



SHEPHERD'S CALL

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD

VOL: LIII

NO.10

OCTOBER 2026



8th CENTENARY of the Transitus of Saint Francis of Assisi

1226 – 2026

*A life of simplicity,
a heart for all creation,
a witness of Christ.*



Care for Creation

*Our Common Home,
Our Shared Responsibility.*



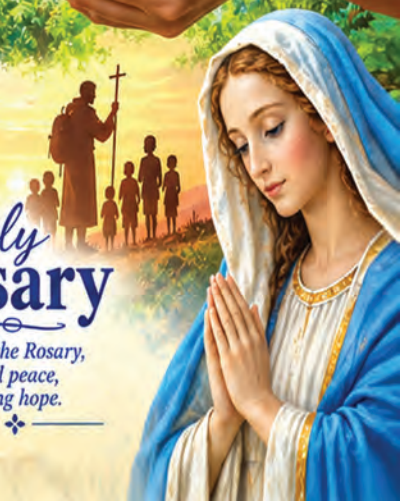
100th MISSION SUNDAY

18th OCTOBER

*One in Christ,
United in Mission.*

Holy Rosary

*Pray the Rosary,
find peace,
bring hope.*





Funeral Mass of Fr Madanu Chinnaiah



REV. FR. MADANU CHINNAIAH
Date of Birth : 21-12-1964
Priestly Ordination: 29-03-1995
Date of Death: 11-09-2026
Memorial Mass on 09-10-2026
at 09.30 am at St. Mary's Basilica
May His Soul Rest in Peace



SHEPHERD'S CALL

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OCTOBER

2026



Archbishop's Message



The Lord God's promise of everlasting covenantal life in the Holy Spirit with Himself for the Remnant of Israel (Ezek.36:26-27 and 37:20-28) was reiterated and confirmed by Him in the fifth servant song of Deutero-Isaiah (Is.61:1-3). Herein He disclosed, that this covenantal life in the Holy Spirit would be merited by the sufferings and sacrificial death of His promised servant (Is.53:10-12) and personally bestowed on them by him: 'The Spirit of the Lord God is on me, for He has anointed me...

to give to Zion's mourners
a garland in place of ashes,
the oil of gladness in place of mourning dress,
festal dress in place of despondency;
and they will be called 'terebinths of righteousness'
planted by the Lord God to glorify Him.'

In Is. 61:10, the Lord God disclosed the response of the Remnant of Israel after receiving this promised covenantal life with Himself in the Holy Spirit:

'I exult for joy in the Lord God,
My soul rejoices in my God,

for He has clothed me in garments of salvation,
He has wrapped me in a cloak of His saving justice,
Like a bridegroom wearing his garland,
Like a bride adorned in her jewels.'

Compare this prophesied response of the Remnant of Israel with the actual historical response of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St. Elizabeth's loud acclamation in the Holy Spirit of the divine motherhood conferred upon her by the Lord God for the historical realization of the incarnation of His only begotten Son as our Lord Jesus Christ in view of His imminent historical bestowal of His promised covenantal life in the Holy Spirit through Him on the contemporary community of the Remnant of Israel (on Pentecost day):

'My soul magnifies the Lord,
And my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
For He has looked on the lowliness of His handmaid,
For behold, from henceforth all generations will call me blessed.
For the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is His Name.
And His mercy is from generation to generation to them who fear Him.'

By doing so, not only shall we discover the content of 'the great things' done in Her by the Lord God, but we shall also discover that by saluting the Blessed Virgin Mary in his words 'Hail, full of grace,' the Angel Gabriel was declaring to Her that the Lord God had bestowed on her this promised covenantal life in the Holy Spirit in fullness at the very moment He had brought her into existence in the womb of her own mother (St. Ann) in view of Her divine maternity for the historical incarnation of His only begotten Son for the salvation of all those who fear Him from generation to generation until the end of time. This is the mystery of Her Immaculate Conception which we too acclaim and joyfully celebrate as we hail her in the very words of Angel Gabriel every time, we utter the words of the Hail Mary as we pray the Holy Rosary to Her Immaculate Heart: "Hail Mary, full of grace!" May this holy joy be ours in the Holy Spirit during this month of October.

Solemnities and Feasts

October 01

St. Therese of the Child Jesus [Feast]

Today we celebrate the Feast of the great Patroness of Missions, St. Therese of Lisieux, also known as St. Therese of the Child Jesus. St. Therese was a Carmelite nun who was remembered for her great piety and faith, her commitment to the Lord and her great writings and contributions to the Church. As such, she was greatly revered by many people who were touched and inspired by her examples and holy life, even though she had a relatively short life when she died at the very young age of twenty-four.

St. Therese spent her life afterwards in great piety and commitment to God, while still enduring both physical and spiritual trials and difficulties. Yet, all these did not dampen her spirit and enthusiasm as she continued to persevere through prayer and strict discipline throughout her life as a Carmelite and she wrote down her experiences of receiving visions and other spiritual experiences that she lived through. She was also then known for her famous 'Little Way' which also earned her the name of the 'Little Flower of Carmel'.

It is that we do not have to do great things in order to attain the glory of Heaven. Rather, our good works and our living by our faith is measured by the small little actions we do each day and every moment of our lives. Little by little, small effort bit by bit, we will eventually get there, and we will find our way to the Lord if we continue to persevere in our faith and remain faithful to God. This is what we have been called to do through the examples of St. Therese of Lisieux, her faith and exemplary life.

-source: www.petercanisiusmichaeldavidkang.com



October 2

The Holy Guardian Angels



Perhaps no aspect of Catholic piety is as comforting to parents as the belief that an angel protects their little ones from dangers real and imagined. Yet guardian angels are not only for children. Their role is to represent individuals before God, to watch over them always, to aid their prayer, and to present their souls to God at death.

The concept of an angel assigned to guide and nurture each human being is a development of Catholic doctrine and piety based on Scripture but not directly drawn from it. Jesus' words in Matthew 18:10 best support the belief: "See that you do not

despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father.”

Devotion to the angels began to develop with the birth of the monastic tradition. Saint Benedict gave it impetus and Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, the great 12th-century reformer, was such an eloquent spokesman for the guardian angels that angelic devotion assumed its current form in his day.

A feast in honour of the guardian angels was first observed in the 16th century. In 1615, Pope Paul V added it to the Roman calendar. The word “angel” means messenger. Thus, our angels play a central role in communicating to us the will and mind of God. They can speak all that God wants to say to us. They are also protectors in that they bring grace from God to particular situations in life to fight against evil and to help us do good.

-Source: www.franciscanmedia.org

October 4

St. Francis of Assisi

On Oct. 4, Roman Catholics celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the Italian deacon who brought renewal to the Church through his decision to follow Jesus’ words as literally as possible.

In a January 2010 general audience, Pope Benedict XVI recalled this “giant of holiness” as a “great saint and a joyful man,” who taught the Church that “the secret of true happiness” is “to become saints, close to God.”

Three major incidents confirmed Francis in this path. In Assisi, he overcame his fear of disease to kiss the hand of a leper. Afterward, he made a pilgrimage to Rome, where he deposited his money at Saint Peter’s tomb and exchanged clothes with a beggar. Soon after he returned home, Francis heard Christ tell him in a vision: “Go, Francis, and repair my house, which as you see is falling into ruin.”

Francis began to use his father’s wealth to restore churches. This led to a public quarrel in which the cloth-merchant’s son removed his clothing and declared that he had no father except God. He regarded himself as the husband of “Lady Poverty,” and resolved to serve Christ as “a herald of the Great King.”

Through his imitation of Christ, Francis also shared in the Lord’s sufferings. He miraculously received Christ’s wounds, the stigmata, in his own flesh during September of 1224. His health collapsed over the next two years, a “living sacrifice” made during two decades of missionary preaching and penance.

St. Francis of Assisi died on Oct. 3, 1226. Pope Gregory IX, his friend and devotee, canonized him in 1228.

