirmation: After the Gospel, Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Mirapakayala Melchizedek Kennedy presented the candidates, testifying to their three months of preparation, prayer and Christian service. They were affirmed by their sponsors, Mr. Umesh Kumar Augustine and Mrs. Callista Umesh, and by the parish assembly. In an interactive homily, Fr. Swamy reflected with the children on the Seven Gifts and Twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit, drawing on the life of St. Dominic Savio. Holding candles lit from the Paschal Candle, the candidates renewed their baptismal promises and were anointed with Chrism."First Holy Communion: Before the "Our Father," the newly confirmed children lit their candles again and received Jesus, the Bread of Life, for the first time."The event was led by Fr. Kennedy and Assistant Parish Priest Fr. A. Charles MMI, with catechism teachers Ms. Mary Ambrose, Ms. Magdalene Joseph, Ms. Jacintha, Ms. Rani Ganesh, Ms. Tarcisia, Ms. Jayanthi, Miss Mary Flowerence, Miss Rachel, Miss Zaphia and Mr. John Ambrose, who trained the children in a thanksgiving hymn. Our thanks also go to the Parish Pastoral Council, youth, sacristans, altar servers and the choir, whose singing brought a touch of heaven to the liturgy. It was a first-of-its-kind celebration that will long be cherished by all present.

-Mrs. Mary Magdaleen Joseph, Catechism teacher

4. CHRIST THE KING CHURCH CELEBRATES THE JUBILEE OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, RAMANTHAPUR

Christ the King Church, Ramanthapur, celebrated the Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi over three weeks, marking the 800th anniversary of the saint's death, proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV. With the encouragement and guidance of our Parish Priest, Fr. Show Reddy, the occasion brought the parish community together in faith, creativity and love for God's creation.

The celebrations began with the Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Praveen D'souza, a Franciscan priest from St. Francis of Assisi Parish, followed by a skit on the life of St. Francis presented by our parish youth.

A highlight of the jubilee was an art exhibition depicting the life and values of St. Francis. It was heartwarming to see women, men, youth and children from both catechism & orphanage express their faith through drawings and paintings. Fr. Show Reddy inaugurated the exhibition, inviting the entire parish community to view and appreciate the creative artworks.

The feast day Mass was enriched by special hymns and liturgy, and the celebrations concluded with a graceful dance on creation by our catechism children. Fr. Show Reddy also planted several flowering plants, reflecting St. Francis's deep love for nature.

These three weeks were a joyful expression of togetherness, reminding us that every small act of faith and care can make a difference. Inspired by St. Francis, our parish family celebrated with grateful hearts and a renewed commitment to cherish and protect God's beautiful creation.

- Ashish

5. NATIONAL DAY OF INTERCESSION – ST. MARY'S BASILICA, SECUNDERABAD (2 OCTOBER 2026)

The programme began in the afternoon with Praise and Worship, followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 p.m. Subsequently, members of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) interceded for various intentions, including the world, the country, the Church, CCR, and local needs, as outlined by CHARIS.

The National Day of Intercession also coincided with the 10th anniversary of the Eucharistic Miracle that took place on the same day in 2016. The miraculous Host remains incorrupt and is exposed for prayer and adoration in the Adoration Chapel.

The programme concluded with Eucharistic Benediction imparted by Rev. Fr. Prabhu Das, Spiritual Advisor of the Archdiocesan CCR.

- Babu Anthony, Coordinator

6. CARE FOR CREATION SUNDAY AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH PARISH, KUKATPALLY

Immaculate Conception Church Parish celebrated Care for Creation Sunday

on October 4, 2026, with great devotion and enthusiasm, reminding the faithful of their God-given responsibility to protect and care for our common home.

The altar was beautifully decorated with bonsai plants, fresh vegetables, fruits, fish, and birds, symbolizing the richness, beauty, and diversity of God's creation. These natural elements reminded the parish community that the earth and all its creatures are precious gifts entrusted to humanity by our loving Creator.

Following the Holy Mass, a special blessing of pets was conducted. Parishioners brought their beloved pets to receive God's blessing, expressing gratitude for the joy, companionship, and affection these animals bring into their lives. The blessing highlighted the importance of treating all living creatures with kindness, love, and respect.

The celebration was a meaningful reminder of the message of Pope Francis in his encyclical Laudato Si', which calls everyone to care for our common home and recognize the deep connection between humanity, nature, and all living beings.

