



DIOCESE OF ALLAHABAD

Bishop's House, #32 Thornhill Road
Allahabad 211 002, INDIA

DIOCESAN CIRCULAR NO. 05/14

September 26, 2014



MY PROGRAMME

OCTOBER 2014

2	Inaugurates and Participates in Interreligious Dialogue at Sadhana Sadan
3	Departure to Bareilly
4	Participates in the Episcopal Consecration Ceremony of Rev. Monsignor Ignatius D'souza
7-8	Chairs the Meeting of the Hindi Missal Transslation, Nav Sadhana, Varanasi
9-10	Presides over the Meeting of the Diocesan Directors of Evangelization of the Region and others at Sadhana Sadan
11	Pastoral Visit to Theresapur
12	Celebrates Mass and administers First Holy Communion at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Alld
18	Inaugurates Diocesan Bible Festival at Sadhana Sadan
19	Pastoral Visit to Anpara
20-25	Participates in Clergy Retreat at Sadhana Sadan

My dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,
Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

1. Prayer for Peace

The twentieth century is considered to be the bloodiest in the history of humankind. For it has witnessed the killing of 110 million people. Possibly for the same reason St. John Paul II called it the "century of tears".

From what we have seen so far, the twenty-first century has not fared any better. The rise of Islamic State (also known as ISIS) and the inhuman acts carried out by them recently in Iraq and Syria proves the point that the tentacles of violence are spreading far and wide. Against this backdrop what can we do? Obviously, we cannot throw up our arms in despair. For whenever good people remain inactive evil results. Nor can we counter violence with violence. That would only prolong the cycle of violence and counter violence and bring about more destruction. We can stop the spread of the culture of violence only by promoting the culture of peace. The theme chosen by the United Nations for this year is "Right of Peoples to Peace".

The Biblical word Shalom or Peace means wholeness. People are at peace when they receive wholeness, when they realize their potential for goodness, for love, for truth and justice, when they become who they really are and who God intended them to be.

NOVEMBER 2014

2	Celebrates Holy Mass at Rajapur Cemetery
8	Presides over Golden Jubilee Celebration of Bethany School, Naini
9	Presides over Regional Bible Festival at Nav Sadhana, Varanasi
13	Journey to Pune
16	Administers Confirmation at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Alld
18-21	Participates at Regional Bishops and Major Superiors Meeting at Nav Sadhana, Varanasi
22	Presides over Golden Jubilee Celebration of Sacred Heart School, Obra
23	Presides over Corpus Christi Celebrations at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Allahabad
24	Presides over School Day Function at Canossa School, Faizabad
26	Presides over P.T Display at St. Mary's Inter College, Mirzapur

When we become fully human we must reject war, enmity and animosity. For all these things are dehumanizing. They deprive us of peace.

St.(Pope) John XXIII in his encyclical *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth) pointed out that for peace to prevail in the world, the social order desired by God and governed by respect for human rights must be fully observed. Gandhiji once said, "Peace between nations must rest on the solid foundation of love between individuals. Love gives people a partnership in the cares and needs of others. Hate and competition then yield to co-operation". According to Pope Francis, fraternity is the key to peace. He says, "Without fraternity it is impossible to build a just society and a solid and lasting peace".

While it is true that we human beings can do many things to promote peace, we must not forget that peace is primarily God's gift. Humans cannot create peace. They can only dispose themselves to receive it as a gift from God. Peace spreads from heart to heart; from one integrated heart to another. That is why fasting and prayer are important. Gandhiji used them on a number of occasions very successfully. The prayer for peace of St. Francis of Assisi is loved by the whole world. On the occasion of the 8th birth centenary of St. Francis, Ex-secretary General of UNO (Kart) said, "For a just, harmonious and peaceful world, we have no other effective way but that of St. Francis of Assisi and his prayer for peace".

May I suggest to you that in the month of October you keep a day of prayer for peace in our country, in the Middle East and in the world. Please pray also for all victims of violence, and in particular for the persecuted Christians and other minorities of Iraq and Syria. The 2nd of October (Gandhi Jayanti and International Day of Non-Violence) and the 4th of October (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi) are ideal dates; but any day of your convenience will do. Let there be peace within India! Let there be peace in the world! Let there be peace in all God's creation!

2. World Mission Sunday, October 19, 2014

Established in 1926, World Mission Sunday is celebrated on the last but one Sunday of October. It is a God-given opportunity for us to remember our call to be missionaries. This year being the Golden Jubilee year of the Second Vatican Council's Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity or *Ad Gentes* we must take our Mission Sunday obligations all the more seriously. Let us ponder over some important texts taken from the Bible and the Church documents.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

"Woe to me if I do not proclaim the Gospel" (1 Cor 9.6).

