

**PREM JYOT**  
**NEWS LETTER OF DIOCESE OF AURANGABAD**

No. 02/2015

December 2015

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**Christmas Message**

**Dear Sisters, Brothers & Fathers.**

“God so loved the world that He gave His only Son” (Jn 3:16), His most precious gift to humanity”

Christmas ushers in a feeling of spring within us and fills our hearts with bliss. The feeling of Christmas is so overwhelming that it envelopes us as we await with eager hearts His coming. Christ's birth marks a definite turning point in human history. A new era was inaugurated, which He will bring to completion through His second coming, when God's kingdom will enfold itself in its full splendor and glory. Therefore, it's right to say that Christmas is a season of Grace, Giving and Gratitude.

Jesus is God's Grace in human flesh, whom the Father gave us on the Christmas day and this Grace is present with us in the holy Eucharist. When we receive the Holy Eucharist in a worthy manner, Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem, is born our hearts and He nourishes and sustains us, preparing us for the eternal life of beatific vision of the most Holy Trinity. This most sublime gift of God the Father was first given to the Blessed Virgin Mary. She was filled with grace. When she received the infant in her immaculate womb, Thus the angel addressed her "hail full of grace" (Lk.1:28) Following her example, we need to grow in holiness through prayer and penance, so that Jesus may be born in us too.

Christmas reminds to of God the Father's sacrificial giving of His only Son, the most perfect gift to humanity. When we celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation, we actually celebrate the sacrificial love of the Father. Therefore, we too are called to give ourselves, through our presence, services, talents, time, and visits, in particular to the sick, the lonely and those in need, especially during this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

We need to be truly grateful to God for the wonder of the INCARNATION, through which He revealed His unfathomable and infinite Mercy and filled us with hope and joy. Gratitude is the memory of the heart. Every moment of our life we need to remember the wonder of God in our life and respond to it by fulfilling His will through a life of holiness.

I wish you a very happy and holy Christmas. May God grant you His abundant peace, overflowing joy and a double share of His love, good health, good cheer, and a hearty laughter. May He fill you with grace to do works of mercy, every day of the coming year 2016. May every hope and expectation turn into a lovely dream come true. May Christmas be a wonderful family celebration for you. May you be blessed by the generous giver of Life, throughout the New Year 2016.

+Bishop Ambrose Rebello

## **Adieu to Sister Celine Anthony**

Sr. Celine Anthony sc passed into eternity on the 24. October 2015. Her death was a great loss to the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod and the Diocese of Aurangabad. She worked for many years itt selfless service in the pastoral, educational and social spheres. Her funeral took place the next day. Rev. Dr. Benny Kallikatt, the Vicar General, on behalf of Bishop Ambrose Rebello, conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the sisters and recalled the generous contributions and sacrifices of Sr. Celine for the greater glory of God in the Diocese of Aurangabad.

## **Jubilee Celebrations**

Many priests, sisters and the faithful felicitated and congratulated Rev. Fr. Gerald Rebello for having completed 25 years as priest in the vineyard of the Lord on the 18 November 2015. Bishop Ambrose Rebello celebrated the Holy Eucharist and appreciated Fr. Gerald's pastoral zeal and care for the people entrusted to him in the many parishes he worked. The DHM sisters organized a captivating cultural programme.

Sisters of our Lady of Fatima, Kannad celebrated the Silver Jubilee of the establishment of their community as well as Fatima English School on the 28. November 2015. They erected a multi-purpose hall to mark the jubilee, which was blessed by Bishop Ambrose Rebello and inaugurated by their Mother General. The provincial superior, many priests, religious and laity were present for the celebration. The Bishop appreciated the missionary activities of the sisters in Kannad. Bishop Emeritus Edwin Colaco, who was present for the cultural programme appreciated and thanked the sisters for their dedicated services.

St. Joseph's high School, Malighogargaon, celebrated the golden jubilee of the first batch of SSC on 23. December 2015. The jubilee celebration witnessed the gathering of many ex-students, former headmistress, retired teachers, prominent citizens, religious and priests. Bishop Ambrose Rebello presided over the function. The students helped by the staff put up an excellent programme. The bishop recalled the efforts of all those who worked in establishing and developing the school and appreciated Rev. Fr. Sanjay Brahmane, the Manager and Principal, staff, students and parents for the good quality of the school, and for the excellent programme.