-Source: www.catholicnewsagency.com



Today's feast of Our Lady of the Rosary has its roots in a feast named Our Lady of Victory. In the late sixteenth century, the Muslims of the Ottoman Empire were expanding into southeastern Europe and the Mediterranean region. In 1571, Pope Pius V, who was a Dominican, formed an alliance between the Papal States, Spain, Venice, and several other smaller Christian states, called the Holy League, in order to stop Ottoman aggression. On October 7 of that year, the Holy League confronted the Ottoman navy in the Mediterranean, and the pope called upon all of Europe to pray the Rosary for victory. Victory was achieved. In gratitude, Pope Pius V instituted the Feast of Our Lady of Victory to be celebrated on the first Sunday of October every year. Two years later, Pope Gregory XIII changed the name to the Feast of the Holy Rosary. In 1671, the feast was extended to all of Spain, and in 1716, after another important victory against the Muslims, the feast was extended to the entire Church. In 1913, Pius X changed the date from the first Sunday in October to October 7 to preserve the Sunday celebration. Today, this feast is celebrated under the title of Our Lady of the Rosary as a mandatory memorial on the Roman Calendar.



Though war is always gravely unfortunate and should be avoided if at all possible, defense of one's family and nation is a moral duty when an unjust aggressor attacks. In this case, prayer is the greatest weapon of war, and after the Mass, the Rosary is the greatest prayer to be prayed.

-Source: <https://mycatholic.life>

October 10

St. Luke the Evangelist

On October 18, Catholics and other Christians around the world will celebrate the feast of St. Luke, the physician and companion of St. Paul whose gospel preserved the most extensive biography of Jesus Christ.

St. Luke wrote a greater volume of the New Testament than any other single author, including the earliest history of the Church. Ancient traditions also acknowledge Luke as the founder of Christian iconography, making him a patron of artists as well as doctors and other medical-caregivers. Luke came from the large metropolitan city of Antioch, a part of modern-day Turkey. In Luke's lifetime, his native city emerged as an important center of early Christianity. During the future saint's early years, the city's port had already become a cultural center, renowned for arts and sciences. Historians do not know whether Luke came to Christianity from Judaism or paganism, although there are strong suggestions that Luke was a gentile convert. Luke was also among the only companions of Paul who did not abandon him during his final imprisonment and death in Rome. After the martyrdom of St. Paul in the year 67, St. Luke is said to have preached elsewhere throughout the Mediterranean, and possibly died as a martyr. However, even tradition is unclear on this point. Fittingly, the evangelist whose travels and erudition could have filled volumes, wrote just enough to proclaim the gospel and apostolic preaching to the world.

-Source: www.catholicnewsagency.com



Little is known about the post-Pentecost life of St. Simon, who had been called a Zealot. He is thought to have preached in Egypt and then to have joined St. Jude in Persia. Here, he was supposedly martyred by being cut in half with a saw, a tool he is often depicted with. However, the 4th-century St. Basil the Great says he died in Edessa, peacefully.



St. Jude, known as Thaddaeus, was a brother of St. James the Lesser, and a relative of Jesus.

Ancient writers tell us that he preached the Gospel in Judea, Samaria, Idumaea, Syria, Mesopotamia, and Lybia. According to Eusebius, he returned to Jerusalem in the year 62 and assisted at the election of his brother, St. Simeon, as Bishop of Jerusalem.

He is an author of an epistle (letter) to the Churches of the East, in particular the Jewish converts, directed against the heresies of the Simonians, Nicolaites, and Gnostics. This Apostle is said to have suffered martyrdom in Armenia, which was then subject to Persia. The final conversion of the Armenian nation to Christianity did not take place until the third century A.D.

St. Jude was the one who asked Jesus at the Last Supper why He would not manifest Himself to the whole world after His resurrection. Little else is known of his life, but legend claims that he visited Beirut and Edessa. He was beaten to death with a club, then beheaded post-mortem in 1st century Persia. His relics reside at Saint Peter's in Rome, at Rheims, and at Toulouse, France. *-Source: www.catholicnewsagency.com*

POPE'S INTENTION: OCTOBER, 2026

For mental health ministry: Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.



CARDINAL'S INTENTION: OCTOBER, 2026

That we may cherish and protect God's creation, using its resources responsibly and caring for our common home for the generations to come.



Archbishop's Engagements

N.B.:"In office days", Please call the Secretary before coming. Ph No : 72079 40883

OCTOBER 2026

01 - 31. : Abroad

TENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS: NOVEMBER 2026

01. Sun 09.00 a.m. : First Holy Communion & Confirmation at St. John Vianney Church, Bhoiguda
02. Mon 03.30 pm : All Souls Day Mass at Mettuguda Cemetery
05.30 pm : All Souls Day Mass at Bhoiguda Cemetery, Secunderabad.
04. Wed : Inaugural Session of the National Consultation of the CBCI Office for SC/BC, St. John's Seminary, Ramanthapur
06. Fri : Platinum Jubilee Inauguration of Xavier Board, St Joseph's Engineering College, Palai Kerala
08. Sun 09.30 a.m. : First Holy Communion & Confirmations at Shrine of Our Lady of Good Health, Khairathabad
15. Sun 09.30 a.m. : First Holy Communion & Confirmations at Holy Family Church, Trimulgherry
05.00 p.m. : Festive Mass at St Cecilia's Church, Dayanandnagar

19. Thu 10.30 a.m. : Final Profession of Sisters of Charity, Shrine of Our Lady of Good Health, Khairathabad
20. Fri 05.30 p.m. : Holy Angels CBSE School, Annual Day
21. Sat 09.30 a.m. : Perpetual Profession of St. Ann's of Phirangipuram CSSA Sisters, Madinaguda
22. Sun 08.00 a.m. : First Holy Communion & Confirmations at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry
- 10.00 a.m : Festive Mass, First Holy Communion & Confirmations at Christ the King Church, Ramanthapur
- 24-28. Tue-Sat : Plenary Assembly, Rome

30th September 2026
Archbishop's House

✠ Cardinal Poola Anthony
Archbishop of Hyderabad

LOCAL MASS INTENTIONS

DATE	PARISH/INDIVIDUAL	NO. OF MASSES
31-08-2026	DAMMAIGUDA	149
02-09-2026	EMJALA	1000
03-09-2026	MARIAPURAM - ADIBATLA	20
15-09-2026	LALLAGUDA (Our Lady of Vailankanni Shrine)	500
15-09-2026	GUNFOUNDRY	126
21-09-2026	SURARAM	50
21-09-2026	KUKATPALLY	180
23-09-2026	TRIMULGHERRY	550
24-09-2026	GANDHINAGAR	800
25-09-2026	KHARITHABAD	8108
26-09-2026	METTUGUDA	6000
		17483

CONTRIBUTION FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE GLACIAL LAKE OUTBURST FLOOD IN NEPAL

Sl. No	Parish	Place	Amount
1	Maria Rani Church	Mariapuram - Adibatla	4,000.00
2	Holy Trinity Church	Begumpet	12,650.00
3	St Joseph's Cathedral	Gunfoundry	2,00,000.00
4	St John De Britto	Bayyaram	12,000.00
5	Infant Jesus Shrine	Gajwel	35,000.00
6	Our Lady of Fatima Church	Dammaiguda	37,940.00
7	Lourdu Matha Church	Bolligudem	35,000.00
8	St Ignatius Church	Gagillapuram	1,26,490.00
9	St Francis Xavier Church	Alwal	20,250.00
10	St Francis of Assisi Church	Ramnagar	3,000.00
11	St Joseph's Church	Moula Ali	9,200.00
12	St John's Church	R. C. Puram	15,000.00
13	Our Lady of Fatima Shrine	Suraram	2,000.00
14	Mother of Perpetual Help Church	Yeddumailaram	3,000.00
15	St Mary's Basilica	Secunderabad	20,000.00
16	St Anthony's Church	Sappers Line	7,500.00
17	Our Lady of Rosary Church	Miyapur	6,000.00
18	Mary Help of Christians Church	Santoshnagar	44,400.00
19	Shrine of Our Lady of Vailankanni	Shamshabad	4,000.00
20	St Sebastian Church	Sainikpuri	6,000.00
21	Immaculate Conception Church	Kukatpally	1,50,220.00
22	Jeevan Datha Church	Ummenthall	10,580.00
23	Ashely John Coelho	Trimulgherry	25,000.00
24	Holy Family Church	Trimulgherry	38,700.00
25	St Mary's College of Pharmacy	Secunderabad	10,000.00
26	St. Francis De Sales	Shantinagar	29,431.00
27	St Joseph's Church	Patnacheruvu	13,000.00
28	St Theresa's Church	Santhnagar	20,760.00
			9,01,121.00

Communications

1. MONTH OF OCTOBER IS DEDICATED TO THE HOLY ROSARY:

The Church dedicates the month of October to the Holy Rosary, a tradition begun by Pope Leo XIII in *Supremi Apostolatus Officio* (1883). With the Angel we greet Our Lady: *"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"* (Luke 1:28). Let this grace-filled month renew our commitment to praying the Rosary daily. Called a "compendium of the entire Gospel", the Rosary lets us walk with Mary, who *"kept all these things, pondering them in her heart"* (Luke 2:19). St John Paul II taught that in the Rosary *"the Christian people sits at the school of Mary"*, and he called it *"a marvellous prayer... marvellous in its simplicity and in its depth."* The Rosary strengthens our families, for *"the family that prays together stays together"*. It protects us against evil and brings countless blessings. Popes from Paul VI to Francis and Leo XIV have urged us to pray it daily in October for peace and for the Church. I encourage all our parishes, institutions and Small Christian Communities to organise special Rosary programmes this month, especially family and community recitation. Through the Rosary we place our lives and our homes under the maternal care of Mary, given to us by Jesus from the Cross: *"Behold, your mother!"* (John 19:27).

