



ILLUMINARE OMNES



Monthly Bulletin of the Diocese of Eluru

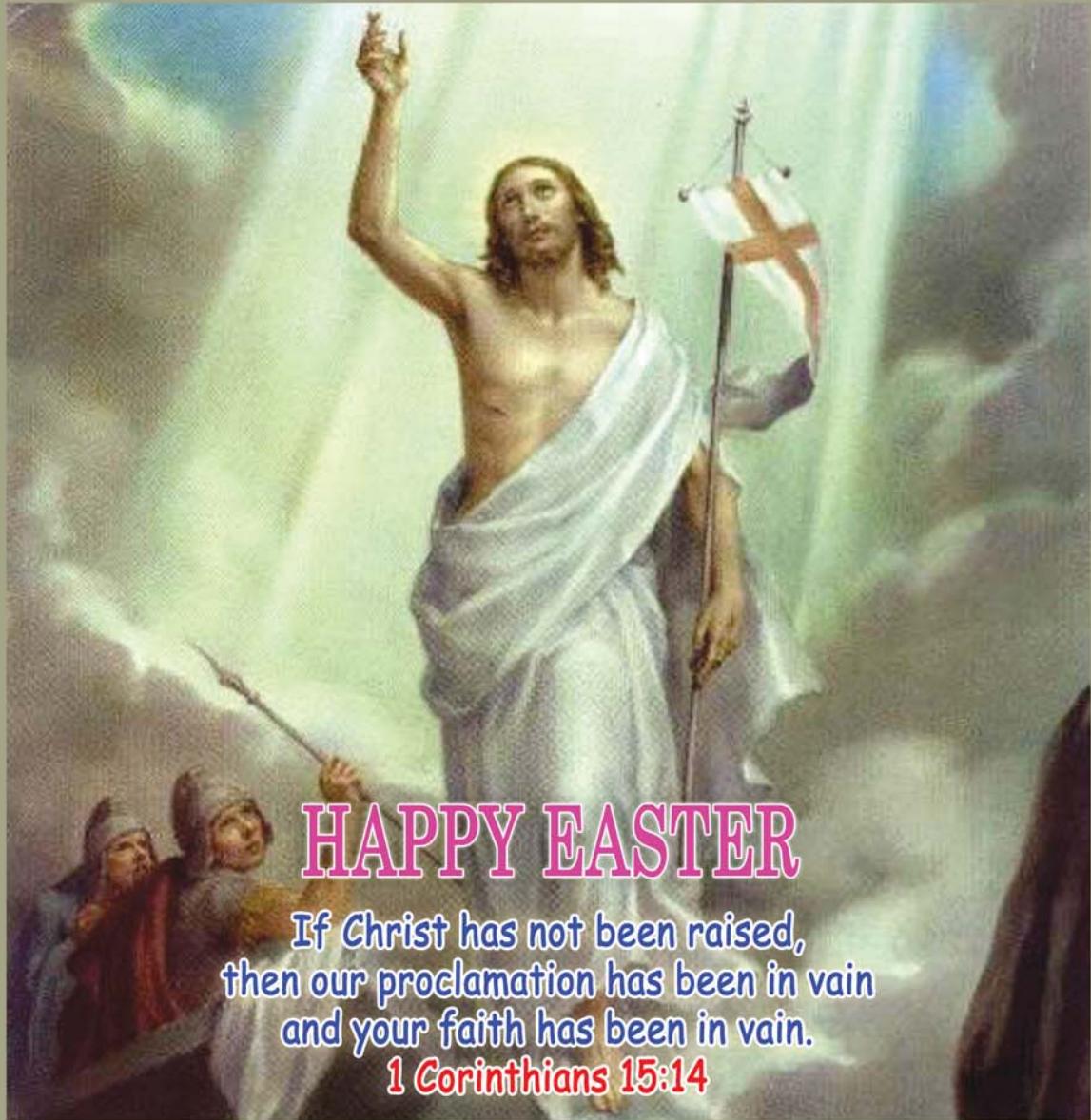
Bishop's House - 534 007. W.G.Dt., A.P, India

Most Rev. Jaya Rao Polimera
Bishop of Eluru

Vol - 39

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MARCH - 2016





His Lordship Jaya Rao Polimera attending St. Joseph's EM School, Pandirimamidigudem Annual Day on Feb. 25, 2016.



His Lordship Jaya Rao Polimera celebrating Mass at Infant Jesus Shrine, Dondapudi, on Feb. 24, 2016.



Bhimavaram parish observes Lenten charismatic renewal meetings on Feb. 21, 2016.

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Resurrection of Christ is
A SOURCE OF PERMANENT GLADNESS, A CONTINUOUS JOY

Dear Fathers, Brothers & Sisters
Prayerful greetings from your Bishop.

The resurrection of Christ is the basis of our faith. Celebrating the resurrection each year calls on us to make the dream of God a reality, in the Church, the Body of Christ.

Our salvation history goes like this. God dreamt humans, and created them in His image and likeness, to live in harmony with each other. But humans did not live up to this dream, instead created divisions. Humans by their sin, enslavement, alienated themselves from God, from one another and from nature. God kept sending prophets to call them back to God; yet they refused to obey and live. Finally God sent Gods own Son to live and en-flesh the dream of God. Jesus began doing this by calling people to repent, change their ways and break down all the walls that separated and divided people. He mingled with sinners, tax-collectors, prostitutes, lepers,...through parables, he showed what He envisaged. His attitude to sinners (Lk 15:1) his neglect to the Sabbath and other laws (Mk 2:23-28). Seeing his miracles, some people misunderstood His identity. But God, who had sent Him, had other plans and raised Him up to 'Life', telling us that one who obeyed God and loved his fellow humans and served them even unto death cannot be defeated.

Jesus had during His life with His disciples, trained them to be leaders, who would be different from the leaders in the world. They were taught to follow the example of a servant leadership, the foot washing Master (Jn 13: 1-17). He himself explains to his disciples: "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you" (Jn 13:12-15). Jesus taught the lesson of selfless service that was supremely exemplified by His death on the cross.

Holy Father Pope Francis on Holy Thursday, 28 March 2013 said: It is the Lord's example: he is the most important, and he washes feet. Washing feet means: "I am at your service". And with us too, don't we have to wash each other's feet day after day? But what does this mean? That all of us must help one another. Sometimes I am angry with someone or other ... but... let it go, let it go, and if he or she asks you a favour, do it. Help one another: this is what Jesus teaches us and...what I am doing, and doing with all my heart, because it is my duty. As a priest and a bishop, I must be at your service."

That is what differentiates Jesus from others. He gave a new definition of love and service. Cross was not a humiliation for Christ. It was a crown for Him. With this particular message of: life, love, service and resurrection of Jesus, the Apostles began their sermons. Now, we the consecrated people we have to put it into practice what He taught us. A divided Church is an insult to God and to Jesus who came to breakdown all walls of separation (Eph. 2). The 'Resurrection is a message of hope'. It affirms that true love will be successful; it cannot be defeated by any evil force.

Resurrection of Christ is a source of permanent gladness, a continuous joy. Holy Father Pope Francis (on Dec. 10, 2016) says "Understanding the mercy of God is a mystery, it is a journey that must be made throughout life. The character is determined by choice, not by opinion. Let's make a right choice for Christ which continues till our death. "The church does not exist to condemn people but to bring about an encounter with the visceral love of God's mercy. (Pope Francis)"

REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY WITHOUT CEASING, GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (Thess 5:6)

I wish you all a Happy East and God's Blessings

God bless you!
+ Jaya Rao Polimera

LET US LISTEN TO THE HOLY FATHER



"Jesus does not respond to the devil with his own words, instead he uses the words of God, the words of Scripture. Because, brothers and sisters, ingrain this in your minds: You cannot dialogue with the devil because he will always win, only the power of the word of God can defeat him. .

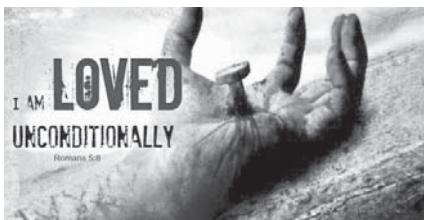
. . Three great temptations — wealth, vanity and pride — and so many other ills that destroy society and attack human dignity.

