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Green Diocese- Green Parish- Green Catholic

Priority to Reduce Poverty or Pollution?

India has been battling with Covid-19 Phase II for the last 18 months. The situation is not yet without the danger of Phase III. Monsoon season has set in and the new academic year is to begin. But yet the threat of Delta + Variant is looming large and the parents are hesitant to send their children to schools. In India there are many challenges and problems and we are able to overcome some of them slowly and steadily. But one of the most challenging is "clean and green environment" in the current context of the Pandemic disaster. The challenge for a clean environment implies clean mind, clean heart and clean soul, though today's man downplays! The World community supports "green, clean, resilient" paths as we pursue poverty reduction and holistic development in an increasingly breakable environment. While developing countries like India will still need rapid growth to reduce poverty, the global environment has reached a critical state that could undermine livelihoods, productivity, economic growth and global stability.

God-given duty to till and to keep Environment (Gen 2:15)

With the increase of environmental hazards like water contamination, air pollution, and climate change, it's important for us to look for ways to reverse the damage that is being done to our planet. The impact of climate change and global warming is being felt in every country and on every continent but we have a part to play to ensure a habitable planet for everyone. Climate change to be the defining challenge of our time. It is a global problem, and yet each of us has the power to make a difference. Even small changes in our lifestyle and behaviour can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions which affects the ozone layer while ensuring a good quality of life. But what does clean environment imply?

Green n Clean

"Green" refers to a world in which natural resources, including oceans, land, and forests, are sustainably managed and conserved to improve livelihoods and ensure food security. It's a world in which healthy ecosystems increase all the economic returns from the activities they support. Green has a direct link to promoting good health. Literally a green environment means abundance of trees and greenery. Trees are instrumental in purifying air by absorbing the dangerous gases and giving out Oxygen. Also greenery has a soothing and pacifying effect on people. The natural ecosystem heavily depends on trees and plants on supporting the smaller insects, animals and birds for shelter and food. "Clean" refers to a low-pollution, low-emission world in which cleaner air, water, and oceans enable people to lead healthy, productive lives. It is a world where development strategies put a premium on access-so that rural women no longer spend their days hauling wood-alongside options for low-emission, climate-smart agriculture, transport, energy, and urban development.

Tree Planting is Natural Vaccination

Tree planting is one of those climate change alleviation measures which help to ensure global health and sustainability. It is one of those measures which our communities can adapt to help to green their environment. These are the top benefits of Tree planting:

- i) **Trees Clean the Air**: Trees help to fight air pollution. Trees absorb odours and pollutant gases (nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulphur dioxide and ozone) and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark.
- ii) **Trees Provide Oxygen**: An acre of mature trees can provide enough oxygen for 18 people.
- iii) **Trees Conserve Energy:** Three trees placed strategically around a single-family home can cut summer air conditioning needs by up to 50 per cent. By reducing the energy demand for cooling our houses, we reduce carbon dioxide and other pollution emissions.
- iv) **Trees Save Water:** Shade from trees slows water evaporation from thirsty lawns. As trees transpire, they increase atmospheric moisture.
- v) **Trees Help Prevent Water Pollution**: Trees reduce runoff by breaking rainfall thus allowing the water to flow down the trunk and into the earth below the tree.
- vi) Trees Prevent Soil Erosion: On hillsides or stream slopes, trees hold soil in place.

Utmost Priority to be Change-Agents

This editorial seeks to draw the attention of policymakers in government, private sectors, non-governmental organizations and interested individuals especially Catholic Parishes and institutions to the need to seek for innovative ways of educating communities. Waste Recycling goes a long way toward enhancing climate change mitigation among other environmental benefits. Everyone loves to stay in a clean and green environment, we always dream of a clean and pollution free environment. Even though civic agencies are charged with the responsibility to ensure that the environment is clean, it is also important to support them to maintain a clean and a green environment. It is our responsibility to keep our surroundings neat because this will help us live healthily.

Apostles of Green n Clean: Ways n Means

There are many we can do to keep our surroundings clean since every household generates wastes, we should avoid throwing the waste everywhere. Garbage pollutes our environment, especially the plastic bags. We need to be eco-friendly by using bags that can be recycled like paper or jute bags instead of plastic bags. Since we live in the society and we are part of the environment, we have the moral responsibility to contribute to a clean environment. Most keeps on complaining about how other people are polluting the environment without taking any corrective measure. As change agents, we need to set a good example by using dustbins and burning waste to keep our environment clean. Keeping the environment clean and green is of utmost priority to sustain a healthy evolution of life.

May Our Diocese, Parishes, Institutions and even Catholics be Apostles of 'Green and Clean' by 'tilling and keeping God's Creation!

II. Holy Father's Intention for July

Universal Intention- Social Friendship: We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

III. Pope establishes Ministry of Catechist

With a new Apostolic Letter issued "motu proprio," Pope Francis establishes the lay ministry of catechist, intended to respond to an urgent need for the evangelisation of the modern world, and under taken in a "secular" manner, avoiding clericalisation. "Fidelity to past and responsibility for the present are necessary conditions for the Church to carry out her mission in the world," writes Pope Francis in the Apostolic Letter *Antiquum ministerium*, with which



Holy Father institutes the lay ministry of catechist. In the context of evangelisation in the contemporary world and in the face of "the rise of a globalised culture," it is necessary to recognise "those lay men and women who feel called by virtue of their baptism to cooperate in the work of catechesis." At the same time, Pope Francis emphasises the importance of "genuine interaction with young people," as well as "the need for creative methodologies and resources capable of adapting the proclamation of the Gospel to the missionary transformation that the Church has undertaken."

A new ministry with ancient origins

The new ministry has ancient origins, going back to the New Testament: it is mentioned, for example, in the Gospel of Luke and in St Paul's Letters to the Corinthians and Galatians, albeit in a seminal form. But "the history of evangelization over the past two millennia," writes Pope Francis, "clearly shows the effectiveness of the mission of catechists," who have "devoted their lives to catechetical instruction so that the faith might be an effective support for the life of every human being," even to the point of sacrificing their own lives. Since the Second Vatican Council, there has been a growing awareness of the fact that "the role of catechists is of the highest importance" (*Ad gentes*, 17) for "the development of the Christian community." This "represents a rich resource not only for catechesis but also for the entire history of Christian spirituality."

