

Hatima Vani



News Letter
Diocese of Warangal



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Synodal Church



‘Synodality’ as Theme for 2023 Synod

"For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission" is the theme Pope Francis chose for the next world Synod of Bishops at the Vatican in October 2023: "Synodality is a style, it is a walk together, and it is what the Lord expects from the Church of the third millennium. He said in November 2019 at a meeting of the International Theological Commission, a prestigious Vatican advisory body, which in 2018 published a study entitled 'Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church. In recent years, particularly during the pontificate of Pope Francis, we have become accustomed to hearing the expression "synodality" describing the nature of the Church in our day. In the months and years since the Pope spoke, synods and synodality have been much in the news, also partly due to a controversial "Synodal Path" experiment that took place in Germany. And in October 2023, a general assembly of the international Synod of Bishops will convene in Rome for its discussion of the theme.



Synodal Roots

The word "synod" is a combination of two Greek words — *sun* (meaning "with") and *odos* (meaning "path"). Thus synod and synodality signify walking together with others or, more broadly, a journey by companions marked by fellowship and sharing. In ecclesial terms, this corresponds to the image of the Church as a pilgrim people traveling through the centuries on the way to the final fulfillment of all things in Christ.

The International Theological Commission in its document points to a kind of prototype synod in the so-called Council of Jerusalem around the year A.D. 49, as found in Chapter 15 of the Acts of the Apostles. In those very early days of the Church, a controversy arose in the city of Antioch over whether non-Jewish converts had to be circumcised, as Jewish law prescribed. The local Christians decided to send Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem to consult the "Apostles and Elders" of the mother Church on what should be done. In Jerusalem an 'assembly' was convened, and after discussion and debate, it was decided that no circumcision would be required by non-Jewish converts. Calling this a "paradigm" for synods, the Commission stated that sharing views and heeding the Holy Spirit on this occasion brought it about that 'initially divergent opinions move toward the consensus and unanimity that are the fruit of communal discernment'. The commission calls this "a real-life demonstration that the way the People of God moves forward is something orderly and well thought out, where each person has a specific position and role" (Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church, No. 21, 22).

International and Diocesan Synods

Over the centuries since then, synods of various kinds have often been held. The Code of Canon Law states synods of two kinds, the international Synod of Bishops, and diocesan synods. The code devotes nine canons to diocesan synods, specifying their purposes, members and operations. Canon 460 gives this very general statement of what a diocesan synod is — "a group of selected priests and other Christian faithful ... who offer assistance to the

diocesan bishop for the good of the entire diocesan community”. Canon 466 emphasizes that the bishop is a diocesan synod’s “sole legislator” and the other members have “only a consultative vote.” Recommendations and suggestions of the faithful will be given to the synod body, who will consult and vote on resolutions to be presented to the diocesan bishop.

Diocesan synods have existed in the Church for a long time, but the international Synod of Bishops is, comparatively speaking, something new, an innovation proposed by the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) in its decree on Bishops, *Christus Dominus* No. 4). Till date there have been 15 “ordinary” assemblies of the synod, the next will be the 16th. Besides, there were three “extraordinary” assemblies and several “special” assemblies, including sessions for Africa and the Amazon region. The International Theological Commission underlines: “The teaching of Scripture and Tradition show that synodality is an essential dimension of the Church. ... Synodality is not simply a working procedure, but the particular form in which the Church lives and operates” (“Synodality in the Life and Mission of the Church,” No. 42).

Role of Laity

Synods and synodality are often described as reflections of the vision of the Church as a community as found in the teaching of Vatican Council II. The key passage in the Council’s Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*: “As all the members of the human body, though they are many, form one body, so also are the faithful in Christ. Also, in the building up of Christ’s body there is engaged a diversity of members and functions. There is only one Spirit who, according to his own richness and the needs of the ministries, gives his different gifts for the welfare of the Church” (*Lumen Gentium*, No. 7). Developing and applying this view of the Church, the Catechism of the Catholic Church says this about the laity: “In the Church, ‘lay members of the Christian faithful can cooperate in the exercise of this power [of governance] in accord with the norm of law.’ And so the Church provides for their presence at particular councils, diocesan synods, pastoral councils, the exercise of the pastoral care of a parish, collaboration in finance committees, and participation in ecclesiastical tribunals, etc.” (CCC 911).

Holy Father’s Desire

Pope Francis often expressed a desire to strengthen the unity and collegiality of Church governance on matters of faith and morals and ecclesial life. To that end, he tries to profoundly reshape all the ecclesial structures in order to become more missionary ... (and) to become more and more an adequate channel for the evangelization of the present world more than for self-preservation ... a privileged instrument for listening to the People of God.” Holy Father’s push for synodality inside the Church coincides chronologically with the rise of populist leaders and the crisis of democracy on the outside. Synodality, therefore, might have an *ad extra* dimension. More than sure, synodality has specific *ad intra* dimensions and it is its essential basis. Regarding questions that continue to be raised about the similarities and differences between synodality and a democratic form of church governance, the commission wrote: “A synodal church is a church of participation and co-responsibility. In exercising synodality she is called to give expression to the participation of all, according to each one’s calling, with the authority conferred by Christ on the College of Bishops headed by the Pope. Participation is based on the fact that all the faithful are qualified and called to serve each other through the gifts they have all received from the Holy Spirit.” At the same time, it said, “the authority of pastors is a specific gift of the Spirit of Christ the head for the up-building of the entire body, not a delegated and representative function of the people.”