The sinful use of money and material things, is seizing hold of goods destined for all and using them only for 'my own people.' It involves living off the sweat and labor of others, even at the expense of their very lives. Such "bread, tastes of pain, bitterness and suffering. This is the bread that a corrupt family or society gives its own children. We know what it means to be seduced by money, fame and power. For this reason, the church gives us the gift of this Lenten season, invites us to conversion, offering but one certainty: he is waiting for us and wants to heal our hearts of all that tears us down. He is the God who has a name: mercy. His name is our wealth."

- Pope Francis – Homily on 1st Lenten Sunday



"May the Lent prepare our hearts to receive God's forgiveness – but let us receive it and then do the same with others: forgive heartily and fully



...perhaps you never even greet me in the street, but in my heart I have forgiven you. In this way, we get closer to this thing so great, so Godly, which is mercy. Forgiving, we open our hearts so that God's mercy might come and forgive us, for, we all have need of pardon, need to ask forgiveness. Let us forgive, and we shall be forgiven. Let

us have mercy on others, and we shall feel that mercy of God, who, when He forgives, [also] 'forgets.'

- POPE FRANCIS, March 1, 2016

Deepen your commitment to express God's mercy

This was Pope Francis' second "Jubilee Audience" in St. Peter's Square and he used his catechesis to focus on the Year of Mercy, especially in this season of Lent. The Church was inviting the faithful to deepen their commitment "to express God's mercy in every aspect of their daily lives." He said that "such faithful Christian witness is our way of responding to God's prior commitment to us, as expressed not only in his gift of creation, but above all in the sending of his Son. God, the Holy Father continued, is committed to us, his first task was to create the world, and despite our attempts to ruin it, he is committed to keeping it alive." Jesus, the Pope underlined "is the living expression of God's mercy and as Christians he added, we are called to bear witness to the Gospel message of hope and solidarity.

Pope Francis tells young Mexicans they are the wealth of the nation

"I believe in Jesus Christ. And it is he who continually renews in me this hope, it is he who continually renews my outlook. It is he who continually invites me to a conversion of heart. Yes, my friends, I say this because in Jesus I have found the One who is able to bring out the best in me. Hand in hand with him, we can move forward, hand in hand with him we can begin again and again, hand in hand with him we find the strength to say: it is a lie to believe that the only way to live, or to be young, is to entrust oneself to drug dealers or others who do nothing but sow destruction and death. Hand in hand with Jesus Christ we can say: it is a lie that the only way to live as young people here is in poverty and exclusion; in the exclusion of opportunities, in the exclusion of spaces, in the exclusion of training and education, in the exclusion of hope. It is Jesus Christ who refutes all attempts to render you useless or to be mere mercenaries of other people's ambitions. You have asked me for a word of hope, and the one word I have to give you, is Jesus Christ. When everything seems too much, when it seems that the world is crashing down around you, embrace his Cross, draw close to him and please, never let go of his hand; please, never leave him. Hand in hand with him it is possible to live fully, by holding his hand it is possible to believe that it is worth the effort to give your best, to be leaven, salt and light among your friends, neighbourhoods, and your community. For this reason, dear friends, holding the hand of Jesus I ask you to not let yourselves be excluded, do not allow yourselves to be devalued, do not let them treat you like a commodity."

- Pope Francis to Mexican Youth

ENGAGEMENTS OF BISHOP, MARCH - 2016

1 st	Tue	10.30 am	Blessing of new Cathedral at Khammam diocese
2 nd	Tue-9 th Wed		CBCI Meeting at Bangalore
10 th	Thu		BISHOP'S OFFICE
11 th	Fri		BISHOP'S OFFICE
12 th	Sat	9.00-12.30 pm	1. BISHOP'S OFFICE
		6.00 pm	2. Deepthi E.M.School day at Kovvuru
13 th	Sun	9.30 am	Mass at Kovvuru parish
14 th	Mon	11.00 am	Chapel blessing at Pinakanametta of Vigeswarapuram
15 th	Tue		BISHOP'S OFFICE
16 th	Wed		BISHOP'S OFFICE
17 th	Thu		BISHOP'S OFFICE
18 th	Fri		BISHOP'S OFFICE
19 th	Sat	8.00 am	1. St. Joseph's Festal Mass at St. Joseph Dental college
		10.30 am	2. St. Joseph's Festal Mass at Nagunidevunipadu
		4.30 pm	3. Golden Jubilee of Nirmala Sisters at Jangareddigudem
20 th	Sun	9.45 am	Palm Sunday mass at Kalipatnam
21 st	Mon		BISHOP'S OFFICE
22ndTue	9.30 am		Clergy Recollection cum Chrism Mass at Nirmalagiri
23 rd	Wed	10.30 am	Consulters meeting
24th Thu	6.30 pm		Holy Thursday Mass at St. Theresa's Parish, Eluru
25th Fri	10.00 am		Good Friday: Liturgical service at Nadipalli parish
26th Sat	10.30 pm		Easter Vigil Mass at Vijayrai Parish
27th Sun	10.30 am		Easter Sunday Mass at Jalipudi Parish
28 th	Mon		BISHOP'S OFFICE
29 th	Tue	6.00 pm	Flag hoisting & inaugural Mass for Naveena at Nirmalagiri shrine
30 th	Wed	10.30 am	Silver Jubilee of Morning Star Convent, Eluru
31 st	Thu		BISHOP'S OFFICE

TENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS OF BISHOP IN APRIL

1 st	Fri		BISHOP'S OFFICE
2 nd	Sat		BISHOP'S OFFICE
3 rd	Sun	5.30 pm	Mass for the Jubilee of Vimala convent at Tanuku
4 th	Mon	9.30 am	First & Final profession of Little Sisters of Christ at Janampet
5th Tue	6.30 pm		Diocesan shrine feast Mass at Nirmalagiri by Bishop Jaya Rao
6th Wed	6.30 pm		Diocesan shrine feast Mass at Nirmalagiri by Most. Rev. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao, Bishop of Vijayawada
11 th	Mon	10. 30 am	Priestly ordination of HGN brothers at Nidadavole
14 th	Thu	10. 30 am	First Profession of Holy Family Brothers at Vanguru
15 th	Fri		Jubilee of Rev. Fr. Rayappa at Warangal
19 th	Tue	7.00 am	Diocesan vocation camp at Pinakadimi
25 th	Mon	10.30 am	Consecration and Dedication of Our Lady of Velankanni parish Church at Vegavaram
26 th	Tue	10.30 am	Priestly Ordination at Sanigudem
		6.00 PM	Sagarathara Velankanni Matha Feast at Samaladivi
27 th	Wed	10.00 am	Chapel blessing at Nalgonda
28 th	Thu	6.30 pm	Annual Parish Feast at Bhimavaram parish
30 th	Sat	6.30 pm	'Godavari Mary Matha' Feast at Vigeswarapuram parish

CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass (& monthly recollection) for the Pastoral Clergy of the Diocese will be celebrated at Nirmalagiri on March 22, (Holy Tuesday) 2016, at Nirmalagiri. Along with the Pastoral Clergy of our Diocese, a representative from Apostolic Nunciature, New Delhi, will be concelebrating with us.

I am also happy to give you the time table.

9.30 am	-	Arrival
10.00 am	-	1 st talk
10.45 am	-	Tea break
11.00 am – 12.30 pm	-	confessions & followed by adoration
12.30 pm	-	Lunch
5.30 pm	-	Chrism mass by Bishop Jaya Rao Polimera

The Chrism Mass reminds us of our oneness in Christ through Baptism and its Holy Anointing made possible by the ministry of the Bishop and his Priests. It's also a key moment in which the unity of the Bishop with his Priests (together, they form the *presbyterate*) is manifested and *renewed*. **All the Priests both Diocesan and Religious (including Deacons)** are expected to take part in the Chrism Mass during which the Oils will be blessed. **Whenever the Holy Oils are used in a diocese, the ministry of the Bishop who consecrated them is symbolically present.** During the liturgy, the entire assembly is called to 'renew' their Baptismal promises; Deacons and Priests also renew their vow of obedience to the local Bishop and their commitment to serve God's people.