## **Diocesan Director's Meet**

Bishop Ambrose Rebello called for a meeting of the Diocesan Directors of different departments related to pastoral works in the diocese, to draw up a pastoral plan, in the light of his manifesto, on the 3. November 2015. The meeting gained a healthy momentum as they shared their views. The Directors are working hard in finalizing the pastoral plan, which will come into effect from January 2016.

## **National Eucharistic Congress**

Bishop Ambrose Rebello, Rev. Fr. Stephen Almeida and five delegates from the diocese of Aurangabad participated in the National Eucharistic Congress held in St. Pius X Seminary, Goregaon, Mumbai from 12. to 15. November 2015. The Diocesan Flag was proudly held high. The theme of the National Eucharistic Congress was "Nourished by Christ to Nourish Others."

## **Induction Ceremonies**

Rev. Fr. Peter Amolik was inducted as priest in-charge of St. Theresa's church, Kannad, by Bishop Ambrose Rebello, on the 24. of November 2015. Rev. Fr. John Jadhav was inducted as priest in-charge of Paska church, Puma on the 20. of December 2015 by Bishop Ambrose Rebello.

## **Annual Yatras**

Bishop Ambrose Rebello celebrated the Holy Eucharist on the occasion of the annual yatras of St. Ann's Church Alunednagar on 24. October 2015, Catholic Ashratn, Nevasa on 7. November 2015, St. Joseph Church, Ragunathnagar, on 21" November 2015, Catholic Church Tilak Nagar on 5. December 2015 and S.F.S Cathedral on 8. December 2015. The celebration of the annual yatras was a faith experience and enriched the devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Many priests, religious and a number of laity were present on these occasions.

## **Blessing of the New Church and Grotto**

Bishop Ambrose Rebello blessed the newly constructed St. Xavier's church and the Grotto of our Lady at Gevrai, Seed on the feast of St. Francis Xavier, the 3. December 2015. Many priests, religious and a large number of laity participated in the celebration. The Bishop congratulated and thanked the Jesuit fathers and the sisters of St. Charles Borromeo for their dedicated services in the pastoral, educational and social fields in Beed district. The Jesuit provincial Rev. Fr. Bhausahab Sansare concelebrated the 1 loly Eucharist with Bishop Ambrose Rebello.

## **Pastoral Visit to St. Augustine's Church, Parbhani**

Bishop Ambrose Rebello made his maiden pastoral visit to St. Augustine Church, Parbhani, which he served as parish priest for 14 long years. The pastoral visit took place on the 7. December 2015 and culminated in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist and Baptism of a new born child.

## **Christmas Tree Programme**

Christmas Tree Progamme was organized on the 8. December 2015 in St. Ann's school, Beed for the civil officials, parents, teachers, and children. Bishop Ambrose Rebello presided over the function and delivered the Christmas message to the participants in which he said that Christmas is a season of grace and a manifestation of the unconditional and merciful love of God to humanity.

## **Diamond Jubilee Celebration**

On the 9. December 2015, the Holy Cross Marathi School celebrated the Diamond Jubilee. Bishop Ambrose Rebello was the chief guest and Rev. Sr. Caroline Fernandes Provincial sec. presided over the function. The presence of the former headmistresses, retired teachers and large number of parents made the event graceful. The students put up a very colourful programme. The theme was recalling the past with gratitude, present with passion and future with hope. His Lordship highlighted and appreciated the services of the Sisters of the Cross in the Diocese since 1903, catering to the poorest of the poor in the locality and for preparing great personalities in every walk of life even to the priestly and the religious life.

## **Opening of the Door of Mercy**

The Holy Door of Mercy of St. Peter's Basilica was opened by the Holy Father on the 8. December 2015 and inaugurated the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. However, the Door of the Cathedral of local churches all over the world was to be opened on 13. December. Accordingly, as per directive of the Holy See, the Door of SFS Cathedral was opened by Bishop Ambrose on the 13. December 2015 at 5.30 pm. Many religious and laity participated in the liturgy of the opening of the door of mercy. The liturgical ceremony was a divine experience. The Bishop invited the clergy, religious and the laity to active participation in this grace filled Extraordinary Jubilee Year of God's Mercy.