II. Holy Father's Intention for September 2021

Universal Prayer intention-An environmentally sustainable lifestyle: we Pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

III. Pope's Message for Migrants & Refugees Day

Pope Francis announces the theme for the 107th World Day of Migrants and Refugees to take place on 26 September, which this year is "Towards an ever wider 'we'." The Migrants and Refugees Section of the Dicastery for Integral Human Development on Saturday revealed the Pope's message for this year's observance of the Catholic Church's World Day of Migrants and Refugees. In a communique, the Dicastery said the overarching theme of the Day, which will be held on Sunday, 26 September 2021, is divided into 6 sub-themes.



Pope Francis' message will "stress the importance of being attentive to the entire human family through an inclusive Church that reaches out and is capable of creating communion in diversity." It will also give special attention to the care of our common home, "which translates into care of our common family, care of the 'we' that can, and must, become ever more open and welcoming." The statement went on to say the Migrants and Refugees Section will carry out a communications campaign to help Christians prepare for the Day. The campaign will include "monthly multimedia aids, information material and reflections by theologians and experts that expand upon the theme and sub-themes chosen by the Holy Father."

Praying for migrants

The Church marked the first celebration of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees in 1914, to express support and concern for people who are forced to flee their homes. Catholics around the world are invited to pray for refugees and migrants in their many difficulties, and to learn more about the benefits which migration offers.

IV. MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR WORLD MISSION DAY 2021 OCTOBER24, 2021

"We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20)

Once we experience the power of God's love, and recognize his fatherly presence in our personal and community life, we cannot help but proclaim and share *what we have seen and heard*. Jesus' relationship with his disciples and his humanity, as revealed to us in the mystery of his Incarnation, Gospel and Paschal Mystery, shows us the extent to which God loves our humanity and makes his own our joys and sufferings, our hopes and our concerns

(cf. *Gaudium et Spes*, 22). Everything about Christ reminds us that he knows well our world and its need for redemption, and calls us to become actively engaged in this mission: “Go therefore to the highways and byways, and invite everyone you find” (*Mt* 22:9). No one is excluded, no one need feel distant or removed from this compassionate love.

The theme of this year’s World Mission Day – “We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard” (*Acts* 4:20), is a summons to each of us to “own” and to bring to others what we bear in our hearts. This mission has always been the hallmark of the Church, for “she exists to evangelize” (SAINT PAUL VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 14). Our life of faith grows weak, loses its prophetic power and its ability to awaken amazement and gratitude when we become isolated and withdraw into little groups. By its very nature, the life of faith calls for a growing openness to embracing everyone, everywhere. The first Christians, far from yielding to the temptation to become an elite group, were inspired by the Lord and his offer of new life to go out among the nations and to bear witness to what they had seen and heard: the good news that the Kingdom of God is at hand. They did so with the generosity, gratitude and nobility typical of those who sow seeds in the knowledge that others will enjoy the fruit of their efforts and sacrifice. I like to think that “even those who are most frail, limited and troubled can be missionaries in their own way, for goodness can always be shared, even if it exists alongside many limitations” (*Christus Vivit*, 239).

On World Mission Day, which we celebrate each year on the penultimate Sunday of October, we recall with gratitude all those men and women who by their testimony of life help us to renew our baptismal commitment to be generous and joyful apostles of the Gospel. Let us remember especially all those who resolutely set out, leaving home and family behind, to bring the Gospel to all those places and people athirst for its saving message.

Contemplating their missionary witness, we are inspired to be courageous ourselves and to beg “the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest” (*Lk* 10:2). We know that the call to mission is not a thing of the past, or a romantic leftover from earlier times. Today too Jesus needs hearts capable of experiencing vocation as a true love story that urges them to go forth to the peripheries of our world as messengers and agents of compassion. He addresses this call to everyone, and in different ways. We can think of the peripheries all around us, in the heart of our cities or our own families. Universal openness to love has a dimension that is not geographical but existential. Always, but especially in these times of pandemic, it is important to grow in our daily ability to widen our circle, to reach out to others who, albeit physically close to us, are not immediately part of our “circle of interests” (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 97). To be on mission is to be willing to think as Christ does, to believe with him that those around us are also my brothers and sisters. May his compassionate love touch our hearts and make us all true missionary disciples.

May Mary, the first missionary disciple, increase in all the baptized the desire to be salt and light in our lands (cf. *Mt* 5:13-14).

V. CBCI OFFICE FOR DOCTRINE

22nd CBCI Bishops - Theologians Colloquium 2021 STATEMENT

Around 57 participants comprising of cardinals, archbishops, bishops, nuns, clergy and a few men and women theologians met online via zoom from 21st to 23rd July from 5.30 pm to 8.15 pm to deliberate on the theme “Covid Era: Prognosis of the Possibilities and Challenges in Post Covid Ecclesial life”.

After a short opening session inaugurated by H.Em. Oswald Cardinal Gracias, felicitated by H.B. George Cardinal Alencherry and presided by H.G. Thomas Mar Koorilos, four papers were presented on the possibilities and challenges for the church in the light of the four dreams of Pope Francis in *Querida Amazonia*, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation addressed to the people of God and to all persons of good will.

The four dreams presented in QA - social, cultural, ecological and ecclesial, challenge the Indian church to break away from tendencies of consumerism, globalization, bureaucracy, institutionalization, cultural superiority, mono-cultural nationalism, religious extremism, clericalism and an exclusivist identity so as to cultivate holiness through authentic transformation, dialogue, solidarity, networking, care for our roots, care for migrants, for indigenous people and for the entire ecosystem.

