

**Circular No. 07/2018**

**26<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2018**

***Dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,***

Greetings from Bishop's House, Balasore!

### **I. 50 GOLDEN YEARS....**

The celebration on the 25<sup>th</sup> November on the Solemnity of Christ the King, to mark the conclusion of the Golden Jubilee Year of the Apostolic Prefecture, was a memorable one. I wish to express my sincere thanks to our Deans who initially planned the programme, and the Clergy, Religious and Laity of the Cathedral Parish who, by assuming various responsibilities, contributed to the success of the event. I also thank all the Parish Priests who motivated their parishners to participate in the event in large numbers. The mode of celebration once again confirmed the belief others have about us – that we are second to none in the Region when it comes to the organization of such events. Our guests were happy that we celebrated the Jubilee of the beginning of Balasore Mission.

While it was a commemoration of the beginning of the Apostolic Prefecture of Balasore, under the leadership of Msgr. Jacob Vadakeveetil, C.M. and his dedicated band of pioneers, we also used the occasion to thank God for those formative years eventually leading to the establishment of the Diocese. As I have repeatedly mentioned on various occasions, we must never forget the path trodden by those missionaries – Fathers, Sisters, Catechists and other Lay leaders - who have contributed to the growth of the Prefecture and the Diocese. Jesus, pointing to the wheat fields ready for the harvest, said this to his disciples: "For in this case the saying is true, 'One sows, and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor". (John 4:37-38). Thus let us also not forget the fact that what we are and what we have today is the result of the labour of those who have gone before and paved the way for us. So we should consider it obligatory from our part to gratefully continue that legacy.

### **II. COMMUNIO INDIA**

After much discussions and deliberations the Conference of the Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI – the Conference of the Bishops of the Latin Rite) has come up with the idea of establishing a 'Funding Agency' in India, similar to the one like 'MISSIO' in Germany. The idea of establishing **COMMUNIO INDIA** is to raise funds in our country, with a view to helping the Mission Dioceses and Religious Congregations in India for the variety of needs they have. Though we may not initially come up with the necessary funds, the idea is to encourage our

people to contribute and thus be part of the 'missionary movement'. His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracious, the President of the CCBI, has sent out a circular asking all the Latin Dioceses in India to observe the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent (This year the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December) as 'COMMUNIO INDIA Sunday'. I am enclosing with this circular the letter by His Eminence to be read and explained in the place of Homily in the parishes on that Sunday. (Its Odiya translation will be given to the Parish Priests soon).

Envelops for contribution will be given to the parishes and Institutions. Contributions can be given on the COMMUNIO INDIA Sunday as well as other days of the year, as this is going to be a regular and on-going Fund-raising programme.

### III. RETREATS / SEMINARS

We had two retreats, one in Odiya at KC Pur and another one in Santhali at Kusudiya. Thanks to Fr. Jadu Marndi and his companions for organizing the retreats in view of the Jubilee. While we would have been happier to see more participants than were there at KC Pur, the Santhali Retreat in Kusudia was a grand success.

A retreat in HO is planned to be conducted in Bouna on the 27-30 January. Preparations are on for the same.

In the case of the Seminar on 'Couples for Christ', the number of participants unfortunately did not come up to our expectation. It is a great Lay Movement in the Church and we will do well to introduce it in our parishes for the better life of faith in our families. Fr. Anil Kullu says that he will try to organize the same seminar in the Deanery level, to facilitate more participation.

Seminar on 'Marriage & Canon Law', conducted by Fr. Victor George D'Souza, an eminent Canon Lawyer and Chancellor of Diocese of Mangalore, was found to be very useful and was appreciated by all.

Fr. Anil Kullu informs us that the next '**Marriage Preparation Course**' will be conducted at the Pastoral Centre from the **10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> of December**.

### IV. ADVENT IS HERE

"Have you not heard his silent steps? He comes, comes, ever comes.  
Every moment and every age, every day and every night he comes, comes, ever comes"  
(R.N. Tagore, *Gitanjali*, 45)

The Joyful **Season of Advent** is associated with the expectant waiting and preparation for the coming of Jesus at his Nativity at Christmas, as well as the return of Jesus at his Second Coming. The term is a version of the Latin word (*venire*) meaning "to come". Thus even after the celebration of Christmas, he continues to come.