Transforming society through Christian values

Without in any way detracting from the "the Bishop's mission as the primary catechist in his Diocese," nor from the "particular responsibility of parents for the Christian formation of their children," the Pope recognises the importance of lay men and women who collaborate in the service of catechesis, going out to "encounter all those who are waiting to discover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Christian faith." Pope Francis emphasises that it is "the task of pastors to support them in this process and to enrich the life of the Christian community through the recognition of lay ministries capable of contributing to the transformation of society through the 'penetration of Christian values into the social, political and economic sectors'."

Avoiding Clericalization

Every catechist says Pope Francis, "must be a witness to the faith, a teacher and mystagogue, a companion and pedagogue, who teaches for the Church." Catechists, he continues, "are called first to be expert in the pastoral service of transmitting the faith," from the first proclamation of the *kerygma* to preparation for the sacraments of Christian initiation, and throughout the process of ongoing formation. All this is possible, he says, "only through prayer, study, and direct participation in the life of the community," so that catechists can grow in their identity and in "the integrity and responsibility" that identity entails. Receiving the lay ministry of catechist, in fact, "will emphasize even more the missionary commitment proper to every baptized person," writes Pope Francis, "a commitment that must, however, be carried out in a fully "secular" manner, avoiding any form of Clericalization.

IV. "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission"

Dear consecrated men and women,

It is with great joy that we make our own Pope Francis' invitation to set out on an ecclesial journey that begins next October 9 and 10 and will conclude in October 2023 with the celebration of the next Synod of Bishops on the theme "For a Synodal Church: communion, participation, and mission". Attached is the infographic of the itinerary for the synod process that describes the entire journey.

This path is presented as already being an experience of synodality because, as Pope Francis reminds us: "A synodal Church is a Church which listens, which realizes that listening 'is more than simply hearing'. It is a mutuallistening in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the college of bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the 'Spirit of truth' (Jn 14:17), in order to know what he 'says to the Churches' (Rev 2:7)".

"It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium" because the world in which we live, and which we are called to love and serve, even with its contradictions, demands that the Churchstrengthen cooperation in all areas of her mission" (Address of *pope Francis at the Ceremony Commemorating the* 50th *Anniversary of the Institution* of *the Synod of Bishops*, 17 October 2015).

These words strongly challenge the prophetic dimension of consecrated life, which finds its source in the *sequela* C'hrish, in communion with the Church and in the discernment that helps her to seek God's will and to transform it into a life that can awaken the world! No one should feel excluded from this ecclesial journey. The first phase, characterized by consultation and feedback from the local churches and other ecclesial groups begins in October 2021 and ends in April 2022.

Various methods of participation will be possible, both on a personal and community level: the potential participation of individual consecrated men and women in the existing local church structures, the drafting of a proposal formulated by the individual communities within a specific diocese, national or international input from national conferences of Major Superiors

or Conferences of Secular Institutes, Federations, Monastic Associations, other coordinating groups, Continental Conferences, the International Union of Superiors General (UISG e USG) and the World Conference of Secular Institutes (CMIS).

A variety of contributions will also be offered by members of various forms of consecrated life: religious, apostolic and contemplative institutes, secular institutes, members of the *ordo* virginum, hermits, new forms of consecrated life, and societies of apostolic life.

Be open to the challenge offered by the three significant words of the theme of the Synod of Bishops on the Synodal Church: communion, *participation, and* mission. Pray, reflect, discuss and share your experiences, insights and desires. Do it with the freedom of those who place their trust in God and are thus able to overcome timidity, a sense of inferiority or worse still, reproaches and complaints, Let it be done in all simplicity, moved by the Holy Spirit, avoiding arrogance, without presumption but always having a sense of co-responsibility because "All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients" (EG n. 120).

To ensure that the synodal church is not a mirage, but rather a dream to be realized, it is necessary to dream together, to pray together, and to work together.

V. New Invocations in the Litany of St. Joseph

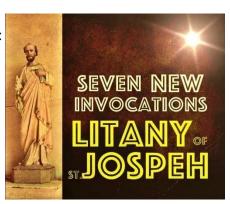
On the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, published the Apostolic Letter *Patriscorde*, with the aim «to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal». In this light it appeared opportune to update the Litany in honour of Saint Joseph, approved by the Apostolic See in 1909 (cf. *ActaApostolicaeSedis*1 [1909] 290-292), by integrating seven new invocations drawn from the interventions of the Popes who have reflected on aspects of the figure of the Patron of the Universal Church. They are as follows: «Custos Redemptoris» (cf. Saint John Paul II, Ap. Exhort. *Redemptoris custos*); «Serve Christi» (cf. Saint Paul VI, Homily of 19.3.1966, quoted in *Redemptoris custos* n. 8 and *Patris corde* n. 1); «Minister salutis» (Saint John Chrysostom, quoted in *Redemptoris custos*, n. 8); «Fulcimen in difficultatibus» (cf. Francis, Ap. Let. *Patris corde*, prologue); «Patroneexsulum, afflictorum, pauperum» (*Patris corde*, n. 5). The new invocations were presented to the Holy Father, Pope Francis, who approved their integration into the Litany of Saint Joseph, as found in the text attached to this letter.

It will be the responsibility of the Episcopal Conferences to see to the translation and publication of the Litany in the languages which are within their competency; these translations do not require the confirmation of the Apostolic See. According to their prudential judgement Episcopal Conferences can also introduce other invocations by which Saint Joseph is honoured in their countries. Such additions should be made in the proper place and preserve the literary genre of the Litany.

What are the Seven New Invocations?