There is a widening from a Church centered approach to a global incarnational mission calling for attention to culture, language, customs, traditions, diversity and relationships. Dialogue, inculturation, co-responsibility and synodality are considered necessary for evangelization. There is need for a renewed ecclesial approach to methodology, content of ecclesial teaching, ministerial praxis and ecclesial relations in keeping with the current pandemic and changing times. Fidelity to love of God, neighbour and nature must be seen as a priority. The disputed areas concerning the Amazonian synodal process, authority of the magisterium, ordination of married men and inclusion of women as deacons etc., were also touched upon. There is a need for conversion, for building bridges, for more involvement of the laity and for inclusion of women’s voices and contribution in the Indian church. Note was taken of the minimal presence of women theologians at the colloquium. The church must also respond to the cries of the oppressed and marginalized and pay heed to “God’s dream for their fullness of life”.

The need of a biblical hermeneutical method that is “socially liberative, culturally integrating, ecologically inclusive, and ecclesially engaging” was highlighted and recognized the scope of Christian scholars and faithful to be evangelizers and restorers of life. The presentations of the second day focussed on radical changes in seminary formation, the importance of celebrating the life and faith of the domestic church, restructuring the life of the clergy and parish in the Covid context and the possibilities and challenges of post-Covid ecclesial life.

Seminarians must be formed to be passionate disciples and compassionate to people. Human, spiritual, intellectual and disciplinary formation must be geared towards pastoral praxis with a passion for those at the peripheries. The temptations of minimalism, seeking safe zones, selfishness, etc. must be attended to. Priesthood is not a gift to a person but one's self-gift to the Church. The providential change of homes becoming the sanctuary of the domestic church during the pandemic lockdown was recognized. It is like going back to the first century of celebrating life and faith in Christ in the family milieu. Family liturgies must be given importance along with enabling families to draw spiritual strength and celebrate life in the midst of their pain, brokenness, struggles and domestic violence.

The need to awaken the laity in the Church was also touched upon. There is need to rebuild the spiritual bonding of the faithful and clergy and look for new modes of the Catholic presence through a composite model balancing freedom and authority, responsibility and accountability, centrality and subsidiarity. The clergy could take on the role of accompaniment as facilitators and animators enabling the laity to be more involved and giving credible witness through their lives. There is a need for new ministries, new programs, new relationships, new symbols, new ideas and new practices that will take the church forward in the post-covid context. Ongoing formation and training at all levels are necessary especially for youth, catechists and the laity.

The final day paid more attention to young people, laity, worship and dialogue. Special efforts need to be made to help young people to deal with the enormous problems that they are facing and help them to take active roles in the domestic, social and ecclesial spheres. The importance of dialogue came up in many of the presentations and was reiterated in relation to *Fratelli Tutti* to accomplish universal solidarity and build human families in the midst of division, hatred and diverse ideologies. The role of the laity in safeguarding and leading the church forward was underscored and seen as "complementing and co-operating with the clergy". Collaboration is necessary. Leadership of the laity could help the church combat the various difficulties the administration of the Church faces, such as abuses, mismanagement and power dynamics. It was also highlighted that the lockdown helped significantly the clergy and laity to re-discover the essence of worship in spirit and truth as revealed by Jesus to the Samaritan woman. Attention of the meaning and interiority of the liturgy would allow us to get transformed. A good balance is needed between personal and communal worship to enter into the true spirit of the liturgy.

VI. Legion of Mary reaches Milestone 100

The Legion of Mary is celebrating the Centenary of its inception (ie) 07-09-1921 at Dublin Ireland. The Centenary occurs on 07-09-2021(Tuesday). The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active co-operation, under ecclesiastical guidance, in Mary's and Church's work of crushing the head of the serpent and advancing the reign of Christ. The Legion of Mary is at the disposal of the

Bishop of the diocese and the Parish Priest for any and every form of social service and Catholic action which these authorities may deem suitable to the Legionaries and useful for welfare of the Church. With the above object the Legion has served the Church for the past 100 years. Pope St. John 23 Quotes: "The Legion of Mary presents the true face of the Catholic Church". Now on completion of 100 years, the Legion of Mary is celebrating the Centenary on 07-09-2021. Due to the present situation we are unable for grand outdoor functions and huge gatherings. Hence it is decided to have the celebrations at parishes level in a simple way. On that day (07-09-2021) Grand Holy Mass followed by celebrations can be planned. Even in Parishes where there is no Legion, we can have remembrance about the Legion of Mary during the regular Holy Mass on that day for its development.

VII. CCBI: Free Online Counseling Services

The extension of the pandemic has taken a toll on the mental health of people. This in turn is indicative of worries, anxiety, and a fear among all strata of our society.

In order to help individuals / families in distress the CCBI Family Commission is happy to share collated counselling services from the Regions in different languages so that any individuals or families in need of counselling may receive help in their own language.

Online free counselling service is available in **English, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu, Marathi, Konkani, Odia, Khasi and Bengali**. Kindly forward this List to your contacts, parishes, families and friends: **for Telugu, kindly Contact:**

Rev Fr David Francis, 9490941460
Dr. Prasad Jakkamsetti and Chandini, 9849216480
James Fernandes, 9866507348
Murty VS and Philomena, 9849139537
Vimala Reddy K, 9440985566
Anthony D'souza, 9912331588
Joseph Raj, 9849527475

VIII. Two-Year Synodal Journey will open by Pope

Pope Francis will open, this October, a two-year synodal journey which will unfold itself in three phases diocesan, continental and universal of consultations and prayerful discernment, culminating with the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October 2023, in Rome.