One of the symbols of Advent is lighting of the 4 candles, one on each Sunday of Advent. Each candle lit represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. The symbolic meanings of the candles can vary but they are often:

1. **Hope** — *expectation of what is to come and sometimes prophecy*
2. **Love** — *sometimes called the Bethlehem Candle*
3. **Joy** — *this rose candle is often called Mary's Candle*
4. **Peace** — *it can often be called the Angel's Candle*

When Christ comes again at the end times, his presence will no longer be hidden behind the signs and symbols of the liturgy or the words of the Scriptures. His presence among us will be revealed in all its fullness, a presence that will never end, a presence that will perfect and complete our community. This is the "greater significance" of Advent. In these few weeks we take in the sweeping panorama of time - from Christ's birth to his Second Coming. The season of Advent brings us the magnificent vision of life and hope for the future given to us by Christ.

**Wish you all a very joyful Season of Advent**

#### **V. PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF DEACON ARBIN**

It is matter joy for all of us that Dn. Arbin Kishore Dungdung will be ordained priest for the Diocese of Balasore on the **22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2019**, in his home parish of Jhunmur, Rourkela Diocese. Currently he is having his Diaconate ministry in Ghattiduba Parish. More information about his Ordination will be given later.

#### **VI. DIACONATE ORDINATION**

I am happy to inform you that Bros. Sunil Minz and Ranjit Xess will receive the Order of Diaconate on the **30<sup>th</sup> December**, in St. Mary's Church, Barbil. They are completing their Theological Studies in KJM, Sason, and will be back in the Diocese before Christmas.

#### **VII. SACERDOTAL SILVER JUBILEE**

May I inform you in advance that we will be celebrating the Silver Jubilee of the Priestly Ordination of Fr. Jose Aresseril and Fr. Roy Kochupurackal on the **31<sup>st</sup> of January, 2019**. The details will be given later; but please mark the date on your calendars.

#### **VIII. CHRISTMAS GATHERING**

This year the Diocesan Christmas gathering will be on the **27<sup>th</sup> of December** in the Bishop's House, Balasore. I invite all of you to please mark the date your calendars and be present in the gathering.

## **IX . MY PROGRAMME**

### **November**

27	Berhampur	Feast of the Queen of the Missions
28	Jubaguda	Jubilee – DCPB Convent
29 –30	Bhubaneswar	OCBC Meeting

### **December**

01	Padampur	Seminary Meeting
02	Gopalpur	Seminary Meeting
04	Balasore	BSSS Governing Body Meeting
08	Gangraj	MC Sister's Jubilee
09	Chouhat	Mass – Confirmation
12	Barbil	St. Mary's School Annual Day (English Medium)
13	Joda	School Annual Day
14	Balasore	St. Vincent's School, Kids' Day
15	Kuruda	Mass at the Marriage Preparation Seminar
16	Baghdafa	Pastoral Visit
18	Keonjhar	School Annual Day
20	Balasore	St. Thomas School Annual Day
25	Balasore	Christmas
27	Balasore	Christmas Gathering
28	KC Pur	Priestly Ordination of Dn. Promod Singh, CM
29	Barbil	St. Mary's Convent Golden Jubilee
30	Barbil	Diaconate Ordination of Brs. Sunil and Ranjit

### **January**

07-15	Chennai	CCBI Meeting
19	Kamarjhanda	Feast of St. Sebastian (Rangiam Parish)
20	KC Pur	Jubilee Mass
25	Hatigarh	Parish Feast
26	Dubuna	School Annual Day
27	Anandapur	Mass, Confirmation
28	Gopalpur	Aquinas College, Golden Jubilee
29	Bonua	Retreat Mass
31	Balasore	Silver Jubilee: Fr. Jose Aresseril and Fr. Roy

With regards and Blessings

+Simon Kaipuram, C.M.  
Bishop of Balasore