2. MISSION SUNDAY CELEBRATION ON 18th OCTOBER, 2026:

As the Church prepares to celebrate the 100th World Mission Sunday on 18 October 2026, the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, has given us an inspiring theme for this centenary year: *"One in Christ, United in Mission."* In his message, the Pope reminds us that believers are united in faith through Christ's unity with the Father, and that this unity grounds our shared mission of evangelisation. Echoing the prayer of Jesus, *"that they may all be one... so that the world may believe"* (Jn 17:21), he calls every disciple to bear witness to God's faithful love through reconciled and fraternal communities.

All Parish Priests, Priests-in-Charge and Heads of Institutions are earnestly requested to observe Mission Sunday with due solemnity. On this occasion, the clergy are encouraged to highlight the message of the Holy Father during the homily, as published in this edition of *Shepherd's Call* (see pages 34-39).

Let us remember our common responsibility as baptised members of the Church and respond with faith and generosity by:

- **Praying fervently for the missions:** for their growth, and for all missionaries who courageously proclaim the Word of God, often in poor, distant and conflict-ridden places.
- **Promoting vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life:** so that the mission of the Church may continue to flourish, as the Holy Father reminds us that the world still needs new missionary vocations.
- **Making generous offerings on Mission Sunday:** to support the missions and missionaries across the world, for as the Pope says, every gift, no matter how small, becomes a meaningful act of missionary communion.

May Mary, Queen of Missions, make us one in Christ and united in mission.

3. I would earnestly ask each of you to take this to heart. Please also remember that our diocese has a health policy in place, should you fall unwell, do not hesitate; seek treatment at the nearest good hospital without delay. Each one of you is precious to this archdiocese, and your wellbeing matters deeply to me.
4. I ask you to guide your parishioners with patience, care, and pastoral sensitivity in matters of marriage preparation, questions concerning annulment, funeral services and other pastoral needs that may be brought to you. Please receive them with generosity, particularly when they approach you in moments of confusion, difficulty, or distress. I am aware that many parishes are facing a genuine shortage of burial space. I therefore ask you to accompany families through such situations with gentleness, understanding, and compassion, while ensuring that the necessary

documentation and proper parish procedures are duly followed. At the time of bereavement, kindly be considerate

5. As already communicated earlier, I kindly ask that no renovation or construction work be undertaken in your parishes without first seeking my permission. This is important for the good order of our diocese, and I appreciate your cooperation.

✠ Cardinal Poola Anthony, Archbishop of Hyderabad

Chancery Notice

1. Mission Sunday 2026:

- The Parish Priests/ Priests In-Charge/ Heads of the Institutions are requested to motivate, animate and encourage our Faithful, Youth and Children to contribute generously. Please send the contributions to the Procurator's Office, Archbishop's House, Secunderabad, as early as possible, which will be forwarded to the Pontifical Mission Office.
- Mission Sunday posters and envelopes are available at Archbishop's House.

3. THE INTERIM AUDIT OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD SOCIETY:

The Interim Audit of the Accounts of **Archdiocese and its Parishes** will be done for the period from **01-04-2026 to 31-10-2026**. The parish Priests and all persons concerned are requested to go through the guidelines. **The Audit will be done in the respective Parishes.** The schedule will be sent to the parish priests by WhatsApp.

All Parishes have to keep ready the following documents/books of accounts/statements for audit as given here below.

1. Receipts & Payments Account for the period from 1st April, 2026 to 31st October, 2026 for as many accounts being maintained.
2. Cash book, Ledger and other books like Daily Collection Register, Salary

Register, along with supporting documents like Receipts books, Documentary evidence for payments duly signed by the person in charge/ authorized, and sanction letter.

3. The Mass Receipts of the Archdiocese/Parish, together with the Mass Register has to be presented for Audit.
4. Email/WatsApp will be sent to individual parish/In charge father, the Annexure's (Excel Format) required for the audit, should be prepared and submitted at the time of Audit.
5. Bank Statements for all the Bank Accounts maintained by Parishes for the period of the as mentioned above as on 31-10-2026.
6. Persons doing the accounts of the parishes namely Parish accountant, Volunteer, Finance Committee ect. are to be present when the Auditor visits the parish.

MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL - ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD

Those seeking to approach the Marriage Tribunal for a **Declaration of Nullity of Marriage** are requested to submit the following:

1. Detailed application addressed to the **Judicial Vicar**.
2. Recent **Original Baptism Certificate**.
3. Recent **Marriage Certificate**.
4. **Letter from the Parish Priest**.
5. Photocopy of the **Civil Divorce Decree/Certificate**.

After preparing the above documents, please contact +91 6304287837 to schedule an appointment with the **Judicial Vicar**.

- Fr Anthony Sagayaraja (Notary- Marriage Tribunal)

2ND SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2026

Sl No.	Date	Place	Amount	Sl No.	Date	Place	Amount
1		Armoor		54		Lillipur	
2		Aliabad		55		Mahendra Hills	
3		Alirajpet		56	21-09-2026	Madinaguda	2500
4	11-08-2026	Alwal	13470	57	24-08-2026	Mallapur	984
5		Ammuguda		58		Manikonda Mission	
6		Arogya Nagar (Mission)		59	17-08-2026	Mariapuram (Adibatla)	1000
7		Arul Colony		60		Medak	
8		Balaji Nagar		61		Medchal	
9	09-09-2026	Band Lines	4267	62	04-09-2026	Medipally	2500
10	17-08-2026	Bandlaguda Jagir	35000	63		Mettuguda	
11	26-08-2026	Banjara Hills	11800	64	07-09-2026	Miyapur	3000
12		Basuregadi		65		Moul-Ali	
13		Bayyaram		66		Mudfort	
14		Bazarghat		67		Muthangi	
15	21-09-2026	BHEL - MIG	6000	68		Nacharam	
16	19-08-2026	Begumpet	5720	69		Nandrakal	
17		Bodhan		70		Nedunoor	
18		Boduppal		71	09-09-2026	Neela Camp	300
19	10-09-2026	Bhoiguda	10000	72	24-08-2026	Nizamabad	1500
20		Bolarum		73		Nizampet	
21	16-09-2026	Bolligudem	1500	74		Pargi	
22		Borabanda		75		Patancheru	
23	09-09-2026	Bowenpally	10000	76	01-09-2026	Ramachandrapuram	8000
24		Cherlapally		77		Ramanthapur	
25		Chintalacheruvu		78	17-08-2026	Ramnagar	11750
26	19-09-2026	Church Colony	3000	79		Sadasivpet	
27	31-08-2026	Dammaiguda	11100	80		Sainikpuri	
28		Dharmaram		81	19-08-2026	Sanathnagar	20440
29		Dayanandnagar		82		Sangareddy	
30		Emjala		83	21-09-2026	Santhoshnagar	2000
31		Gaddiannaram		84		Sappers Lines	
32		Gagillapuram		85	12-08-2026	Secunderabad	50000
33		Gajwel		86		Shabad	
34	24-09-2026	Gandhinagar	9526	87	21-09-2026	Shamshabad	2500
35		Garrison (Trimulgherry)		88	19-08-2026	Shanthinagar	2940
36	11-08-2026	Ghatkesar	900	89		Shapurnagar	
37	14-08-2026	Golconda	15000	90		Siddipet	
38	19-08-2026	Godumakunda	800	91		Seethaphalmandi	
39	24-08-2026	Gunfoundry	16000	92	10-08-2026	Sultan Bazar	4000
40	21-09-2026	Jadi Jamalpur	250	93	17-08-2026	Suraram	3000
41	15-09-2026	Jagadgirigutta	3500	94		Tandur	
42		Jahanuma		95		Toopran	
43		Jeedimetla		96	25-08-2026	Trimulgherry	35200
44		Jeeva Jala		97		Uminthal	
45		Jogipet		98		Vanasthalipuram	
46		Joipet		99		Venkatapuram	
47		Kalwakole		100		Vikarabad	
48		Kamareddy		101	10-08-2026	Yapral	10000
49		Khairatabad		102	28-08-2026	Yeddumylaram	400
50		Kissan Nagar		103		Yellareddy	
51	21-09-2026	Kukatpally	30000	104	17-09-2026	Zaheerabad	800
52	15-09-2026	Lallaguda	12000				
53	01-09-2026	L. B. Nagar	1380			Total	364027