Through this celebration, Immaculate Conception Church Parish encouraged the faithful to become responsible stewards of creation by protecting the environment, planting trees, reducing waste, conserving natural resources, and showing compassion toward all creatures.

"Praise be to you, my Lord, through all your creatures." — St. Francis of Assisi

May this celebration inspire every member of our parish to live in harmony with nature and work together to preserve the beauty of God's creation for future generations.

- Fr K L Marreddy, Parish priest, Kukatpally

7. NEW LIFE IN CHRIST: RCIA AT FAMILY OF FAITH

Archdiocese of Hyderabad's online program prepares adults for Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist

In the heart of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad, Family of Faith actively nurtures adult seekers drawn to the beauty and truth of the Catholic Church through its RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program. Parishes across the city refer candidates who wish to explore Catholicism more deeply and enter into full communion. This structured journey guides participants from initial enquiry to the transformative Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

To better meet local needs, we have revised the course into an updated version tailored for our Archdiocese. Grounded exclusively in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, it comprises lessons covering Church teachings, prayer, and community life. Delivered online on Saturdays and Sundays by qualified and trained catechists, the course is completed in four months and offers flexibility for busy adults while maintaining the Church's high standards of formation. Where a parish has sufficient candidates, in-person classes can be arranged. A dedicated Telugu language team is also available for those who prefer instruction in Telugu.

We are grateful to the priests who entrust their candidates to the Family of Faith RCIA Programme. Approved by the Archdiocese, this program stands as a vital resource for proper sacramental preparation. We warmly invite parishes to refer interested adults so they may receive the formation they deserve. Contact Family of Faith today and let them begin this life-changing journey.

For Details: Fr Raju Alex (93910 23522), Sylvester Isaac (97010 56299)
Ashley Coelho (94400 89828)

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

THE FAMILY OF FAITH • ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD

Preparing adults for Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist

JOIN THE RCIA COURSE

In the Archdiocese of Hyderabad, Family of Faith nurtures adult seekers through its RCIA programme. Parishes refer candidates exploring Catholicism and seeking full communion. This structured course prepares them from enquiry to the Sacraments of Initiation.

WHAT WE OFFER

49 LESSONS

Based solely on the Catechism of the Catholic Church

ONLINE + IN-PERSON

Qualified catechists. In-person when a parish has enough candidates

ENGLISH + TELUGU

Sessions available in both English and Telugu languages

PARISHES — PLEASE REFER INTERESTED ADULTS

Archdiocese-approved formation. Contact us to begin this life-changing journey.

Fr Raju Alex • 93910 23522
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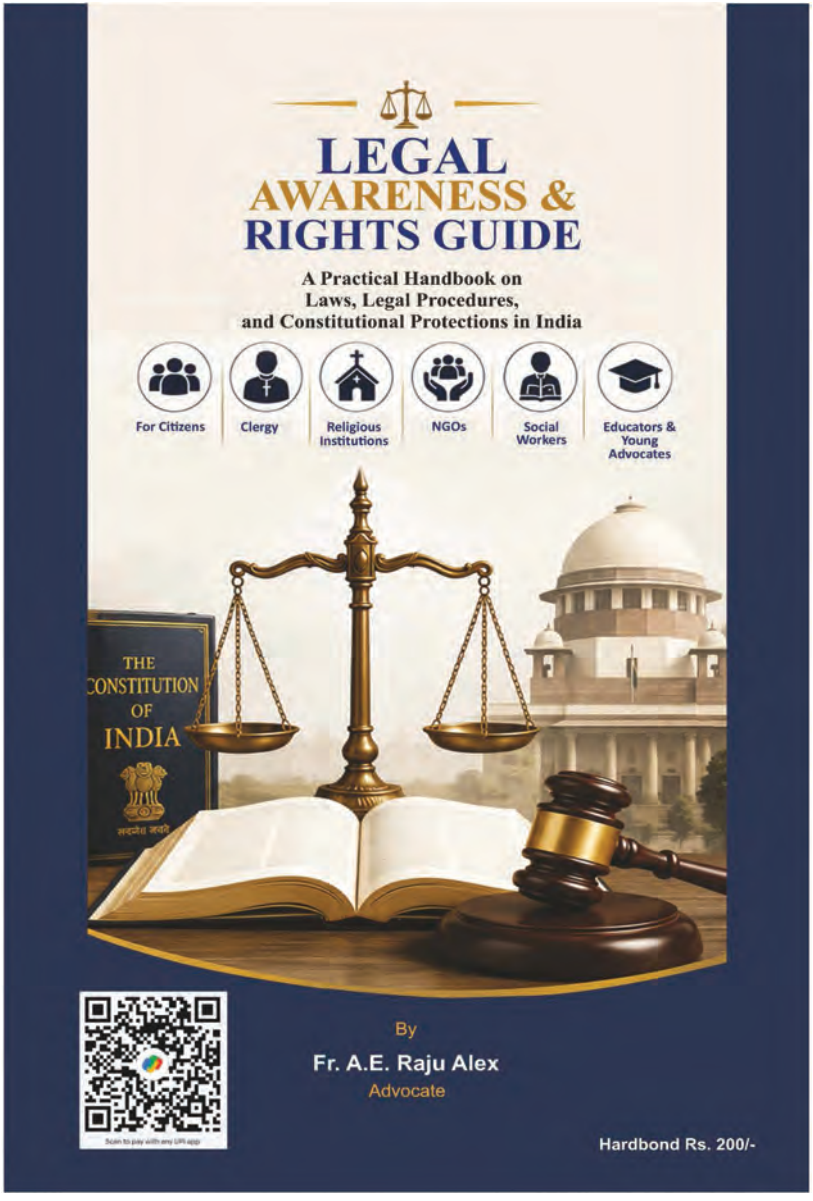
A journey of conversion • Formation • Sacraments • Lifelong discipleship