The **Theme of the 2023 Synod is**, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission." This synodal journey will commence both in the Vatican and in the Local Churches. The Official Inauguration of the Synod will be presided over by the Holy Father in the Vatican, on October 9-10, 2021, with a time for reflection, prayer and celebration of the Eucharist. Thereafter, on October 16-17, 2021, the local diocesan bishops will open the synodal process in their respective dioceses.

In a virtual meeting held on July 9, 2021, the CCBI Office Bearers resolved that the CCBI Commission for Theology and Doctrine would be responsible for coordinating the

preparatory phase of the synodal journey. Fr. Francis Gonsalves, S.J., the Executive Secretary of that Commission, will be the Contact Person for liaising both with the diocesan officials and with the General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops in Rome, headed by Mario Cardinal Grech, the General Secretary.

IX. Feast of St. Theresa of Calcutta (Sep 5)

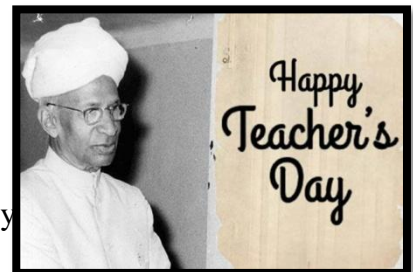
“Mother Teresa imitated Christ and her life was a lesson in love. As she personally tended the sick and the dying in Calcutta’s slums, she helped people there and beyond see the material and spiritual poverty that confronts modern society. She taught all from youth groups to governments through piety and charm, wisdom and simplicity. As small and soft spoken as she was, her reach was large and her message heard around the world. She saw Jesus in everyone from the child in the womb, to the sick and vulnerable, especially those afflicted with



AIDS, to the aged and dying abandoned in the streets of Calcutta. She urged people everywhere to reach beyond themselves to heal those hurting about them. Mother Teresa transcended cultures and politics as she spoke of God’s call to love and assist the poor. She had a profound realization that anyone she was with immigrant, alien, president or prime minister, was first of all a Child of God and intrinsically worthy of respect. Her life will stand as a reminder to all of us that we are called to care for one another and especially that we are called to respect and aid the poorest among us. God blesses the world with wonderful treasures certainly Mother Teresa has been one of the finest of our century.”

X. Teachers’ Day (Sep 5)

In India, Teacher’s Day is celebrated every year on 5th September as a mark of accolade to the part played by the teachers in the society. 5th September is the birth anniversary of a great mentor Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, who was a grand advocate of edification, and was the distinguished envoy, academician, and India’s President, above all a great Teacher.



Teacher’s Day is one of the events that is looked up by the students and the teachers in a similar way on this juncture it is the teachers who are praised. On this day, students comprehend how important is the role of a teacher in a student’s life. Teachers should always be respected. Teachers need support and encouragement from the society to sense that their fidelity to scholars is treasured and cherished. In India, on the eve of Teachers Day, the National Awards are given to the Teachers by the President of India on 5th September. The award is given as a public gratitude to praiseworthy teachers working in the primary schools, middle schools and secondary schools.

Even according to our Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi “Teaching is not a profession, a way of life”. Further he added that teaching is not a profession but “Jeevan Dharm” (a way of life) and asked teachers to understand changes happening across the world to prepare the new generation accordingly. In fact it is a divine responsibility to guide and enlighten. He also said that India should regain the status of ‘Vishwaguru’ (leader in

education) by giving high respect to teachers whom he asked to encourage students to think critically about issues concerning nation. He told that Teachers determination and sincerity will shape the destiny of the nation as they are laying the foundation and the building blocks of the society.

XI. Feast of Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary: Girl Child Day (Sep 8)

Who is this Mary? How is it that she is the mother of the Christ? What privilege that God's own Son should rest upon her knees? Matthew wrestled with these questions. He could resolve the matter only in terms of grace. And the mystery of that favor had led us to call Mary theotokos (the God-bearer), or the Immaculate Conception (never touched by sin), or the Queen of Heaven. Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth. However, the apocryphal Proto evangelium of James fills in the gap. According to this account, Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child that will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story (like many biblical counterparts) stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning.

Down through the centuries, we may have done Mary a disfavor. How often she is presented in a Mariology of passiveness, submission, docility, and abject meekness. We remember Mary said yes to the angel's announcement, but overlook her questioning, "How can this be?" We remember Jesus' seeming refusal to respond to her concern about a lack of wine at the wedding in Cana, but forget that she forged on by telling the waiters, "Do whatever he tells you." We remember Jesus' seeming indifference when he was told, "Your mother and brothers are outside asking for you," but discount her presence beneath his cross on Calvary. In many works of art Mary looks so one-dimensional and other-worldly that it is hard for us to imagine her as our mother, to think of her as energetic, to be inspired by virtues useful for living in the real world.

XII. Our Lady of Good Health – (Sep 8)

There are three major events associated with Our Lady of Good of Health in Vailankanni. The Virgin Mary is said by tradition to have appeared to a shepherded boy named Tamil Krishnannesti Sankaranarayanam who offered her child milk. She is subsequently said to have appeared to and healed a crippled boy selling buttermilk. A group of Portuguese sailors attribute being saved from a violent storm to her intercession. They constructed a larger chapel at their landing spot in Vailankanni. Around the end of the 16th century, a poor widow and her lame son lived in Vailankanni.