Pastoral News

1. ANNUAL FEAST OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS CHURCH, JAHANUMA



2. ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD MARKS 140 YEARS OF CATHOLIC HIERARCHY AT ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL, GUNFOUNDRY

The Archdiocese of Hyderabad commemorated 140 years of Catholic hierarchy in India and the establishment of the Diocese of Hyderabad with a Thanksgiving Eucharistic Celebration on September 4. Held under the theme “Grateful for the Past, Faithful in the Present, Hopeful for the Future,” the celebration brought together Cardinal Anthony Poola, Archbishop of Hyderabad, priests of the archdiocese, religious men and women and lay faithful. Cardinal Poola presided over the Eucharistic celebration, which recalled the major milestones in the history and growth of the Catholic Church in Hyderabad.

The year 1886 marked a turning point for the Catholic Church in India. On September 1 that year, Pope Leo XIII promulgated the Apostolic Constitution *Humanae Salutis Auctor*, formally establishing the Catholic hierarchy in India. As part of the reorganisation, the Apostolic Vicariate of Hyderabad was raised to the status of a diocese, with Bishop Pietro Caprotti, PIME, appointed its first residential bishop.

The following year, St Joseph's Church, Gunfoundry, was designated as the cathedral and became the spiritual and administrative centre of the newly established diocese. Over the decades, the Diocese of Hyderabad expanded significantly, eventually giving rise to eight dioceses — Bellary, Vijayawada, Warangal, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Nalgonda, Eluru and Khammam.

Hyderabad was elevated to a metropolitan archdiocese on September 19, 1953, with Archbishop Joseph Mark Gopu becoming its first archbishop. The archdiocese subsequently continued its pastoral journey under Archbishops Joseph Mark Gopu, Samineni Arulappa, Marampudi Joji and Thumma Bala.

In 2020, Archbishop Anthony Poola assumed pastoral leadership of the archdiocese. His elevation to the College of Cardinals in 2022 marked a significant moment for the Telugu-speaking Catholic community. In 2026, Cardinal Poola was elected President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI). The anniversary celebration also paid tribute to generations of missionaries, bishops, priests, religious and lay faithful whose service contributed to the growth of the Church in Hyderabad over the past 140 years.

The archdiocese's journey has included contributions to evangelisation, education, healthcare, social service and pastoral ministry, areas that continue to form an important part of its mission. The anniversary celebration invited the Archdiocesan community to look towards the future with renewed faith and commitment while drawing inspiration from the legacy of previous generations. The 140th anniversary was thus presented as both an occasion of thanksgiving for God's faithfulness and a renewed call to mission grateful for the past, faithful in the present and hopeful for the future.

- Fr Jerome Emmanuel, Archdiocesan Youth Director

1. REPORT ON TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATION – 2026 ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH, VENKATAPURAM

The Teachers' Day celebration was organised on 6th September 2026 at St. Anthony's Church, Venkatapuram. The celebration began with a Thanksgiving



Eucharist celebrated by Rev. Fr. Kennedy, Parish Priest. The Mass was offered for all teachers, both working and retired, thanking God for their dedicated service in shaping the future of our children.

It was followed by a felicitation ceremony and a cultural program led by our catechism children. The children expressed their love and gratitude through innovative dances, skits, songs and greeting cards prepared with much love. All the teachers, both present working and retired, who were present were deeply moved and delighted. They enjoyed the time together and appreciated the efforts of our children and catechism teachers. We sincerely thank our catechism children, teachers, and all who helped to make this celebration a memorable one.

- Fr. Charles MMI, Asst.Parish Priest, St. Anthony's Church, Venkatapuram

2. REPORT ON “ELEVATE YOUTH” PROGRAMME - ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH, VENKATAPURAM

An initiative program titled “Elevate the Youth” was organized on 20th September 2026, Saturday, for the youth of St. Anthony's Parish, Venkatapuram.



The program was attended by more than 30 youth who were greatly benefited. The resource persons were Mr and Mrs Vijay Bernadette from our own parish. They conducted an inspiring seminar on “The Presentation of Today’s Youth to the Challenges of the World.” The youth actively participated and expressed their joy and interest, looking forward to the next meet. We thank all the resource persons and the youth who made this program a success.

- Fr. Charles MMI, Asst.Parish Priest, St. Anthony’s Church, Venkatapuram

3. PRESENTATION ON “CARE FOR CREATION”

I. Introduction: Pope Leo XIV’s 2026 Care for Creation message and the Season of Creation, the central theme focuses on “**Living Water**” alongside a deep call for peace, healing from war, and environmental conversion. The principal message given by Pope Leo XIV for the 11th World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (1 September 2026) focuses deeply on healing a wounded world.



II. Theme and Logo Explanation

1. **Biblical Foundation:** Inspired by **Ezekiel 47:1–12**, the theme depicts life-giving water flowing from God’s sanctuary to heal and revitalize the earth.
2. **Core Symbol:** The “**Immersion in Living Water**” graphic symbolizes spiritual renewal and human environmental accountability.
3. **Call to Action:** It urges believers to safeguard clean water, restore ecosystems, and protect the Earth.

4. **Papal Support:** Pope Leo XIV endorses the September 1–October 4 observance, highlighting creation care and water access as central to Christian faith.



The official logo for the **2026 Season of Creation** is designed around the central theme, “**Living Water.**”

III. Visual Elements and Explanation

The graphical composition serves as a theological call to action for protecting the earth’s marine ecosystems:

1. **The Flowing Water (Swirling Waves):** Swirling blue and teal waves cradle the entire design. This visualizes the text from Ezekiel 47:1–12, where a small stream trickles out from the threshold of God’s temple and swells into a powerful, deep river that brings fresh life, healing, and renewal wherever it flows.
2. **The Parish Church:** At the centre of the life-giving flow sits a clean, white church building topped with a cross. This highlights the church’s role as a sanctuary where spiritual renewal originates, while placing the Christian community right at the centre of environmental stewardship.
3. **The Swimming Fish:** Swimming dynamically within the lower waves are native fish. They represent the immediate revival of aquatic biodiversity and serve as a reminder of the human obligation to protect oceans, lakes, and rivers from pollution.
4. **The Sprouting Green Leaves:** Tucked right against the church walls are vibrant green leaves sprouting upward. This signifies that true spiritual renewal leads directly to tangible, ecological fruitfulness, echoing how Ezekiel’s river nourished fruit trees along its banks.

Together, the logo outlines a message of “**Immersion in Living Water,**” reminding communities that caring for creation is deeply tied to baptismal identity and faith.

IV. 10 practical ways to care for creation

Taking care of God's creation involves practicing everyday stewardship through conservation, reducing waste, and appreciating the natural world.

