

**18<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

***My dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and Lay Faithful,***

**1. The Season of Lent:**

This year we started the Season of Lent on 13<sup>th</sup> February. On 1<sup>st</sup> February I sent to you my Lenten Pastoral Letter, indicating the importance of this Holy Season of Lent for our spiritual renewal and for the proper preparations for the celebration of the Solemnity of Easter. During Lent, we are specially invited to meditate on the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Divine Saviour. The three principle acts of piety during Lent are - prayer, fasting and almsgiving. May this Season of Lent be an appropriate time for all of you for reconciliation and for spiritual growth for entering into the newness of life with the Risen Lord.

**2. Pope Benedict XVI Resigns:**

On 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI communicated his decision to renounce the ministry of Bishop of Rome, Successor of Saint Peter, Head of the Catholic Church and of the Vatican City State, in such a way, that as from 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013, at 20:00 hours, the See of Rome, the See of Saint Peter, will be vacant and a Conclave to elect the new Supreme Pontiff of the Catholic Church will have to be convoked by those who have the competence to do it in accordance with the Canon Law.

The Conference of Catholic Bishops of India firmly believes that the prophetic announcement of his resignation was done under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, who ceaselessly guides the Church. We equally believe that the same Holy Spirit would guide the Church to elect a worthy and holy successor to Benedict XVI. The Church in India profusely thanks the Holy Father for his splendid pontificate during 8 years and ardently prays for the Universal Church. All are specially requested to pray that the forthcoming Conclave of Cardinals will elect a worthy Successor to Pope Benedict XVI.

**3. Chrism Mass:**

This year Chrism Mass will be held in the Cathedral at Balasore on 21<sup>st</sup> March (Thursday) at 5 p.m. Chrism Mass which the Bishop concelebrates with his presbyterium and at which the oils are blessed, shows the communion of the priests with their Bishops. It is thus desirable that, if possible, all the priests take part in it. I cordially invite all the Priests working in Balasore Diocese to take part in the Chrism Mass.

On the same day, 21<sup>st</sup> March, in the morning, we will have the Recollection for the Priests. Rev. Fr. John Rodrigues from Kolkata will be conducting the Recollection. The time table for the Chrism Mass Day will be as follows:

|                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 10.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m. | Recollection for the Priests |
| 01.00 p.m.               | Lunch                        |
| 05.00 p.m.               | Chrism Mass                  |
| 07.00 p.m.               | Supper                       |

#### **4. XXV Plenary Assembly of the CCBI:**

The 25<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly of the CCBI was held at Veilankanni, Tamilnadu, from 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2013. The main theme of the Plenary Assembly was the pastoral plan for the Church in India. 117 Bishops took part in it. At the end of the CCBI Plenary Assembly, the Bishops issued a Message to the people with the title "**Called to Believe, to Love, to Serve and to Proclaim**". I am sending you a copy of it along with this Circular.

#### **5. Workshop for the Priests:**

The Commission for Vocations, Clergy and Religious is organizing a Workshop for the Priests working in Orissa on the theme "**The Challenges and Demands of Celibate Chastity in priestly ministry today**". It will be held in three places – Gopalpur on Sea, Puri and Jharsuguda on the following dates:

1. Gopalpur on Sea - 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013
2. Puri - 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> April 2013
3. Jharsuguda - 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> July 2013

The priests working in Balasore Diocese are requested to attend the said workshop in one of the places mentioned above. They are requested to inform about their participation on it to Fr. Kurian T.K. SVD, the Secretary of the Commission for Vocations, Clergy and Religious, and the Rector of KJM, Sason, Sambalpur, so as to make necessary arrangements for their stay during the workshop. His address is:

Rev. Fr. Kurian T.K., SVD  
Rector, Khristo Jyoti Mohavidyalayo  
Sason-768200, District – Sambalpur  
E-mail: frtkurian@gmail.com  
Cell: 094370 30069

*Devotedly yours in Christ,*

*Thomas Thiruthail, C.M.  
Bishop of Balasore*

#### **Bishop's Programme:**

##### **February 2013**

- |       |             |   |
|-------|-------------|---|
| 21    | - Berhampur | - Installation of the new Vincentian Provincial<br>Ve. Rev. Fr. Joseph Maniangatt, C.M. |
| 23-24 | - Ranchi    | - Vincentian Family Meeting   |

##### **March 2013**

- |       |               |                                      |
|-------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| 13    | - Bhubaneswar | - Regional Marriage Tribunal Meeting |
| 14    | - Kusudia     | - Confirmation                       |
| 21    | - Balasore    | - Chrism Mass                        |
| 28-31 | - Balasore    | - Holy Week Liturgy                  |

##### **April 2013**

- |   |               |   |
|---|---------------|---|
| 2 | - Bhubaneswar | - A.M. - Budget Session of KJM, Sason,<br>Vianney Bhavan, Gopalpur<br>- P.M. - Meeting of the Regional Council of<br>Bishops of Orissa. |
| 8 | - Baripada    | - Golden Jubilee of the M.C. Brothers   |

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