



**Sanmaargi**  
— to shepherd HIS flock —



**MDB 06/2023**

**MYSORE DIOCESAN BULLETIN**

**NOV & DEC 2023**



**“These are they who have come  
out of the great tribulation;  
they have washed their robes and  
made them white in the blood of the Lamb”**

**- Rev 7:14**

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## **SHEPHERD'S VOICE**

***Dear & Rev. Fathers/Brothers/Sisters/Lay Faithful***

Greetings from Archbishop Emeritus Bernard Moras,  
Apostolic Administrator, Diocese of Mysore.

The Month of November brings to our mind the commemoration of all the saints and the remembrance of the dead. We profess in our creed that we believe in the communion of the saints: the communion that we profess is the relationship that we have among the three levels of saints. The saints in heaven (the first level of saints) who live in perfect communion with God; the souls in purgatory (the second level of saints) who are in need of the prayers of those saints in heaven and the prayers of all of us, so that they are purified and enter the eternal bliss; and we the pilgrim Church here on earth (the third level of saints) who are in need of the prayers of the saints in heaven and the saints in purgatory so that we live in communion with the saints in the first level and the saints in the second level. As we profess our faith in the communion of saints, let us not forget to pray through the saints in heaven and in purgatory to receive the graces of God and pray for the souls in purgatory so that they are purified from the stain of sin and enter into heaven.

The month of December reminds us of the season of Advent and the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Advent is the season of hope, a season of joyous waiting for the coming of the Lord. We are not just recalling the period of waiting of the Israelites; we do wait in reality for the second coming of the Lord and celebrate His first coming – the incarnation. As we pray Maranatha (Come Lord Jesus!), let us be sincere in our prayer: let us invite the Lord in our hearts. Let us not close the doors of our hearts to the Babe of Bethlehem. The incarnation of Christ brought great joy to all on earth for he came as Saviour of whole humanity and not just a few chosen ones.

Christmas is the most joyous celebration – not only for the Christians, but for people of all religions from all walks of life. The celebration of Christmas with its pomp and merry should not deviate us from the real purpose of its celebration. The secular way of celebration of Christmas, at times, can mislead us from the core message of Christ's birth. The celebration of Christmas should remind us of our neighbors who are in need of our helping hands. Let us never forget that the celebration of Christmas should bring joy even to those poor ones living around us. Let us be generous and make some sacrifices to bring joy to those "have nots" in our society. That exactly is the real spirit of Christmas.



## IMPORTANT EVENTS >>

### **XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS:**

On Wednesday, October 4, on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the synod of the bishops began in Rome. It lasted until October 29, 2023. At the opening of the XVI General Synod, Pope Francis celebrated Mass in St. Peter's Square and invited the faithful to walk with the Holy Spirit, "in confidence and joy". Let us wish and pray that this 'XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops' brings new rays of hope in the Church. May this help us to be more faithful to the mission command of Christ. The Second Session of the Synod will take place in October 2024. The Synod Assembly has sent a letter to the universal Church regarding the present proceedings and asking prayer for the coming Synod Assembly in October 2024 (vide letter **ANNEXURE I**).

### **WORLD DAY OF THE POOR 2023**

Pope Francis started the celebration of the World Day of the Poor in the year 2017. On the first World Day of the Poor he implored that our service to the poor should "...lead to a true encounter with the poor and a sharing that becomes a way of life." This call to engage the poor among us as our brothers and sisters, and not to treat them as abstract, transactional relationships, reminds us of the love that Christ demonstrates for us. The 7th World Day of the Poor, will be celebrated on Sunday 19th November 2023. The theme for this year's World Day of the Poor is "Do not turn your face away from anyone

who is poor" (Tob 4:7) with which the Holy Father reminds us of the words of Tobit that we should not stop merely praying for the poor, but we should do something concretely in helping them. For the message of the Holy Father for the fifth world day of the poor kindly refer **ANNEXURE- II**.

## **FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING**

This Liturgical year began on the First Sunday of Advent - 2022 and it ends on 26th November 2023 with the Feast of Christ the King. During the Liturgical year, we re-live the life of Christ and try to immerse ourselves in the kingdom He came to establish. It is right, therefore, to ask ourselves at this end of the year: Is Christ more a king of my life now than a year ago? The call of Christ the King is to each of us for constant conversion; Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand (Mk 1:15).

## **ADVENT**

Advent is certainly a time of preparation and anticipation of Christ's birth. It is only in the shadow of Advent that the miracle of Christmas can be fully understood and appreciated, and it is only in the light of Christmas that the Christian life makes more sense. It is between the fulfilled promise of Christ's first coming and the yet-to-be-fulfilled promise of his second coming. It is described that "When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming.

## CHRISTMAS

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve fell in sin. Down they went, dragging all humanity with them into the darkness and death of sin. And what did God do? He did not tell us to find our own way - out of the mess we were in. He came down to where we were and got us. That's what Christmas is all about - God's coming down to rescue us, to do whatever it took to deliver us from sure death. Christmas is the season of joy, peace, and happiness. It is the special season set aside to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas is essentially a reminder of why we should stick to the deepest parts of our humanity. That is, through celebration, we are reminded that we should share, give to the less privileged, spend time with loved ones and have a positive outlook about life in general.

On behalf of the Diocese I wish all of you a HOLY SEASON OF ADVENT AND A GRACE FILLED CHRISTMAS. Let us pray for each other so that the song of the Angels "Peace to men of good will" may really be ours.