The new invocations are originally in Latin are as follows:

- 1. Custos Redemptoris (Guardian of the Redeemer)
- 2. Serve Christi (Servant of Christ)
- 3. Minister salutis (Minister of salvation)
- 4. Fulcimen in difficultatubus (Support in difficulties)
- 5. Patrone exsulum (Patron of exiles)
- 6. Patrone afflictorum (Patron of afflicted)
- 7. Patrone pauperum (Patron of the poor)



New Litany of St. Joseph

Lord, have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us, Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us, Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of heaven, have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the World, have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, pray for us.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

Renowned offspring of David, pray for us.

Light of Patriarchs, pray for us.

Spouse of the Mother of God, pray for us.

Guardian of the Redeemer, pray for us.

Chaste guardian of the Virgin, pray for us.

Foster father of the Son of God, pray for us.

Diligent protector of Christ, pray for us.

Servant of Christ, pray for us.

Minister of salvation, pray for us.

Head of the Holy Family, pray for us.

Joseph most just, pray for us.

Joseph most chaste, pray for us.

Joseph most prudent, pray for us.

Joseph most strong, pray for us.

Joseph most obedient, pray for us.

Joseph most faithful, pray for us.

Mirror of patience, pray for us.

Lover of poverty, pray for us.

Model of artisans, pray for us.

Glory of home life, pray for us.

Guardian of virgins, pray for us.

Pillar of families, pray for us.

Support in difficulties, pray for us.

Solace of the wretched, pray for us.

Hope of the sick, pray for us.

Patron of exiles, pray for us.

Patron of afflicted, pray for us.

Patron of the poor, pray for us.

Patron of the dying, pray for us.

Terror of demons, pray for us.

Protector of Holy Church, pray for us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Jesus.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Jesus.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, O Jesus.

He made him the lord of his household, And prince over all his possessions.

Let us pray:

O God, in your ineffable providence you were pleased to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your most holy Mother; grant, we beg you, that we may be worthy to have him for our intercessor in heaven whom on earth we venerate as our Protector: You who live and reign forever and ever. Saint Joseph, *pray for us*.

VI. Solemnity of St. Thomas, Apostle of India- July 3

Indian Christian Day

At the Last Supper, when Christ told His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them to which they also might come because they knew both the place and the way, Thomas pleaded that they did not understand and received the beautiful assurance that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. St. Thomas is best known for his role in verifying the Resurrection of his Master. Thomas' unwillingness to believe that the other Apostles had seen their risen Lord on the first Easter Sunday earned him the title of



"doubting Thomas." Eight days later, on Christ's second apparition, Thomas was gently rebuked for his skepticism and furnished with the evidence he had demanded - seeing in Christ's hands the point of the nails. Thomas even put his fingers in the nail holes and his hand into Christ's side. After verifying the wounds were true, St. Thomas became convinced of the reality of the Resurrection and exclaimed, "My Lord and My God," thus making a public Profession of Faith in the Divinity of Jesus. He ultimately reached India, carrying the Faith to the Malabar coast, which still boasts a large native population calling themselves "Christians of St. Thomas." According to tradition, Thomas was killed in an accident when a fowler shot at a peacock and struck Thomas instead. Following his death, some of his relics were taken to Edessa while the rest were kept in what is now known as India. They can still be found within the San Thome Basilica in Chennai, Mylapore, India. The relics taken to Edessa were moved in 1258 to Italy, where they can be found in the Cathedral of St. Thomas the Apostle in Ortona, Italy. However, it is believed that Saint Thomas' skull rests in the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian on the Greek Island Patmos.

TOWARDS INDIAN CHRISTIAN DAY: 3 July 2021

Since several years, 3 July has been a significant day for the Christians of India. It is the Feast of St Thomas the Apostle - one of the twelve disciples of Jesus. He came to India after the Resurrection of Jesus, around 52 AD. It is historically accepted that St Thomas was martyred near Chennai in 72AD; 3 July commemorates his martyrdom. This year has added

significance: for the first time Christians from all Churches in India (and also Indian Christians who live in other parts of the world) will come together to celebrate 'Indian Christian Day' (Yeshu Bhakti Divas). A Declaration prepared by a small group of initiators of the Day (representing various Churches) states, "This declaration of 3 July 2021 as Indian Christian Day (Yeshu Bhakti Divas) as an annual day of remembrance, is for followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, of Indian origin, to celebrate the person and message of JESUS CHRIST which was brought to India in 52 AD by one of His twelve disciples, St. Thomas the Apostle. This day, historically observed as St. Thomas Day, commemorates the martyrdom of the Apostle in 72 AD near Chennai. In marking it in 2021 and every year henceforth, we as followers of the Lord Jesus, also preserve our identity within the Indian cultural heritage, while uniting with all who wish to celebrate, irrespective of language, custom, creed, region or religion.

The celebration of Indian Christian Day (Yeshu Bhakti Divas) on 3 July 2021, will launch the Decade of Celebration (2021-2030) to honour the 2000 th anniversary of the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ whose teaching and life principles have helped to shape and transform India and the world". Indian Christian Day (ICD) is important on several counts; among them are the fact that it is a grass-root initiative; mooted by a group of lay persons; it is non-political and seeks no political patronage and above all, it brings together Christians from various Churches in India to love, to serve and to celebrate. The Vision Statement of Indian Christian Day (Yeshu Bhakti Divas) states, "to celebrate the person and message of Lord Jesus Christ which was brought to India in AD 52 by one of His twelve disciples, St. Thomas the Apostle, while preserving our identity within the Indian cultural heritage and promoting unity in India".

The day itself is meant to be the launch of an annual day of remembrance for the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ who are of Indian origin and all who wish to celebrate the person message of Jesus the Lord. The initiators of this day are also unequivocal in their invitation to all women and men of goodwill who would like to join in the celebration of the person and message of Jesus. As one of them states, "in these challenging and difficult times: the world needs more than ever the compassion, the mercy and the courage to stand up for the least, the lost and the last which Jesus radiated all through his life on earth" Indian Christian Day this year will herald the launch of a Decade of Celebration: the ten years (2021-2030) would lead to honour the 2000 th anniversary of the public ministry of Lord Jesus Christ whose teaching and life principles have helped to shape and transform India and the rest of the world. The success of this movement's impact will be the incremental progress of wide- spread acceptance, appreciation and recognition of the historic presence and influence of the person and teachings of Jesus among Indians.