"The bishop is to be considered as the high Priest of his flock, from whom the life in Christ of his faithful is in some way derived and dependent."

Therefore all should hold in great esteem the liturgical life of the diocese centered around the bishop, especially in his cathedral church; they must be convinced that the pre-eminent manifestation of the Church consists in the full active participation of all God's holy people in these liturgical celebrations, especially in the same Eucharist, in a single prayer, at one altar, at which there presides the bishop surrounded by his college of priests and his ministers.

- Vatican II - Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*) Solemnly Promulgated By His Holiness Pope Paul VI on December 4, 1963

+ Jaya Rao Polimera



As we are preparing for the great solemnity of Easter, I take this occasion to wish every one of you a fruitful spiritual journey in the footsteps of our Lord so that, after sharing in **His passion and death, we may merit to share in the Glory of His Resurrection.**

God bless you!

+ Jaya Rao Polimera

NIRMALAGIRI FEAST DATES CHANGED

As all of us know, Holy Week, which commemorates the Passion of Christ, falls during March 20-26, 2016, which exactly comes during the Feast days of Nirmalagiri, this year the Nirmalagiri Feast will be celebrated from April 3-6, 2016. Please inform your faithful about this change. Soon the pamphlets and related information will be furnished to you from Rev. Fr. Rayappa Koppula, Director of the shrine.



DUTIES FOR NIRMALAGIRI FESTIVALS - April 2016

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters, greetings to you from Nirmalagiri Shrine. I am very happy to invite all of you for the Annual celebrations of Nirmalagiri Festivals. From 3rd - 6th April, lend your services and kind co-operation to make it a success. Encourage our faithful and the parishioners, to increase their devotion to the Blessed Mother Mary and to the Holy Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

The Duties for the Festivals as follows:

Accommodation	: Rev. Bros. Francis & Ravi (Prema Seva ashram)
Announcements &	
Recording favours	: Rev. Frs. Ch. Balaswamy & G. Yesudasu
Decoration & Illumination	: Rev. Fr. E. Jeeva Ratnam(9493476185), and Parish Youth
M.C	: Rev. Fr. I. Michael & LAR Sisters
Meals	: Rev.Frs.Banda showry,P.Jacob,E.Jeevarathnam,K.Thambi & SD Sisters
Police&Security	: Rev. Frs.,B. Raju and Bilan Babu
Publicity	: Rev. Fr.E.Jeeva Ratnam and Parish Youth
Press & Media	: Rev. Frs.E.Jeeva Ratnam & M.Dharmaraj
Sanitation	: Rev. Frs. T. David and V.Balakiran

Seminarians	:	Rev. Frs. Ch. Praveen & M. Mariadas,
Cultural Programmes & Singing	:	Rev. Frs. T. John, D. Moses & FIHM Sisters
Shops	:	Rev. Frs. NJM Kumar, Inti Xavier & L. Moses
Transportation	:	Rev. Frs.K.Vijayangel & Nitta Thambi
Confessions	:	Rev. Frs.Arjuna,Ch. Innaiah and Nallajerla Fathers
Electricity, Motors, Light & Sound	:	Rev. Frs.T.BilanBabu and R. Barthalomeow
Blessings		
New Church (4 th April)	:	HGN Frs. & Sisters (4+4) 9.00 am to 6.00 pm
New Church (5 th April)	:	Missionaries of Compassion Frs, Bros and Assissi Sisters(4+4) 9.00 am to 6.00 pm
New Church (6 th April)	:	Holy Spirit Frs, Bros and Camillus Fathers (4+4) 9.00 am to 6.00pm.
Holy of the Holies (5 th April)	:	Vincentian Frs and Bhimadolu Sisters (4+4) 9.00 am to 6.00pm.
Holy of the Holies (6 th April)	:	MSFS Frs & DSFS Srs,(4+4). 7am-6pm Jesus Towers
(3 rd - 6 th April)	:	Major Seminarians Round The Clock.

Kindly be present for the duties and blessings at the above given times and places.
Thank You.

FELICITATION TO THE JUBILERIANS WORKING IN THE DIOCESE OF ELURU

Indeed it's a great honour to congratulate and felicitate the Jubilerians. As in the previous years, His Lordship Jaya Rao Polimera will felicitate the Jubilerians, who have celebrated their Silver or Golden Jubilees in 2016, at Nirmalagiri Shrine, on April 6, 2016. The concerned superiors of the Religious houses are requested to give the names of the jubilerians to Rev. Fr. Emmanuel, Procurator, before March 25, 2016.

THE DIOCESE OF ELURU CONGRATULATES & OFFICIALLY INVITES Most Rev. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao, Bishop of Vijayawada



The diocese of Eluru congratulates Most Rev. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao, Bishop of Vijayawada, on his canonical position as the sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Vijayawada on February 2, 2016.

The Diocese also extends a warm welcome to officiate the Holy Eucharist for the Nirmalagiri Feast on April 6, 2016. Hearty congratulations and a warm welcome to Your Lordship.

Lenten campaign – 2016 (DIOCESE OF ELURU)

Lent is a time when we 'reclaim' our Faith, and as our lives are enriched, we are moved to reach out to enrich and empower the lives of others. Your little contributions are going to be a great blessing for many people, who are most deserving. I call upon your generosity to help sustain the mission of universal Church. So, make a difference with your generous contributions.

1. LENTEN CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUNGER AND DISEASE

"In the life of the body a man is sometimes sick, and unless he takes medicine, he will die. Even so in the spiritual life a man is sick on account of sin. For that reason he needs medicine so that he may be restored to health; and this grace is bestowed in the Sacrament of Penance."

-St. Thomas Aquinas

An appeal is made especially during this period of Lent so that our Catholics may contribute more generously from their little acts of self-denial and self sacrifice towards our sick and suffering brethren.. The Parish Priests are requested to send the Lenten Campaign collection to the Procurator's office.

2. HOLY THURSDAY COLLECTION: it is meant to support the expenses for the maintenance of the structures of the Holy See. It has to be sent to the Vatican. Therefore the Parish Priests are requested to send the Holy Thursday collection separately to the Procurator's office.

3. GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION: Good Friday collection is meant for sacred places in Holy Land. It also has to be sent to the Vatican. Therefore the Parish Priests are requested to send the collection to the Procurator's office, specifying the purpose.

God bless you!

+ Jaya Rao Polimera

DIPLOMA COURSE FOR THE RELIGIOUS SISTERS

Our diocese is blessed with seventy-nine Religious Congregations, of which fifty-five are of the Women Religious. I am fully in the know of the service that you render to the Church in various fields. While being immersed in different works, it is quite possible that you forget to renew your theological knowledge and spiritual commitment. I am happy that during this **Year of the Consecrated Life**, Vijnananilayam (the Major Seminary at Janampet) is starting a **One-Year-Diploma Course in Theology and Spirituality**, the Brochure of which will be sent to you.

While thanking the Capuchin Fathers and the Institute of Vijnananilayam for taking the initiative to start this course, I request the Religious Sisters to make use of this opportunity in our diocese by sending your Sisters for it; I also call for the cooperation of the Religious Houses in Janampet to be generous and adjustable to give accommodation to those Sisters who do not have a house of their own. Thus let us make this venture successful and useful by our combined and cooperative effort.

Requesting you to make use of this opportunity,

+ Jaya Rao Polimera

KONA SEEMA VICARIATE TO OBSERVE WAY OF THE CROSS on March 11, 2016

As in the previous years, Kona Seema Vicariate will be observing vicariate-level way of the Cross on March 11, (Friday) 2016. This is to place before the parish Priests and the Parishioners to participate in the public procession in conducting the way of the Cross in Amalapuram Town from 10.00 a.m. on 11th March 2016.

I request you kindly inform the Parishioners to go over to Amalapuram and participate in this prayerful event in big number, reminding them of the special indulgence in visiting the Amalodhbhavi Matha Shrine here during this Year of Mercy. There will be a Concelebrated Holy Mass in the Church after the Procession. Lunch will be served to all the devotees after Mass. I shall pass on the leaflets as and when they are ready.