## SOLEMNITY OF HOLY FAMILY

The Solemnity of the Holy Family is a celebration in honour of Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and Jesus. The feast gives a clarion call for the Christian families to model their families according to the Holy Family.

In the modern world when the fabric of family is over stretched or breaking up due to materialistic and lucrative out-look, we the family members are invited to imitate the Holy Family to experience the real, unconditional and compassionate love and selfless service towards each other.

We need to build up catholic families in deep faith according to God's will and share God's love with one another. As Catholics let us have large hearts to respect and accept the elders, accommodate each and every person of the family with compassionate love according to God's Holy will.

## **SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD – THE NEW YEAR 2024**

The whole world rejoices and in exuberant mood on the New Year day. Yes, it is a new beginning, a new Chapter in our lives. Holy Mother the Church has dedicated this first day of the year to Mary Mother of God. By surrendering herself completely to God's Will, she participated totally in the redemptive plan of God and ushered in a new order of creation. The First Council of Ephesus, held at the Church of Mary in 431 A.D., decreed that Mary is the Mother of God because her Son, Jesus is one person who is both God and Man, divine and human. Hence she is the New Eve, Mother of us all and the new creation. Let us entrust the whole world, the New Year and ourselves to her motherly care and pray that through her intercession that this New Year 2024 will bring peace, prosperity and God's choicest blessings to our troubled world.

## **PRAY FOR PEACE**

At present Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Kurdistan, Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon etc. are all currently experiencing violence, atrocities, wars, civil disturbances, resulting in significant casualties, bloodshed, huge loss of lives, misery, displacement, long-term physical and psychological Trauma



and harm to innumerable children. Let us empathetically feel with the suffering and pray earnestly every day to God that amicable truce is established and peace be dawn in the world.

## **GOOD NEWS FROM ODP:**

Caritas India had organized its National Assembly 2023 with the theme 'Fraternity in Humanity- Walking Together'. This assembly was also organized to commemorate the 60 years of Caritas India's and her partner's remarkable milestones and significant engagement in nation-building, emphasizing the importance of working partnerships, institutional capacity building, facilitating a cadre of leaders, volunteers, community-based organizations, towards serving the cause of synodality and humanity.

Caritas India hosted the National Assembly of the Diocesan Directors of the Social Apostolate on October 12-14, 2023, St. Alphonsian Pastoral Institute, Pala, Kerala to allow vital deliberation for strengthening its partnerships and building new collaborations. The National Assembly also served as a platform for mutual learning, and sharing, between newly appointed directors and all-natural diocesan partners, thus strengthening the network of partnership.

Caritas India had wished to recognize and encourage inspiring leaders and organizations that have worked beyond excellence in the pursuit of holistic development and award them for the remarkable milestones and significant engagement, towards serving the cause of Synodality and Humanity during the National Assembly.

Therefore, Caritas India had invited 174 social work organizations - DSSSs and 14 Regional Forum from all over India to submit nominations under 4 categories - Organizational Excellence Award, Impact Making Leader, Community Impact Award, and Caritas Samaritan Award.

The Organization for the Development of People (ODP), had submitted nominations under three categories. In the Impact Making Leader category, the first prize was conferred upon Fr. Alex Prashanth Sequeira, the Director of The Organization for the Development of People - ODP, Mysore, for his exceptional efforts and achievements in the realm of social apostolate, and Caritas India bestowed the prestigious Impact Making Leader award. The award stands as a testament to the outstanding contributions in fostering positive change and making a significant impact within their respective communities.

On behalf of the Diocese of Mysore I congratulate Fr. Alex Prashanth Sequirathe Director and all the staff of ODP for their good work which has brought this AWARD to the Organization. At this stage I also thank all the former Directors services for ODP which has brought up the organisation to the present status.

#### VACANCIES IN THE ODP

Sl. No	Vacant Position	No of Posts	Qualification
1	Document Associate	01	Master Degree with 5 years of experience
2	Coordinators Women Empowerment (Female Candidates)	02	MSW with 3-5 Years of experience
3	Asst. Program Associate (Manager)	01	MSW with 5-8 years of experience in Social Field
4	Fund Raising Manager	01	Master Degree with 5 years of experience.



## INFORMATION

### ORDINATION TO DIACONATE

Three of our Seminarians 1. Bro.Cyril Selva Kumar from St. Anthony the Hermit Church, Karatu Kovil, Martalli. 2. Bro. Naveen Kumar from St. Francis Xavier Church, Kamagere 3. Bro. David Sagayaraj from St. Francis Xavier's Church, Jellipalyam who have completed their Seminary studies will be ordained to the Diaconate on Thursday 23rd November 2023 at St Joseph's Cathedral. Please pray for them.

### APPOINTMENTS:

1. Fr. Abhilash G. - Asst. Parish Priest to Sacred Heart Church, Naganahalli .
2. Fr. Charles Perianayagam R. - Asst. Parish Priest to St. Anne's Church, Virajpet .
3. Fr. Ephnezer Paul S - Asst. Parish Priest to St. Francis of Assissi Church, Kollegal
4. Fr. John Fernandis A - Asst. Parish Priest to Our Lady of Victories Church, Somwarpet
5. Fr. Naveen Kumar K - Asst. Parish Priest to St. Antony's Church, Suntikoppa
6. Fr. Jeevan Preeth – Asst. Parish Priest to St. Francis Xavier Church, Kamagere
7. Fr. Yesu Prasad - Asst. Estate Manager of the Diocese of Mysore to Bishop's House, transferred from St. Anne's Church, Virajpet

8. Fr. John Paul – Asst. Parish Priest to St. Joseph's Church, Cathedral transferred from St. Francis Xavier Church, Kamagere..

