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Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings of Peace from Bishops House

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025

1. INAUGURATION OF JUBILEE 2025: After two years of preparations, the Jubilee 2025 with the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope" will begin on 24 December 2024, with the official opening of the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica after the mass presided over by Pope Francis. This Jubilee Year will conclude on 6 January 2026. Pope has said, "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire." The jubilee year aims to offer opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences and other events intended to strengthen and revive faith by participating in various programs throughout the year.

- The Diocese will inaugurate the Jubilee Year 2025 on 29 Dec 2024 at the Cathedral Church during the mass at 8am. Those priests and sisters who can make it for the inauguration are encouraged to do so.
- The designated Pilgrimage centres in the diocese for the Jubilee Year 2025 are as follows: Assumption of Our Lady Cathedral, Karwar; Our Lady of Fathima, Molkod, St Francis Xavier Church, Chandavar, St Joseph's Church, Ambewadi and St Anthony's Church, Sirsi. I urge the parish priests to organise pilgrimages for the faithful to these centres and obtain indulgences.
- All the feasts in the parishes and mission centres will be celebrated as Parish Jubilees.
- A Parish Jubilee Committee consisting of the Parish Priest as the mentor, one religious sister, one lay person as the coordinator and three lay faithful including one youth - to guide, infuse and carry out the activities of Jubilee 2025 may be formed. The PPC can incorporate more events besides those mentioned in the booklet.
- Jubilee Booklet shall be ready shortly and the number of copies that you require may be intimated to the DPC Director as early as possible.

- In the parishes and mission centres, a well-decorated cross/crucifix that marked the inauguration of the jubilee year during the mass may be carried from house to house during the year for which a prayer module is included in the jubilee booklet.

2. BIWIDS: After careful consideration and consultation, we are happy to announce a fund called BIWIDS – Bp William D’Mello Scholarship – after the name of the former Prelate Most Rev. Dr William D’Mello. This is mainly to support the education of boys at the lower and higher levels. This fund will be further enhanced in course of time with the help of the well-wishers and donors. Those who want to avail of this scholarship may have to fill the form and the parish priest after having ascertained the fact that the candidates truly deserve may forward the application along with the recommendation letter.

3. TRAINING FOR THE PPC AND PFC MEMBERS AT THE CLUSTER/DEANERY LEVELS: By now, the process of conducting elections to the PPC and PFC must be over and I am yet to receive the list. After approval, I shall be sending the list. Please make sure you as parish priests appoint the secretary and joint secretary. These trainings will be held in the months of January, February and March, 2025. You are requested to send the members for the trainings. The Laity Commission Director will inform you in advance. There will be separate trainings for PPC secretaries and joint secretaries and PFC secretaries.

5. PASTORAL VISITS FROM MAY 2025: We begin our pastoral visits from May 2025 from Haliyal Deanery. Dates will be fixed in consultation with the parish priests. A detailed plan as to how to get ready will be sent to you in advance. A list of registers, files, books, etc to be maintained will be sent to you.

6. TRANSFERS IN 2025: Those of you who have already finished the term of 6 years and those of you who are going to finish in May 2025 are requested to get ready for transfers. The diocesan team will visit such parishes in the second half of January 2025. Therefore, keep all the records ready and the financial statements up-to-date. It is suggested that no transactions should take place after the second visit of the team just before a week of their movement from the parishes.

7. EARMARKED COLLECTIONS: As we are in the last month of 2024, I thank all the parish priests who have promptly sent the earmarked collections towards various causes to the Diocese. I request all the parish priests to send any pending earmarked collections for the year 2024 to the diocese by 31 December 2024.

8. ANNUAL MISSION STATISTICS: The annual statistical returns for 2024 are to be submitted to the chancery before 30 January 2025 in the prescribed formats. I earnestly request the parish priests, superiors of Houses of the Religious and heads of institutions to submit the same well in time and enable us to forward the same to the Secretariat of State, Rome in due time.

9. MATTERS RELATED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF CHURCHES/HALLS/PRESBYTERIES: Only after careful consideration and the well-being of the parish with due process of having ascertained that the documents, being vetted by the Building Committee, are in order, shall the permission to do so be given. A few things to be

borne in mind: Land Documents, Plans, Mandatory Permissions from departments, PFC Resolution, PPC Resolution, etc

10. NEW DIRECTORS FOR COMMISSIONS: I am happy to let you know that following priests and sisters are appointed as the Directors:

Commission for the Pastoral Care of the Migrants – Fr Anthony Rodrigues (Jr)

Commission for Labour – Fr Anthony D'Souza (Sr)

Commission for SC/ST - Fr Valentine Fernandes but working under KDDC

Commission for the Pastoral Care of the Differently Abled– Sr Linet Lopes

Prison Ministry – Sr Freshina Lopes

Commission for Ecology – Fr Gregory D'Souza

11. NEW DEAN FOR KONE DEANERY: Fr Gabriel Monis is appointed as the new Dean for the Kone Deanery with effect from 1 January 2025 in place of Fr Jerome D'Souza. I take this opportunity to thank Fr Jerome D'Souza for leading the deanery ably for a couple of years.

12. APPOINTMENTS: The following appointments have been made:

- a. Fr Milton Souza on mission in Shimoga Diocese
- b. Fr Francis Fernandes as Assistant at Gundolli
- c. Fr Anil Rodrigues on mission in Udupi Diocese

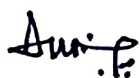
13. DAIVIK PRERAN: Daivik Preran, based on the reflection on the daily readings, is a Jubilee venture. I request you to promote it among the laity in your parishes.

14. CAREER ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM: The Region wants to send 5 potential candidates (graduates with 70%) who are interested in IAS/IPS soon. The Career Advancement Centre Office situated at Subodhana – KROSS after scrutinizing their applications, call them for interviews, before recommending them to the reputed institutes. Now in the light of the information received from His Grace Most Rev Peter Machado, I request you to send the names of graduates who want to pursue this program passionately.

15. ANNUAL RETREAT - 2025: The annual Retreat this year will begin on 27 July 2025 at 6pm and end with the Holy Eucharist on 2 August 2025 in the morning.

Concerning our program in the diocese, I shall provide you details in course of time.

Fraternally yours in Christ,



✠ Duming Dias
Bishop of Karwar