Fr. P.J. Sandanasamy, sj, Amalapuram

ONE-MONTH-TELUGU-COURSE

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters, greetings of peace and joy from St Francis College, Janampet, Eluru! This is to inform that we are going to organize *one-month intense Telugu Language course* in May 2015. The basics in Telugu language like grammar, speaking, reading and writing etc. will be covered during this course. The total fee for the tuition, boarding, study material, food, picnic etc. is 8,000/-; it will be less for the day-scholars. Thank you for your encouragement in the past. Please do help us help you do your ministry better in this land. For further details please contact Fr Lourdu Showry (09618066562) and/or Fr John Paul (08985945925, kalinga.cap@gmail.com) before 10th April 2016.

- Fr Lourdu Showry, OFM Cap, Rector, St Francis College, Janampet

ANNUAL RETURNS

Annual Return forms are available at Bishop's House. Parish Priests are requested to collect the forms and send them to the Bishop's House at the earliest. Kindly follow the previous year record in order to be consistent for the present year. Your delay in sending the forms is creating great inconvenience to us. Kindly remember if you forget to send them completely, it affects the whole diocesan record. Kindly send them as soon as possible. Ignore if already submitted.

- Fr Babu George, Chancellor

PRIESTLY ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY OF HIS LORDSHIP JAYA RAO POLIMERA

The Priestly Ordination anniversary of His Lordship Most Rev. Jaya Rao Polimera falls on April 2, (Sat) 2016. (He was ordained on 02-04-1992 at Our Lady of Fatima Cathedral, Warangal). Let's wish His Lordship a Happy Ordination day in advance! Please mark your diaries. Thank you.

- Fr. Babu George, Chancellor

EASTER CANDLES: Easter candles are available at Subodanilayam, Eluru, at Rs. 700/- only. Parish Priests who require them may contact, Rev. Bro. Angelo (9492941090), Superior, Subodanilayam, Eluru. Subodanilayam contacting number: 08812-232262.

Diocesan Vocation camp: The Eluru Diocesan vocation camp for those who have completed X Class, Intermediate and Degree will be conducted from 18th April Morning to 19th April 2016 at St. John's Minor Seminary, Pinakadimi! The prospective candidates are invited to attend the camp with the following certificates:

1. Parents' Catholic Marriage, 2. Baptism certificate, 3. The Parish Priest's recommendation letter.

The candidates with previous seminary history (ex-seminarians) are not eligible for admission. All the parish Priests are hereby requested to kindly announce about this vocation camp in your respective parishes as and encourage the young boys to opt for the vocation to diocesan Priesthood. Kindly encourage the potential candidates from your parish to attend the camp.

For further details, please contact: St. John's Minor Seminary, Pinakadimi. Thanking you and wishing you a Blessed and fruitful Lenten season!

- Fr. Inje Paul, Rector, St. John's Minor Seminary, Pinakadimi

PIME VOCATION CAMP

PIME (Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions) will be conducted is happy to inform you our Vocation camp will be conducted for the Telugu speaking states separately. For the Telangana region it will be on April 14, 2016, at John Mazzucconi parish, Wyra Raod, Khammam, and for the Andhra region it will be conducted on April 27-30, 2016, at the Queen of Apostles College, Gavaravaram, Eluru. Hence, boys can participate in any of the camps mentioned above. Being the pioneers of the Diocese of Eluru, PIME has special affection towards the Diocese of Eluru. We request the concerned Parish Priests to inform your boys who have passed SSC or Intermediate to attend the vocation camp.

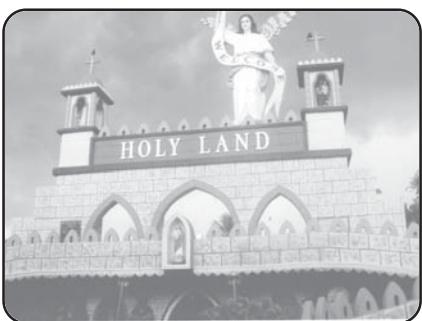
For more details kindly call Rev. Fr. Prakasha Rao, PIME, Vocation promoter: 7396382650, 9492640624, 08812-251905, 08812-230230, E-mail: pimeeir1@rediffmail.com

REPLICA OF HOLY LAND, PINAKADIMI, ATTRACTS MANY

Initiates:

- Day of prayer on 2nd Saturday of the month
- Catechism to the pilgrims
- New Religious articles stall opened

By this time all most all people of Eluru are aware of the existence of HOLY LAND Replica in Fr. Silvio Pasquali memorial compass, Pinakadimi. More than three years it has taken for its complete



construction. It was opened to the public from May 2015. Without any official announcement, people themselves publicizing it from mouth to mouth and as a result more and more people are coming in great numbers from far and wide to see the Holy Land to know the life of Jesus Christ and to pray.

Religious Sisters and Brothers, heads of educational institutions, and hospital staff are encouraging their students, staff and workers and bringing them to the Holy Land. Parishioners too are coming from all over Andhra and

Telengana. The 'Divine Grace Chapel' is very conducive for personal prayer as the Blessed Sacrament Adoration is going on throughout the year from 7.30 am to 6.30 pm.

Among the visitors 98% of them visit the Divine Grace chapel irrespective of religion to pray and to spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament. Great number of visitors also asks us for our prayers for their intentions and to be prayed over and to listen to the word of God at least for few minutes.

It is indeed encouraging us as the number of visitors are increasing day by day. Seeing the interest of the people, we have also arranged for every Second Saturday of the month a day of prayer from morning 10 am to 4.30 pm. preaching the word of God, Healing service and Holy Hour of Bl. Sacrament / Holy Mass.

NOTE: Every Tuesday holiday for the maintenance of the pilgrimage. HOLY LAND is opened all the days of the week from 9 AM to 5.30 PM.

FROM THE PROCURATOR'S OFFICE

As, the current financial year (2015-2016) will come to an end by March 31, 2016, in a couple of days, I request all those who have received money from the diocese to submit the statement of accounts supported by bills and vouchers systematically for the projects each project separately and other payments received before April 2016.

1. Under the provisions of Indian Stamp Act, 1899 and Rules, 1925, revenue stamp worth Rs. 1/- is required to be affixed on vouchers for all payments in excess of Rs. 5000/-
2. All vouchers / bills / invoices supported by receipt are to be obtained in the name of the institution or parish, instead of personal name.
3. Purchase of vehicle or land are to be registered in the name of the society only and not in the personal name and copy of the registered document should be sent to Bishops' House.
4. Any enquiry or notice issued by the income tax department has to be handled cautiously since the Bishop's House is filing the return of income with the department every year, each Priest or institution is responsible for the amount taken from Bishop's House and should give clarification to concerned income tax authorities.
5. This is to inform to those who received project/money from: Stefaine, action Mision und Leprahilfe, Schiefbahn, Hochstr – 14, 47877 Willich, Germany. You are earnestly requested to submit the completion report/bills to this agency immediately. Unless all the completion reports are submitted from the diocese, agency strongly said that they will not support any project of the diocese in the future. As it is affecting the whole diocese at large, if the concerned Priest/institute fails to submit the report in given period of time, no further projects will be entertained by them.

Kindly take note of it. Thank you.

- Fr. Emmanuel, Procurator

The more I learn about people, the more I like my dog.