The Church is "by its very nature missionary" (Vat II, AG2).

"The Church exists in order to evangelize" (Evangeliis Nuntiandi 14).

"The missionary outreach is a clear sign of the maturity of an ecclesial community" (Verbum Domini 95).

"The great danger in today's world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures and a blunted conscience" (Evangeliis Gaudium, 2). Humanity greatly needs to lay hold of the salvation brought by Christ. His disciples are those who allow themselves to be seized even more by the love of Jesus and marked by the fire of passion for the Kingdom of God and the proclamation of the joy of the Gospel. All the Lord's disciples are called to nurture the joy of evangelization" (Pope Francis).

We know that Jesus, through his life and ministry, through his words and deeds, inaugurated the Kingdom of God. But how do we know that the Kingdom of God is growing? We know it when we see love, justice, peace, hope, truth and mercy increase in every human heart and in every human community. And conversely, when we see the signs of evil and the consequences of sin – division, hate, oppression, misery, selfishness, hunger, thirst and pain – disappear from human hearts and from the world.

Since mission involves the entire people of God, every individual Christian must have a passion for the salvation of the world and ardent commitment to work for the coming of God's Kingdom.

What can we do individually and collectively to support the mission of the Church? St. John Paul II has given us some cues.

1. Pray unceasingly to nourish the desire to carry Christ to all men and women.
2. Offer your suffering with that of Jesus.
3. Make a commitment to support organizations of missionary co-operation, particularly the Pontifical Mission Societies, which have the task of encouraging prayers for the mission, promoting the missionary cause, and collecting funds for the work of evangelization.

The money collected from different parishes in the Diocese on the occasion of Mission Sunday is sent by the Diocese to the National Office of Pontifical Mission Societies. They in turn send it to the international office of the Society for the Propagation of Faith, in Rome.

Regarding monetary contribution Pope Francis says: “A monetary contribution on the part of the individuals is the sign of a self-offering, first to the Lord and then to others; in this way a material offering can become a means for the evangelization of humanity built on love.”

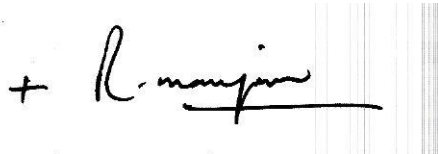
A brief note about Pontifical Mission Societies: This organization carries out missionary work through its four branches.

1. **The Society for Propagation of Faith** promotes missionary awareness among the laity and offers aid to diocesan mission territories.
2. **The Society of St. Peter the Apostle** awakens adults and youth to the training programme of the local clergy, sisters, brothers and catechists in mission churches and contribution towards the formation of these categories of church members.
3. **The Society of the Holy Childhood** aims at educating primary school children about mission and help to inculcate in them a joyful spirit of sharing spiritual and material resources with children in younger churches.
4. **The Society of the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious** lives as the soul of the Church’s missionary commitment and encourages priests, religious, seminarians and catechists to help the missions by the sanctity of their lives and stimulates growth in mission awareness among priests, religious, candidates and in others engaged in the pastoral ministry of the church.

May I request all of you to be enthusiastic about doing all that is within your power to fulfill the objectives for which Mission Sunday was established in 1926 and is being celebrated every year. Please pay special attention to build awareness among our people regarding the purpose of Mission Sunday and other related issues.

If you have a serious difficulty in celebrating Mission Sunday on 19 October this year, please prepone or postpone it to a convenient Sunday. For the future, please keep in mind that world Mission Sunday is celebrated every year on the last but one Sunday of October.

3. By now many of you must have received my SMS requesting prayers for the success of the Third Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops to be held in Rome from 5 to 19 October 2014, of which the theme is "Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization". Although the day set apart for special prayers for this intention was 28 September, we can pray till the end of the Synod.



MOST REV. RAPHY MANJALY
Bishop of Allahabad

- Enclosed please find a prayer composed by the Holy Father himself for the occasion. Please pray it as often as you can.

Prayer to the Holy Family for the Synod

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph
in you we contemplate
the splendour of true love,
to you we turn with trust.*

*Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too
may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic school of the Gospel
and small domestic Churches.*

*Holy Family of Nazareth
may families never again
experience violence, rejection and division:
may all who have been hurt or scandalized
find ready comfort and healing.*

*Holy Family of Nazareth,
may the approaching Synod of Bishops
make us once more mindful
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,
and its beauty in God's plan.*

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph
graciously hear our prayer.*

Amen.