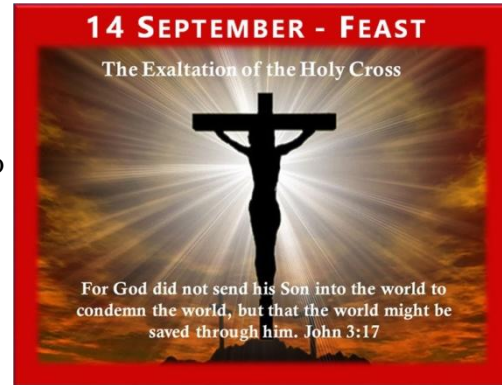


Every day the lame boy used to sit under a banyan tree at a place called 'Nadu Thittu' (central mound) and sell buttermilk to the thirsty wayfarers. One day, a very bright light appeared in front of him and from amidst the light, a Lady of peerless grace with a divine Child in her arms, asked the boy for a cup of butter-milk. Then she directed him to go and inform a catholic gentleman at Nagapattinam to put up a Chapel in her name on the spot of her apparition. The boy realized that his legs had become normal upon the word from the Lady.

With great joy, he ran to Nagapattinam to carry out the errand. Having been already directed in a vision by Our Lady, the Catholic gentleman, with the support of the people, built a Chapel at 'Nadu Thittu' where now stands the present Shrine Basilica. The Lady was called, 'Our Lady of Good Health'.

XIII. Feast of Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Sep 14)

In 326 A.D., the Emperor Constantine sought to recover the Cross by whose sign he had conquered and claimed the Roman Empire for Christ. To this end, he commissioned his mother Helen to travel to the Holy Land and find the relic of the wood upon which our Lord was crucified. After some investigation, Helen located the true Cross buried under a temple dedicated to Venus. According to the traditional story, the authenticity of the relic was



confirmed when it was touched to a corpse and the dead man sprung back to life, after which the Patriarch of Jerusalem raised the Cross up in the Church temple, and everyone bowed before it. Celebrated at what was the beginning of the Roman civil new year (and what is still the beginning of the school year), the Exaltation of the Cross celebrates a constitutional moment in the life of the Roman Empire. The hymn for the feast “O Lord, save Your people”—may well be described as the “Imperial Anthem” of the Byzantine world—a proclamation that a new people had been gathered into unity under the authority of the crucified One.

XIV. Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows (Sep 15)

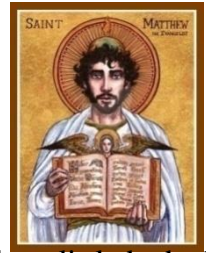
Our Lady of Sorrow celebrates the spiritual martyrdom of the Blessed Virgin Mary, particularly in the Passion and death of her son Jesus Christ. By the 14th century her sorrows were fixed at seven: 1) the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, 2) the flight into Egypt, 3) Jesus’ being lost in Jerusalem, 4) the encounter with Jesus on the way to Calvary, 5) the Crucifixion, 6) the taking of the body down from the cross, and 7) Jesus’ burial. And what does this feast signifies for us today? In the spring of this year, a young mother named Jenn wrote letters and



made cards for each of her children for the major occasions of their lives in the years to come. Jenn knew she wouldn’t be with them in person for graduations, wedding, and births of children. She was dying of cancer and had only few weeks to live. For some of us, death comes like a sudden thief in the night. Others of us like Jenn, are given a period of time, whether a few days or a few months, to prepare. Our most pressing concern is the welfare of the loved ones we are leaving. We want somehow to ensure that they’ll be OK. This is the scene we have in today’s Gospel. Looking down from the cross at the only people who did not abandon him in his hour of greatest need, Jesus sees his mother and places her in the care of “the disciple whom he loved.”

XV. Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (Sep 21)

Why would Jesus want to accept an invitation to dinner from Matthew? The Pharisees were shocked that he would associate with sinners and dismayed by his explanation: “I have come to call not the self-righteous, but sinners” (Mt 9:13). What is the message of Jesus? Here’s the story for us to reflect.



A man was preparing to throw himself over a cliff. On the way he stopped at the house of a friend to say goodbye. He told him the story of his sad life: how little he had loved God and served his family.

How he had broken every commandment there was. And now his guilt was too great even for God to forgive. His friend reasoned with him, “But you know that the mercy of God is immeasurably great. And he always offers us his love. We must only accept it.” But the man was still inconsolable. “My soul,” he said, “is like a bucket full of holes. As soon as God fills it with forgiveness, it leaks out.” His friend took him by the hand and said.

The child had been shot through both legs. Ishibashi was one of two Japanese snipers hiding in a dark corner of the same cave. Suddenly, Isibashi and his comrade leaped from their hiding place, aimed their rifles at Ponich, and prepared to fire point blank. There wasn’t a thing Ponich could do. He simply put the 5 year old boy on the ground and began to wash the child’s wounds. If he had to die, he thought, what better way to die than performing an act of mercy. The two snipes watched in amazement. Then, slowly, they lowered their rifles. Minutes later, Ponich did something Ishibashi never forgot.

XVI. Feast of the Archangels (Sep 29)

The Holy Scripture mentioned the angels beginning from the Book of Genesis up to the Book of Revelation. Our faith teaches that angels are a part of God’s invisible creation and we refer to angels in the Creed at Mass when we pray: “We believe in one God maker of all that is seen and unseen.” We refer to them at the start of the Mass when we pray at some occasions, “I ask Blessed Virgin Mary, ever Virgin all angels and saints, and you my brothers and sisters to pray for me to the Lord our God.” The word angel means messenger and the bible portrays them as God’s messengers to His people.



