



DIOCESE OF ALLAHABAD

Bishop's House, #32 Thornhill Road Allahabad-211 002,(U.P.) INDIA

DIOCESAN CIRCULAR NO. 05/17

August 13, 2017



Most Rev. Raphy Manjaly

MY PROGRAMME

AUGUST 2017

2	Mass at 32, St. Mary's Convent, Allahabad
6	Parish Feast & First Holy Communion at Raebareli
8-9	Attends A.R.P.C. Meeting in Udaipur
13	Diaconate Ordination, at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Ald
15	Flag Hosting Ceremony at Umrao Singh School, Ald
20	Visit Dostpur
22	Jubilee Mass of UMI Sisters at Mariampur, Kanpur 5:00 p.m.
25	PCDA Meeting at Sadhna Sadan, Allahabad 9:30 a.m.
26	Mass for M.C. Sisters, Muirabad, at 11:00 a.m. & Feast of Sr. Genesia, CSN, at Nazareth Nivas, Muirabad 6:30 p.m.
27	Presides over Umrao Singh Society Meeting at 04:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2017

2	BCC Family Commission Meeting at Sadhna Sadan, Allahabad
5	Mother Teresa's Day

My Dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,

Grace and peace from God Our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

I. Independence Day

The seventieth anniversary of the Independence Day of our beloved *Bharat* invites us to celebrate her glorious past and achievements, to evaluate her present situation, to envision her future and to step into it with renewed faith, hope, love and commitment. So let us ask: **What are her achievements?**

After two hundred years of subjugation we are now a proud nation with a distinct character of our own. We have the unique distinction of establishing world's largest democracy by non-violence. Our democracy is workable and solid and is resilient enough to withstand even extreme jolts. Our constitution is one of the finest in the world. Its preamble is a master-piece which envisions for all Indians social, economic and political justice and ensures that all citizens enjoy liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship. It aims to secure for all equality of status and opportunity. It promotes fraternity among Indians while safeguarding the unity and integrity of the nation.

Occasional stresses and strains notwithstanding, we have proved to the world that people belonging to different races, religious traditions, cultures and language groups can live harmoniously, that multiple identities can flourish in a modern nation without any danger to it.

In the past seven decades our economy has progressed by leaps and bounds. Today our economy is the fourth largest in the world with a growth rate of 6.5 percent. We have achieved self-sufficiency and self-reliance in agriculture and industry. Our technology is comparable with the best in the world. India makes the best remote sensing satellites. We have the most reliable and competitive satellite launching facilities. We are a top ranking space power.

We have a good number of universities, professional institutions and research laboratories that attract students from all over the world. Undoubtedly we have carved out a niche for ourselves in world affairs.

What is the state of India today? She is besetted by many challenges. The first great challenge is the great divide between the rich and the poor and endemic poverty. A globalized free market economy has helped the rich become richer and the poor, poorer. The poor have become victims of the so called development. A small section of society gets the gains of economic growth while large

8-9	Presides over Symposium at St. Ephrem's Theological College, Satna.
10	Administers Confirmation at Jaffarganj
17	CCBI EXCO Meeting at St. John's, Bangalore
21	Clergy Recollection
28	OLP Bicentenary Celebrations at Varanasi
29	Presides over Feast of Archangels, Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Ald
30	Diocesan Mission Team Meeting

sections have to bear the burden of it. If this fault is not repaired India is sure to face social unrest all over the country.

The second big challenge that confronts India is an aggressive, narrow and parochial nationalism which is diametrically opposed to the one given to us by the founding fathers and mothers of our Motherland- Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Maulana Azad, Sarojini Naidu, Sucheta Kriplani, et al. In one of her speeches Mrs. Sonia Gandhi said that theirs was "a nationalism that is liberal and that derives strength from India's plurality...a nationalism that is self-confident and proud of India's past, a past created by the intermingling and confluence of numerous cultures and beliefs...a nationalism that blends tradition and modernity, that celebrates our multiple diversities just as it nurtures our many unities".