## **JUBILEE HOLY YEAR 2025**

In the Bible: a Jubilee year was to be marked every 50 years, since this would be an “extra” year, one which would happen every seven weeks of seven years, i.e., every 49 years (cf. Leviticus 25:8-13). It was intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields.

In 1300 A.D. Pope Boniface VIII called the first Jubilee, also known as a “Holy Year,” since it is a time in which God’s holiness transforms us. The frequency of Holy Years has changed over time: at first, they were celebrated every 100 years; later, in 1343 A.D. Pope Clement VI reduced the gap between Jubilees to every 50 years, and in 1470 A.D. Pope Paul II made it every 25 years.

Pope Francis on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> 2023, announced the Holy Jubilee Year of 2025. This will be the 27<sup>th</sup> ordinary jubilee year of the Catholic Church voicing to foster a greater sense of global brotherhood and solidarity with the poor, as well as care for the environment: motto of Jubilee Year 2025: ‘Pilgrims of Hope’

The purpose of the celebration of Jubilee year is to celebrate JESUS, to celebrate the CHURCH and to celebrate our FAITH.

In preparation for the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis is asking all the Catholics to prepare by dedicating time in the following manner:

**2023:** Study the documents of the Second Vatican Council :

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*)

Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*)

Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (*Dei Verbum*)

Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World  
(*Gaudium et Spes*)

The Vatican has brought out 35 booklets giving background information to the second Vatican Council and to Four Constitutions

These booklets have been published by the CCBI in English.

**2024:** Focus on prayer.

**2025:** Holy Jubilee year- Year of Birth of Jesus Christ.

On 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024, our Holy Father will open the Jubilee Door at St. Peter's Basilica, Rome. During the Jubilee Year you may encourage pilgrimages from your Diocese to enter through the Holy Door in Rome.

The CCBI National Facilitating Team has prepared a Roadmap for the Local Churches in India for the celebration of the Jubilee.

To inaugurate the Preparations for the Ordinary Jubilee 2025 in the Dioceses on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023, the Solemnity of Christ the King, unveiling the Jubilee Logo and initiating people into revisiting the treasures of the Second Vatican Council and revamping prayer.

The recitation of the Jubilee 2025 prayer in all the parishes and religious institutes from this day every day is encouraged.

C.C.B.I. plans to assist The Diocese in conducting workshops, seminars, recollections, etc. on Jubilee 2025.

I wish and pray that the Ordinary Jubilee 2025 may strengthen the hope of all the members of the Church. As 'Pilgrims of Hope,' let us continue to build communion, promote participation and deepen our commitment to mission.

## **THE JUBILEE PRAYER**

Father in heaven, may the faith you have gifted us in your son Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity kindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us, the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into diligent cultivators of the evangelical seeds that make humanity and the cosmos rise unto the confident expectation of the new heavens and the new earth, when with the powers of Evil overcome, your glory shall be manifested eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, the yearning for heavenly reassures and pour over all the earth the joy and peace of our Redeemer. To you God blessed in eternity, be praise and glory forever and ever. Amen.

## **JUBILEE 2025 COMMITTEE**

At College of Consulters meeting held on Saturday 28th October it was decided to appoint Jubilee 2025 celebration Committee headed by Msgr. Alfred Mendonca, Vicar General, Fr. James Dominic, Financial Administrator, Fr. Joseph Packiaraj, Chancellor, Fr. Clifford, Secretary and the other Committee members are: Fr. Joseph Marie, Secretary Liturgy Commission, Fr. Stany D' Almeida, P.P. Cathedral, Fr. Arul

Selva Kumar –Secretary, Laity Commission, Fr. Sebastian Alexander, Secretary Communication & Catechist Commissions, Sr. Juanita, CRI President, Rev Fr. Edward Philip S.J., CRI Vice President, Mr. John William D'Souza, Belwadi, Mr. Suhas, Cathedral, Mrs. Amalorpava Mary Emily, Cathedral and Veena William, Mysore South.

The Committee will draw up the program as per the guidelines given by Rome and CCBI.

As suggested by the CCBI, Jubilee 2025 will be inaugurated in the Diocese and in all parishes of the Diocese on 26th November on the Feast of Christ the King. The Apostolic Administrator will inaugurate the Jubilee in the Cathedral Parish Church at 6 pm Mass.

Every parish will decide a convenient time for the inauguration of the Jubilee in the parish.

Every parish is required to send a small report of the inauguration of the Jubilee.

### **PRIESTS' & RECOLLECTION:**

Keeping to the good practice, the Diocese will organize a priests' recollection in the season of Advent on and in preparation for Christmas on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at Catholic Centre. The Program will be, arrival 9.30 am; coffee 10 am; 1st talk 10.30 am; 11.30 adoration and confessions, 1.00 pm lunch and dispersal.

All the priests working in the Diocese including the religious are expected to attend the recollection and celebration. On that day we will celebrate and wish each other Christmas and New Year Wishes.

## **COMMUNIO INDIA SUNDAY: 3RD DECEMBER (FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT)**

Communio is an initiative of the Conference of Catholic Bishops India (CCBI) taken in 2018, to assist, support and sustain our Dioceses and Religious Congregations exercising pastoral ministry in rural and mission areas. "Hearts in prayer, minds in mission and hands in solidarity" is the vision of Communio. Its objectives are:

- (i) to build a culture of sharing among the Catholic faithful in order to express solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need;
- (ii) to encourage the faithful to pray and to support the missions and the missionaries and to promote vocations to consecrated life;
- (iii) to inspire the lay faithful to volunteer to work in mission areas and
- (iv) to promote the formation of our people as missionary disciples. Communio is from us, for us and by us.

