

Circular No. 04/2016

26th Sept. 2016

Dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings from Bishop's House, Balasore!

I. ST. TERESA OF KOLKATA

The Catholic community in India feel proud to have Mother Teresa as St. Teresa of Kolkata. Though many of us watched the Canonization ceremony on television, Bishop Thomas who was present at St. Peter's Square during the occasion, shares the following:

"The historic and thrilling event of the Canonization of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta took place in Rome on 4th September 2016. It was a matter of great joy for me to be personally present in Rome for it and I cherish vivid memory of it. I was personally acquainted with Mother Teresa. Besides 400 Bishops from all over the world, a large number of Priests, Religious Sisters an estimated crowd of five lakhs personally witnessed this spectacular and unique event in St. Peter's Square. It was really marvellous.

What has attracted such a large multitude to Rome for the Canonization of Mother Teresa of Calcutta? Her deep intimacy with Jesus through daily prayer and the consequent experiences transformed her to be a person of committed service to the people of all walks of life and especially to the poorest of the poor. The people acclaim that what she preached, she carried out in action with the grace God in spite of the various challenges she had to face. She responded with faith and humility her special call to go to the slums of Calcutta. "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink." (Mt.25, 15). Mother Teresa said:"My progress in holiness depends on God and myself-on God's grace and my will. We all are instruments in the hands of God to experience his love and to take it to all people."

The Missionaries of Charity are rendering their services in nearly 100 countries. Let us pray that they experience more and more the love of Christ and render their committed services especially to the poorest of the poor. Mother Teresa has left a great legacy for the Missionaries of Charity. She prayed very much for peace in the world. "The fruit of love is service. The fruit of service is peace."

Thomas Thiruthalil, C.M.
Bishop Emeritus of Balasore

II. MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

I would like to remind all of you that in the Catholic Church the month of October is dedicated to Mother Mary of the Holy Rosary. Please instruct our people on the importance of reciting the Rosary, especially in the context of the common evening family prayer. Please also ensure that on the 7th of October the feast of Mother Mary of the Rosary is fittingly celebrated.

III. DPP

The procedure for preparing a Diocesan Pastoral Plan has been going as scheduled. Lately we had two meetings – one with the heads of the religious communities, and another with the lay representatives of the Diocese. The insights given by both groups have been very significant for our own self examination as well as for any future course of action.

IV. FEAST AT KC PUR

As observed by everyone, the feast of the Nativity of Mother Mary on 8th Sept is drawing more and more devotees to KC Pur. This year's feast witnessed unprecedented attendance. Hope the enthusiasm at the feast will be accompanied by prayer and devotion to Mother Mary in our Catholic families too.

V. MISSION SUNDAY (16th OCT)

This year the Mission Sunday falls on the 16th of October. Please inform as well as instruct our people on the importance of missionary awareness and as well as our contribution to help the missionary activities in the world.

In his message for the Mission Sunday, Pope Francis says:

“The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which the Church is celebrating, casts a distinct light on World Mission Sunday 2016: it invites us to consider the missio ad gentes as a great, immense work of mercy, both spiritual and material. On this World Mission Sunday, all of us are invited to “go out” as missionary disciples, each generously offering their talents, creativity, wisdom and experience in order to bring the message of God’s tenderness and compassion to the entire human family. By virtue of the missionary mandate, the Church cares for those who do not know the Gospel, because she wants everyone to be saved and to experience the Lord’s love. She “is commissioned to announce the mercy of God, the beating heart of the Gospel” (Misericordiae Vultus, 12) and to proclaim mercy in every corner of the world, reaching every person, young or old.

The Odiya translation of the full text of the Mission Sunday message of Pope Francis is being given to the Parish Priests. Please read it in public during the Mission Sunday Celebration or on one of the Sundays of October.

Matters pertaining to the Liturgy for the Sundays of the Mission month of October will be also given for use in the parishes by Fr. Roy, the Regional Secretary of PMS.

VI. HOMAGE TO MOTHER TERESA

On Sunday, the 25th of September, we paid homage to St. Teresa of Kolkata by means of a gathering at Utkal Vani. Besides R.K. Jena, the MP of Balasore and B.K. Das, the Director of Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, those who gave messages included persons representing various religions. A large gathering was present on the occasion.