The nationalism espoused by the *Hindutvavadis* is engendering hatred, violence and division in the country, tearing its social fabric. We are reminded of the words of Jesus; "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand" (Mk 3:24).

Yet another big challenge the country has to address is politics without principles. Today, in the absence of a higher sense of moral purpose, it has become a game of mere numbers, a pursuit of power. And it seems all is fare in the pursuit of power.

What is our vision for India of tomorrow? Well, it is the same as the one enshrined in our constitution. It is not different from the India of Mahatma Gandhi's dreams. For he had said:

"I shall work for an India in which the people shall feel that it is their country, in whose making they have an effective voice, an India in which there shall be no high class and low class of people, an India in which all communities shall live in perfect harmony. There can be no room in such an India for the curse of untouchability, or the curse of intoxicating drinks and drugs. Women will enjoy the same rights as men, that is the India of my dreams."

What can consecrated persons like you and me do individually and collectively to address the problems confronting the country? As individuals, as communities, as parishes, we can pray for our country and our people. But we need to ensure that our spirituality is authentic and not sham. Once the famous Arya Samagist, Swami Agnivesh, lamented that we have too much of the religion and too little spirituality. He felt that our religiosity was not imbued with a passion to resist the forces of evil; that it was not ablaze with compassion for our fellow beings and for the rest of creation. Authentic spirituality will not permit us to compromise with the forces of evil.

On the contrary it will engage us to reform institutions and practices that are dehumanizing our people. Bonded labour, child labour, injustice, illiteracy, poverty, ill-health, exploitation, superstition, obscurantism, fundamentalism, divisive ideologies, etc. are the things that rob our people of their human dignity and weaken our nation. If our spirituality does now empower us to work for the elimination of these, then that spirituality is suspect. In short there is no true spirituality without a sense of mission.

I liked the **Statement of the Jesuit Conference of South Asia**. It consists of a **Preamble**, a list of the **Core Issues Today**, **Jesuit Response** and **Strategies**. I hope the Jesuits will have no objection to my sharing it with you through email (Please take the printout of it). We can customize it for ourselves.

I wish you a very happy Independence Day and blessings of the Solemnity of Assumption of Mother Mary.

II. Happy Teachers' Day

On the occasion of Teachers' day, I offer my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to all teachers particularly to all Fathers, Sisters and Brothers engaged in the mission of education. I invoke God's blessings on all of you and on all those who are dear to you.

What I ask of you, dear teachers, is that you reflect upon who you are. For you become what you contemplate. You are the practitioners of the noblest profession. You are good teachers who inspire yourselves while teaching. You have strong convictions and values. You are persons whose behaviour is in conformity with the principles you teach your students. In other words you are role models for your students. You cannot form students saying: "Do as I say but not as I do". You are good teachers who are passionately and conscientiously committed to your work. [People who have character and developed personality are capable of deeper commitments]. You possess vast knowledge and full mastery of your subjects. You love your pupils [When we love something it is of value to us, and when something is of value to us we spend time with it, time taking care of it, enjoying it's presence]. You know them well, you understand their psychological peculiarities and you have ways to develop each of them [It is said that the scientist Edison's teacher had judged him to be a duffer. But his mother considered him to be a genius. She herself taught him]. You possess the hallmark of a teacher which is tireless commitment through his/her lessons to his/her pupil's development. You stand as a bridge between God and humans. ["You call me Teacher and Lord- and you are right, for that is what I am." Jn 13:13]. You share in the very work of God, raising individuals from the instinctive level to the human and from the human to the divine. May God help you, dear teachers, to become what you truly are!

September 5 is also the Feast of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. As in the past years this year too we will have a public function in St. Joseph's College, Allahabad. Fr. Leo Sequeira will give you more information regarding this. I encourage priests, religious and faithful of other deaneries to organize similar functions to highlight the causes she fought for.

