

Circular No. 03/2016

8th August, 2016

Dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings from Bishop's House, Balasore!

I. MOTHER TERESA

The canonization of Mother Teresa, which would take place on the 4th of September in Rome, would surprise no one as she had been given the status of saint even before died 19 years ago. The 'Saint of the Gutters', as she was well known in the world outside, would finally be counted among the company of saints and placed on pedestals for veneration.

The poor for whom she dedicated her life need not be told that she is now counted among the saints of heaven. She knew that the true good cannot be found in systems and plans, no matter how clever and efficient, but in a person. She was not against the work of welfare agencies, but would remark that welfare was for a purpose, even though a noble one, but love was for a person. Mother Teresa offered love. When criticised by those who accused her of not going to the root causes of problems, she would simply remind them what the true root cause was. "The greatest disease today is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for and being deserted by everybody ... The greatest evil is the lack of love and charity, the terrible indifference towards one's neighbour".

As we join the rest of the world in thanking the Lord for the gift of Mother Teresa to humanity as a saint on the 4th of September, let us prepare for that event in our parishes and institutions by way of conducting Novena and other fitting activities.

The Archdiocese of Calcutta is planning to have a related celebration on the 2nd of October. The details are awaited. Those who would like to participate in that event, may do so.

II. ANNUAL RETREAT 2016:

We shall have our annual spiritual retreat from 17th to 21st October in Bandel. Fr. Bobby, V.C. from a retreat centre in the North East will be the preacher. As the

annual spiritual retreat is obligatory for all the priests, please make alternative arrangements for your absence from the place of your assignments during those days.

III. ORISSA CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION – AGBM

The Diocese of Balasore will be hosting the 31st Annual General Body Meeting of the OCHA on the 9th and 10th of August this year. The venue chosen for it is the newly Constructed Jyoti Hospital Auditorium. The theme of this year's meeting is "Action 2020: Repositioning for the Future; Strengthening our Hospitals, Health Centres and Care Centres". Around 90 representatives including those dealing with health care in all the Dioceses of Odisha, and officials of the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI) from Hyderabad, are expected to participate in the event.

IV. DPP - THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN

The process of preparing a Pastoral Plan for our Diocese is going through its various phases. The collaboration by all so far with the appointed Commission has been very satisfactory and encouraging. Let us go forward with a sense of optimism to reach the desired goal.

V. JUSTICE SUNDAY (21st August)

This year the 'Justice Sunday' falls on the 21st of August, the Sunday after the Independence Day. How do we celebrate Justice Sunday during the Jubilee Year of Mercy? Since both are seemingly incompatible, it is not easy to reconcile mercy and justice, but we as Christians must do that. "Mercy triumphs over judgment" (James 2:13), because mercy comes through judgment. The Church is commissioned to proclaim the mercy of God.

Parish priests and heads of institutions are requested to celebrate Justice Sunday Liturgy in a fitting manner. Please announce the event on the previous (Sunday, 14th August).

VI. APOSTOLIC NUNCIO

As per the information received from the CBCI secretariat, Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, the Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal, has been appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Poland. He would take up the new assignment in October, 2016, after completing 6 years of service in India.

We have fond memories of him, as he had been here as the Chief Consecrator at my Episcopal Ordination on the 30th of January, 2014.

We wish him all the best in his new assignment.

We do not have any information as yet about his successor.

VII. 4th OF AUGUST

I would like express my sincere gratitude to everyone who came to join the celebration of the Vianney Day on the 4th of August. A very special thanks to Fr. Job, C.M. for his thought provoking talk on the occasion.

The inauguration of Silver Jubilee Year of Utkal Vani was marked by appropriate celebration in which due honour was given to Fr. V.L. Chacko, the founder of this unique institution. The presence and participation of the artists who have been associated with Utkal Vani from the beginning added beauty and importance to the occasion.

Thanks to Fr. Saji for the excellent organization of the event.

VIII. FR. CHACKO PANATHARA, C.M.

Fr. Chacko Panathara, C.M., a zealous missionary who had worked here during the 'Apostolic Prefecture' days, had a chance to visit some of our parishes and institutions during the last few days. After he left he writes in an e-mail:

"Dear Bishop Simon,

Coming to Balasore has been a ruby jubilee experience for me. Jubilees are there to look back to ourselves, but this helped me to go back and see for myself the growth of the seed the previous missionaries including me have toiled and sowed. It was nice meeting the missionaries with whom I worked in the years past. Out of the forty years of my priesthood, more than half were spent among Santhals of Mayurbhanj and Balasore. Coming after twenty five years to some of those stations, I could really witness the hard work put in by the missionaries of the past and present in order to keep the good work going. Thanks be to God, the growth of the diocese has been a marvellous effort, from three parishes and two thousand Catholics and a handful of priests from the time of Msgr. Jacob to this day under your enthusiastic and energetic guidance of the diocese. Hard work put in field of education and health, the work of evangelisation continued under the leadership of Bishop emeritus Thomas. Now it is marvellous to see young priests and religious under your leadership trying to put their best, being joyful and happy in the service of the Lord and His people. This indeed, is what I could really witness there. And that's a pointer to the best of result we can expect from Balasore diocese in future for greater glory of God and man. May the good Lord enable you to achieve the same by your present planning and commitment. I shall be only happy to be of any worth in your missionary endeavours in Balasore Diocese.

In Ghuttiduba, a child in the school asked me "Appononku ebbe kimithi laguchi?" "How do you feel now?" I did feel so good as I told her that, it was their cry for education and health, which led me there from Baghmara. It is that Marshal, that is being imparted by the church in full scale presently there by the

dedicated work of the priests and sisters. And that shall turn out to be "the Dahar - The Way" in their life. And I feel proud and happy about it.

I am really honoured by the gracious hospitality you showed me. Thank you so much Bishop Simon and dear fathers. It was nice to be able to be there on Vianney Day. It was the right time for me to visit Balasore because I could meet many priests of the diocese.

Once again my sincere thanks to you Bishop Simon, and the priests and sisters".

IX. BISHOP'S PROGRAMME

August 2016

08	Balasore	- Meeting of the Regional Commissions
09-10	Kuruda, Balasore	- OCHA, Annual General Body Meeting
11	Kuruda	- DPP- Meeting of the Diocesan Commissions
12-22	U.S.A	- Missionary Cooperation Plan
24-28	Jharsuguda	- OCBC Meetings
30	Konjamendi	- Kandhamal Victims' Day

September 2016

03	Kuruda	- DPP – Meeting of Laity - BSSS Meeting
04	Balasore	- Celebration of the Canonization Mother Teresa
05	Balasore	- Vincentian Family Gathering
07	Kuruda	- DPP – Meeting of the Religious
08	KC Pur	- Feast of the Nativity of B.V.M.
10	Balasore	- Mass at the MC Convent
11	Ghuttuduba	- Village Mass
17	Raghunathpur	- Mass at MC Brothers
24	Betna	- First Profession, Vestition
25	Anandapur	- Sunday Liturgy
27	Balasore	- Feast of St. Vincent, DC Convent

With Regards and Blessings

†Simon Kaipuram, C.M.
Bishop of Balasore