8. YCS/YSM DIOCESAN WINTER CAMP 2026 HYDERABAD ARCHDIOCESE – TELUGU REGION

The YCS/YSM Diocesan Winter Camp 2026 was held at Infant Jesus Church, Gajwel, from 9 to 12 October 2026, with delegates from the Sacred Heart, St Ann's Bolaram, Fr Rock Memorial, St Francis, St Ann's Secunderabad and St Joseph units. Guided by the thrust theme "Peace," the camp followed the

movement's SEE–JUDGE–ACT method.

Day 1 – Welcome: After the units arrived, Diocesan Animator Mr. Joseph Babu briefed everyone on the code of conduct, the camp schedule was explained, and the DEXCO team, NEXCOs and City Cell members were introduced.

Day 2 – SEE: The day began with Holy Mass. Moderator Mr. Aravind led a session on "Peace" and the role of young people in promoting it, and Mr. Joseph spoke on the present realities of the YCS/YSM Movement. In the afternoon, cells visited a nearby village, meeting families to understand their living conditions and challenges, and later presented their findings. Cell-wise dance performances closed the day.

Day 3 – JUDGE: After Holy Mass celebrated by Diocesan Chaplain Fr. Jerome, Mr. Joseph led a session on "Different Voices, One Society," and Mr. Aravind gave each unit a case study to analyse and present as a skit. Sr. Elizabeth then spoke on the realities of our society. An interreligious prayer preceded the cultural night, where units, animators and leaders performed, ending with the YCS/YSM Anthem.

Day 4 – ACT: Each unit drew up an action plan to promote peace in their schools and communities. After an action song, an evaluation and unit reports, Mr. Joseph led the concluding programme, and the units returned home that afternoon.

The camp helped delegates grow as leaders, understand the realities around them, and commit to practical action for peace, justice and unity. It was a meaningful step towards forming young people as agents of positive change.

– Oral Benson, Diocesan President, YCS/YSM, Hyderabad Archdiocese – Telugu Region

9. CHILDREN & YOUTH CAMP AT ST. PAUL THE HERMIT CHURCH, NANDRAKAL PARISH - 25TH OCTOBER, 2026

With the abundant blessings of God, a one-day Children and Youth Camp was successfully conducted at St. Paul the Hermit Church, Nandrakal Parish on 25th October 2026, organized by the Jesus Youth Group of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad.

More than 100 children and youth from our parish and neighboring mission stations participated with great enthusiasm. The day began with the Holy Eucharist, followed by inspiring sessions on Faith Formation, Word of God, and the role of youth in the Church. Through action songs, games, group discussions and adoration, our children experienced the living presence of Jesus.

The Jesus Youth animators, with their joyful witness and creative ministry, helped our youngsters to understand that holiness is possible even in their young age. The camp concluded with a commitment to pray daily, read the Bible, and serve the Church.

We sincerely thank His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony, the Jesus Youth Team and all volunteers and parents who worked hard for the success of this camp. We also thank all our children who made this day memorable.