Here are 10 practical ways to care for creation:

1. Go outside and appreciate nature
2. Reduce household waste
3. Conserve water
4. Save electricity
5. Plant trees and flowers
6. Buy local and seasonal food
7. Minimize food waste
8. Reuse and repurpose items
9. Choose sustainable transport
10. Pray and educate others

V. How to Celebrate the season of Creation by local Parishes

Local parishes can celebrate the **Season of Creation** by integrating the theme **"Living Water"** into their spiritual liturgy, community projects, and environmental advocacy. The official **Season of Creation Celebration Guide** provides several practical ways for parishes to participate between September 1 and October 4:

1. Liturgical & Prayer Celebrations

- A. Offer the "Mass for the Care of Creation":** Use the new creation care liturgy recently added to the Missal by the Church, featuring specialized prayers and Scripture readings focused on stewardship.
- B. Incorporate Special Intercessions:** Include a dedicated Season of Creation prayer at the end of the Prayer of the Faithful during regular Sunday Masses.
- C. Host a River Ritual or Outdoor Service:** Organize an ecumenical prayer service outside by a local river, stream, or sea access point to meditate on the gift of "Living Water".
- D. Feast of St. Francis (October 4):** Conclude the season by hosting a traditional *Blessing of the Animals/Pets* on the feast day of the patron saint of ecology.

2. Community Education & Awareness

- A. Hang Banners and Visual Displays:** Display bilingual, eco-friendly natural fiber banners outside the church to promote the theme to the broader community.

- B. **Host Workshops and Guest Speakers:** Invite local environmental experts or waterkeepers to give a presentation on protecting regional watersheds and clean water access.
- C. **Creation Altar Displays:** Encourage parishioners to place symbolic items of creation—such as local fruits, soil, or water elements—before the altar as visual reminders of God’s handiwork.

3. Practical Ecological Action

- A. **Water Conservation Audits:** Form a parish creation care team to review the church’s water use and implement ground water systems or rain gardens.
- B. **Parish Nature Walks:** Arrange a community nature hike or watershed cleanup, finishing with a shared vegetarian or locally-sourced parish picnic.
- C. **Youth Group - “Rubbish Graveyards”:** Set up an educational display mapping how long common waste items take to biodegrade, teaching younger generations the importance of keeping trash out of ecosystems.

VI. Concluding Remarks

The concluding remarks and final takeaways from his major statements (including his homilies at Castel Gandolfo and his official message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) outline a spiritual roadmap, particularly resonant for priests and pastoral leaders:

1. Moving from “Desert to Garden” through Ecological Conversion: Pope Leo XIV stresses that true ecological conversion begins within the human heart, **moving humanity from “desert to garden” and from division to communion.** Priests are tasked with helping their communities foster this inner renewal and heal relationships with God, neighbour, and the earth.

2. Shifting from Weapons of Destruction to Tools of Life: Connecting Isaiah’s mandate to “beat swords into plowshares” (Is 2:4) with ecological crisis, the Pope calls for redirecting resources from destruction toward life, caring for the poor, and safeguarding creation. Priests are invited to preach a gospel protecting human dignity and natural resources.

3. Embracing the Contemplative Gaze and St. Francis’s Vision: Concluding his messages by invoking St. Francis of Assisi and the *Canticle of*

the Creatures, the Pope notes that structural reforms require a “contemplative gaze” to overcome utilitarian mindsets. Clergy are encouraged to weave this ecological spirituality into the liturgy using the new Care for Creation formulary.

It is not too late to act. While the planetary crisis is urgent, we must maintain an unyielding hope. Let us depart from here resolved to implement concrete, shared steps in our daily lives, transforming our personal and collective choices into seeds of peace, justice, and renewal for future generations.

- *Fr. Kurapati Jaya Prathap (Secretary - Liturgical Commission- Archdiocese of Hyderabad)*

4. YCS/YSM ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD DTA/DTS MEETING 2026

Date: 11 September 2026

Venue: HASSS Office, Hyderabad

Introduction

The DTA/DTS Meeting of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad was conducted on 11 September 2026 with the participation of representatives and members from various units. The programme was designed to include prayer, spiritual reflection, introductions, interactive activities, organisational discussions and elections. The programme was attended by NEXCOs Anish Tirkey & Aarnav Reddy along with former members of the movement.

The meeting began with registration, followed by a Prayer Song by St. Ann's, Bollaram Unit. This was followed by an Inter-Religious Prayer and a Universal Prayer by the Sacred Heart Unit.

An Inter-Religious Song was also included in the programme, after which the participants proceeded with the Division of Cells.

The participants were then formally welcomed by Mrs. Mercy, Vice President of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad. This was followed by an introduction to NEXCOs and an introduction to YCS/YSM by Mr. Joseph Babu, President of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad.

Main Session and Activities

The programme continued with an ice-breaking activity, creating an opportunity for participants to interact and build fellowship. A session was

conducted by Rev. Fr. Jerome, DYD, Archdiocese of Hyderabad, followed by a speech by Mrs. Mercy, Vice President, Archdiocese of Hyderabad. An action song was then conducted before the participants proceeded for the lunch break. After lunch, another action song was conducted, followed by an important organisational session on the Rules of Election.

Elections

The election process formed a major part of the afternoon programme. The DEXCOs were introduced by the animators, following which the elections were conducted.



The elected members in the DEXCO team are as follows:-

1. Oral Benson - President - Sacred Heart Unit
2. ' Jade - Vice President - St. Francis Unit
3. ' Thanvika - Secretary - St Ann's, Petbasheerbagh Unit
4. Advika - Treasurer - Rosary convent unit
5. ' Sherlyn - St Ann's, Bolarum Unit

The following animators were elected as DTA:

- Mr. Joseph Babu (President), Sacred Heart Unit
- Mrs. Mercy Binny (Vice-president), St Ann's Bolarum Unit
- Mrs. Cherly (Secretary), St Francis Unit
- Mrs. Reshma (Treasurer), St Ann's Pet Basheerbagh Unit
- Mrs. Ann Sunita (Spokes Person), Rosary Convent Unit

The elected members subsequently took the Oath, marking the formal conclusion of the election process. The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Mrs. Cheryl, Diocesan Secretary of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad, followed by the YCS/YSM Anthem and YCS/YSM Clap.

By Oral Benson, YCS/YSM President Archdiocese of Hyderabad

CARDINAL POOLA ANTHONY

Archbishop of Hyderabad

**THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD**

Archbishop's House, H. No. 9-1-17/1,
11, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad - 500 003
Telangana State, India. Tel. Off. +91-7207940883

Circular No.: AH/ADM/HACAA/2026/001

Date: 21-09-2026

ARCHDIOCESAN CIRCULAR**To:**

All Parish Priests,
Religious Superiors,
Heads of Archdiocesan Institutions,
Associations and Organisations,
and the Faithful of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad

Subject: Hyderabad Archdiocese Catholic Advocates Association (HACAA) – Legal Assistance and Guidance for the Catholic Community and Archdiocesan Institutions

Dear Reverend Fathers, Religious and Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace and blessings of Christ!

The Archdiocese of Hyderabad has always been committed to safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of its clergy, religious, institutions and faithful, while promoting justice, reconciliation and responsible Christian citizenship.

In view of the increasing need for proper legal awareness, guidance and professional assistance, I am pleased to inform you that a group of committed Catholic advocates, comprising priests, religious and lay faithful who are professionally qualified and enrolled with the Bar Council, have taken the initiative to establish the Hyderabad Archdiocese Catholic Advocates Association (HACAA).

The Association has been conceived as a professional forum to provide appropriate legal guidance, assistance and support to the Catholic faithful and to the institutions, parishes and organisations of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad.

Objectives

The principal objectives of HACAA are:

1. **To promote legal awareness** among the Catholic faithful and the wider Catholic community;
2. **To disseminate knowledge** concerning legal procedures and the rights and protections guaranteed under the Constitution of India and applicable laws;
3. **To assist individuals and families** in understanding and appropriately addressing legal issues and challenges;
4. **To provide legal guidance and assistance** to parishes, educational institutions, charitable organisations, associations and other institutions of the Archdiocese;

Email : archdiohyd@gmail.com

| Web: www.archdioceseofhyderabad.org



5. **To assist in matters concerning the legitimate rights and interests** of the Catholic community and its institutions, including matters relating to property, documentation, contracts, statutory compliance, employment, taxation, succession and litigation; and
6. **To encourage lawful, just and peaceful resolution of disputes**, wherever possible, in the spirit of Christian reconciliation.

Membership

Membership of HACAA shall be restricted to **Catholic priests, religious and lay advocates who are enrolled with the Bar Council of India and belong to the Archdiocese of Hyderabad either by residence or parish affiliation.** The present number registered will increase when HACAA becomes official unit of the Archdiocese.