I request all the Parishes, Religious Institutions and Faithful contribute generously for this divine and noble cause.  
**(Circular from CCBI ANNEXED III).**

## **NIHIL OBSTAT OF KANDHAMAL MARTYRS**

The Congregation for the Cause of Saints has granted the Nihil Obstat, which signifies that there is no objection to commencing the cause for the beatification of Kanteshwar Digal and Companions.

The Nihil Obstat, granted by the Congregation for the Cause of Saints in Rome, affirms that there are no doctrinal or moral



impediments to investigating the life, virtues and sanctity of the Servant of God Kanteshwar Digal and Companions. This is a testimony to the authenticity of the proposed cause and its alignment with the teachings and values of our faith.

The 35 Kandhamal martyrs are 24 men and 11 women. They are:

1. Father Bernard Digal 2. Juboraj Digal 3. Sibino Pradhan
4. Raghapati Digal 5. Kantheswar Digal 6. Bikram Nayak
7. Rajesh Digal 8. Trinath Digal 9. Parikhita Nayak
10. Suchitra Digal 11. Lensa Digal 12. Subedana Nayak 13. Mayagini digal
14. Jhunima Parichha 15. Bastina Montry
16. Priya Darshoni Nayak 17. Dustina Parichha 18. Sirel Parichha
19. Bhumika digal 20. Tepan Nayak 21. Badani Digal
22. Digamber Digal 23. Lalita Digal 24. Augustine Digal
25. Tileswar Paltasingh 26. Kundan Montry 27. Hemant Digal
28. Bibhisana Digal 29. Rebboti Parichha 30. Melanio Digal
31. Krushna Nayak 32. Jamadei Pradhan 33. Baliarsingh Digal
34. Gonda Digal 35. Mary Pani

## STATUTORY COLLECTION REMISSION

All are reminded to send the stipulated collections to the Financial Administrator at the earliest. While thanking you all for sending the collections for specific purposes, I request those who have not sent the same, to send them without delay. Let us avoid last minute transactions.

Please find enclosed the details of the earmarked collections received for the period from September - October 2023 in **ANNEXURE IV.**

+Archbishop Emeritus  
**Most Rev. Dr. Bernard Moras**  
The Apostolic Administrator,  
Diocese of Mysore.

## ANNEXURE - I

### LETTER OF THE XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD

As the proceedings of the first session of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops draw to a close, we want to thank God with all of you for the beautiful and enriching experience we have lived. We lived this blessed time in profound communion with all of you. We were supported by your prayers, bearing with you your expectations, your questions, as well as your fears. As Pope Francis requested two years ago, a long process of listening and discernment was initiated, open to all the People of God, no one being excluded, to “journey together” under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, missionary disciples engaged in the following of Jesus Christ.

The session in which we have been gathered in Rome since 30 September is an important phase of this process. In many ways it has been an unprecedented experience. For the first time, at Pope Francis’ invitation, men and women have been invited, in virtue of their baptism, to sit at the same table to take part, not only in the discussions, but also in the voting process of this Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. Together, in the complementarity of our vocations, our charisms and our ministries, we have listened intensely to the Word of God and the experience of others. Using the conversation in the Spirit method, we have humbly shared the wealth and poverty of our communities from every continent, seeking to discern what the Holy Spirit wants to say to the Church today. We have thus also experienced the importance of fostering mutual exchanges between the Latin tradition and the traditions of Eastern Christianity. The participation of fraternal delegates from other Churches and Ecclesial Communities deeply enriched our discussions.

Our assembly took place in the context of a world in crisis, whose wounds and scandalous inequalities resonated painfully in our hearts, infusing our work with a particular gravity, especially since some of us come from countries where war rages. We prayed for the victims of deadly violence, without forgetting all those who have been forced by misery and corruption to take the dangerous road of migration. We assured our solidarity and commitment alongside the women and men all over the world who are working to build justice and peace.

At the invitation of the Holy Father, we made significant room for silence to foster mutual listening and a desire for communion in the Spirit among us. During the opening ecumenical vigil, we experienced how the thirst for unity increases in the silent contemplation of the crucified Christ. In fact, the cross is the only cathedra of the One who, having given himself for the salvation of the world, entrusted His disciples to His Father, so that “they may all be one” (John 17:21). Firmly united in the hope brought by His Resurrection, we entrusted to Him our common home where the cries of the earth and the poor are becoming increasingly urgent: “Laudate Deum!” (“Praise God!”), as Pope Francis reminded us at the beginning of our work.

Day by day, we felt the pressing call to pastoral and missionary conversion. For the Church’s vocation is to proclaim the Gospel not by focusing on itself, but by placing itself at the service of the infinite love with which God loved the world (cf. John 3:16). When homeless people near St. Peter’s Square were asked about their expectations regarding the Church on the occasion of this synod, they replied: “Love!”. This love must always remain the ardent heart of the Church, a Trinitarian and Eucharistic love, as the Pope recalled on October 15, midway through our assembly, invoking the message of Saint Thérèse

of the Child Jesus. It is “trust” that gives us the audacity and inner freedom that we experienced, not hesitating to freely and humbly express our convergences, differences, desires and questions.