May this small seed sown in Nandrakal grow into a strong tree of faith!

- Fr. Jogu Naveen, Parish Priest St. Paul the Hermit Church, Nandrakal

10. REPORT ON THE ONE-DAY PRAYER CONVENTION GAJWEL DEANERY

The Gajwel Deanery organized a One-Day Prayer Convention with the noble aim of renewing and strengthening the faith of the people through prayer, the Word of God, and spiritual fellowship. This spiritual initiative was organized under the leadership of the Dean, Rev. Fr. Thonta Prabhudas, along with the dedicated cooperation and collaboration of the priests of Gajwel Deanery.

The convention was graced by Rev. Fr. Cyril Dass, SVD, who served as the main preacher. Through his inspiring preaching, spiritual reflections, and faith-filled guidance, he led the faithful into a deeper relationship with God and encouraged them to live their Christian faith with renewed commitment.

Around 700 people from different parishes of the deanery gathered for this special day of spiritual renewal. The programme began with praise and worship, creating an atmosphere of prayer and thanksgiving. This was followed by the sharing of the Word of God, through which the participants were

spiritually nourished and encouraged to strengthen their faith. The faithful were also given an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation through confession. After the spiritual activities, lunch was provided for all the participants. The convention concluded solemnly with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, bringing the entire day to a meaningful and prayerful conclusion.

The success of this convention was the result of systematic planning, teamwork, and the generous cooperation of many people. Rev. Fr. Babu, Rev. Fr. Anil, Rev. Fr. Balaswamy, and Rev. Fr. Thonta Prabhudas, the Dean, worked together in planning and organizing the programme in an orderly and systematic manner. Their commitment, coordination, and dedicated efforts made the convention spiritually enriching and successful.

A special word of appreciation goes to the JMJ Sisters, who extended their wholehearted support and encouragement by generously providing the school grounds and facilitating the necessary arrangements. Their hospitality and cooperation contributed greatly to the smooth conduct of the convention.

We also express our sincere gratitude to all the priests of Gajwel Deanery, religious congregations, institutions, sisters, parish councils, volunteers, youth, and faithful who contributed in various ways to make this spiritual gathering a success. We particularly appreciate the support and encouragement of all the religious sisters and institutions that stood with us throughout the preparations and execution of the programme.

The gathering of nearly 700 faithful was a beautiful sign of unity, faith, and commitment among the people of Gajwel Deanery. The convention was not merely a day of prayer but also an opportunity to renew our spiritual lives, strengthen our communion, and deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ.

May the blessings received through this One-Day Prayer Convention continue to bear fruit in the families, parishes, and communities of Gajwel Deanery.

With gratitude to God and heartfelt appreciation to everyone who contributed to this spiritual endeavour.

1.

Conference of Catholic Bishops of India

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Conference of Catholic Bishops of India

Communio Sunday

November 29, 2026 (First Sunday of Advent)

To all Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Religious, Catechists and Lay Faithful
of the Latin Catholic Church in India

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

As we begin the new liturgical year and the holy season of Advent, the Church invites us to renew our hope in the coming of Christ. Advent is a season of joyful expectation that calls us to be watchful, deepen our faith and open our hearts to God's presence. It also reminds us that Christian hope finds expression in love, generosity and compassionate service, especially towards those who are most in need.

During the Centenary Celebrations of Mission Sunday this year, our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV reminds us that we are "One in Christ, united in mission." These inspiring words remind us that the Church's missionary vocation belongs to every baptized person. Through our prayers, witness, service and generous sharing, each of us is called to make Christ known and loved.

The Church is one family spread across every nation and culture. Though we come from different languages, traditions and backgrounds, we are united through our Baptism and share the same mission entrusted to us by the Lord: to proclaim the Gospel, serve those in need and build communities of faith, hope, and love.

We, in India, thank God for the vibrant faith of our people and the dedicated service of our priests, religious and lay faithful. At the same time, many of our brothers and sisters continue to face poverty, migration, unemployment, illiteracy, inadequate healthcare and the effects of natural calamities. In many mission dioceses, the Church carries out her ministry in remote villages, tribal regions, mountainous areas and urban peripheries, with very limited resources. Yet, despite these challenges, the Gospel continues to be proclaimed with faith, courage and hope.