The day itself will see a plethora of events: locally (in Churches, organizations, areas, districts and even in one's family); State- wise, a national event and a Global event. Because of the pandemic and the fact that numbers are restricted – most of the events planned this year will be (where physical events are planned) with very small numbers or virtually. A website www.indianchristianday.com has been constructed which provides one the

possibility of accessing important information, PDF downloads and the opportunities for involvement in the Indian Christian Day.

Since the time of St Thomas, Indian Christians have contributed significantly to the country in every possible sphere. Christians have been an integral part of the freedom struggle and also members of the Constituent Assembly; they have been Ministers in the Central and State Governments, Governors of States, members of the Judiciary and of other Constitutional bodies of the nation. The contribution of Christians to the field of education and medicare is legendary. Some of the educational institutions of excellence are managed by the Christians (as is evident from the leading surveys in the country recently). Be it in academics or research; in literature or in sports; in the promotion of local cultures or the development of languages; in media and the arts, the Christian presence has always been invaluable. This presence is also seen from the white revolution to the green revolution; from botany to architecture; from social forestry to the care of the environment. Christians have worked selflessly for the upliftment of the poor and the marginalized, the excluded and the exploited, the tribals and the Dalits, women and children. In their loyalty to the Constitution, they have been visible and vocal in their stand for human rights of all. Christians have contributed significantly, objectively and with excellence in every field of human endeavour to this great nation!

There is certainly much to be celebrated! The significant contribution of the Christians to nation-building has come in for praise and appreciation from every quarter: there is no doubt about that. In 1964, the Indian Postal Department issued a commemorative Postage Stamp on St Thomas on the occasion of the visit of St Pope Paul VI to India; in 1973, another commemorative stamp was issued on the occasion of the 19th centenary of the death of St Thomas. Apart from these, Christians have been honoured by the nation through the whole range of National recognitions from the Bharat Ratna downwards for their selfless contribution to the nation!

However, what also is a painful fact is that in recent years there has been increased misinformation about the historicity of the message of Jesus in India; besides from certain quarters there are efforts to discredit the Christians with falsehoods and half-truths. The Christian faith and practice existed in India centuries before European colonization. What is wrongly promoted is the narrative that Christ was introduced to India by European colonialists and to conclude that Christ is against the Indian cultural ethos and people. Indian Christian Day also aims at celebrating the coming of the message of Jesus Christ with Apostle Thomas' arrival in India and to counteract attempts of promoting a revisionist history with solidarity and hope. Besides, given the circumstances today, it is necessary to establish the historicity of Christ in India, to highlight the impact of the person and message of the Lord Jesus Christ on India and to showcase the ongoing contribution of the followers of Jesus to the development and nation building of India. On 4 December 2020, the 'Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity' of the Vatican, gave to the Church a path breaking document "The Bishop and Christian Unity: An Ecumenical Vademecum.". The document

spells out various dimensions (dialogues) by which a genuine Ecumenical Spirit can be fostered and ultimately move towards the prayer of Jesus, "that all may be one".

The Vademecum emphatically states, "The Dialogue of Life includes the opportunities for encounter and collaboration with other Christians in pastoral care, in mission to the world and through culture. These forms of ecumenism are here distinguished for clarity of explanation, but it should always be borne in mind that they are interconnected and mutually enriching aspects of the same reality. Much ecumenical activity will engage a number of these dimensions simultaneously. For the purposes of this document distinctions are made in order to help the bishop in his discernment. (#15). Further adding, "Ut unum sint teaches that "There is no important or significant event which does not benefit from Christians coming together and praying" Christians from different traditions will share a concern for the local community in which they live and the particular challenges that it faces. Christians can demonstrate their care by marking together significant events or anniversaries in the life of the community, and by praying together for its particular needs. Global realities such as warfare, poverty, the plight of migrants, injustice and the persecution of Christians and other religious groups also demand the attention of Christians who can join together in prayer for peace and for the most vulnerable." (#19)

There was certainly no connection between the Vademecum and those who initiated the idea of Indian Christian Day. Strangely enough the movement towards this day began early in 2021, a little after the Vademecum was promulgated in the Catholic Church; interestingly enough, the spirit and the thoughts (in a very primary way) of the vademecum began to be actualized in India. Since early February monthly virtual 'Concept and Vision Meetings' have been held which have brought in several eminent speakers from the different Churches besides hundreds of participants from everywhere. Among the speakers from the Catholic Church were Mr. John Dayal, Bishop Thomas Dabre of Pune, Archbishop Thomas Macwan of Gandhinagar, Archbishop Anil Couto of Delhi, Bishop Agnelo Gracias of Jalandhar and Archbishop Peter Machado of Bangalore.

The underlying message in these preparatory meetings were clear: Christians of India need to come together to celebrate the person and message of Jesus Christ and in doing so ensure that the Constitutional values – which are also in the Gospel of Jesus- of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity become an intrinsic and non-negotiable dimension for all Indians – so that in the years to come peace, joy, harmony and pluralism reign in our land! The conclusion of the Ecumenical Vademecum has a meaningful but apt prayer for Indian Christian Day: "Father Paul Couturier (1881–1953), a Catholic pioneer in the ecumenical movement and particularly of spiritual ecumenism, called upon the grace of Christ's victory over division in his prayer for unity which continues to inspire Christians of many different traditions. With his prayer we conclude this Vademecum: Lord Jesus, on the night before you died for us, you prayed that all your disciples may be perfectly one, as you are in your Father and your Father is in you. Make us painfully aware of our lack of faith in not being united.