And now? We hope that the months leading to the second session in October 2024 will allow everyone to concretely participate in the dynamism of missionary communion indicated by the word “synod”. This is not about ideology, but about an experience rooted in the apostolic tradition. As the Pope reminded us at the beginning of this process, “communion and mission can risk remaining somewhat abstract, unless we cultivate an ecclesial praxis that expresses the concreteness of synodality (...) encouraging real involvement on the part of each and all” (October 9, 2021). There are multiple challenges and numerous questions: the synthesis report of the first session will specify the points of agreement we have reached, highlight the open questions, and indicate how our work will proceed. To progress in its discernment, the Church absolutely needs to listen to everyone, starting with the poorest. This requires a path of conversion on its part, which is also a path of praise: “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children” (Luke 10:21)! It means listening to those who have been denied the right to speak in society or who feel excluded, even by the Church; listening to people who are victims of racism in all its forms – in particular in some regions to indigenous peoples whose cultures have been scorned. Above all, the Church of our time has the duty to listen, in a spirit of conversion, to those who have been victims of abuse committed by members of the ecclesial body, and to commit herself concretely and structurally to ensuring that this does not happen again.

The Church also needs to listen to the laity, women and men, all called to holiness by virtue of their baptismal vocation: to

the testimony of catechists, who in many situations are the first proclaimers of the Gospel; to the simplicity and vivacity of children, the enthusiasm of youth, to their questions, and their pleas; to the dreams, the wisdom and the memory of elderly people. The Church needs to listen to families, to their educational concerns, to the Christian witness they offer in today's world. She needs to welcome the voice of those who want to be involved in lay ministries and to participate in discernment and decision-making structures.

To progress further in synodal discernment, the Church particularly needs to gather even more the words and experience of the ordained ministers: priests, the primary collaborators of the bishops, whose sacramental ministry is indispensable for the life of the whole body; deacons, who, through their ministry, signify the care of the entire Church for the most vulnerable. She also needs to let herself be questioned by the prophetic voice of consecrated life, the watchful sentinel of the Spirit's call. She also needs to be attentive to all those who do not share her faith but are seeking the truth, and in whom the Spirit, who "offers everyone the possibility of being associated with this paschal mystery" (Gaudium et Spes 22, 5), is also present and operative.

"The world in which we live, and which we are called to love and serve, even with its contradictions, demands that the Church strengthen cooperation in all areas of her mission. It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium" (Pope Francis, October 17, 2015). We do not need to be afraid to respond to this call. Mary, Mother of the Church, the first on the journey, accompanies our pilgrimage. In joy and in sorrow, she shows us her Son and invites us to trust. And He, Jesus, is our only hope!

Vatican City, October 25, 2023

## ANNEXURE - II

### MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 2023 WORLD DAY OF THE POOR:

19<sup>th</sup> November 2023, Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 “Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor” (Tob 4:7)

1. This, the seventh annual World Day of the Poor, is a fruitful sign of the Father’s mercy and a support for the lives of our communities. As its celebration becomes more and more rooted in the pastoral life of the Church, it enables us to discover ever anew the heart of the Gospel. Our daily efforts to welcome the poor are still not enough. A great river of poverty is traversing our cities and swelling to the point of overflowing; it seems to overwhelm us, so great are the needs of our brothers and sisters who plead for our help, support and solidarity.

For this reason, on the Sunday before the Solemnity of Jesus Christ King of the Universe, we gather around his Table to receive from him once more the gift and strength to live lives of poverty and to serve the poor. “Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor” (Tob 4:7). These words help us to understand the essence of our witness. By reflecting on the Book of Tobit, a little-known text of the Old Testament, yet one that is charming and full of wisdom, we can better appreciate the message the sacred writer wished to communicate. We find ourselves before a scene of family life: a father, Tobit, embraces his son, Tobias, who is about to set out on a lengthy journey. The elderly Tobit fears that he will never again see his son, and so leaves him his “spiritual testament”. Tobit had been deported to Nineveh and is now blind, and thus doubly poor. At the same time, he remains always certain of one thing, expressed by his very name: “The Lord has been my good”. As a God-fearing man and a good father, he wants to leave his son not simply material riches, but the witness of the right path to

follow in life. So he tells him: "Revere the Lord all your days, my son, and refuse to sin or to transgress his commandments. Live uprightly all the days of your life, and do not walk in the ways of wrongdoing" (4:5).

We see immediately that what the elderly Tobit asks of his son is not simply to think of God and to call upon him in prayer. He speaks of making concrete gestures, carrying out good works and practicing justice. He goes on to state this even more clearly: "To all those who practice righteousness give alms from your possessions, and do not let your eye begrudge the gift when you make it" (4:7). The words of this wise old man make us think. We are reminded that Tobit had lost his sight after having performed a work of mercy. As he himself tells us, from youth he had devoted his life to works of charity: "I performed many acts of charity for my kindred and my people who had gone with me in exile to Nineveh in the land of the Assyrians... I would give my food to the hungry and my clothing to the naked; and if I saw the dead body of any of my people thrown out behind the wall of Nineveh, I would bury it" (1:3.17). For this act of charity, the king had deprived him of all his goods and reduced him to utter poverty. Still, the Lord had need of Tobit; once he regained his post as an official, he courageously continued to do as he had done. Let us hear his tale, which can also speak to us today. "At our festival of Pentecost, which is the sacred festival of weeks, a good dinner was prepared for me and I reclined to it. When the table was set for me and an abundance of food was placed before me, I said to my son Tobias, 'Go, my child, and bring whatever poor person you may find of our people among the exiles of Nineveh, who is wholeheartedly mindful of God, and he shall eat together with me. I will wait for you, until you come back'" (2:1-2). How meaningful it would be if, on the Day of the Poor, this concern of Tobit were also our own! If we were to

