

18th May 2013

My dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and Lay Faithful,

We are already in summer and experiencing the summer heat. I wish you a pleasant summer holidays. With a few intermittent summer showers in most of the places, the summer heat has come down a little bit lower. Hope we will get more showers.

1. Academic Results in our Schools in the Diocese:

Most of our English Medium Schools in the diocese secured 100% pass in the I.C.S.E exams for 2013. Our Odia Medium Schools in the diocese also secured excellent academic results in the H.S.C. exams. I take this occasion to congratulate the students and the Staff of the schools for their excellent academic performances.

2. The Year of Faith:

The Holy Father Benedict XVI, speaking of the reasons that led him to institute the **Year of Faith**, noted, among other considerations, that this time would provide the opportunity “to intensify the celebration of the faith in the liturgy, especially in the Eucharist, which is the summit towards which the activity of the Church is directed and also the source from which all its power flows” (*Porta fidei*, n.9).

Because of this link between faith and the Eucharist, the calendar of the major events of the Year of Faith, approved by Benedict XVI, includes **Sunday, June 2, 2013 (Feast of Corpus Christi-Most Holy Body and Blood of the Lord)**. **On that day, at 5:00 p.m. Rome time**, the Holy Father will preside at an hour of Eucharistic Adoration in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, in communion with all Bishops and with their local diocesan communities around the world. The universal scope of this moment is to be a gesture of spiritual sharing. For this reason, it is asked that all Bishops join with the Holy Father **by celebrating in their own Cathedrals an hour of Eucharistic Adoration, synchronized with the Vatican Basilica**. It is asked that this initiative be extended to as many parishes and ecclesial realities as deemed appropriate by the Ordinary. This event will provide many of the faithful with an opportunity to join with their local Bishops and with the successor of Peter in the prayer of adoration to Jesus alive in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

3. Holy Hour in the Cathedral at Balasore on 2nd June 2013:

In the context of the *Year of Faith* and the *Feast of Corpus Christi* and as per the instructions from the Holy Father given above, on 2nd June 2013 (Sunday), we will have an Hour of Eucharistic Adoration from 6 to 7 p.m. in our Cathedral at Balasore. It is desirable that as many as possible join this Hour of Adoration in the Cathedral on 2nd June. On the same day (2nd June) evening, an Hour of Eucharistic Adoration (Holy Hour) be held in all the parishes of the diocese with the maximum number of participants.

4. The Golden Jubilee of my Priestly Ordination:

On the joyous occasion of the Golden Jubilee of my Priestly Ordination (1963-2013), the Holy Father Pope Francis has very kindly sent to me a letter of Golden Jubilee felicitations and Apostolic Blessing. I am very thankful to the Holy Father for this gracious letter.

His Eminence Fernando Cardinal Filoni, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples also sent to me a letter of congratulations on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of my Priestly Ordination. I am also very grateful to His Eminence Fernando Cardinal Filoni for it.

Most of the priests working in Balasore diocese, a number of Religious Sisters and Laity joined me on 13th April 2013 for the thanksgiving Eucharistic Celebration in the Cathedral at Balasore on the concluding day of my Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee. I am very thankful to all of you for it.

I am sending you herewith a copy of some of my reflections on my priesthood with the title: "**A few Reflections on my Priesthood during 50 years**".

5. Fr. Thomas Enchakal, C.M.:

Fr. Thomas Enchakal, C.M. who worked in Balasore Diocese for several years (at Hatigarh and at Balasore) passed away at Visakhapatnam on 15th April 2013. His funeral took place at Mysore on 18th April. The Diocese of Balasore is very grateful to him for his priestly ministries in the diocese. I sent a message of condolence to the Provincial Ve. Rev. Fr. C. Wilson, C.M. You are requested to pray for him. May his soul rest in peace!

6. Admission to St. Thomas School of Nursing:

I wish to bring to your notice that it is time for the interested candidates for applying for admission to St. Thomas School of Nursing for General Nursing and Midwifery Integrated course (3 & ½ years). Admission Forms along with the Prospectus will be available with the Principal at St. Thomas School of Nursing (Jyothi Hospital Campus), P.O. Kuruda-756056, Balasore. The last date for submitting the Application Form is on 15th June 2013.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

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

Bishop's Programme:

June 2013

17 June to
15 July - Germany

July 2013

20-21 - Bhubaneswar - Meeting of the Seminary Formators