Give us the faithfulness to acknowledge, and the courage to reject, our hidden indifference, distrust and even enmity towards one another. Grant that we all may meet one another in you, so that from our souls and our lips there may ever arise your prayer for the unity of Christians as you will it and by the means that you desire. In you, who are perfect Love, grant us to find the way that leads to unity, in obedience to your love and your truth. Amen". Come 3 July 2021, Indian Christians are called in a very special way to celebrate in unity (one in heart and one in mind), their faith: to love and serve others; to give and not to count the cost; to be a witness to justice and truth -just as Jesus would have done and expects his disciples to do likewise today! Let us NOT shy in doing so!



Indian Christian Day yeshu bhakti divas

ఉత్సవాల మార్గదర్శకాలు ప్రేమ | సేవ | ఉత్సవం

దర్భనం: దాదాపు 2000 సంవత్సరాలుగా భారతదేశంలో ఉన్న ప్రభుపైన యేసుక్రీస్తునూ, ఆయన సందేశాన్నీ బట్టి ఉత్పహించడం. (ప్రకటనను చదవండి)

అధికారిక ప్రారంభం: జులై 3, 2021, మరియు ఇక మీదట ప్రతి సంవత్సరం.

ఉత్పవాన్ని ఎవరు జరుపుగలరు?: భారతీయ సంతతికి చెందిన యేసుక్రీస్తు అనుచరులు మరియు యేసుక్రీస్తునూ, మరియు సందేశాన్నీ బట్టి ఉత్సహించాలని కోరుకునే వారందరూ.

ఉద్యమం: భారతదేశంలోనూ, ప్రపంచవ్యాప్తంగానూ వివిధ భాషలు, శాఖలు మరియు నేపథ్యాలకు చెందిన ప్రభువైన యేసు యొక్క భారతీయ శిష్యుల స్థిరమైన సంపూర్ణ ప్రయత్నం

ఉత్సవం ఉద్దేశం, స్వభావం: జులై 3 ను స్థానికంగానూ, ప్రపంచవ్యాప్తంగానూ భారత కైస్తవ దినం / యేసు భక్తి దివస్ గానూ లేదా అవసరాన్ని బట్టి దానికి తగిన విధంగా సమానమైనదిగా నిర్వహించ బడవచ్చును. అన్ని ఉత్సవాలు ఖచ్చితంగా రాజకీయేతరంగానూ, ఒక విభాగానికి చెందనవిగానూ ఉండాలి, సాధ్యమైన మేర వివిధ భాషలనూ, మరియు సాంప్రదాయాలనూ చేర్చడాన్ని ప్రోత్సహించేవిగానూ ఉండాలి.

ప్రేమ పూరిత చర్యలు: జులై 3, 2021 శనివారం, సమాజాన్ని ఆశీర్వదించడానికి ప్రేమతోనూ, దయతోనూ కూడిన కనీసం ఒక చర్యను ఎంచుకోండి.

- సంఘాలు/ సహవాసాలు: ఒక ప్రణాళిక బృందాన్ని ఏర్పాటు చేయండి, యువతనూ, మరియు పిల్లలనూ దానిలో చేర్చండి. సంఘానికి పెలుపల ఉన్న సమాజం కోసం "కేవలం ఒక్కటి" కార్యాదరణ ప్రణాళికను నిర్వహించండి.
- వ్యక్తులు / కుటుంబాలు: ఒకే మనస్సుగల స్పేహితులతో కలీసి ఒకటిగా చేరండి. సమాజం కోసం ప్రమతోనూ, దయతోనూ కూడిన "కేవలం ఒక్కటి" చర్యను నిర్వహించండి.

ఉత్సవం తలంపులు:

- పేద కుటుంబాలకు ఆహారం లేదా మంచి దుస్తులు పంపిణీ చేయండి
- వీధులను శుబ్రపరచడం, చెట్లు నాటడం మొదలైనవి
- ఉచిత శిబిరాలను నిర్వహించండి ఉదా., కంటి, దంత, పైద్య, అక్షరాస్యత శిబిరాలు మొదలైనవి.
- భారతీయ సంగీతం, నృత్యం, ఉత్సవాలతో సాంస్కృతిక కార్యక్రమాలను నీర్వహించండి
- కళ, సంగీతం, రచన, ఉపన్యాసం మొదలైన వాటీలో వివిధ వయసుల వారీ కోసం పోటీలను నిర్వహించండి
- ప్రాథమిక ఆరోగ్య కేంద్రాలు, పైద్యశాలలు, జైళ్ళను సందర్భించండి.

సామాజిక మాధ్యమం & ప్రపంచ వ్యాప్త ఉత్పవాలు: బ్యానర్లు ముద్రించండి మరియు పోస్టర్లు తయారు చేయండి. ICD / YBD రూపం, గుర్తింపు చిహ్నం లతో సామాజిక మాధ్యమం వ్యక్తిత్వ వర్ణనను నవీకరించండి. ఉత్సవాల ఫోటోలు తీయండి, ఫేస్బ్ / ఇన్స్టాగ్రామ్లలో పంచుకోండి. బ్లాగులు, వ్యాసాలు రాయండి, అవగాహన పెంపొందించండి.

పరికరాలు అందించబడ్డాయి: ప్రకటన, దర్శనం పత్రాలు, ఉత్సవాల మార్గదర్భకాల ఉచిత పిడిఎఫ్ డౌన్ల్లోడలు ఎబ్ఐైట్లో అందుబాటులో ఉన్నాయి. – <u>www.indianchristianday.com</u>

మరింత సమాచారం కోసం, దయచేసి సంప్రదించండి: indianchristianday@gmail.com

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VII. Feast of St. Mary Magdalene- July 22

The feast of St. Mary Magdalene is considered one of the most mystical of feasts, and it is said that of all the songs of the saints, that of Mary Magdalene is the sweetest and strongest because her love was so great. That love was praised by Jesus Himself who said that because much was forgiven her, she loved much. Where she is buried, no one



knows. Tradition often identifies Mary Magdalene either with the sinful woman who anointed Christ's feet in Luke 7:36-50 or with Mary of Bethany, the sister of Lazarus and Martha mentioned in Luke 10:38-42 and John 11-12.