invite someone to share our Sunday dinner, after sharing in the Eucharistic table, the Eucharist we celebrate would truly become a mark of communion. If it is true that around the altar of the Lord we are conscious that we are all brothers and sisters, how much more visible would our fraternity be, if we shared our festive meal with those who are in need! Tobias did as his father told him, but he returned with the news that a poor man had been murdered and thrown into the market place. Without hesitating, the elderly Tobit got up from the table and went to bury that man. Returning home exhausted, he fell asleep in the courtyard; some bird droppings fell on his eyes and he became blind (cf. 2:1-10). An irony of fate: no good deed goes unpunished! That is what we are tempted to think, but faith teaches us to go more deeply. The blindness of Tobit was to become his strength, enabling him to recognize even more clearly the many forms of poverty all around him. In due time, the Lord would give him back his sight and the joy of once more seeing his son Tobias. When that day came, we are told, "Tobit saw his son and threw his arms around him, and he wept and said to him, 'I see you, my son, the light of my eyes!' Then he said, 'Blessed be God, and blessed be his great name, and blessed be all his holy angels. May his holy name be blessed throughout all the ages. Though he afflicted me, he has had mercy upon me. Now I see my son Tobias'" (11:13-14).

3. We may well ask where Tobit found the courage and the inner strength that enabled him to serve God in the midst of a pagan people and to love his neighbour so greatly that he risked his own life. That of Tobit is a remarkable story: a faithful husband and a caring father, he was deported far from his native land, where he suffered unjustly, persecuted by the king and mistreated by his neighbours. Despite being such a good man, he was put to the test. As sacred Scripture



often teaches us, God does not spare trials to those who are righteous. Why? It is not to disgrace us, but to strengthen our faith in him. Tobit, in his time of trial, discovers his own poverty, which enables him to recognize others who are poor. He is faithful to God's law and keeps the commandments, but for him this is not enough. He can show practical concern for the poor because he has personally known what it is to be poor. His advice to Tobias thus becomes his true testament: "Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor" (4:7). In a word, whenever we encounter a poor person, we cannot look away, for that would prevent us from encountering the face of the Lord Jesus. Let us carefully consider his words: "from anyone who is poor". Everyone is our neighbour. Regardless of the colour of their skin, their social standing, the place from which they came, if I myself am poor, I can recognize my brothers or sisters in need of my help. We are called to acknowledge every poor person and every form of poverty, abandoning the indifference and the banal excuses we make to protect our illusory well-being.

4. We are living in times that are not particularly sensitive to the needs of the poor. The pressure to adopt an affluent lifestyle increases, while the voices of those dwelling in poverty tend to go unheard. We are inclined to neglect anything that varies from the model of life set before the younger generation, those who are most vulnerable to the cultural changes now taking place. We disregard anything that is unpleasant or causes suffering, and exalt physical qualities as if they were the primary goal in life. Virtual reality is overtaking real life, and increasingly the two worlds blend into one. The poor become a film clip that can affect us for a moment, yet when we encounter them in flesh and blood on our streets, we are annoyed and look the other way. Haste, by now the daily companion of our lives, prevents us from stopping to help care

for others. The parable of the Good Samaritan (cf. Lk 10:25-37) is not simply a story from the past; it continues to challenge each of us in the here and now of our daily lives. It is easy to delegate charity to others, yet the calling of every Christian is to become personally involved.

5. Let us thank the Lord that so many men and women are devoted to caring for the poor and the excluded; they are persons of every age and social status who show understanding and readiness to assist the marginalized and those who suffer. They are not superheroes but “next door neighbours”, ordinary people who quietly make themselves poor among the poor. They do more than give alms: they listen, they engage, they try to understand and deal with difficult situations and their causes. They consider not only material but also spiritual needs; and they work for the integral promotion of individuals. The Kingdom of God becomes present and visible in their generous and selfless service; like the seed that falls on good soil, it takes root in their lives and bears rich fruit (cf. Lk 8:4-15). Our gratitude to these many volunteers needs to find expression in prayer that their testimony will increasingly prove fruitful.

6. On this, the sixtieth anniversary of the encyclical *Pacem in Terris*, we do well to take to heart the following words of Pope Saint John XXIII: “Every human being enjoys the right to life, to bodily integrity and to the means necessary for the proper development of life, including food, clothing, shelter, medical care, rest, and, finally, the necessary social services. In consequence, every individual has the right to be looked after in the event of ill health; disability stemming from work; widowhood and forced unemployment; as well as in other cases when, through no fault of his own, he or she is deprived of the means of livelihood”(ed. Carlen, No. 11). How much still needs to be done for this to become a reality, not least through

a serious and effective commitment on the part of political leaders and legislators! For all the limitations and at times the failures of politics in discerning and serving the common good, may the spirit of solidarity and subsidiarity continue to grow among citizens who believe in the value of voluntary commitment to serving the poor. Certainly there is a need to urge and even pressure public institutions to perform their duties properly, yet it is of no use to wait passively to receive everything “from on high”. Those living in poverty must also be involved and accompanied in a process of change and responsibility.

