

**1<sup>st</sup> February 2014**

**To**  
**All the Clergy and Religious**  
**Diocese of Balasore**

***Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and Lay Faithful,***

Greetings from Bishop's House, Balasore.

**1. A WORD OF GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION:**

The great event of my Episcopal Consecration, for which we have been preparing for nearly two months, is over. I know that I had only to wait and watch from a distance, while all of you were actively involved in one way or another to make the event a successful one. Many of you worked tirelessly for the purpose. I can sincerely tell you that those who came and witnessed the event have gone back full of praise and appreciation for the wonderful and efficient manner in which whole event was planned and executed. The credit goes to each one of you. My sincere thanks to all of you.

As you all know, I have taken as my motto, '***To be a Blessing to All***'. Blessing is a great biblical theme; words like "*bless*" and "*blessing*" occur over 400 times in the Bible. On top of that there are many places where God's blessings are being described where these words are not actually used. A blessing is a statement of good will and happiness that is said about another. From the moment God created humankind, He wanted everyone to enjoy all His blessings – 'life in all its fullness'. These blessings are material, emotional and spiritual. Patriarch Abraham was told by God, "in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed (Gen12:3). King David had been promised blessing of prosperity and peace in the land (cf. 2 Sam 7:28-29). The ultimate blessing that God has given is the new life and forgiveness that comes through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, who in his great 'Sermon on the Mount', gives a series of blessings on people, especially the poor and afflicted.

My prayer and wish, as I venture into my new ministry with you, is that God's blessing of joy, peace and unity be with us always. May His Word be a light to guide our steps (Ps 119: 105).

**2. C.B.C.I GENERAL BODY MEETING AT PALA (KERALA):**

I shall be attending, together with my predecessor Bishop Thomas Thiruthalil, C.M., the General Body Meeting of the CBCI at Alphonsian Pastoral Institute at Pala from the 5<sup>th</sup> till the 12<sup>th</sup> of February. We shall be leaving for Kerala on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February and will be back in the Diocese on 18<sup>th</sup> of February.

While I am in Kerala, my home parish is organizing a felicitation programme for me on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February.

### **3. MY PROGRAMME:**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February (Sunday) I have the Eucharistic celebration at Christ the King Cathedral at Balasore. Later, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February I will be in Krishnachandrapur parish and on 2<sup>nd</sup> March at Barbil parish. Nothing more has been scheduled so far.

### **4. A MEETING OF ALL THE DIOCESAN CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE:**

I would like to have an informal gathering of all the **diocesan clergy** of our diocese on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> of February. The purpose of the gathering is for interaction among us. I do not have an agenda as yet; let it be a friendly gathering in cordial atmosphere. We shall have the meeting at 9.30 am. Being 'Sivarathry' holiday, I guess it will be possible for all to be present.

At some later point, I will also have an interaction with all the religious working in our diocese.

### **5. SACERDOTAL SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF REV. FR. VARGHESE PUTHUMATTAM AND FR. GERALD GOMES:**

Two of our Fathers, Fr. Varghese Puthumattam and Fr. Gerald Gomes are in their sacerdotal Silver Jubilee year. It is fitting that we honour and felicitate them as a diocesan community. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of February, after our above mentioned meeting, we shall have the Jubilee Mass at 11.30, followed by a short felicitation and lunch.

For this Jubilee celebration, I would like to invite also the Religious – Fathers, Brothers and Sisters working in the diocese.

Invoking God's blessings on you and on your most valuable works.

*Devotedly yours in Christ,*

**Simon Kaipuram, C.M.  
Bishop of Balasore**