She was the first recorded witness to the resurrection of Jesus, His most ardent and loving follower. She had stood with Mary at the foot of the Cross on that brutal Good Friday afternoon and had been by the side of Mary during these difficult hours. On Easter morning, she went with the other women to the tomb and it was there, in the garden near the tomb, that Jesus appeared to her. It was she who brought the news of the Resurrection to the Apostles, and Peter and John raced to the tomb to see what had happened. She has always been the example of great love and great forgiveness, one of those close to Jesus who grasped the truth of God's love for human beings and spent her life bearing witness to that love. Patron: Apothecaries; Casamicciola, Italy; contemplative life; contemplatives; converts; druggists; glove makers; hairdressers; hairstylists; penitent sinners; penitent women; people ridiculed for their pie ty; perfumeries; perfumers; pharmacists; reformed prostitutes; sexual temptation; tanners; women. **Symbols:** Rich raiment; box of ointment; skull; book; vase of sweet spices; crucifix; open book; boat.

VIII. World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly- July 25

As you may know, the Holy Father made a decision to institute World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly to be celebrated throughout the Church every year on the fourth Sunday in July, near to the memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, grandparents of Jesus. Significantly, this year 2021 we will celebrate it on Sunday 25 July, the midpoint of the Amoris Laetitia Family Year that has just begun. The theme of this first World Day for Grandparents and



the Elderly will be "I am with you always" (cf. Mt 28:20). Its purpose is to convey to every elderly person that God and the Church are close to them, and also to emphasise intergenerational closeness between young and old.

The elderly today account for a significant portion of God's faithful and holy people, not only in numerical terms. The Holy Father's decision to dedicate a special day to them is intended to signal the importance of adequate pastoral attention to help them make the most use of their spiritual resources. Moreover, the health emergency we have been experiencing for more than a year has hit the elderly particularly hard, and this calls on each of our communities to clearly show the elderly that the Church is close to them. On the occasion of the First World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, if the health crisis allows, the Holy

Father will preside at Holy Mass in the Vatican. In addition, we invite every episcopal conference to inform all the dioceses, parishes and associations of the need to plan initiatives to mark the event in a way best suited to their pastoral context.

This World Day could be a great coming-together of grandparents and grandchildren, the young and the old. To this end, from mid-June the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life will make available a series of pastoral tools that we will send to you. They will also be available on the website dedicated to the Amoris Laetitia Family Year www.amorislaetitia.va.

A message from the Holy Father in preparation for this World Day will also be published. In order to facilitate communications concerning the preparation of the event, we kindly ask you to send to Mr Vittorio Scelzo, the contact person in our Dicastery for the pastoral care of the elderly (v.scelzo@laityfamilylife.va), the name and contact details of the person with responsibility for the pastoral care of the elderly for your episcopal conference. In the hope that the celebration of this World Day will be an opportunity to convey to our grandparents and elderly people the closeness of the Church in these difficult times, I send you cordial greetings in the Risen Christ.

IX. Feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne – July 26 Feast Day wishes to all St. Ann's Congregations/ Convents

In the Scriptures, Matthew and Luke furnish a legal family history of Jesus, tracing ancestry to show that Jesus is the culmination of great promises. Not only is his mother's family neglected, we also know nothing factual about them except that they existed. Even the names "Joachim" and "Anne" come from a legendary source written more than a century after Jesus died. The heroism and holiness of these people



however, is inferred from the whole family atmosphere around Mary in the Scriptures. Whether we rely on the legends about Mary's childhood or make guesses from the information in the Bible, we see in her a fulfillment of many generations of prayerful persons, herself steeped in the religious traditions of her people. The strong character of Mary in making decisions, her continuous practice of prayer, her devotion to the laws of her faith, her steadiness at moments of crisis, and her devotion to her relatives—all indicate a close-knit, loving family that looked forward to the next generation even while retaining the best of the past. Joachim and Anne—whether these are their real names or not—represent that entire quiet series of generations who faithfully perform their duties, practice their faith, and establish an atmosphere for the coming of the Messiah, but remain obscure.

This is the "feast of grandparents." It reminds grandparents of their responsibility to establish a tone for generations to come: They must make the traditions live and offer them as a promise to little children. But the feast has a message for the younger generation as well. It reminds the young that older people's greater perspective, depth of experience, and

appreciation of life's profound rhythms are all part of a wisdom not to be taken lightly or ignored. Saints Joachim and Anne are the Patron Saints of: Grandparents Saint Anne is the Patron Saint of: Mothers and Women in Labor.

X. St. Alphonsa- July 28

She was born as Annakkutty (little Anna) in Kudamaloor, a village in the princely state of Travancore which was under the British Raj (now present day Kottayam district, Kerala, India) to Joseph and Mary Muttathupadathu. She was baptized on 27 August 1910 at Saint Mary's Church in Kudamaloor under the patronage of Saint Anna. Anna's mother died when she was young,



so her maternal aunt raised her. In 1916 Anna started her schooling in Arpookara. She received First Communion on 27 November 1917. In 1918 she was transferred to the school in Muttuchira. In 1923 Anna was badly burned on her feet when she fell into a pit of burning chaff. This accident left her permanently disabled. When it became possible, Anna joined the Franciscan Clarist Congregation. She arrived at the Poor Clares convent at Bharananganam on Pentecost 1927. She received the postulant's veil on 2 August 1928 and took the name Alphonsa. In May 1929 she entered the Malayalam High School at Vazhappally. Her foster mother died in 1930. On 19 May 1930 she received her religious habit at Bharananganam. Three days later she resumed her studies at Changanacherry, while working as a temporary teacher at the school at Vakakkad. On 11 August 1931 she joined the novitiate. Anna took her permanent vows on 12 August 1936. Two days later she returned to Bharananganam from Changanacherry. She taught elementary school, but was often sick and unable to teach.