7. In addition, we must once more acknowledge new forms of poverty, as well as those described earlier. I think in particular of peoples caught up in situations of war, and especially children deprived of the serene present and a dignified future. We should never grow accustomed to such situations. Let us persevere in every effort to foster peace as a gift of the risen Lord and the fruit of a commitment to justice and dialogue. Nor can we ignore those forms of speculation in various sectors, which have led to dramatic price increases that further impoverish many families. Earnings are quickly spent, forcing sacrifices that compromise the dignity of every person. If a family has to choose between food for nourishment and medical care, then we need to pay attention to the voices of those who uphold the right to both goods in the name of the dignity of the human person. Then too how can we fail to note the ethical confusion present in the world of labour? The inhumane treatment meted out to many male and female laborers; inadequate pay for work done; the scourge of job insecurity; the excessive number of accident-related deaths, often the result of a mentality that chooses quick profit over a secure workplace... We are reminded of the insistence of Saint John Paul II that “the primary basis of the value of work is man himself... However true it may be that man is destined

for work and called to it, in the first place, work is ‘for man’ and not man ‘for work’” (Laborem Exercens, 6).

8. This list, deeply troubling in itself, only partially accounts for the situations of poverty that are now part of our daily lives. I cannot fail to mention in particular an increasingly evident form of poverty that affects young people. How much frustration and how many suicides are being caused by the illusions created by a culture that leads young people to think that they are “losers”, “good for nothing”. Let us help them react to these malign influences and find ways to help them grow into self-assured and generous men and women. When speaking of the poor, it is easy to fall into rhetorical excess. It is also an insidious temptation to remain at the level of statistics and numbers. The poor are persons; they have faces, stories, hearts and souls. They are our brothers and sisters, with good points and bad, like all of us, and it is important to enter into a personal relation with each of them. The Book of Tobit teaches us to be realistic and practical in whatever we do with and for the poor. This is a matter of justice; it requires us to seek out and find one another, in order to foster the harmony needed for the community to feel itself as such. Caring for the poor is more than simply a matter of a hasty hand-out; it calls for reestablishing the just interpersonal relationships that poverty harms. In this way, “not turning our face away from anyone who is poor” leads us to enjoy the benefits of mercy and charity that give meaning and value to our entire Christian life.

9. May our concern for the poor always be marked by Gospel realism. Our sharing should meet the concrete needs of the other, rather than being just a means of ridding ourselves of superfluous goods. Here too, Spirit-led discernment is demanded, in order to recognize the genuine needs of our brothers and sisters and not our own personal hopes and

aspirations. What the poor need is certainly our humanity, our hearts open to love. Let us never forget that “we are called to find Christ in them, to lend our voice to their causes, but also to be their friends, to listen to them, to speak for them and to embrace the mysterious wisdom which God wishes to share with us through them” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 198). Faith teaches us that every poor person is a son or daughter of God and that Christ is present in them. “Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Mt 25:40).

10. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus. In a page of her autobiography, *Story of a Soul*, she tells us: “I have come to realize that perfect charity means putting up with other people’s faults, not being at all taken aback by their faults, being edified by the smallest acts of virtue that we see practised. But above all, I have come to realize that charity must not remain locked in the depths of one’s heart: ‘No one’, Jesus says, ‘lights a candle to put it under a bushel basket, but puts it on a candle-stand, so that it can give light to everyone in the house’. For me, that candle represents the charity that must give light and bring joy not only to those dearest to me, but to everyone in the house, with the exception of none” (Ms C, 12r<sup>o</sup>). In this house of ours, which is the world, everyone has a right to experience the light of charity; no one must be deprived of that light. May the steadfast love of Saint Therese stir our hearts on this World Day of the Poor, and help us not to “turn our face away from anyone who is poor”, but to keep it always focused on the human and divine face of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 13 June 2023

Memorial of St. Anthony of Padua, Patron of the Poor.

FRANCIS

**ANNEXURE - III**  
**CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF INDIA**  
**COMMUNIO SUNDAY**  
**DECEMBER 3, 2023 (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 Jesus Christ,

1. As we begin a new liturgical year with the Season of Advent, may we be filled with its sense of hope, joy and encouragement. In celebrating the Mystery of Incarnation, which is the most fundamental expression of God's unconditional love for us, may we resonate with the teaching of Christ that Love is the heart of the Gospel, and that to receive God's salvation is to be fully taken up in this infinite love of God for us revealed in Jesus Christ.

2. Throughout the year, but very specially during the Seasons of Advent and Christmas, we are called to share God's love with our fellow brothers and sisters, particularly through all her ministries, the Church in India strives to continue transmitting the joy of the Gospel everywhere, but socio-economic limitations pose obstacles on her way to fulfil her mission. In Manipur, life has been thrown into disarray and our brethren are displaced, the majority of them having lost their homes and worship places. Many of our brothers and sisters live in poor and inhumane conditions and are devoid of a proper place to worship and celebrate the Holy Eucharist. Several of our missionaries in rural and remote areas work with very limited facilities.

3. Once again, as we commemorate Communio Sunday on the First Sunday of Advent, let us celebrate it joyfully and appeal to all our faithful to be generous in sharing their prayers and

resources in order to help our brothers and sisters, especially in the remote regions of our country, so that they too can experience the love of God.

4. Communio is an initiative of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) taken in 2018, to assist, support and sustain our Dioceses and Religious Congregations exercising pastoral ministry in rural and mission areas. “Hearts in prayer, minds in mission and hands in solidarity” is the vision of Communio. Its objectives are:

- (i) to build a culture of sharing among the Catholic faithful in order to express solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need;
- (ii) to encourage the faithful to pray and to support the missions and the missionaries and to promote vocations to consecrated life;
- (iii) to inspire the lay faithful to volunteer to work in mission areas and
- (iv) to promote the formation of our people as missionary disciples Communio is from us, for us and by us.