The membership, functioning and administration of the Association shall be governed by its duly approved Constitution and Bye-laws, the list below is the present strength and it may increase. **Fr. Raju Alex, Advocate will be incharge of HACAA.**

Registered Office: The proposed registered office of the Association is:

Llyod Thomas Joseph

#5-9-314/1, First Floor, Bishop Caprotti Building,
 St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry, Abids,
 Hyderabad – 500001.

Name	Enrol	Parish	Contact	Type of cases
1. Fr. Raju Alex	1993	TCBC	9391023522	Civil Cases
2. Vijaya Raj George	1992	Don Bosco/Bandlaguda	9963686735	Civil/Criminal/HC
3. V. Jai Raj	1994	Mt Carmel/Bowenpally	9849748018	Civil/Criminal
4. Mary Alphonsa	1999	St. Joseph's Bolarum	9296803780	Family Cases
5. Thomas Joseph Llyod	2000	St. Joseph's Cathedral	9849179263	Civil/Criminal/HC
6. George Victor	2004	Sacred Heart LGD	9704028278	Criminal/HC
7. Sr. Jessy Kurian	2005	St. Ann's Convent Sec'bad	8919896907	Supreme Court
8. Joseph Bala Prathap	2009	St. Mary's Basilica	9392603678	Civil/Criminal/HC
9. Maria B. Dolly	2014	St. Anthony Venkatapuram	9908029203	Civil/Criminal
10. Fr. Vincent Arokiadas	2018	PP, Bowenpally	9247269401	Civil/Criminal
11. Jama Sebastian	2021	St. John's Arul Colony	9866683495	Private Practise
12. Rosalene Geeta Powell	2023	St. Francis Xavier, Alwal	9985157090	Civil Cases



Direction to Parishes and Institutions

In view of the above, I request all Parish Priests, Religious Superiors, Heads of Institutions and those responsible for Archdiocesan properties and organisations to make appropriate use of the services and professional expertise available through HACAA whenever legal advice or assistance is required.

Parishes and institutions are particularly encouraged to seek timely legal advice before entering into agreements, transactions, property arrangements, employment commitments, statutory obligations or other matters having legal implications, so that avoidable legal difficulties may be prevented.

The faithful may also approach the Association, where appropriate, for guidance concerning their legitimate concerns.

It is expected that all legal assistance provided through HACAA will be undertaken in accordance with the laws of the land, professional standards and ethical obligations governing advocates, while respecting the professional independence of individual advocates.

Accountability to the Archdiocese

The Association shall function in a manner consistent with the pastoral and administrative interests of the Archdiocese and shall remain **accountable to the Archdiocese of Hyderabad** in respect of its activities. HACAA shall submit an **annual report of its activities** to the Archdiocese for information and record.

I earnestly request all Parish Priests and Heads of our institutions to bring this Circular to the attention of the faithful and to encourage them to make appropriate use of this professional forum whenever legal assistance or guidance is required.

I express my appreciation to all the Catholic advocates who have generously offered their professional knowledge and expertise for the service of the Church and the community. May this initiative become an effective instrument in promoting **justice, legal awareness, reconciliation and the protection of legitimate rights** among our people.

May the Lord bless this endeavour and guide all those involved in this ministry of service.

With prayerful good wishes and Episcopal Blessing.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

✠ **Cardinal Poola Anthony**
Archbishop of Hyderabad



Copy to:

1. All Religious Superiors
2. Heads of Archdiocesan Institutions

6. LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH, KUNTLOOR, HYDERABAD

The foundation stone for the construction of St. Anthony's Church at Kuntloor, Hyderabad, was laid on 27 September 2026 by Rev. Msgr. Y. Balashowry, Vicar General, and Rev. Fr. Madanu Anthony, Chancellor and Procurator of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad.



7. GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY OF THE PRESBYTERY-CUM-MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING BY REV. MSGR YERUVA BALASHOWRY, VICAR GENERAL AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, TULSI GARDENS, YAPRAL ON 13TH SEPTEMBER 2026



1. ST. MARY'S CENTENARY JUNIOR COLLEGE EVENTS

Continuing from where we left in the month of July, in the months of August and September, the College has organized several events to energize, enthuse and action oriented programs.

College went on Educational Field trips to Hakimpet Airforce Station by MPC Students, to motivate them about discipline and to join Airforce. Our Bipc, MPC and MEC Students visited NRSC (ISRO) Space Centre. It was really thrilling and highly knowledge Educational Field Trip 148 Stidents and 6 Staff joined the visit.

St. Mary's also organized HINDI DIVAS on Friday 18th. Students have put up remarkable show exhibiting their dance, speech, skit, language skills. There was also a special seminar for girls to empower them. Topics on Health, leadership, excellence etc were the topics.

College also Conducted Calligraphy, Classical dance Hindi Divas and Sports events to improve talents, and divert the attention of Students from GADGETS to TALENTS.

Here at St. Mary's Centenary Junior College we believe Students are our Asset and we build them to build the future.

- Shanti Priya JL, English



Regional News

1. TCBC EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

The TCBC Extraordinary Meeting was held from 1 to 3 September 2026, at St. John's Regional Seminary, Ramanthapur, Hyderabad, bringing together the Bishops of



the Telugu Catholic Bishops' Council, with the participation of Syro-Malabar Bishops on the first day. The meeting provided an important forum for reflection, deliberation and decision-making on major pastoral, social, legal, administrative and ecclesial concerns of the Telugu Region.



A special session was conducted by Most Rev. Francis Kalist, Archbishop of Pondicherry and Cuddalore, on the proposed National March for Life 2027. After deliberation, the proposal to host the National March for Life 2027 in the Archdiocese of Hyderabad on 7 and 8 August 2027 was considered.

The afternoon session focused on the important issue of the constitutional status and rights of Scheduled Castes who have converted to Christianity. The discussion particularly addressed questions of constitutional morality and the rights of converted Scheduled Castes. Hon'ble Judge Dunna Ramulu addressed the Bishops on this significant matter.

The day concluded with discussions relating to the Annual General Body Meeting of the Federation of Telugu Churches (FTC). The matters considered included Christian unity, tributes to departed Church leaders, felicitation of

newly appointed Bishops, reports and accounts, the FCRA Amendment Bill, and strengthening cooperation among the FTC, APFC and TFC.

The Bishops also reflected along with Discussions with ATRCRI, where Bro. Vargheese



Theckanath, SG, delivered a motivating and thought-provoking talk on the socio-political scenario situation of the region, with a recommendation to



establish a Common Socio-Political Forum to strengthen coordinated engagement on issues affecting the Christian community.

Catholic Council (TCC). The day began with Holy Mass celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony, followed by breakfast. Due to paucity of time, the proposed second session and input session were cancelled. However, the election of the new Governing Body of the Telugu Catholic Council was conducted.

- Mr. Nuvvula Vijaya Raju – Vice-President-I, Vijayawada Diocese

- Ms. Mary Pulugujju – Vice-President-II, Kurnool Diocese

- Mr. Kalapala Praveen Kumar – Secretary, Warangal Diocese

- Ms. I. Kusuma Kumari – Joint Secretary, Srikakulam Diocese



Overall, the Extraordinary Meeting reaffirmed the commitment of the TCBC to strengthened pastoral coordination, responsible administration and development of Church resources, protection of constitutional rights, social engagement, Christian unity, and closer collaboration among dioceses and ecclesial organisations in the Telugu Region.

-Fr. Raju Alex A.E, Deputy Secretary of TCBC

National News

5th NATIONAL ECUMENICAL BISHOPS' FELLOWSHIP MEETING - NFCI

Christian leaders from across India gather in Bengaluru on September 18 for the inaugural meeting of the National Federation of Churches in India.

Christian leaders from across India gathered in Bengaluru on September 18 for the first meeting of the National Federation of Churches in India (NFCI), with Cardinal Anthony Poola calling for greater unity and cooperation among the country's Churches amid growing challenges.

About 45 archbishops, bishops, Church heads and delegates from various Christian denominations took part in the meeting at St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences in Bengaluru, southern India. The meeting was held alongside the fifth National Ecumenical Bishops' Fellowship (NEBF) meeting.

The gathering opened with an ecumenical prayer service for Christian unity. Cardinal Poola, Archbishop of Hyderabad, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India and chairman of the NFCI, delivered the welcome and inaugural address.