It is in this spirit of ecclesial communion that Communio, an initiative of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI), becomes a beautiful expression of "One in Christ, united in mission." Through this mission solidarity fund, dioceses blessed with greater resources extend support to mission dioceses facing greater pastoral and financial challenges. Your generous contribution strengthens pastoral ministry, faith formation, catechesis, leadership development, empowerment of communities and many other initiatives that bring Christ's love to His people.

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Communio Sunday reminds us that no parish, religious community, institution or diocese walks alone. As one Body in Christ, we are called to share one another's burdens and joys. Through our prayers and generous support, we become collaborators in the Church's mission and living witnesses of Christ's love. Through this collaboration, we strengthen our Church as a more missionary and synodal Church. Communio is synodality in action. We are deeply grateful for your continued generosity, which is a powerful expression of our shared responsibility for the Church's mission.

While Communio Sunday is traditionally celebrated on the First Sunday of Advent or on a Sunday close to the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, each Diocesan Bishop is free to determine the most appropriate day for its celebration in the Diocese. As we begin our preparations, I warmly invite every parish, religious community, institution and family to journey together with prayer, enthusiasm and generosity, so that Communio Sunday may become a joyful witness to our communion in Christ and our solidarity with the Church in India.

Let us begin today by responding generously to the Church's missionary call. I encourage you to participate actively by: (i) Displaying the Communio Sunday poster or logo prominently on parish noticeboards, in parish bulletins and across social media platforms to spread awareness; (ii) Organising a prayerful and inspiring liturgical celebration, with special intentions for the missions and missionaries around the world; (iii) Supporting Communio generously through your time, talents and financial contributions.

Every act of generosity, no matter how small, becomes a sign of hope for our Church in India.

As we journey through Advent, let us entrust ourselves and the mission of the Church to the loving care of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, and seek the intercession of St. Francis Xavier, Patron of the Missions. May they inspire us to be joyful witnesses of the Gospel and faithful servants of God's people.

We wish you and your families a blessed, peaceful and grace-filled Advent Season.

CCBI General Secretariat, October 3, 2026.

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

+ Peter Machado
Vice President, CCBI
Archbishop of Bangalore

+ Vincent Aind
Secretary General, CCBI
Archbishop of Ranchi

N.B.: *It is recommended that this Circular be read and its contents explained on Communio Sunday (November 29, 2026) in all the parishes, religious communities and institutions of the 132 dioceses of the Latin Catholic Church in India.*

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3. HYDERABAD YOUTH COMMISSION AT THE NATIONAL YOUTH CONVENTION 2026

From 13 to 16 October 2026, a 10-member delegation from the Hyderabad Youth Commission, led by Youth Director Rev. Fr. Jerome Lewis, travelled to Christ University, Bengaluru, to take part in the National Youth Convention & Witness Programme. The campus became a vibrant meeting ground for young Catholics from across India, setting the stage for four intensive days of spiritual renewal, learning and cultural exchange. Each day began in prayer, with Holy Mass and Eucharistic Adoration grounding the gathering before the plenary talks and group discussions.

The convention opened with delegates arriving in regional attire, turning the inaugural flag hoisting into a colourful celebration of the nation's cultural diversity. Throughout the event, the Hyderabad team was actively involved in both leadership and service. On the second morning, the delegation led the entire national assembly in Eucharistic Adoration and praise and worship. It was a deeply moving experience that set a prayerful tone for the day's keynote talks on youth leadership and the evening Marian procession.

Formation and open dialogue were central to the programme, particularly during the interactive breakout sessions. Rev. Fr. Jerome Lewis led a well-attended workshop titled "Building Your Faith and the Importance of Faith," which sparked meaningful conversations on facing modern challenges while staying rooted in Christian values. Later that evening, the delegates gathered for a meditative Taizé prayer service, finding a moment of quiet reflection amid

the busy schedule, before the day concluded with regional music and dance performances.

By the time the convention closed on the afternoon of 16 October, the team had gained far more than notes from lecture halls. Shared meals, spontaneous worship and quiet moments of prayer at Christ University built lasting bonds with youth leaders from other dioceses. The Hyderabad Youth Commission returns energised, bringing practical insights, new forms of prayer such as Taizé, and a renewed sense of purpose to support and inspire young people across the Archdiocese.