III. Pieces of Information

1. **Our Annual Clergy Retreat** will begin on **Sunday, 15th October** after supper and will end on **Friday, 20th October** with lunch. Swami Anil Dev IMS will be the preacher. All are expected to attend this retreat. Fathers, please request the religious and the people of your parish to pray for the fruitfulness of the retreat. For those who cannot attend this retreat due to unavoidable reason, arrangement will be made at Shanti Sadan, Chattam Lines.
2. **Divya Jyoti School** for the Visually-Impaired has six children at present. You are welcome to visit and encourage them.
3. **The Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Graces at Duddhi is on the fourth Sunday of October.** This year Most Rev. William D'Souza, Archbishop of Patna is expected to be the main celebrant of

the Feast Day Liturgy. Pilgrimage to a shrine can be an important religious exercise to bring about renewal in one's life and to come closer to God. I request you to encourage as many people as possible to join this pilgrimage and make it a faith experience.

IV. Obituary

Rev. Fr. Benedict Pereira, born on July 31, 1931, in Magge, Karnataka, was the son of a God-fearing and pious couple, Francis Pereira and Eusebia Crasta. After completing his secondary schooling from St. Philomena's High School, Mysore, he came to Allahabad as a candidate for the Diocese of Allahabad in 1952. He did all his studies for the priesthood at St. Joseph's Seminary, Allahabad. He was ordained a priest on December 21, 1960. He began his illustrious priestly ministry as Assistant Pastor of Assumption Church, Dostpur, Sultanpur. The last official post he held before retiring to Vianney Home, Nazareth Hospital, Allahabad in 2006, was that of associate Pastor, St. Xavier's Church, Ashoknagar, Kanpur. During his priestly ministry spanning forty-five long years he criss-crossed the length and breadth of the Diocese of Allahabad as Assistant Pastor, Associate Pastor, Parish Priest, Head Master and so on. Wherever he worked- Dostpur, Kanpur, Allahabad, Renukoot, Pachmarhi, Pratapgarh, Robertsganj, Theresapur, Mirzapur- he endeared himself to all. His companions lovingly called him Munna.

He was a zealous and indefatigable missionary, a prayerful and concerned pastor, an enterprising pioneer, an able administrator and a knowledgeable builder. As he believed in self-reliance, he did not want people to fuss over him. He was a no-nonsense-man.

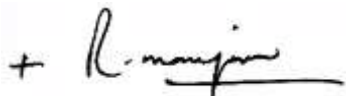
Among the senior priests he was the most healthy till recently. Two months ago he began to suffer shortness of breath and chest discomfort due to pleural effusion (fluid collection in the lung). Correlating various tests done on him the doctors made an intelligent guess that the cause of pleural effusion was malignancy. Though he was treated for it, considering his advanced age and weak body extreme treatment was held back.

Fathers Reginald and Vipin did well to celebrate what turned out to be Fr. Benedict's last Birthday on July 31, 2017. The presence of his three sisters, one sister-in-law and two brothers and a few of our priests made it something special. I was told that Fr. Benedict's health on that day had been very good and that he had looked very happy.

On the night of 5th August, after supper his speech became indistinct and he collapsed. He was taken to the ICCU and helped with Mechanical Ventilation. I myself administered to him the Sacrament of Anointing. In the early hours of 6th August (3:20 a.m.), on the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord, he went to his eternal home.

The Requiem Mass for him was celebrated on the 7th of August at 4:00 p.m. A large crowd consisting of priests, religious, lay faithful and Fr. Benedict's relatives attended the burial service. I am grateful to all those who loved him and cared for him during his life, all those who offered their condolences and all those who attended the funeral service and prayed for the repose of his soul.

May his soul rest in peace!



MOST REV. RAPHY MANJALY
Bishop of Allahabad