

“THE CATECHIST IS CREATIVE” - POPE FRANCIS

(Message of Pope Francis to the First International Symposium on Catechesis,
July 11-14, 2017, Buenos Aires,)

“The catechist is creative; they search for different means and forms of announcing Christ,” the Pope said in his message to catechists from all over the world. Believing in Jesus is “beautiful,” he said, because Jesus is the way, truth and life “who fills our existence with joy and gladness.” “This quest to make Jesus known as supreme beauty leads us to find new signs and ways of transmitting the faith,” he said, noting that while the means might be different, what’s important is to imitate “the style of Jesus, who adapted to the people he had before him in order to make them close to the love of God.”

“To change and adapt oneself in order to make the message closer to the people is necessary,” he said, but the stress is that, the message being transmitted is “always the same, because God doesn't change, but renews all things in Him.” Pope Francis said that in the quest of making Jesus known to the world, “we must not be afraid because He precedes us in this task. He is already in the man of today, and there awaits us.”

He noted that at a certain point, when one of St Francis’ followers asked to be taught how to preach, the saint responded by saying: “Brother, when we visit the sick, help children and give to the poor, we are already preaching.” “In this beautiful lesson is enclosed the vocation and task of the catechist,” he said, explaining that catechesis is not simply a job or a task external to the person of the catechist. Rather, “their whole life revolves around this mission,” he said, noting that to be a catechist is “a vocation of service in the Church, which is received as a gift on the part of the Lord and must in turn be transmitted.”

To do this, one must return to the first encounter with Christ that changed their life. This moment, Francis said, is “the fundamental announcement that must resonate again and again in the life of the Christian, and even more in the one who is called to announce and teach the faith.” A catechist is also someone who journeys both from and with Christ, he said. “They are not a person who starts from their own ideas and preferences, but who allows themselves to look to him, to this gaze that makes their heart burn.” The more that Jesus is the center of our lives, the more he teaches us to go out of ourselves, Francis said, adding that we are then “decentralized” and able to be close to others. “This dynamism of love is like the movement of the heart,” and Jesus himself gives us an example of how to live this when he retreats to pray, and then “immediately goes to the encounter of those who are hungry and thirsty for God in order to heal and save them.” Pope

Francis closes his speech by thanking catechists for their work, “above all because you walk with the People of God,” and encouraged them “to be joyful messengers, guardians of the good and the beauty that shines forth in the faithful life of the missionary disciple.”

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: August 15 - Day of Obligation.

The Solemnity of the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary celebrates both the happy departure of Mary from this life by her natural death, and her assumption bodily into heaven. It is a sign to us that someday, through God’s grace we too may join the Blessed Mother in giving glory to God. The Assumption is a source of great hope for us, too, for it points the way for all followers of Christ who imitate her fidelity and obedience to God’s will. Where she now is, we are meant eventually to be. Mary is taken to heaven after her life on earth was ended because of her immaculate nature, uniquely protected by God’s grace. We seek to imitate her self-sacrificing love, her indestructible faith and her perfect obedience. I wish the Assumption Sisters in our diocese a very happy Feast.

Appointment

Rev. Fr Paul Percy D’silva is appointed as the manager of St Joseph’s English Medium School, Marikkunnu and St Aloysius L. P. School, Karanthur, Kunnamangalam.

Bishops’ Retreat

Retreat for the Bishops of KCBC will be from 7th August 2017 to 11th August 2017. Kindly remember all the Bishops in your prayers especially on the days of retreat.

Bishop Maxwell Noronha Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee Scholarship

Applications are invited to Bishop Maxwell Noronha Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee Scholarship from the students of our Diocese, who have passed SSLC 2017 with **Grade A+** in all the subjects. Eligible students may please send the filled application form together with the photocopy of SSLC certificate to the Bishop’s House before 20th August 2017.

Priests’ Annual Retreat

The Annual Retreat of our priests (July 16 -July 21, 2017) was a unique experience of prayer, reflection and sharing. We thank and pray for **Rev. Fr Thomas Kozhimala MCBS**, who helped our priests to journey with Christ our Lord during the days of Retreat. I appreciate the good will

and readiness of our priests who attended the retreat. Thanks to all the religious congregations, Institutions and lay people who prayed for our priests.

World Malayalee Charismatic Conference

World Malayalee Charismatic Conference will be held at Aloor, near Irinjalakuda from 12th August to 16th August. Please pray for the success of the Conference.

Pray for our Priests

Please pray for all our priests who are celebrating their Patron's day on 4th August, feast of St John Mary Vianney.

Thank you

My sincere thanks to all of you for your valuable prayers for the recovery of my voice. I really appreciate your love and concern for me. Some of you really surprised me by sending messages and greeting cards. These were the days of the experience of God's love for me.

Collection to PMAF

Kindly send to the Curia, the collection which is made for PMAF on the Sunday close to the feast of St John Mary Vianney.

Peter's Pence

I would like to remind you about the Peter's Pence collection to be remitted in the Curia.

Fathima ITC

Fathima ITC in Calicut which gives training in 'Draftsman Civil' for girls is inviting application from candidates who have successfully completed SSLC. I request our Parish Priests to encourage our Girls to apply for this job oriented course. Applications are to be submitted by the end of August 2017. Contact: 0495 2365723, 999 533 8582

Birthdays

August	01	Rev. Fr Tom Arackal
	08	Rev. Fr George Kandathil, S. J.
	15	Rev. Fr Aloysius Kulangara
	31	Rev. Fr Sanal Lawrence D' Souza

We join you dear fathers in thanking the Lord for the gift of life and wish you a very happy Birthday and God's blessings. "*Ad Multos Annos*"

BISHOP'S DIARY- AUGUST, 2017

August 1-3	:	Retreat Centre, Attapady
August 4	:	Priests' Meeting, Calicut
August 5	:	Engaged
August 6	:	Engaged
August 7-11	:	KCBC retreat at Kakkanadu
August 12	:	Bishop's House, meeting people
August 13	:	World Malayalee Charismatic Conference, Aloor
August 14-17	:	Gujarat
August 18	:	Bishop's House, meeting people
August 19	:	Marriage, Chundale
August 20	:	Manalikkadu, Kottapuram
August 21	:	Bishop's House
August 22	:	Bishop's House
August 23	:	Aluva
August 24	:	Malabar Theologians' meet, Navajyothis, Calicut
August 31	:	Reception of the statue of Our Lady of Fathima, Marikkunnu.