- Mark Twain

DUTIES FOR NIRMALAGIRI

Two by two are expected to

		OUR LADY'S STATUE (ROAD SIDE)	AT BIG CRUCIFIX
		With the help of Vianney College Brothers	With the help of Vianney College Brothers
4th		4.00 pm - 12.00 pm, MF Fathers and Brotehrs will	
Till noon	Yesu Ashram (Adamelli)		Assissi Srs, Janampet
	12: 00 to 2: 00 pm	Pandirimamidigudem Sisters	Rallakunta Sisters
2:00 to 4: 00 pm	Sisters of st Joseph of St. Mark		Lakkavaram Sisters
		With the help of Vianney College Brothers	With the help of Vianney College Brothers
Till Noon	Nidadavole St. Ann's Srs		Holy Cross Sisters Nidadavole
	12:00 to 2:00 pm	Prathipadu Srs & MSMI Srs, Palakollu	Nallajerla Srs & Vegavaram MSI Srs
2:00 to 4: 00 pm	Kovvr Srs & Mf Srs Dharbagudem		Ravulapalem Srs & Pulapalli Srs
	4:00 to 6: 00 pm		MSI Srs Bhimadole & Akividu
6:00 to 8: 00 pm	Aloysius Sisters Akividu		Fatimapuram Srs & Ravulapalem
	10.00 to 12.00 pm	Palakollu Srs, Prathipadu & CMC Srs.	Pulapalli Srs & Nallajerla Srs
With the help of Vianney College Brothers		With the help of Vianney College Brothers	With the help of Vianney College Brothers
	Till Noon	Lucy Convent Janampet	St Vincent College / Janampet
12:00 to 2:00 pm	Vatluru St. Ann's Srs Madhavaram Holy Cross Srs		MSMI Srs K.Kota & Pedapadu Srs
	2:00 to 4: 00 pm	Bhimavaram MSI Srs & Undrajavaram Srs	CMC Srs, Chebrole & Mulagalampadu Srs
4:00 to 6: 00 pm	Chintalapudi Srs & St. Ann Srs, Inter Campus		LAR Ashoknagar & Mulagalampadu Srs
	6:00 to 8: 00 pm	Undrajavaram Srs & Chintalapudi Srs	Mogalturu & Polavaram Srs
10 to 12.00 pm	Madhvaram H. Cross & Vatluru Srs		Pedapadu Srs & K. Kota Srs

**Thank you in advance
Happy Feast and**

+ Jaya Rao Polimer

TEAST, APRIL 2016 FROM 3rd TO 6th
be on time, in the allotted places

X	AT THE GROTTO	CHAPEL (BEHIND THE GROTTO)
thers	With the help of Vianney College Brothers	With the help of Vianney College Brothers
Organise all the Places including the Holy of Holies		
	MPV Srs, Vijayarai Kovvur Sisters JMJ Sisters, Pension Line	FSJ Srs, Vegiwada Naguladevunipadu Sisters St. Ann's (Luzen), Morning Star
hers	With the help of Vianney College Brothers	With the help of Vianney College Brothers
e s rs Srs Srs	Alosius Srs Elr and Nayampalli C.M. Sis, Vijay Rai & Camillus Srs, J.pet Ashok Nagar & HGN Vangayagudem Srs Koyalagudem Srs & Vegavaram MSI Srs Samaladevi Srs Vangayagudem HGN Srs & Ashoknagar Srs J. Pet Camilius Srs & vijarai CM Srs	Hospital Srs. of Mercy MC Sisters, Vangayagudem & Bethany Srs. Irusumanda Srs & T.P. Gudem Camilus Srs Pinakadimi St. Ann's Srs & HGN Srs, Vegavaram Bethani Srs & Samaladevi Srs & Irusumanda Sisters TP Gudem Camilus Srs & MC Srs, PIME Seminaries
ers	With the help of Vianney College Brothers	With the help of Vianney College Brothers
rs uSrs	Cluny Sisters Jalipudi Srs & Vijayarai MPV Srs Yernagudem Srs & JR. Gudem Srs Kalipatnam Srs & Penugonda Srs JR. Gudem Srs & Yernagudem Srs Vijayarai MPV Srs & Jalipudi Srs	MSMI Ashok Nagar Eluru APSSS Srs Attili DSFS Srs & Vernagudem Srs Amalapuram MSI Srs & HGN Srs Gen.te St. Ann's Srs Eluru JMJ Srs & Amalapuram MSI Srs, Yernagudem Srs & Attili Srs

for your kind service.
 God Bless You.

Vera, Bishop of Eluru

REPORT OF FTC GENERAL BODY MEETING FEDERATION OF TELUGU CHURCHES (FTC)

The Annual General Body Meeting (AGBM) of Federation of Telugu Churches (FTC), which was earlier known as *Andhra Pradesh Federation of Churches (APFC)*, was held on Feb. 17, 2016 at St. John's Regional Seminary, Hyderabad. FTC is an apex body of Archbishops / Bishops and Church Heads of Catholic, CSI, Lutheran, Baptist, Salvation Army, Assemblies of God and other major Christian Denominations of the twin Telugu States of Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Telangana State (TS). Among the 25 participants there were 9 Catholic Bishops, 3 CSI Bishops, and Heads of Baptist Denominations and Assemblies of God.

The AGBM began with an Ecumenical Prayer Service adapted from the Worship Service of the Week of Prayers for Christian Unity 2016. Archbishop Thumma Bala, President of FTC, delivered the Welcome Address and introduced the new member of FTC, Bishop T. Joseph Raja Rao of Vijayawada Diocese.

A moment of silence was observed to pay homage to late Methodist Bishop Taranath Sagar, who was the President of National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) and National United Christian Forum (NUCF). When he was Bishop in Hyderabad and President of A.P. Christian Council, he had strongly supported the formation of Federation of Churches.

The attack on CSI Pastor J. Nitin and others was the first among the agenda points taken up for deliberation. The Pastor, who was present along with some victims, described the incident that happened during the prayers being held in a Christian family in Fakirabad village of Nizamabad District on 17-01-2016. As the arrested culprits are now roaming free, it was decided that the Office-Bearers of FTC must take up the matter with the Home Minister and DGP of Telangana State.

Then, Fr AXJ Bosco SJ briefed the participants on the efforts being made to secure SC Status for the Dalit Christians. He also listed the activities undertaken on the issue of suicide of Rohith Vemula, a Dalit student of Hyderabad Central University. President of FTC Bishop G. Dyvasirvadam had visited Rohith's family along with some Fathers and Sisters, condoled his mother and offered some financial assistance. Support is also being extended to the Joint Action Committee for Social Justice that has taken up his cause, which has emerged as a national movement of students for equality in the universities.

Mr B. Danam IAS (Retd), who was recently elected as the President of National Council of Dalit Christians (NCDC), requested the Bishops and Church Heads to send delegates to the National Silent Rally to demand SC Status to be held in New Delhi on March 10, 2016. FTC decided to send some delegates for the rally and to render financial support.

Following that, the problem of securing lands for the Christian Cemeteries was taken up for deliberation. A success story in this regard that happened in Kadapa was cited by Bishop B.D. Prasada Rao of CSI Rayalaseema Diocese. Then, Rev. Dr Ravela Joseph, Professor-Emeritus of ACTC and Executive Secretary of Telugu Baptist Fellowship, presented a paper on promoting "Unity of the Body of Christ". In response to it, FTC resolved to organize a get-together of leaders of pastors' fellowships and associations of independent pastors.

Vote of Thanks was proposed by Bishop Gali Bali of Guntur, General Secretary of FTC, together with some concluding remarks and suggestions for follow-up.

Synopsis of the Chronicles of Bishop's Diary in February-2016

1st Mon 10. 30 am attended Fresher's Day at St. Joseph Dental college of Nursing, 6.30 pm celebrated Feast day Mass at Allipalli

2nd Tue Bishop's Office, 4.00 pm participated in Episcopal Consecration of Bishop T. Joseph Raja Rao at Gunadala, Vijayawada

3rd Wed 10.30 am conferred Priestly Ordinations to Ofm Capuchin Brothers at Enikepadu, 5.00 pm attended for St. Francis Xavier E.M School day at Rallakunta

4th Thu Occupied

5th Fri Bishop's Office

6th Sat 10.30 am conferred Priestly ordinations at St. Benedictine monastery, Naguladevunipadu

7th Sun 11.30 am celebrated Mass for the Closing of the Jubilee year of St. Lucy's School at Janampet

8th Mon 10.30 am celebrated Mass for First & Final Profession of Little sisters of Christ at Janampet,

9th Tue 10.30 am blessed the new Chapel & celebrated Mass at Venkatapuram of Borrapalem parish

10th Wed 7.00 am celebrated Feast Mass at Gunadala, Vijayawada on Ash Wednesday, 6.30. pm officiated the Mass for the Opening ceremony of the year of Mercy at St. Carmelite Bhavan (OCD) at Janampet