They are spirits who serve God and whom He sends to help them, guard them and keep them away from danger. The bible states that it was an angel (Gabriel) whom God sent to Mary to bring her the good news that she was to be the mother of Jesus. It was an angel whom God used to advise Joseph that Mary had conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. It was also an angel who came upon Joseph to alert him that he had to flee to Egypt with Jesus and Mary. It was an angel who appeared to the shepherds and said not to fear for in David’s city a savior was born, the Messiah and Lord. It was also an angel that announced the birth of John to his father Zechariah.

XVII. Bishop's Schedule for September, 2021

1-3	:	TCBC Extraordinary Meeting, Hyderabad
3	:	5 p.m : Pallium Investiture Ceremony of Archbishop Poola Anthony
5	:	Feast of St. Teresa of Kolkota - Public Honoring of Mother Teresa: Fatima Junction, Fatimangar
8	:	Girl Child Day, Arogya Matha Feast Mass in Diesel Colony at 10.30 am Salvatorian celebration of Sainthood of their founder, Fr. Jordan 5.30 pm
13	:	Meeting the OMI Provincial and Team
14	:	Priestly Ordination of Dn. Anukiran Gangarapu, Dharmasagar
15	:	Our Lady of Sorrows
20-21	:	CCBI Virtual Meet
21	:	Feast of Apostle and Evangelist, St. Matthew
24	:	Inauguration of AT Science Lab, St. Paul's High School, Jangoan
29	:	Feast of the Archangels
October 2021		
4	:	Inauguration of New Wing of school at Kanaparthu, ofm Conv.
7	:	Feast of our Lady of Holy Rosary
11-16	:	Annual Retreat for Clergy
14	:	Pope opens Two Year Synodal Journey
17	:	Warangal Diocese opens Synodal Process

XVIII. Communications

1. RIP: We are very deeply saddened to inform you that Rev. Fr. Yeruva Lourdu, a very dedicated Priest, aged 60 has reached his eternal abode at 6.15 am on 24th of August at St. Ann's Hospital, Fatimangar. The Diocese of Warangal conveys its deepest Grief and condolences to all Clergy, Religious, Relatives and the Faithful. May his Soul rest in Peace!

Note: ALL DIOCESAN PRIESTS ARE TO CELEBRATE THREE MASSES FOR HIM without availing Mass stipend.

Bio data:

Date of Birth: 20-04-1961 at Agapet

Priestly Ordination: 25-04-1989 at Agapet

Parents: Elias Reddy & Showrilamma

Place of Ministry:

Assistant at Reddipalem (1989-1990), Godavarikhani (1990-1994), Radio Veritas Asia, Manila (1994-98), Amruthavani, Secunderabad (1998- 2004), Reddipuram (2004-2009), Kazipet (2009-2017), Sagaram (2018-2021), Sick Leave (2021)



2. World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on 1 September 2021: The Holy Father asks us to pray for creation on September 1st. World Day of Prayer for the care of Creation “an opportunity to strengthen the common commitment to safeguard life, respecting the

environment and nature”. Please organize special prayers for the care on Creation on this important Day

3. Celebrating the Girl Child Day on 8 September 2021: I request all the Parish Priests to promote the equality of the girl child with the boy child. Both are gifts of God. Let us celebrate the Mass and underline gender equality in our homilies. Kindly conduct some prayer services, seminars and competitions for girls.

4. Annual Retreat in October: All the priests are requested to take note of the Annual Retreat for 2021 would begin from October 11 till noon of October 16. Please block the dates in your calendar and attend the retreat without fail, unless other arrangements are made with Bishop’s permission.

5. Deanery Level Recollection in September where Feasible: Deans are requested to organize the September monthly recollection on Deanery level in 2nd week of September, 2021. All the priests in the Deanery are expected to attend it.

6. Condolence to Fr. Yerra Kiran Kumar

The Diocese was saddened to hear the news of the departure of Late Yerra Kanukayya, the Father of Rev. Fr. Yerra Kiran Kumar, aged 65 at 2.30 pm on 12th of August in Lashkar Singaram St. Peter’s Parish. The Diocese conveys heartfelt condolences to Rev. Fr. Yerra Kiran Kumar, who is Parish Priest of Veleru Parish and to the bereaved family members and pray that May his soul rest in Peace!



7. Congratulations to Rev. Fr. Mettu Sravan and Welcome into the Presbyterum of the Diocese of Warangal:

I, Bishop of Warangal Diocese happy to introduce and congratulate the new Priest Rev. Fr. Mettu Sravan for the Diocese of Warangal.

Date of Birth: 21-08-1991

Place: Agapet, Narmetta Parish

Parents: Mettu Balashowreddy, Innamma

Ecclesiastical Studies: Bachelorate in Theology (BTh), Hyderabad

Date of Ordination: 16-08-2021 at Agapet

Motto: To Love God and serve his People

We wish him fruitful ministry in all his life long assignments/appointments.



8. Please celebrate Centenary of Legion of Mary: Now on completion of 100 years, the Legion of Mary is celebrating the Centenary on 07-09-2021. Due to the present situation we are unable for grand outdoor functions and huge gatherings. Hence it is decided to have the celebrations at parishes level in a simple way. On that day (07-09-2021) Grand Holy Mass followed by celebrations can be planned. Even in Parishes where there is no Legion, we can have remembrance about the Legion of Mary during the regular Holy Mass on that day for its development.