Thanks to Fr. Efreem Lakra, the secretary for the Diocesan Commission for Dialogue and Ecumenism under which auspices the meeting was held, and to Fr. Saji Karathankal who provided the facilities at Utkal Vani.

VII. GENERAL BODY MEETING OF THE SSVP

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a world-wide pious organization in the Church by the laity, had been working in many of our parishes in the past. However, of late, it has been reported that the Society is mostly inactive in the parishes. So it has been decided to have two-day General Body Meeting of all the members of all the Conferences of the Society of St. Vincent De Paul in the Diocese of Balasore.

The meeting is scheduled to be held on the 9th and 10th of October, 2016, in the premises of Utkal Vani. On the first day there will be classes on the nature and scope of the Society and on the second day, election of the office bearers.

With this course of action, we hope to revive the functioning of the Society in the parishes where the Conferences exist, and in course of time to establish them in the other parishes.

VIII. CATECHISTS' TRAINING PROGRAMME

A three-day training programme for all the Catechists of the Diocese is planned by Fr. Jadu Marandi, the Director of Catechetics. The training will be held at the Pastoral Centre, Kuruda from the 29th of September till 1st of October. I request the Parish Priests to ensure the participation of their Catechists in this training programme.

IX. ANNUAL RETREAT

As announced earlier, our annual spiritual retreat at Bandel will be from 17th to 21st October. Fr. Bobby, V.C. from a retreat centre in the North East will be the preacher. Please contact Fr. Jose Aresseril for the travel arrangement.

X. LAY LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME

A one-day training programme on lay leadership in the Church was conducted at Bonua on the 22nd of September. Around 60 men and women from the parishes of Keonjhar Deanery participated in the programme, organized by Fr. Anil Kullu, the secretary for the Family and Laity Commission in the Diocese. The resource persons were Fr. Jadu Marndi and Roy Kochupurackal. Taking into account the success and usefulness of the programme, Fr. Anil is planning similar programmes in the other Deaneries too.

XI. MY TRIP TO USA

I made a trip of short duration (12th to 22nd August) to USA, mainly to New York. Besides making Mission Appeal in two parishes of Brooklyn Diocese during two week-ends, I met the personnel in charge of the Propagation of Faith in the Dioceses of New York, Bridgeport, Boston, Metuchen and Norwich.

Thanks to Fr. Jose Thundiyl who planned the programme and schedule.

XII. BISHOP'S PROGRAMME

September 2016

27	Balasore	- DC Convent - Feast of St. Vincent de Paul
	Baghmara	- Parish Feast of St. Vincent de Paul
29	Balasore	- Jyoti Hospital Annual Day
30	Balasore	- Mass for Catechists at Kuruda

October 2016

1	Soro	- Feast of St. Teresa of Lisieux, CST Brothers
2	Kolkata	- Celebration in Honour of Mother Teresa
3	Barrakpore	- Morning Star College
9-10	Balasore	- SSVP General Body Meeting
12-13	Balasore	- DPP Meeting
14-15	Berhampur	- CM Provincial's Jubilee
16	Balasore	- Mission Sunday
17-21	Bandel	- Annual Retreat
23	Bhadrak	- Carmel Convent Function

November 2016

6	Jaleswar	- Parish Pastoral Visit
7-11	Sason	- Classes at KJM
12	Balasore	- Jubilee of Sr. Saumya at St. Thomas
13	Jhatioda	- Parish Pastoral Visit
16	Balasore	- Silver Jubilee of Minor Seminary, Kuruda
19	Baripada	- Sports day, St. Anne's School
20	Balasore	- Christ the King; Closing of the Jubilee Year of Mercy
21-22	Balasore	- DPP Meeting
26	Jaleswar	- Village Feast
27	Baripada	- DC Jeevan Jyoti, Annual day
30	Nuapadhi	- Vikas Sadan, Annual Day

With Regards and Blessings

†Simon Kaipuram, C.M.
Bishop of Balasore