5. In and through Communio we have begun to share our resources for Evangelization programmes, catechesis, formation of the lay faithful, seminars and training sessions, construction of chapels and presbyteries as well as for ecumenism and interfaith initiatives. We invite you to celebrate Communio not only today, on this Sunday, but every day. There are five ways in which you could collaborate with Communio:

- (i) donate for a specific cause;
- (ii) leave a legacy by making a note in your will;
- (iii) sponsor the formation of a seminarian or a religious candidate;
- (iv) support a mission and

- (v) volunteer by giving your time and energy. Communio reaches your hands and hearts through regular videos on saints, feasts and the Pope's prayer intentions; you can access us through our website ([www.communio.in](http://www.communio.in)), our Diocesan Coordinators and our Bishops.

6. As we thank you on this occasion for your magnanimity and generosity we also encourage you to celebrate Communio Sunday in your parish, institution, religious community and family, in the following ways:

- (i) have the Communio Sunday poster or logo adorn your parish notice boards and bulletins; you may have it on your profile in the social media – that all may hear and see the word Communio;
- (ii) organize a meaningful liturgical celebration to pray for mission and missionaries;
- (iii) make a pledge to contribute towards Communio with your resources, time and energy. And start today – here and now! May Our Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Missions, and Saint Joseph, the Patron of the Universal Church, intercede for us.

**CCBI General Secretariat, November 1, 2023**



### Annexure - IV EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM 01.09.2023 TO 28.10.2023

PARISHES	St. Peter the Apostle	St. Peter's Pence	Second Sunday	Holy Thursday	Hunger & Disease	Communio Sunday	Manipal Relief	Cancer Patients Support Fund	Girls Child Day	Maint of Holy Land	Maint of Holy See	Prison Ministry
Nerugale Parish Society	1,660.00	1,500.00	4,170.00									
Nirmala Mathe Church, Kutta		1,105.00	906.00									
St. John Paul II Church, Old Kesare	1,336.00		6,121.00	2,857.00	10,082.00	4,730.00	1,240.00	1,630.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
St. Mathias Church, Malavalli			10,508.00	2,247.00	6,177.00	4,388.00		7,193.00				
Holy Family Church, Kudige	2,670.00	2,490.00	10,100.00	3,470.00	5,000.00	6,000.00		2,113.00				
St. Anne's Church, Virajpet	6,080.00			8,505.00	26,380.00	12,680.00		11,910.00				
Sacred Heart Church, Naganahalli	3,050.00	2,950.00	13,350.00	8,100.00	16,700.00	11,300.00		18,600.00				
St. Mary's Church, Marapura	460.00	370.00	1,350.00	450.00	810.00	660.00		1,100.00				
Infant Jesus Church, Yathagadanahalli	2,920.00	2,860.00	16,880.00	4,880.00	3,920.00	4,050.00						
St. Mary's Church, Periyapatha	1,300.00	1,450.00	7,940.00	2,125.00	2,570.00	2,400.00		2,560.00				
St. Joseph's Church, Otterthotti	1,540.00	2,450.00	11,160.00	7,810.00	13,760.00	9,100.00						
Church of Mary Mother of God, Jakkalli			11,850.00	670.00	1,730.00	1,900.00						
St. Anthony's Church, Sunkikoppa				8,140.00								
Our Lady of Velankanni Church, J. P. Nagar	3,000.00	3,000.00	24,450.00	11,590.00	29,570.00	8,800.00		11,600.00	5,005.00			7,580.00
St. Teresa of Calcutta Church, Rajivnagar	5,065.00	4,057.00	25,579.00	7,046.00	15,825.00	3,565.00						
Sacred Heart Church, Yadavagiri	4,340.00	3,210.00	15,940.00	6,800.00	9,200.00	6,600.00		7,820.00				
St. Francis Xavier's Church, Jellipalayam	500.00	500.00	2,870.00	1,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00						
St. Joseph's Church, Jayalakshimpuram	4,033.00	2,215.00	17,295.00	6,531.00	13,060.00	4,210.00		4,510.00				
Divine Mercy Church, Sathagalli	3,292.00	3,289.00	24,897.00	3,990.00	13,390.00	4,873.00		10,175.00				
St. Alphonsa's Church, M. K. Halli	2,240.00		7,580.00					5,590.00				
St. Anthony's Church, Gayathipuram			17,500.00							2,010.00		
Nerugale Parish Society			3,800.00									
St. Sebastian's Church, Kushalanagar		5,419.00	25,300.00					6,300.00				
St. Anthony's Church, Cowlalli		1,500.00	3,740.00					2,150.00				

Arogyamathe Church, Hulikere	1,607.00	1,927.00	10,147.00	5,950.00					
St. Anthony the Hermit Church, Karatukovil			6,000.00	10,000.00					
St. Francis Xavier's Church, Hunsur		2,500.00	7,055.00	5,000.00					
St. Paul the Hermit Church, Jampannahalli				2,060.00					
Divine Mercy Church, K. R. Nagar			3,070.00	15,000.00					
St. Peter's Church, Bogadi			29,687.00	8,000.00					
St. Anne's Church, Sandanapalayam	2,500.00	2,500.00	15,000.00	3,500.00					
Immaculate Conception Church, Ganjam			6,300.00						
St. Joseph's Church, P. G. Palya	605.00	318.00	2,547.00	5,000.00					
St. Paul's Church, Chamarajanagar			11,452.00	30,000.00					
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Sirampura				10,000.00					
St. James Church, Shanthipura				15,200.00					
Our Lady of Victories Church, Somwarpet									





**JUBILEE 2025**