9. Bishop Govindu Joji Retires from the Pastoral governance of Diocese of Nalgonda

After completion seventy five years of his age, according to Canon 401 §1, he submitted his resignation letter to the Holy see on 18 January 2019. The Holy Father Pope Francis accepted his resignation from the pastoral governance of the Diocese of Nalgonda and made public in Rome, Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 3:30 pm. We thank Bishop G. Joji who was the Priest of the Diocese of Warangal for his services and wish him restful and prayerful time in retirement.



+Udumala Bala, Bishop of Warangal

Priests & Faithful

10. Newly elected Administrator of Nalgonda Diocese

I am glad to inform you that as per the Canon 421, Rev. Fr. Marneni Bala Swamy, a Priest of Nalgonda Diocese was elected as the Administrator of the Diocese of Nalgonda on August 04, 2021 by the College of Consulters. We pray that the Almighty Father shower his choicest blessings on the newly elected Administrator to shoulder the responsibility of the Diocese of Nalgonda until next Bishop takes possession.



+Udumala Bala, Bishop of Warangal

11. Appointment of New Deans

Due to transfers of 3 Deans from their Deaneries, I appoint the following with effect on September 1, 2021.

1. Rev. Fr. M. Praveen, Karunapuram Dean
2. Rev. Fr. T. Jerome, Fatimanagar Dean
3. Rev. Fr. Gangarapu Naveen, Mariapuram-Ookal Dean

I thank and place the Services the outgoing Deans Rev. Frs. Y. Joji, D. Raja and late Y. Lourdu on record.

**+ Udumala Bala,
Bishop, Diocese of Warangal**

12. Lodi MSSS

"Happiness is not made by what we own. It is what we share."*Jonathan Sacks*

1. Sustainable Livelihood Based Food Security program for 15 villages of Chilpur Mandal, Jangaon district

1. 215 Marginalized farmers received plastic drums and 215 farmers are practicing organic pest methods in 15 villages
2. 216 Women have received 5 varieties of vegetable seeds and cultivated vegetable garden in 50 acres of land in 15 villages.
3. Constructed 150 Vermi pits units for 150 farmers in 15 villages and applied the vermi compost in 108 acres of land.
4. 230 Women members were received backyard poultry units from 15 villages and using eggs, improved nutrients in their daily food.

II. Poverty Reduction among Poor and Marginalised rural households with Livelihoods, Ecological farming and Natural Resource Management in Kodakandlamandal

1. 28 women were trained on promotion of milk animals, livestock and fodder development and veterinary care to enhance secondary income and nutrition of the target families with milk yield.
2. Distributed loans of Rs.7,20,000 for promotion of milk animals for 24 women from Four project villages
3. 110 farmers promoting natural farming in 110 acres of land and preparing and using waste decomposer, Jeevamrutham, pheromone traps, yellow plates to improve the soil fertility and soil nutrients and control pest with less investment.

III. Covid 19 Second Wave Response:

1. Covid19 second wave Response dry ration food kits were distributed to 30 youth through Arunodaya Youth Centre on the occasion of International Youth Day on 8th August 2021.
2. ChildLine Warangal Rural Dist : 15 covid positive children and 25 Covid affected children were supported in Warangal Rural District with basic food materials worth of Rs 1000 each along with health care kits with sanitizers, masks & etc.

IV. ChildLine 1098 Programs in Warangal Rural & Bhupalapally Districts :

The Childline teams have rescued 187 children in both districts who were involved in child marriages, child labour, runaway, child abuse, child selling cases during the month of August. Awareness meetings were conducted to 3699 people, including children. Three training programs were conducted in the month of August.

V. Fatima Mahila Sahakara Sangam: Two review meetings were conducted by the Director and Federation team in the month of August -1. At Godavarikhani and 2. At Cheryial parishes. This is to promote more transparency in the Federation account system and to encourage women's role in the parish activities.

Fr. D. Vijaya Paul, Director

13. National Youth Sunday

CCBI National Youth Commission requested to celebrate the National Youth Sunday on August 8, 2021 with the theme “**Stand up I appoint you as a witness of what you see**” Acts 26:16. On this call the National Youth Sunday was also celebrated in the Diocese of Warangal. Most Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala, Bishop of Warangal Celebrated Mass at 7.30 am in Cathedral and he insisted all should be young in heart and the Warangal youth should in forefront and role model. He motivated the Youth with the example of Saints life like Carlo Acutis etc.. After the Holy Mass we went to Youth Centre in Procession by reciting Rosary, plantation and program was conducted in youth Centre. Bishop motivated the Youth by announcing the first Prizes - 1116/-, Second Prize-516/-, and Third Prize- 116/- .With the help of Lodi Director distributed one month provisions for 40 youth who and family are affected with the Covid 19. National Youth Sunday was celebrated in many Parish of the Diocese of Warangal also, I thank all the Parish Priests who motivated the youth and for conducting the Programs for Youth and for your support.



Fr. Simon, Director

14. Pastoral Centre

1 Marriage Preparation Course and Counseling was conducted on Second Saturday and Fourth Saturday i.e. on 14th and 28nd of August 2021. On 14th thirty seven members attended for MPC.. The group shared and expressed their feelings about this MPC program. It was really fruitful. During this Pandemic i.e. COVID-19 situation we are following SMS (Social distancing, Mask, Sanitization) in pastoral center. Rev. Fr.Y. Chinnappa Reddy the Director of MPC and team guided and suggested the program and the program went on well.