International News

1. MEETING OF THE HOLY FATHER LEO XIV WITH THE HEADS OF EASTERN CHURCHES AND THE PRESIDENTS OF EPISCOPAL CONFERENCES 7-14 OCTOBER 2026

TEN YEARS AFTER *AMORIS LAETITIA*: PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL WITH FAMILIES TODAY

OPENING ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV

Paul VI Audience HallWednesday, 7 October 2026

My dear Brothers in the Episcopate,Dear families,Dear brothers and sisters,

I wished to convene this meeting ten years after the publication of *Amoris Laetitia*, and I thank you for arranging your commitments so that we could spend these days together. I warmly thank the married couples and all those who have come to share something of their lives in Christ and who will take part in our conversations, as well as the experts and facilitators.

Allow me to begin by recalling the long and fruitful synodal and missionary journey that the Church has made in relation to marriage and the family, a journey that we are called to continue.

The family has always held an important place in the pastoral concern of the Successor of Peter and of the Bishops who assist him through their

participation in the Synod of Bishops. The Synod of 1980 took up a desire already expressed by Pope John Paul I during his brief pontificate, eventually leading to Saint John Paul II's Apostolic Exhortation *FamiliarisConsortio*.

At the beginning of his own pontificate, Pope Francis once again placed the family at the heart of a synodal process, recognizing the need to continue the Church's discernment in the face of profound changes affecting an area so closely linked to her mission in the world today. That journey led, ten years ago, to the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*.

In this regard, the Church has continued along the path indicated by the Second Vatican Council. When the Fathers of the Council placed the dignity of marriage and the family at the beginning of the second part of *Gaudium et Spes*, they recognized that family life offers a privileged point of entry into the great cultural, economic, social and political questions of our time, including the work of promoting peace among peoples. The interdependence of these questions has become even more evident today, always under the light of God's word: "'God made them male and female.' For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife" (*Mk* 10:6-7). The family remains key to an approach that holds together the local and the global, guided by the search for a universal fraternity in Christ that the Gospel calls us to build with everyone. This history of more than half a century places upon our meeting a particular responsibility as Shepherds, as the synodal vocation of the whole Church continues to unfold.

Within this history, *Amoris Laetitia* marked an important stage, and the ten years since its publication have become part of the life of our particular Churches. During this time, the Apostolic Exhortation has been received in different cultures and pastoral contexts, accompanied the concrete lives of families and inspired initiatives and processes.

These are the ten years we now bring together before the Lord Jesus. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, looking attentively at what has happened can help us recognize more deeply what Christ has been teaching his Church through these years.

The Acts of the Apostles offer us a beautiful image for what we are about to do. At the end of their missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas gathered the Church together and "related all that God had done with them" (*Acts* 14:27). Later, as they made their way to Jerusalem, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria recounting what had happened in the mission, and their account brought great joy to the brothers and sisters. When they reached Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the Church, the Apostles and the elders, and once again "reported all that God had done with them" (15:4).

There is something of this movement in our own gathering. As I have said, the Church has spent these ten years receiving *Amoris Laetitia* and walking with families in very different circumstances.

We too bring stories of what God has done among us. They are stories gathered along the path of mission: stories of conversion, of unexpected fruit, and of the relationships God has woven within families as our communities have sought to accompany them, together with the difficulties we have faced, the questions that have emerged, and what we have learned along the way. They give us confidence as we begin our work together. Let us place them before the Lord, share them with one another, seeking to recognize what God has been doing among us and where his Spirit is leading the Church today.

In my message of March 19th, on the tenth anniversary of *Amoris Laetitia*, I recalled that "there are, in fact, places and circumstances in which the Church 'can become the salt of the earth' only through the lay faithful and, in particular, through families." Indeed, *Amoris Laetitia* invites us to take seriously this vocation and responsibility. Families themselves participate in the Church's mission in the ordinary fabric of their lives, through love and fidelity, care and forgiveness, the education of children, their efforts in transmitting faith, attention to the elderly and the vulnerable, and the many ways in which they serve their communities and society. In all these ways, families bear witness to the Gospel and contribute to the life and the mission of the Church.

As Pastors, we have received the responsibility, in season and out of season, of proclaiming the beauty of God's plan for marriage and the family and his

call for love and tenderness. This challenges us to accompany people as they seek to live their vocation in the concrete circumstances of their lives.

This ministry also places us in a school of listening. The wisdom of the People of God reaches us through our common faith, which enlightens all families, including situations marked by difficulties, loneliness and at times even apparent failure. The Lord himself patiently teaches us when we take the time to listen, and we certainly have much to learn from families.