11th Thu Bishop's Office

12th Fri Bishop's Office

13th Sat 9.30-12. 30 pm attended the Meeting of the Principles and Teachers of RCM Schools of RCM Schools at SSC Hall

14th Sun attended a Meeting with the Writers at Hyderabad

15th Mon - 18th Thu attended TCBC Meeting at Hyderabad

19th Fri Not Available

20th Sat Bishop's Office

21st Sun 9.30 am blessed a new Grotto at Gandigudem of Tadikalapudi, 10.30 am celebrated inaugural Mass for the novena at Tadikalapudi Parish

22nd Mon 10.30 am celebrated Mass at Allipalli

23rd Tue Bishop's Office

24th Wed Bishop's Office, 7.00 pm celebrated Mass for the feast of Infant Jesus Shrine at Dondapudi

25th Thu Bishop's Office, 5.00 pm St. Joseph's E.M. School day at Pandirimamidigudem

26th Fri Bishop's Office

27th Sat Bishop's Office

28th Sun 10.00 am celebrated Mass for the annual parish feast at Vatluru Parish

29th Mon 9.30 am conducted General Body Meeting at the Bishop's House

Worry never solves the future,
and always takes away energy from the present.

- James Altucher

BHIMAVARAM PARISH OBSERVES LENTEN CHARISMATIC RENEWAL MEETINGS

Holy Cross Parish Church, Bhimavaram, has conducted 3 days Lenten Charismatic renewal meetings



at Bhimavaram parish church from 19-02-2016 to 21-02-2016. Rev. Fr. Joy Abraham, parish Priest, officially started these meetings by an opening prayer. The meetings were animated by Rev. Fr. Kondala Joseph (MSFS) and his team. They preached the word of God and led the faithful into the light of God. The faithful so happily participated in these meetings and thus moved by the Holy Spirit, where many miracles and healings also took place. The melodious

hymns sung by the parish choir added a very special color to this programme.

- Fr. Bathina Vara Prasad, Assit. PP, Bhimavaram

OPENING THE DOOR OF MERCY AT OCD MONASTERY, JANAMPET

On the Occasion of the Ash Wednesday on Feb. 10, 2016, His Lordship Jaya Rao Polimera opened the Door of Mercy at the chapel of St. Edith Stein Carmel Bhavan Monastery.

The celebration started with the procession from the Open ground towards the Chapel door and there had a prayer service and opened the Mercy Door. Bishop and all those who presented there kissed the door of mercy and entered the chapel and had a Solemn Mass.

During the homily of the Bishop he expressed that 'be merciful as the heavenly father is merciful'.



At this Juncture Rev. Fr. Johnson Kurupassery, OCD, Provincial of St. Francis Xavier Province, (Andhra and Telangana), attended as the Chief Guest. Many other eminent personalities like major superiors, provincials, local superiors, rectors, Fathers, Sisters and Brothers of different congregations and a good number of Faithful totally around 600 members Participated in this Programme.

This Mercy door will be opened till the Pentecost (15-05-2016). Rev. Fr. Mathew, OCD, Superior of the Monastery, expressed that the community Fathers will be rendering their service by arranging the recollections, confessions, counseling and all other spiritual needs of anyone who comes to this chapel.

He thanked Bishop and all other participants of the day. And programme ended with the agape.

- OCD Monastery, Janampet

DKA AUSTRIA'S VISIT TO THE DIOCESE OF ELURU

DKA, Austria is the Development Cooperation Agency of the Catholic Children's Movement. They dress up like the 'Three Wise Men' and go from house to house in spreading the Christmas message of the gospel making collections to be used for the youth programmes globally.



Mr. Clemens Huber, Project Officer, DKA Austria, Mr. Elanco, Project Support Officer from India visited and evaluated the Youth Activities in Dharmajigudem and Jubilee Nagar parishes on February 19, 2016. The Diocesan Youth Commission gave a warm welcome to them. Most Rev. JAYA RAO POLIMERA Bishop of Eluru and the Youth Chairman of Telugu Catholic States with all his personal interest requested DKA, Austria and got this project for the diocese. It is always the desire of the Bishop to train

and to guide the youth, who are the future of the diocese, to live a better life in the society. Through this project we are guiding the Youth in Bible Animation, Faith Formation, Pre-marital and Marriage Councilling, Spiritual Formation and bringing awareness on Government Welfare Schemes.

Mr. Clemens Huber, Project Officer had an interaction with the youth groups and evaluated the changes before and after the project from each youth group. The youth explained their participation, progress and change in their lives through this project intervention. The DKA team expressed their great satisfaction about the implementation of the project in our diocese.

We are very grateful to His Lordship Jaya Rao Polimera because of whose ardent desire and guidance the Diocesan youth ministry has renewed. We are very grateful to our Bishop for his availability and concern. A special note of thanks Rev. Fr. Dr. Addanki Raju, SSC Director, Rev. Fr. Bala, Parish Priest, Jubilee Nagar, Rev. Fr. Prabhakar, Parish Priest, Dharmajigudem, Dr. N. Krupanandam, Project Officer, SSC, Diocesan Youth Coordinator Sr. Celitta, Catechists and all the youth for their cooperation and support.

- Fr. Charles Kaki, Youth Director

News from Bhuvanapalli

1. Velankani Matha Grotto blessed at the entrance of the Church

Infant Jesus Parish, Bhuvanapalli, is happy to have the august presence of His Lordship Jaya Rao Polimera on February 23, 2016. A new grotto in the name of Our Lady of Good Health, (Velankani Matha) was constructed at the entrance of the parish church. It was blessed by His Lordship Jaya Rao Polimera in the presence of the Sisters and faithful.



2. Blessing of the renovated presbytery

The 1994 built presbytery was renovated and was blessed by His Lordship Jaya Rao Polimera on the same day. Bhuvanapalli, a sub-station of Chebrole parish, was canonically erected a parish on April 18, 1993. It has 14 sub-stations.

ST. JOSEPH'S EM SCHOOL, PANDIRIMAMIDI GUDEM, CELEBRATES 4TH ANNUAL DAY

St. Joseph's E.M. School, Pandirimamidigudem, celebrated its 4th Annual Day on February 25, 2016. His Lordship Jaya Rao Polimera, was the Chief Guest for the day's function. The programme started with the lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries. Our special guests of honour include Rev. Fr. Babu George, Chancellor of Eluru & Parish Priest of Jalipudi, Mr. Buddula Ramudu, (MEO) Mandal Educational Officer. The day was marvelous and colourful with all the systematic arrangements and colourful cultural programmes.



Rev. Fr. Babu George, the then parish Priest, taking inspiration from the famous sayings of the St. Francis de Sales: 'Bloom where you are planted', founded St. Joseph EM School, Pandirimamidigudem, in 2011, with a unique mission. The main aim to start our school is to provide a value education for the tribal children

in this remote area. We are happy to say that our school attracted not only the tribal students exclusively but also the non-tribals who are getting qualified education here. We are proud to say that tribal students are able to speak in English fluently and also able to operate the computers.

SEMINAR CONDUCTED FOR THE CORRESPONDENTS AND PRINCIPALS OF E.M SCHOOLS IN ELURU DIOCESE.

"A Catholic school as one "which is under the control of the competent ecclesiastical authority ..." (Canon 803)

The Diocesan Education commission headed by Rev. Fr. G. Moses, DGM of the Diocese, conducted a seminar in the presence of His Lordship Jaya Rao Polimera, on Saturday 13th Feb. 2016 for the Correspondents and Principals of all English Medium schools in the Diocese. Along with Fr. G. Moses, commission members Fr. Amruth, Fr. Emmanuel Fr. Babu George, Chancellor and Fr. P.J Sandanasamy, S.J on the stage, Fathers, Brothers and Sisters and a few lay officials numbered 60 at the meeting that started at 10.00 a.m. with a prayer conducted by Amalodbhavi school staff and concluded around 01.30 p.m. with lunch.

The resource person was Fr. P.J. Sandanasamy, Amalapuram. The first talk centered round how our educational institutions serve as a necessary basis for direct or indirect evangelization. Religion



and education form the two key pillars of every individual life-edifice, giving support and strength to each other. Education has been and will prove to be a boost to the strengthening and propagating our Faith.