He said the difficulties facing Churches in India made it increasingly important for them to present a united response. The NFCI, he said, brings together bishops and heads of Churches and Christian denominations, including those belonging to other councils and synods.



The federation was launched during the previous NEBF meeting in Bengaluru on May 8 as a platform for greater cooperation among Christian Churches in India.

Archbishop Joseph D'Souza, president of the Good Shepherd Church in India and the All India Christian Council and a convenor of the NFCI, outlined possible responses to proposed amendments to India's Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA).

He suggested that Churches submit a memorandum of their concerns and seek a meeting with the Joint Parliamentary Committee examining the proposed legislation.

The open forum also addressed other issues affecting Christians in India. Archbishop Peter Machado, chairman of the All Karnataka United Christian Forum for Human Rights, spoke about efforts to engage political leaders over Karnataka's anti-conversion law and briefed participants on a pending Supreme Court case concerning violence against Christians, churches and Christian institutions.

Fr. Anthoniraj Thumma, secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India Office for Dialogue and Desk for Ecumenism and NEBF coordinator, updated participants on the long-pending issue of constitutional rights and equal status for Dalit Christians and Justice K.G. Balakrishnan Commission examining the matter.

Brother Dr. Paul Dhinakaran, in his message, highlighted the role of young people, describing the present time as "the day of the youth" and calling for greater opportunities for them to contribute to social change.

The meeting also established a core group for the NFCI, in accordance with its approved guidelines. The group will meet regularly to respond to current issues and was authorized to co-opt additional members and appoint coordinators and executive secretaries.

Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, chairman of the CBCI Office for Dialogue and Desk for Ecumenism and a convenor of the NFCI, said the federation represented a step toward the goal of full Christian communion. The meeting concluded with prayer and a blessing by Cardinal Poola, followed by a group photograph.

1. POPE CONVOKES PRESIDENTS OF BISHOPS' CONFERENCES FOR MEETING ON FAMILIES

Ten years after its publication, Pope Leo XIV praises the “valuable teachings” of *Amoris Laetitia*, and convokes presidents of Bishops’ Conferences to Rome in October 2026 for a meeting to discuss ways to proclaim the Gospel to families today.

A decade ago, Pope Francis published *Amoris Laetitia*, the Apostolic Exhortation on “love in the family,” inspired by the Synods of Bishops of 2014 and 2015.

In a letter published on Wednesday, March 19, Pope Leo XIV praised the document as a “luminous message of hope regarding conjugal love and family life.”

The 2016 Exhortation “encouraged reflection and pastoral conversion in the Church,” the Pope wrote, and “offers valuable teachings that we must continue to examine today.”

New pastoral methods

In his letter, Pope Leo described *Amoris Laetitia* as one of two Apostolic Exhortations since the Second Vatican Council which had “strengthened the Church’s doctrinal and pastoral commitment” to the service of families—the other being Pope John Paul II’s *Familiaris Consortio*, published in 1981.

What Pope Francis had realized, Pope Leo wrote, is that “anthropological and cultural changes” in the family required “mutual listening” within the people of God, an insight which led him to call the Synods of Bishops on the family and, eventually, to write *Amoris Laetitia*.

What Pope Francis understood, said Pope Leo, was “it is not possible to speak about the family without engaging families themselves, listening to their joys and their hopes, their sorrows and their anguish.”

He thanked God for “the stimulus that has encouraged reflection and pastoral conversion in the Church.”

The family forms the basis of society, offering a “school for human enrichment,” he said, quoting the Second Vatican Council document *Gaudium et Spes*.

“Through the sacrament of marriage, Christian spouses form a kind of ‘domestic church,’ whose role is essential for teaching and transmitting the faith,” said the Pope.

However, he added, much in society has changed over the past several decades, which led to Pope Francis urging the 2015 Synod of Bishops to listen to the Holy Spirit and to families’ hopes, joys, sorrows, and anguish.

Proclaiming Gospel of the family to younger generations

Amoris Laetitia, said Pope Leo, offers valuable teachings on the biblical hope of God’s loving and merciful presence amid family crises; the call for marriage to always give life within the family; and the need for contemporary pastoral methods that help parents educate children and find depth of spirituality in their family life.

He called on the Church to find new ways to “evoke the beauty of the vocation to marriage precisely in the recognition of fragility,” so as to serve the mission of proclaiming the Gospel of the family to younger generations.

“We must also support families, especially those suffering from the many forms of poverty and violence present in contemporary society,” he said.

Pope Leo XIV concluded his letter on *Amoris Laetitia* by urging the Church to renew and deepen her commitment to the family, so that married couples may “fully live out their conjugal love, and that young people may feel attracted, within the Church, to the beauty of the vocation to marriage.”

2. MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR THE 100TH WORLD MISSION DAY

One in Christ, united in mission Dear brothers and sisters, For World Mission Day 2026, which marks the centenary of a celebration established by Pius XI that is very dear to the Church, I have chosen the theme “One in Christ, united in mission.” Following the Jubilee Year, I wish to encourage the whole Church to continue its missionary journey with joy and zeal in the Holy Spirit. This requires hearts united in Christ, reconciled communities and, in everyone, a willingness to cooperate with generosity and trust.

As we reflect on being one in Christ and united in mission, let us allow ourselves to be guided and inspired by divine grace, “to renew in ourselves the fire of our missionary vocation” and advance together in the commitment to evangelization, in this “new missionary age” in the history of the Church (Homily, Jubilee of the Missionary World and of Migrants, 5 October 2025).

1. One in Christ – Missionary disciples united in him and with our brothers and sisters

The mystery of union with Christ lies at the heart of mission. Before his Passion, Jesus prayed to the Father, “that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us” (Jn 17:21).

These words reveal Jesus’ deepest desire, as well as the identity of the Church as a community of his disciples. That is, a communion that flows from the Trinity, and continues to be sustained by the Trinity. A communion at the service of fraternity among all human beings and harmony with all creation.

Being a Christian is not primarily about practices or ideas; it is a life in union with Christ, in which we share in his filial relationship with the Father in the Holy Spirit. It means abiding in Christ, like branches on the vine (cf. Jn 15:4), immersed in the life of the Trinity. This union gives rise to mutual communion among believers and is the source of all missionary fruitfulness. Indeed, just as Saint John Paul II taught, “communion represents both the source and the fruit of mission” (Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles Laici*, 32).

In this context, the Church’s primary missionary responsibility is to renew and sustain spiritual and fraternal unity among its members. In many situations, we encounter conflicts, polarization, misunderstandings and a lack of mutual trust. When this occurs even within our communities, it undermines our witness. The evangelizing mission that Christ entrusted to his disciples requires, above all, hearts that are reconciled and eager for communion. Consequently, it is important to intensify ecumenical efforts with all Christian Churches, building upon the opportunities arising from the joint celebration of the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea.

Last but not least, being “one in Christ” calls us to keep our gaze fixed on the Lord, so that he may truly be at the center of our lives and communities, the center of every word, action and interpersonal relationship, leading us to say with amazement: “It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me”

(Gal 2:20). By constantly listening to his word and through the grace of the Sacraments, it will be possible for us to become living stones in the Church. Today, the Church is called to take up the fundamental themes of the Second Vatican Council and the subsequent Papal Magisterium, in particular that of Pope Francis. In fact, as Saint Paul says, “we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord” (2 Cor 4:5). For this reason, I reiterate the words of Saint Paul VI: “There is no true evangelization if the name, the teaching, the life, the promises, the kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God are not proclaimed”

(Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 22). This process of genuine evangelization begins in the heart of every Christian in order to reach all of humanity.

Therefore, the more united we are in Christ, the better able we will be to carry out together the mission that he entrusts to us.

2. United in mission – That the world may believe in Christ the Lord

The unity of disciples is not an end in itself; it is directed towards mission. Jesus states this clearly: “So that the world may believe that you have sent me” (Jn 17:21). It is through the witness of a reconciled, fraternal and united community that the proclamation of the Gospel acquires its full communicative power.

From this perspective, it is worth recalling the motto of Blessed Paolo Manna, “All the Churches united for the conversion of the whole world,” which succinctly expresses the ideal that inspired the establishment of the Pontifical Missionary Union in 1916. On its 110th anniversary, I convey my gratitude and my blessing for its commitment to inspiring and forming the missionary spirit of priests, consecrated persons and lay faithful, promoting the unity of all evangelizing efforts. In fact, no baptized person is exempt from or indifferent to mission: everyone, each according to their own vocation and condition of life, participates in the great work that Christ has entrusted to his Church. As Pope Francis repeatedly reminded us, proclaiming the Gospel is an action that is always harmonious, communal and synodal.