Their lives also place before us questions that deserve to be faced with courage. In many contexts, a growing distance has emerged between the ways in which sex and intimacy are lived and the Christian vision of marriage. Young people continue to long for love, fidelity and belonging, yet many find it difficult to embrace how such a vision of love can take shape in their own lives or to believe that a lifelong commitment is the condition for reaching what they desire. Economic insecurity, migration, violence, loneliness and other forms of emotional fragility also shape the choices people make and the possibilities they can imagine for their future.

These realities raise a number of questions that we must face with courage. What are people truly seeking beneath these cultural changes? What do their joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties reveal to us? Where do our pastoral language and practices succeed in opening a path, and where do they fail to touch people's hearts or assist their efforts to do what is good? What is the lived experience of families teaching us — an experience from which we have not yet fully learned? What can we offer as formation for healthy and holy family life? In particular, what can we learn from parents as they seek to accompany their children and young people in such contexts?

Fragility deserves special attention, for it can profoundly shape the way people see themselves, their future, and even their relationship with God and with the Church. The experience of fragility raises the question of whether we are able to remain close to one another when life no longer corresponds to what had been hoped for, and whether we can recognize the work of grace even in situations marked by limits, wounds and apparent failure.

In this respect too, the experience of families has something to teach everyone, since fragility belongs to our common human condition and therefore also to the life of the Church. We all know the gap between the good we desire and what we are able to live. We need grace, forgiveness and new beginnings to accomplish God's will, and we learn that fidelity is itself a grace to be received and a path to be gradually renewed, often through trial. Recognizing this shared challenge should shape the way we accompany one another in the Church. What kind of Church, then, do people encounter precisely when they are most fragile? Do our communities help them discover that they still have a place, a responsibility and gifts to offer? Can the truth we proclaim be encountered through the patience, closeness and mercy of our pastoral presence? How can we announce to them the fullness of the Gospel's teaching about the family?

During these days, I invite you to give such questions their full weight. The Holy Spirit often speaks through the very situations that challenge us, and enlightens us that we may discover how God's mercy and the salvific grace of Christ can reach our families today, particularly in their weakness and resilience, in their hopes and disappointments, in their longing for communion and their search for meaning. Our task, therefore, is not only to interpret these realities but to let them question us and motivate our pastoral responsibility, so that the Church may find renewed ways of proclaiming the Gospel, offering sacramental graces, accompanying families, and making visible the tenderness with which Christ continues to walk among his people.

May our dialogue with one another be marked by the evangelical freedom we see in the Acts of the Apostles. We can share what has brought joy in our Churches, what has challenged us and what questions have emerged more clearly through experience. Moreover, the diversity of the situations from which we come can become a gift for the discernment of the whole Church.

The *Thematic Framework* prepared for this meeting is meant to keep the breadth of *Amoris Laetitia* before us and to bring the Apostolic Exhortation into conversation with what our Churches have experienced during these past ten years. Let us draw inspiration from the richness of Christ's word and the

Church's tradition. The program has been made public so that the People of God may accompany our work through prayer and synodal reflection.

For our part, listening to one another, allowing what we hear to resonate within us, and remaining attentive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit can awaken the pastoral creativity we need in the face of new questions.

This is why our common retreat this evening, and the prayer with which we will begin each day, are at the heart of our work. I ask the Lord to help us gather together the fruits that *Amoris Laetitia* has borne in our local Churches, so that they may nourish the whole Church.

I hope that, through the many stories you bring from your Churches and from different cultural contexts, a shared narrative of these ten years may gradually take shape, one marked by joy and hope, and that will enable us to face honestly the trials and difficulties that remain. This will nourish the pastoral discernment of the Episcopal Conferences and the hierarchical structures of the Eastern Churches. It will likewise help the local Churches recognize new paths, and draw all the baptized more deeply into the Church's synodal journey. I would also ask that we all preserve the discretion and confidentiality that this time of listening and discernment requires.

May the Lord give us the freedom to listen to one another, the wisdom to recognize his work among his people, and the courage to follow where he leads us, so that, each day, the Gospel may become ever more fully good news for families throughout the world. Thank you.

2. CARDINAL TAGLE ELECTED NEW DEAN OF COLLEGE OF CARDINALS

Filipino Cardinal Luis Antonio G. Tagle, 69, Pro-Prefect of the Section for First Evangelization and New Particular Churches of the Dicastery for Evangelization, has been elected Dean of the College of Cardinals on 8 October, succeeding 92-year-old Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re.