2. I motivated animators, prayer groups and co-ordinaters during this month over phone and personal meeting. I encouraged them in their mission work in this COVID-19 situation. Holy Eucharist celebrated for them and for the Mission, for the Covid infected people all over the world especially for the people in Warangal diocese.

3. In the pastoral center we (Fr. G. Kamal, Co-ordinaters, Animators and Team) had prepared a special time table in this COVID -19 situations and praying earnestly for the intentions of our Bishop, Priests and the people. We are celebrating Masses and conducting special prayers in this COVID -19 situations in the Pastoral center.

4. I visited Mother Teresa convent and their home for the poorest of the poor with their invitation and celebrated mass and motivated the sisters and I spend some time among the poorest of the poor.

Note: 1. New Telugu Bibles and Moksha Margam Books (Prayer and Songs) are available at Pastoral Center.

2. Marriage preparation course is conducted in pastoral center on every second and fourth Saturday. As per the strict instructions of Most Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala, Bishop of Warangal, please do not celebrate marriage without the certificate of MPC.

4. If any prayer requests or any help in spiritual activities or pastoral program you are always welcome. We can overcome all the problems through prayers, prayer meetings, pastoral program and Eucharist celebrations.

5. Please do promote Evangelization and New Evangelization in the parishes (Easy way is to visit and form prayer group and evangelization. I am always ready to help you. Please do use my services in this regard.

Fr. Kamal, Director

15. WADES

The government of Telangana- department of Education has announced the reopening of all private and public sector education institutions in the state from 1Sept, 2021. The state had earlier decided to reopen schools from 1 July, however it was postponed due to the COVID-19 situation. Later the Medical officials have been cautioning that prolonged closure of Education institutions will lead to an increase in Psychological stress among students and can affect their future. Hence the decision was taken on 24.08.2021 after a review meeting headed by honourable Chief minister K. Chandra shaker Rao and an order (GO MS NO 122 was passed to open schools/ colleges amid strict COVID precautions, taking extreme care by following SOPs- Standard Operating Procedures issued to contain the spread of the Corona Virus. Honouring the decisions of the Government, a circular letter was sent to all WADES run institutions to get ready for the same. We wish all the best to all our HM/ Principals and Directors.

Fr. M. JayaPaul, DM- WADES

16. Blessing of Renovated St. Anthony's Church at Dharmasagar Parish

Fr. Pazzagline was the first missionary who made contacts for evangelization at Dharmasagar. Fr. Burthline was the pioneer of the parish and the first baptism was recorded in the year 1942. In the year 1960 Fr. Leenodal Balcon constructed the first Church (hut on a rock). In the year 1970 Fr. Colombo has built another Church as per the need of the hour. As the number of faithful grew more and more there was need for the new Church, so the new Church construction was undertaken by Fr. Jerome and completed by Fr. S. Inna Reddy. It was blessed and inaugurated by Most Rev. Thumma Bala, the then bishop of Warangal, on July 13, 2003. Almost after 18 years of the construction of the Church there was urgent need to be renovated and repaired due to damages. Seeing the condition the Church with the

request of the elders and faithful of Dharmasagar I took initiative to renovate and to make required repairs under the guidance of our beloved bishop.

The faithful of Dharmasagar were so generous in rendering financial assistance for all the works. As works finished, this renovated Church was blessed by His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala, Bishop of Warangal, on Aug. 22, 2021. For the celebration bishop was welcomed by *Kumba Harathi*, Later Bishop Blessed the Church, Crucifix, the Altar, Statues, tabernacle. After the Holy Eucharist there was Felicitation ceremony. Church Elders and Parishioners honored our Bishop for his pastoral care for them. Then the History of the Parish and the role of our bishops, priests and religious sisters in building the parish community were enacted by children even from top of the Church tower. At the end of the ceremony bishop appreciated all the faithful for their generous contribution in renovating the Church, motivated to promote more vocations for religious life. The celebration was meaning and was appreciated by all.



Fr. Marapally Praveen, Parish Priest

17. Dalit Mourning Day:

The members of SC, BC, Commission of Warangal Diocese, under the guidance of our Bishop Udumala Bala and Commission Secretary Fr. K. Vijay Kumar and Fr. Surender observed the Dalit Mourning Day on August 10, 2021 at Public Gardens, Hanamkonda. Firstly we had conducted two Preparatory meetings in order to gather the people in a big number and to involve and include protestant faithful. Fr. Jerome, the senior Priest and Commission members prayed and started the Programme. Many Priests and Religious took part in it gave their voices Rev. Dr. Damera Tssac TCF President gave speech tracing the importance of the Occasion. Polepaka Emmauel, Mekela Ravi, Fr. N. Surender, Bokka Dayasagar, Ladhella Johnson, Kotte Mary, Kummari. Krishnakar (International Mizark President), Kalpala Praveen participated and spoke against injustice done to Dalit Christians and Muslims. After the Speeches, we submitted the memorandum to the collector at the collectorate.

Fr. K. Vijay Kumar, SC, BC Commission In charge

Birthday Babies in the Month of September

Rev. Fr. Gopu Kamal Kumar	02/09/1982
Rev. Fr. Thumma Kiran	16-09-1977
Rev. Fr. Duggimpudi Prashanth	16-09-1977
Rev. Fr. Vatti Albeen Reddy	29/09/1971
Rev. Fr. Narisetti Balaswamy	29-09-1969