In December 1936, it is claimed that she was cured from her ailments through the intervention of Blessed Kuriakose Elias Chavara, but on 14 June 1939 she was struck by a severe attack of pneumonia, which left her weakened. On 18 October 1940, a thief entered her room in the middle of the night. This traumatic event caused her to suffer amnesia and weakened her again. Her health continued to deteriorate over a period of months. She received extreme unction on 29 September 1941. The next day it is believed that she regained her memory, though not complete health. Her health improved over the next few years, until in July 1945 she developed a stomach problem that caused vomiting.

She died on 28 July 1946, aged 35. She is buried at Bharananganam, Travancore (present day Kerala) in the Diocese of Palai. Her tomb in Bharananganam has become a pilgrimage site as miracles have been reported by some faithful. The miracle attributed to her intercession and approved by the Vatican for the canonization was the healing of the club foot of an infant in 1999.

XI. Saint Martha – July 29

Saint Martha is commemorated each year on 29 July. From her diligence, we learn not to allow ourselves to be so overcome by daily duties that we neglect love; from her profession of faith we learn that life in God makes us experience wonders that we could not believe possible. We learn about Saint Martha from the Gospels. She was from Bethany, a village a few



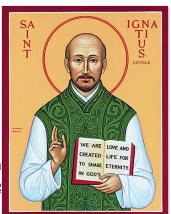
kilometers from Jerusalem. The sister of Lazarus and Mary, she was considered diligent and meticulous; she was certainly one of the first to believe in Jesus. The Lord was often a guest in her home, especially during the time of His preaching in Jerusalem.

Saint Luke especially is able to "draw us a picture" of St Martha, describing her daily life. In his Gospel, relating one time when Jesus was visiting His friends in Bethany, the Evangelist writes: "As they continued their journey He entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed Him. She had a sister named Mary [who] sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to Him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to Him and said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me.' The Lord said to her in reply, 'Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

The Master helps her to understand that even praiseworthy labour can risk obscuring the interior life. It is a warning that causes one to reflect on how important it is to nourish the spirit, to listen to the Word of God, because it is the Word of God that gives meaning to our daily activities. Nonetheless, on account of her admirable dedication to doing the work necessary to offer a guest a comfortable respite, the Church recognizes Martha as a model of industriousness. And so Martha and Mary are serve respectively as examples of the active and the contemplative life; the life of external activity and the life of prayer. In the life of a Christian, neither should be lacking; activity and contemplation should be seen as complementary, and not opposed to one another.

XII. Feast of Ignatius of Loyola - July 31 Feast Day Wishes to All Jesuits

The founder of the Jesuits was on his way to military fame and fortune when a cannon ball shattered his leg. Because there were no books of romance on hand during his convalescence, Ignatius whiled away the time reading a life of Christ and lives of the saints. His conscience was deeply touched, and a long, painful turning to Christ began. Having seen the Mother of God in a vision, he made a pilgrimage to her shrine at Montserrat near Barcelona. He remained for almost a year at nearby Manresa, sometimes with the Dominican sometimes in a pauper's hospice, often in a cave in the hills praying After a period of great peace of mind, he went through a harrowing



trial of scruples. There was no comfort in anything—prayer, fasting, sacraments, penance. At length, his peace of mind returned. It was during this year of conversion that Ignatius began to write down material that later became his greatest work, the Spiritual Exercises. He finally achieved his purpose of going to the Holy Land, but could not remain, as he planned, because of the hostility of the Turks. Ignatius spent the next 11 years in various European universities, studying with great difficulty, beginning almost as a child. Like many others, his orthodoxy was questioned; Ignatius was twice jailed for brief periods.

In 1534, at the age of 43, he and six others one of whom was Saint Francis Xavier—vowed to live in poverty and chastity and to go to the Holy Land. If this became impossible, they vowed to offer themselves to the apostolic service of the pope. The latter became the only choice. Four years later Ignatius made the association permanent. The new Society of Jesus was approved by Pope Paul III, and Ignatius was elected to serve as the first general. When companions were sent on various missions by the pope, Ignatius remained in Rome, consolidating the new venture, but still finding time to found homes for orphans, catechumens, and penitents. He founded the Roman College, intended to be the model of all other colleges of the Society. Ignatius was a true mystic. He centered his spiritual life on the essential foundations of Christianity the Trinity, Christ, the Eucharist. His spirituality is expressed in the Jesuit motto, Ad majorem Dei gloriam "for the greater glory of God." In his concept, obedience was to be the prominent virtue, to assure the effectiveness and mobility of his men. All activity was to be guided by a true love of the Church and unconditional obedience to the Holy Father, for which reason all professed members took a fourth vow to go wherever the pope should send them for the salvation of souls.

XIII. Bishop's Schedule for July, 2021

As the disaster effect of Covid-19 Variants is receding, those who have urgent needs of Physical Meeting with Bishop, The Clergy, and Consecrated may contact Fr. Simon for an appointment. If the work can be done on Phone, Please prefer it. We firmly hope and earnestly pray that the much feared WAVE III will not create havoc!

3 : St. Thomas, Apostle of India, Solemnity& Indian Christian Day

: Holy Matrimony, Gudur

: WADES Governing Body Meeting & Divyavani Board Meeting

: Our Lady of Mount Carmel

22 : St. Mary Magdalene

25 : Grand Parents and Elders Day

26 : Feast of St Ann & St. Joachim

28 : St. Alphonsa's Feast

31 : Ignatius of Loyola's Feast

XIV. Communications

1. Gratitude to the Outgoing and Welcome to the New Consecrated into Warangal:

Great appreciation and gratitude to all the Outgoing/gone Consecrated who rendered their services in the Diocese of Warangal. And Cordial Welcome to all in-coming/came into the Diocese of Warangal with wishes and God's blessings for the new assignment.

2. Lodi MSSS

"The law of prosperity is generosity. If you want more, give more." Bob Proctor I. Poverty Reduction among Poor and Marginalized rural households with Livelihoods, Ecological farming and Natural Resource Management in Kodakandla Mandal

- 1. 3160 tractor trips of tank silt from 1 irrigation tanks, 1 project village was applied in 158 acres of agriculture land of 79 small and marginal farmers with a desiltation program.
- 2. 1 irrigation pond in 1 project village is renovated by clearance of jungle on the bund, excavation of pond and strengthening the bund and 30 farmers will benefit with the increase of irrigation sources and recharge of bore wells.
- 3. Constructed 2 check dams in 2 villages over the big stream and 85 acres of land of 50 farmers will be benefited with recharge of ground water and enhanced irrigation from bore wells and wells.