The second session was an LCD projected power point programme centering round the Jubilee Year of Mercy as proclaimed by His Holiness Pope Francis. He dealt with the various aspects of mercy of the Father and Jesus, various acts of mercy both spiritual and corporal and various activities of mercy that we can undertake in our institutions wherein we live move and have our being. The urge is to be with the poor.

This session smoothly flowed into making four area-deanery-wise groups for discussion how to complement the year of mercy through our campuses. The groups as per given instruction selected a few names from each group to be incorporated into the Diocesan Education Commission. The groups felt inspired to think and offer creative and manifold means of exercising mercy during this year. The active involvement of every member was seen as if a high tide wave had submerged the groups in the sea of generosity. A committee was formed to join the Diocesan education committee for the smooth running of the English Medium schools in the Diocese.

The seminar ended in the afternoon with the message of the Bishop about the impact of our institutions and the necessity to be more charitable. The seminar was moderated by Rev. Fr. Amruth Raj and vote of thanks proposed by Rev. Fr. Emmanuel, Procurator.

- Fr. K. Amruth Raj, Member, Diocesan Education Commission

NEWS FROM OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH, TADIKALAPUDI

1. New grotto blessed at Gandigudem of Tadikalapudi parish

His Lordship Most Rev. Jaya Rao Polimera, has blessed a new grotto of Our Lady at Gandigudem of Tadikalapudi parish on February 21, 2016. Indeed it's the first time for the people to have august



presence of their shepherd for the first time in their village. The grotto is built by the local donations and was named after Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The construction started in September 2015 and came to completion in 5 months.

Gandigudem is a small catechumen village in Kamavarapukota Mandal in West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh State, located 40 km district head quarters, Eluru, 6 km from Kamavarapukota and 5 kms from the parish. The nearest village is Veerampalem, which is familiar to many. The village was first Baptized by Rev. Fr. Felix Lourdhusamy, the then parish Priest of Tadikalapudi. We are happy to know that from that time onwards faithful started coming to the Church and 50 more Baptisms are expected for Easter this Year. My sincere thanks to all those who joined hands towards this noble cause.

2. 17th Annual Feast Celebrations of Tadikalapudi Lourdhu Matha Shrine

The 17th Annual Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes Feast, Tadikalapudi, was celebrated on March 3, 2016. Being the Lenten Season, as in the previous years, we could witness many faithful attending the feast in great number.



A grand beginning by Bishop Jaya Rao Polimera

His Lordship Most Rev. Jaya Rao Polimera on February 21, 2016, hoisted the festal flag celebrated the Holy Eucharist, where many faithful from substations participated in great number. We followed the traditional custom of observing the 9 day Novena prayers by celebrating the Holy Eucharist daily.

Festal Mass celebrated by the pioneer of the shrine

Rev. Fr. L. Felix, Vicars Forane, Bhimavaram, who is also the pioneer of our shrine, celebrated the Holy Eucharist on March 3, 2016. There were thirteen Priests from nearby parishes. It is very unique to note that faithful, who take the Lenten Diksha, make a volunteer 'Padayatra' to this shrine during the feast days. This year we could see many faithful observing this devotion. With the help of our vicariate parish Priests, catechists from Tadikalapudi and Vegiwada, we could make a meaningful feast this year. Cultural programmes staged by our children delighted all.

With the sincere efforts of Rev. Fr. L. Felix, the pioneer of the shrine, the first Annual Feast of the Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, Tadikalapudi, was initiated and celebrated by His Lordship Most Rev. John Mulagada on May 31, 2000, in the presence of just 10 Catholics. It's a great witness to be noted as we witness thousands of faithful making pilgrimage to this shrine, receiving favours from our blessed Mother. I sincerely thank all the Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and catechists for their continuous support.

You are responsible for not only what you said,
but also for what you did not say.

- Author unknown

THE CONGREGATION OF THE MISSIONARIES OF FAITH (MF) have organised the Second International Formators' meeting

The constitution of the congregation of the Missionaries of Faith has conducted second international formatters meeting. The meeting started on February 15 and will be continued till March 13, 2016.



This historical meeting was organized by St. Peter's Province, India, at Alipali, in the presence of the eminent personal, namely, Very Rev. Fr. Aldo, MF, Superior General, Rev. Fr. Palacios, mf, Episcopal Delegate, Rev. Fr. Montan, mf, Canonist, Rev. Fr. Thomas Edassery, MF, Italy, Rev. Fr. Bobby, Prefect of formation, Rev. Fr. Jaisan, MF and Rev. Fr. Michel Costa, MF, where priests of 6 provinces officially took part.

His Grace Cardinal Vallini, the Vicar General of Rome, after five years of gap, has given the

permission to reopen the novitiate. His lordship Most Rev. Jaya Rao Polimera, had addressed the gathering on February 22, 2016 by celebrating the holy Mass. During homily Bishop exhorted to be benevolent formatters. His Lordship congratulated the organizers.

NEWS BYTES

32nd CBCI Plenary Assembly: The 32nd Plenary Assembly of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) was held at St John's Medical College, Bangalore, from March 2-9, 2016. The CBCI - the apex body of the Catholic Church in India - holds the Plenary Assembly once in two years to discuss the various aspects of the life of the Church in India, and especially the challenges it faces, and to evolve common action to revitalise the Church and to render the Church more effective in its service to the members and to society at large. The 180 Bishops from all the Dioceses of India gathered at St John's Medical College Campus to deliberate on the principal theme of the Plenary.

Franciscans: "In the Jubilee Year, call freedom for prisoners": Free a thousand prisoners detained for minor offences in Indian jails, granting them a special "pardon" in the Jubilee Year is what the Indian Franciscans submitted to the government, hoping that in Indian society, there can be a trace of mercy in the Holy Year proclaimed by Pope Francis. As reported to Fides, the initiative was launched by the Association of the Franciscan Families of India (AFFI), a network that combines at a national level more than 50,000 Franciscans from different religious congregations, male and female, and lay people. Gathered for their national assembly in Bangalore in recent days, the AFFI representatives reflected on the theme "Being Franciscans: the face of Christ's mercy in this world".

Chinese pastor's sentence: 14 years for resisting removal of Cross
A Chinese Protestant pastor has been sentenced to a 14-year prison term after resisting the removal of a cross from his church building, AsiaNews service reports. Rev. Bao Guohua hired a team of

lawyers to fight the demolition in June 2015. He was arrested along with several members of the congregation of the Church of Holy Love. Soon after the arrest, government officials charged that he and his wife had misappropriated Church funds and were "leading a luxurious life." A court in Jinhua, in the eastern Zhejiang province, sentenced him for "embezzlement, disturbance of public order, illegal commercial activities, concealment of financial documents and invoices.

Violent killings of Christians in Nigeria up 62 per cent

Religious persecution in northern Nigeria is rising rapidly, with a 62 per cent increase in the violent killings of Christians recorded in the past year, according to a new report. The report, released by Open Doors, a charity that monitors religiously motivated violence and discrimination, shows that in 2015 there were 4,028 killings and 198 church attacks, nearly double those of the previous year. In the five years between 2009 and 2014, 11,500 Christians were killed and 13,000 churches destroyed, forcing 1.3 million Christians to flee to safer areas of the country or risk smuggling routes to Europe, says the report.

43 Assyrian Christian hostages released by ISIS:

ISIS has released 43 Assyrian Christians, the last of a large group abducted in northern Syria by the terrorists almost one year ago. The Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organisation (ACERO) said that the Assyrians, who make the "final number of hostages in Khabur", were released. The freed hostages were part of a group of about 230 Assyrian Christians captured last February by ISIS after the Islamists attacked Assyrian communities living by the Khabur River in Hassakeh province.