For this reason, unity in mission means safeguarding and nurturing the spirituality of communion and missionary cooperation. By daily fostering this attitude, divine grace gradually teaches us to see our brothers and sisters

through the eyes of faith. We also learn to recognize joyfully the good that the Spirit inspires in each person, to embrace diversity as a treasure, to bear one another's burdens and always to seek the unity that comes from above. Indeed, we all share in one mission in "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all" (Eph 4:5-6). This spirituality constitutes the daily expression of missionary discipleship. It helps us to recover a universal vision of the Church's evangelizing mission, and to overcome a lack of coordinated efforts and the creation of factions among the followers of the one Lord — such as "I belong to Paul," "I to Apollos" (cf. 1 Cor 1:10-12).

Needless to say, missionary unity should not be understood as uniformity, but rather as the convergence of different charisms for the same purpose, namely to make Christ's love visible and to invite everyone to encounter him. Evangelization is achieved when local communities cooperate with one another and when cultural, spiritual and liturgical differences are fully and harmoniously expressed in the same faith. I therefore encourage all institutions in the Church to strengthen their sense of ecclesial missionary communion and to develop creative and concrete ways of cooperating with one another for and in the mission.

In this regard, I would like to thank the Pontifical Mission Societies for their service to missionary cooperation, which I experienced with gratitude during my ministry in Peru. These Societies — Propagation of the Faith, Holy Childhood, Saint Peter the Apostle and Pontifical Missionary Union — continue to nurture and form missionary awareness for the faithful of all ages, and to promote a network of prayer and charity that connects communities throughout the world. Here, it is worth noting that the founder of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, Blessed Pauline Marie Jaricot, established the Living Rosary two hundred years ago. Even today it continues to bring together many of the faithful throughout the world to pray for every spiritual and missionary need. It is also worth remembering that, following a proposal from the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, Pius XI established World Mission Day in 1926. The annual offerings collected on this day are distributed by the Society, on behalf of the Pope, to support the various needs of the Church's mission. The four Societies, therefore, as a whole and each in its own specificity, still play a valuable role for the entire Church. They are a living sign of unity and

ecclesial missionary communion. I invite everyone to work with them in a spirit of gratitude.

3. Mission to love – Proclaiming, living and sharing God’s faithful love

If unity is the condition of mission, love is its essence. The Good News that we are sent to proclaim to the world is not an abstract ideal; it is the Gospel of God’s faithful love, which became flesh in the face and life of Jesus Christ.

The mission of the disciples and the Church as a whole is to continue the mission of Christ in the Holy Spirit: a mission born of love, lived in love, and leading to love. In fact, the Lord himself, in his great prayer to the Father before his Passion, after invoking unity among his disciples, concludes: “so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them” (Jn 17:26). Impelled by the love of Christ, the Apostles then went out to evangelize for Christ (cf. 2 Cor 5:14). In the same way, throughout the centuries, multitudes of Christians — martyrs, confessors and missionaries — have given their lives to make this divine love known to the world. Thus, guided by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of love, the Church’s evangelizing mission will continue until the end of time.

I would like to express my special gratitude to today’s *ad gentes* missionaries. Like Saint Francis Xavier, they have left their homeland, their families and all sense of security in order to proclaim the Gospel and bring Christ and his love to places that are often challenging, poor, conflict-ridden or culturally distant. Despite

adversity and human limitations, they continue to give themselves joyfully, because they know that Christ himself, and his Gospel, are the greatest treasures we can offer. Through their perseverance, they demonstrate that God’s love transcends all barriers. The world still needs these courageous witnesses of Christ, and ecclesial communities still need new missionary vocations. We must always keep them close to our hearts and continually pray to the Father for them. May he grant us the gift of young people and adults who are willing to leave everything behind to follow Christ on the path of evangelization even to the ends of the earth!

Filled with admiration for men and women missionaries, I make a special appeal to the whole Church to join them in the mission of evangelization through the witness of our lives in Christ, through prayer and through our

contributions to the missions. As Saint Francis of Assisi said, “Love is not loved,” and we look to him in a special way on the eight hundredth anniversary of his passing to heaven. Let us find inspiration in his desire to live in the love of the Lord and to transmit it to those both near and far, because, as he said, “this love Who hath loved us much is much to be loved” (Saint Bonaventure of Bagnoregio, *The Life of Saint Francis*, chap. IX, 1; *Fonti Francescane*, 1161). Let us also draw inspiration from the zeal of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, who declared that she would continue her mission even after death: “I shall desire in heaven the same thing as I do now on earth: to love Jesus and to make him loved” (Letter 220 to l’Abbé Bellière, 24 February 1897).

Inspired by these testimonies, let us all commit to contributing to the great mission of evangelization — which is always a work of love — according to our own vocation and the gifts we have received. Your prayers and practical support, particularly on World Mission Day, will be a great help in bringing the Gospel of God’s love to everyone, especially the poorest and those most in need. Every gift, no matter how small, becomes a meaningful act of missionary communion. I renew my heartfelt gratitude “for everything you will do to help me help missionaries throughout the world” (Video Message for World Mission Day 2025, 19 October 2025). To foster spiritual communion, I give you my blessing with this simple prayer:

Holy Father, make us one in Christ, rooted in his love that unites and renews. May all members of the Church be united in mission, docile to the Holy Spirit, courageous in bearing witness to the Gospel, proclaiming and daily embodying your faithful love for all creatures.

Bless all missionary men and women, support them in their efforts, and watch over them in hope!

Mary, Queen of Missions, accompany our work of evangelization in every corner of the earth: make us instruments of peace, and grant that the whole world may recognize in Christ the light that saves. Amen.

From the Vatican, 25 January 2026, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul

LEO PP. XIV

Dates & Events to Remember

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|---|---|
| 01. St. Therese of Child Jesus, Vrg & Dr (F) | 16. St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Vrg; St. Hedwig, Rel.; Bl. Augustine Thevarambil, Pt (Op.M) |
| 02. The Guardian Angles (M) | 17. St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bp & Mrtr (M) |
| 04. St. Francis of Assisi (M) | 18. St. Luke, Evg (F) |
| 06. St. Bruno, Pt (Op. M) | 20. St. Paul of the Cross, Pt (Op. M) |
| 07. Our Lady of the Rosary (M) | 22. St. John Paul II, Pope (Op. M) |
| 09. St. Denis, Bp & Comps Mrts & St. John Leonardi, Pt. | 23. St. John of Capistrano, Pt (Op.M) |
| 11. St. John XXIII, Pope (Op. M) | 24. St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bp (Op. M) |
| 14. St. Callistus I, Pope & Mrtr (Op. M) | 28. Sts. Simon & Jude, Aps (F) |
| 15. St. Teresa of Avila, Vrg & Dr (M) | |

Happy Birthday Dear Fathers

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 02. Fr. Chinnabathini John Paul |  | 10. Fr. Valentine J. D'Mello |
| 04. Fr. Thathireddy Julian | | 13. Fr. Guvvala Anthony |
| 04. Fr. Susai Vincent Raj | | 17. Fr. Madanu Amal Raj |
| 06. Fr. Yeruva Amal Kumar Francis | | 18. Fr. Thatireddy Anil Kumar |
| 08. Fr. Kandi Marreddy | | 30. Fr. Michael Selvaraj |
| 08. Fr. Pasala Joseph (Sr.) | | 30. Fr. Thumma Udaya Bhasker |

Happy Ordination Day Dear Fathers

19. Fr. Thomas Stephen

Necrology

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 01. Fr. Kolandai Gnanapragasam | 13. Most Rev. Vismara Dionigi, PIME |
| 12. Fr. Madanu Arogyam | 30. Fr. Joseph Maurice |



MAY ALL THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED, THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE. AMEN.

Local news items, which might be of interest to the Archdiocese may be addressed to :

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Archdiocese of Hyderabad Marks 140 Years of Catholic Hierarchy at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry



Annual Feast of St. Michael's Church, Golconda



Annual Feast of the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Health, Khairathabad