II. Nutritious food materials to 170 HIV affected and infected children:

Nutritious food materials: Toor Dal 1 Kg, Groundnuts: 1 Kg. Putna Dal 1Kg, Atta 5 Kgs, Gold drop oil 1.Lit, Channa 1kg, Sugar 1kg, Moong dal 1kg, Dettol Soaps 2, Sanitizers 1 and face masks 1 were distributed to 170 HIV affected and infected children by Most. Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala, DD, Bishop of Warangal and the President of Lodi MSSS in Lodi premises on 22nd, June 2021. These 150 children are supported with Nutritious food materials on by monthly basis, since 5 years.





III. Nutritious food materials to Covid 19 affected and infected children in Warangal Rural and Bhupalapally Districts: Lodi MSSS has been working in Warangal Rural and Bhupalapally Districts for the welfare of children with the collaboration of CHILDLINE Foundation India. During this pandemic time, Lodi MSSS has supported 100 Covid 19 affected and infected children with nitrous food supply worth of Rs 1200. The team members of the 1098 staff went in person to all the houses of these children and distributed the food materials and gave them counseling – how to take care of themselves.

IV. Covid Relief Works in Devaruppala and KodakandlaMandals of Jangaon District:

Lodi has distributed 50 Pulse oximeters, 25 Infrared Thermometers, 150 N95 masks and 1000 face masks to Asha workers, ANM nurses and health department personal. Through them, Lodi supports for the controlling of Covid 19 positive cases in the project villages of Devaruppala and Kodakandla villages.

V. Project Title: Sustainable Livelihood Based Food Security program for the Marginalized Communities of 20 villages of Raikal Mandal of Jagityal district.

Lodi MSSS has constructed 3-Checkdams in Bornapalli, Dawanpalli; Vastapur Thanda villages and Desiltation program completed in Jagannadhpur village. This is very much useful for the farmers.

Rev. Fr. D. Vijaya Paul, Director

3. Pastoral Centre

- 1. Dear Fathers as the lock down is unlocked, Marriage Preparations Course will be resumed as for the guidelines below:
 - Dates: Every second Saturday and Fourth Saturday
 - Time: 9am to 3pm
 - The course will be conducted with Covid-19 guidelines hence all the participants are asked to strictly follow SMS (Social Distance, Mask & Sanitization)
 - As usual MPC certification will be issued
 - MPC course is obligatory and it's certification is a must to bless weddings in the parishes.
 - If you have any queries please contact to 9392719991/889773690
- 2. All the programs are resumed in the Pastoral Center so kindly make a note and avail our services.

Fr. Gopu Kamal Kumar Reddy, Director.

4. WADES

The Governing Zoom body meeting of WADES was held on 23rd of June 2021. The ministry of Education of the Government of Telangana has announced that the schools / colleges be opened for 8th and above to have Physical classes from 1st of July and 6 & 7 classes from 20.07.2021 and 3, 4 & 5 classes from 16.08.2021 respectively. In line with the opening of new academic year various issue were discussed to guide our Headmasters / Correspondents and Directors.

As the Pandemic continues we are faced with many challenges in the Education field unlike the other sectors. Due to difficulties caused in the regular schooling, all the Educational institutions have pivoted to online teaching and we all tried our best and made excellent efforts conducting online classes during the last academic year. It was really a tough and testing time in WADES history. Here is yet another academic year with same Pandemic challenges. One of the best ways of learning is by experience. We have gained some quality experience of "how to better connect with students". Our confidence has grown and we will be able to organise better our educational programs this year.

We all know that due to Covid-19, 2nd Wave pandemic - all sections of students were promoted to the next classes. Consequently their understanding of next class subject will be rather difficult. Hence we planned a bridge course / remedial classes to be organized in our schools. It gives supplementary knowledge that provides and imparts basic knowledge about the higher class subject that will be taught to them in the up -coming future. Considering its importance we plan to organize it, in all our schools for 10 days starting from 1st of July.

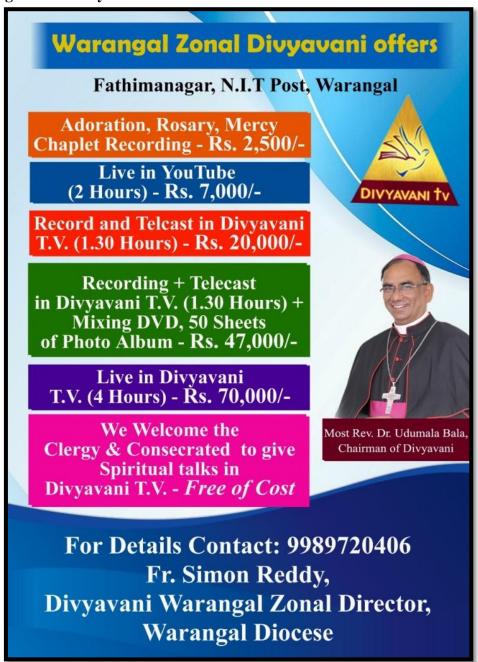
The Governing body is always ready to extend the support needed and wish all the best to all our HM/Corr, and Directors.

Fr. M. Jaya Paul, D.M

5. Arunodaya Youth Centre



6. Warangal Zonal Divyavani Social Communication Centre



BIRTHDAY BABIES IN THE MONTH OF JULY

Wishes and Prayers

Rev. Fr. Thanugundla Jerome	10-07-1961
Rev. Fr. Golamari Sudhakar	10-07-1966
Rev. Fr. Singareddy Inna Reddy	14-07-1972
Rev. Fr. Basani Kishore	16-07-1979
Rev. Fr. Allam Vincent	17-07-1964
Rev. Fr. Dodda Raja	26-07-1959