Archbishop Coutts: "Our mission is to spread love in a context of violence and terrorism" "As Pakistani Christians, we face numerous challenges every day. Many will have heard of the so-called blasphemy law and the emblematic case of Asia Bibi, an innocent Christian mother sentenced to death. Our daily mission is to bear witness to peace and to love, where there is so much violence in this country torn apart by terrorism. As Christians, our mission is love and love of Christ helps us not to lose hope," said Archbishop Joseph Coutts of Karachi, presently in Italy for a series of meetings organised by the Papal Foundation 'Aid to the Church in Need' to mark the fifth anniversary of the death of Shahbaz Bhatti, a Pakistani Catholic MP murdered in Islamabad on March 2, 2011.

Preaching Tip

Stories and anecdotes, especially if they are personal, are among the most effective methods you can use to communicate your message. But they can also backfire. Here's how to make sure they don't:

First of all, make sure your story or anecdote is relevant to your point; make sure it illustrates/exemplifies the point you're trying to make.

Tell your story according to the journalist's five W's: Who, What, When, Where, and Why (and how). This will make sure it is organized and detailed - the keys for making things interesting. Try to use concrete, specific language, words that your listeners can see.

Relive the story as you tell it. Picture things as you describe them. If you engage your imagination, you will be more likely to engage your listeners'.

Practice this in normal conversation.

St Joseph the Just

(Reflection: Feast day on March 18)

The Gospel describes Saint Joseph as a Just Man (Mt 1:19). A hasty reading of the Gospel story may make us assume that there is not much in the life of St Joseph to merit such a title of righteousness. Apart from his name and a few events that occurred in Our Lord's childhood, it might well be said that he lived an unknown life, the life of a simple artisan, with no sign of personal greatness or the customary marks of holiness.

There is not a single word uttered by him in Scripture; his language is silence. Even in the Nativity scene, he lurks in the shadow of shepherds and sheep, angels and magi, ox and ass. But we are told of his attention to the angelic voices which spoke in his sleep; it was this exemplary quality of the just man in the Gospels of being attuned to and doing God's will that gave St Joseph the power and courage to make great decisions, to be at the disposition of the divine designs.

Although a poor, honest and hardworking carpenter who never craved for the limelight, St Joseph possessed the light of a deep interior life of righteousness in listening and responding to the voice of God. It was this paramount Christian virtue that prompted a generous obedience to the call of God not to put Mary away, and to take her as his virgin spouse. He offered the whole of his existence in a total sacrifice and commitment to Jesus, who was his offspring, only by legal descent, not by the flesh.

He was a man of humble social condition who apparently seemed incapable of performing great deeds, yet he took on the burdens, the risks and the labours surrounding the responsibilities of raising the Holy Family. He thus earned the title of being the foster father of Jesus and singular spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a role in God's plan of Incarnation and Redemption.

His place backstage in the work of our Salvation speaks of some crucial truths in the living out of our faith. St Joseph's life reflects the Gospel values of human existence which take on a different dimension from that which the world holds in esteem. What is little becomes big, in Jesus' fervent words in the eleventh chapter of Saint Matthew: "I give thee praise, O Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, because thou has hidden these from the wise and learned, but has revealed them to little ones."

In the Gospel account, what is lowly becomes worthy to be the social condition of the Son of God made son of man. The profession of St Joseph as a carpenter was elementary and the product of tiresome and rudimentary handwork, yet it served to train the Maker and the One who sustains the world, by the work of human hands (Jn 1:3; 5:17), and to give humble bread to Him who was to describe Himself as 'the Bread of Life' (Jn 6:48) and whoever sacrifices his own life for Him in this world saves it for everlasting life (Jn 12:25).

Saint Joseph embodied the message of that Gospel plan of redemption that Jesus preached, after his apprenticeship at the little workshop at Nazareth, and began his mission as prophet and teacher. Saint Joseph is the model of those humble ones through whom God works wonders, and he is the proof that in order to be good and genuine followers of Christ, there is no need of 'great things'; it is enough to have the common, simple, human virtues, but they need to be true and authentic.

St Joseph was important in the life of the Holy Family. His intercession and example as Patron and Protector of the Universal Church are important in the human family as well today.

Courtesy: The Examiner – March 2015

MARCH

BIRTHDAYS

1. Rev. Fr. Mariadas Thummalapalli	05-03-1981	6. Rev. Fr. Boddu Gnanapragasam	17-03-1966
2. Rev. Fr. Bathina Vara Prasad	06-03-1979	7. Rev. Fr. Meka Paschali	23-03-1958
3. Rev. Fr. John Wilson	12-03-1963	8. Rev. Fr. Kodudula Anthony	24-03-1964
4. Rev. Fr. Chattumala Balaswamy	12-03-1979	9. Rev. Fr. Tatapudi Emmanuel	25-03-1975
5. Rev. Fr. Koilidam Mathew	15-03-1936	10. Rev. Fr. Gudipudi David	28-03-1963

ORDINATIONS

1. Rev. Fr. Tota Gabriel	01-03-1982	11. Rev. Fr. Bobbili Yesupadam	25-03-1991
2. Rev. Fr. Dr. Inje Paul	01-03-1993	12. Rev. Fr. Davuluri Balthazar	25-03-1991
3. Rev. Fr. Sathuluri Anthaiah	01-03-1993	13. Rev. Fr. L. Felix	25-03-1991
4. Rev. Fr. Chintagunta Inniah	04-03-1975	14. Rev. Fr. Injamala Michael	25-03-1991
4. Rev. Fr. Govindu Joseph Charles	09-03-1981	15. Rev. Fr. Gumpula Balashowry	25-03-1992
5. Rev. Fr. Banda Showry	11-03-1981	16. Rev. Fr. Kuchipudi Gnananamdam	25-03-1992
6. Rev. Fr. Dr. Gude Balthazar	19-03-1977	17. Rev. Fr. Pudota Balaswamy Peter	25-03-1992
7. Rev. Fr. Jesu Rajan	19-03-1981	18. Rev. Fr. S. John Peter	25-03-1992
8. Rev. Fr. Dasari Vijaya Kumar	22-03-1990		
9. Rev. Fr. Gorremuchi Moses	25-03-1990		
10. Rev. Fr. Pasala Leeno	25-03-1990	1. Rev. Fr. Thomas Puthussery	29-03-2010

R.I.P

TO PONDER: Supplying the Material

A rich man had a dream in which he died and went to heaven. St. Peter escorted him down a lovely street on which each house was magnificent. The rich man saw one house that was particularly beautiful. "that," said Peter, "is the house of one of your servants."

"Well," said the man, smiling, "if my servant has a building like that, then I'm really looking forward to seeing my own magnificent mansion."

Soon they came to a very small street where the houses were tiny. "You will live in that hut," said St. Peter, pointing his finger. "Me, live in that hovel!" roared the man in great anger.

"This is the best we could do for you," explained St Peter. "You must understand that we only build your home up here with the material you send ahead while you are still on earth."

God may not send you anywhere when you die – to hell or to heaven. He will simply eternalize whatever direction you are traveling in now.

Heaven or hell begins down here on earth.



Seminar conducted for the correspondents and principals of RCM EM Schools in Eluru on Feb. 13, 2016

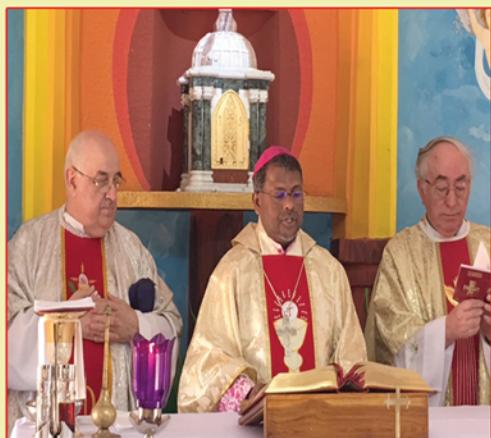


His Lordship Jaya Rao Polimera celebrating Infant Jesus Tower feast at Vatluru on Feb. 28, 2016.





His Lordship Jaya Rao inaugurating holy door of Mercy at OCD Monastery, Janampet, on (Ash Wednesday) Feb. 10, 2016.



His Lordship Jaya Rao Polimera attending the MF International Formators' meeting on Feb. 22, 2016.



His Lordship Jaya Rao Polimera blessing a new grotto at Bhuvanapalli parish on Feb. 23, 2016.