

Dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings from Bishop's House, Balasore!

I. The Flood and the aftermath...

We all have witnessed a tragedy of apocalyptic dimensions in Kerala. The flood waters and related calamities have taken away precious lives and properties, the effects of which are painfully coming to light gradually. It will take a long time for the State to bring back the normalcy into people's lives. We have also have happily witnessed the unity, the courage and the generosity of many people in the face of this enormous tragedy. Only two types of people existed those days – the ones who were affected and suffered loss and those who didn't. For the time all other differences based on religion, social status, political affiliation, etc., were forgotten. What was important was to stand and face the tragedy together.

Some of our own relatives too have suffered loss – some much, some less. Now that the tragic event is a thing of the past, what is needed the rebuilding of the lives of the people. The rescue operations are over, the relief operations will continue for some more time, but what remains is the long process of rehabilitation and rebuilding. We hope and pray that with the help that continues to pour in from various quarters, the people of Kerala will get back on their feet and get on with their lives.

II. RETREATS

- Annual Retreat of the Balasore Clergy from the 15th to 19th of October at Bandel
- Retreat for the Laity from 21st till 25th October at KC Pur.
- Retreat for the Laity (Santhali) from 4th till 7th of November at Kusudia

III. SEMINARS

- Seminar for Superiors of Religious communities on 13-14 Sept, Pastoral Centre
- Catechists Training Seminar from 26th till 28th Sept, at Pastoral Centre, Kuruda
- Seminar on Marriage & Canon Law for Parish Priests on 29th October, at Pastoral Centre, Kuruda (Organized by the Commission for Clergy)
- Seminar for 'Couples for Christ', Oct. 30-31, Pastoral Centre, Kuruda

IV. REGIONAL SCC CONVENTION

A Regional Convention of the Small Christian Communities will be held in Rourkela from the 4th to 7th of October. A number of participants from our Diocese will join the Convention.

V. KANDHAMAL MEMORIAL DAY

It is now 10 years since the unfortunate events that took place in Kandhamal and adjacent places. The Christians of Odisha still have the vivid memories of those days. In order to commemorate the event and to experience the reconciliation that should take place primarily in our hearts, a programme was organized by the Archdiocese on the 25th of August. A prayer service followed by a solemn Eucharistic celebration was held in the St. Joseph's School grounds at Bhubaneswar. There were 13 Bishops, many priests and religious as well as a good gathering of faithful at the celebration.

VI. TRANSFERS / APPOINTMENTS

Fr. Daniel Kishore	Parish Priest, Biripal
Fr. J. Antony	Parish Priest, Jhatioda
Fr. Mons Peter Arackel	Secretary, Commission for Clergy
Fr. J. Antony	Secretary, SCC
Sr. Alphonse, SAB	Secretary, Commission for Women

VII. MY PROGRAMME

August

28	Balasore	Principals meeting
30-31	Jharsuguda	OCBC Commissions

September

1-2	Sambalpur/Sason	OCBC Meeting
3-7	Sason	KJM Classes
08	KC Pur	Feast
11	Balasore	Clergy Commission Meeting
13-14	Kuruda	Meeting of Religious Superiors
15-20	Pune	SCC for Bishops
23	Balasore	Youth Convention
27	Balasore	Feast of St. Vincent (DC Sisters)

October

4-7	Rourkela	SCC Convention
15-19	Bandel	Annual Retreat
20	Bhubaneswar	Religious Profession, St. Joseph Sisters
22-26	Kuruda	Retreat for Sambalpur Clergy
29	Kuruda	Seminar on Marriage & Canon Law

With regards and Blessings

S/d Simon Kaipuram, C.M.
Bishop of Balasore