## **Priestly Ordination**

Deacon Jacob Anthony sdb was ordained priest by Most Rev. Abraham Viruthakulangara, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Nagpur on 12. December 2015, in Little Flower School ground, during the holy Eucharist concelebrated by Bishop Ambrose Rebello, the Vice - Provincial of the Mumbai Province of the sdb and many priests. Fr. Jacob Anthony belongs to SFS Cathedral Parish and completed his school education in Holy Cross English School, Aurangabad and priestly formation from Papal Seminary, Pune. He celebrated his first holy Eucharist on 13. December in SFS Cathedral. The diocese of Aurangabad wishes Fr. Jacob a holy priestly life.

## **Christmas with Prisoners**

Bishop Ambrose Rebello and the sisters of the Holy Spirit of Vimlasadan celebrated the Christmas with the prisoners in Harsool district jail on the 19. December 2015 bringing them joy, peace, consolation and love of God. All the prisoners enjoyed the programme and felt relaxed and enriched.

## **School Annual Day Celebrations**

St. Alphonse School, Waluj celebrated the annual day on the December 2015. The students put up a unique spectacular show unmatched for its kind. The programme was a true manifestation of intelligence, wisdom, talents, spirit of commitment, selfless dedication, knowledge of technology, organizational skills and hard work. The programme was cynosure of all eyes and it was loved by all. Bishop Ambrose Rebello, who presided over the function, appreciated the sincere efforts of Rev. Fr. Paul George, the Manager, Rev. Sr. Bindu Anthony, the Principal, the sisters and the staff in providing quality education. He congratulated the students and thanked the parents for their cooperation.

St. Mary's Primary, High School and Junior College, Wahegaon celebrated the annual day on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2015. Many colourful items were displayed by the students with the help of the staff under the able guidance of Rev. Fr. Sanjay Rupekar, the manager, Rev. Sr. Sharon the Principal, Rev. Fr. Walter Gonsalves, the Vice-Principal and Mr. S. K. Jadhav the headmaster. Bishop Ambrose congratulated and thanked everybody in his presidential speech.

## **Children's Day Celebration**

Children's day (also known as Bal Divas) in India is celebrated every year on 14<sup>th</sup> of November on the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, to increase the awareness of people towards the rights, care and education of children. Nirmala Institute, Vaijapur organized a children's day on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2015. More than 300 children from ten villages were present. The entire day was dedicated to them and consisted of various programmes for them from 10 am to 4 pm. It was remarkable to see the joy and excitement in children. Congratulations to DIIM sisters.

**December 2015:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Programme</b>
27.12.2015	Sunday	Confirmation SFS Cathedral & St. John the Evengelist Church, Cidco
30.12.2015	Wednesday	Christmas Get – Together Priests and Religious at the Bishop's House

**January 2016:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Programme</b>
07.01.2016	Thursday	Golden Jubilee of Sisters Marlene Vaz and Anita Paul Sec
10.01.2016	Sunday	Visit to Kinwat Mission, Inauguration of the
11.01.2016	Monday	
16.01.2016	Saturday	Meeting with CHAI and ADSS
17.01.2016	Sunday	Holy Eucharist at Bidkin Mission
21.01.2016	Thursday	Family & Community Seminar
26.01.2016	Tuesday	Bhajan Competition at St. Joseph Church, Bidkin

**February 2016:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Programme</b>
17.02.2016	Wednesday	Bishop's birthday – Thanks giving Eucharist in SFS Cathedral
21.02.2016	Sunday	Final Profession of sec

**NEW APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS**

Rev. Fr. Peter Amolic	Priest in- charge of St. Therasa's Church, Kannad.
Rev. Fr. John Jadhav	Priest in - charge of Paska Church, Puma.
Rev. Fr. Christopher Martin	Priest in - charge of St. Ann's Church, Narala.

Note: Prem Jyot will be the official News Letter of the Diocese of Aurangabad and will be published quarterly. Please send news items and photographs to [premijyotabad@gmail.com](mailto:premijyotabad@gmail.com)

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