Cardinal Re, who served as Dean since 2020 and was reappointed in January 2025, assumes the title of Dean Emeritus while retaining the Suburbicarian Church of Sabina-Poggio Mirteto.

Cardinal Tagle will retain the title of the Suburbicarian Church of Albano and additionally assume the title of Ostia, according to the Holy See.

As Dean, Cardinal Tagle will coordinate the activities of the College of Cardinals as primus inter pares (first among equals), without exercising governing authority over the other cardinals. His principal responsibilities include convening and presiding over a future Conclave, provided he is under the age of eighty.

3. POPE: 'HEARTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE LONGING TO DISCOVER CHRIST'S LOVE'

Pope Leo XIV meets with the Jesus Youth International Conference, and praises efforts to engage young people in the life of the Church by helping them discover Christ's love.Pope Leo XIV held an audience on Saturday with participants in the Jesus Youth International Conference, marking the ecclesial association's first meeting with the Successor of Peter.

In his address, the Pope expressed appreciation for the "special encounter," which comes 40 years after the movement's creation in Kerala, India.Over the past 3 years, members of the Jesus Youth movement have undergone lengthy consultation in a synodal style to discern its path forward.

On Friday, October 23, the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life officially approved the revised statutes of Jesus Youth, a decade after it received recognition as an international association of the faithful from the Holy See in May 2016.

Pope Leo recalled that Jesus Youth grew out of the spontaneous initiative of young people in India, as part of the Charismatic Renewal.

"The starting point for every authentic renewal in the Church is one's own discovery of Jesus' love," he said. "Members of various prayer groups thus felt the need to come together in order to channel their enthusiasm and their initiatives into something that could sustain and guide the new spiritual and missionary impulse they had experienced."

As Jesus Youth matures in its ecclesial journey, added the Pope, members are invited to take up new challenges and bear new fruit.

Pope Leo pointed to the many young people who have become joyful witness to the faith, especially Ajna George, whom he said was sustained in her illness and trials by her love for Jesus present 0in the Eucharist.

"Do not lose your apostolic zeal, but rather foster it and carry it to new countries," he said. "Once again, all of this is possible only by keeping your gaze on Jesus Christ."The Pope noted that Jesus Youth is present in many areas where Christians are a minority, saying their Christian witness can help others realize their deep desire to discover Christ's love.He invited the movement to help young people discover their vocation to marriage, as well as to the priesthood and religious life.

"Young people need to know that their lives are great and beautiful because they are part of God's greater plan," he said.In conclusion, Pope Leo XIV encouraged members of the Jesus Youth movement to maintain their "youthful freshness and enthusiasm for the faith," while patiently overcoming any difficulties that arise from ritual differences.

"Seek to preserve your unity, especially amid the great diversity of social backgrounds, cultures and languages that are hallmarks of your movement."

Dates & Events to Remember

01. All Saints (S)
02. All Souls' Day
04. St. Charles Borromeo, Bp (M)
09. Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (F)
10. St Leo the Gret, Pope & Doctor (M)
11. St. Martin of Tours, Bp (M)
12. St. Josaphat, Mrtr (M)
15. St. Albert the Great, Bp & Dr
17. St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Rel (M)
18. Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter & Paul, Aps (OM)
21. Presentation of the BVM (M)
22. Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (S)
24. St. Andrew Dung-Lac & Comps, Mrtrs (M)
25. St. Catherine of Alexandria, Vrg & Mrtr (OM)
29. 1st Sunday of Advent
30. St Andrew, Ap (F)

Happy Birthday Dear Fathers

02. Fr. Chintamohan Micheal D'Souza
05. Fr. Mirapakayala Melchizedek Kennedy
06. Fr. Gollapudi Praveen Kumar
15. H.E. Cardinal Poola Anthony
16. Fr. Madanu Ignatius Maria Shekar
18. Fr. Kommareddy Marreddy
20. Fr. Polisetty Anthony Vinay Kumar
25. Fr. Thatireddy Jayaraj Reddy

Necrology

05. Fr. Joseph D' Souza
26. Fr. Thanugundla Solomon

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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Christ the King Church Celebrates the Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi at Ramanthapur, Hyderabad

Children & Youth Camp at St. Paul the Hermit Church, Nandrakal Parish - 25th October, 2026

Cardinal Poola Anthony meets His Holiness Pope Leo XIV in Vatican City, Rome

Cardinal Poola Anthony meets the Archdiocesan Priests working in USA