

**9. Admission to Minor Seminary:** Boys who have passed SSLC, PUC and Degree courses are admitted to the Minor Seminary. Please contact the Director of the Seminary for application forms which should be duly filled in and sent to the Director along with the required documents, as soon as the result of the qualifying examination is published. The Church needs the quality of the candidate and I request the Parish Priests to identify such worthy candidates for the admission to the Seminary.

**10. Elections:** As you all know, the Assembly Election is fast approaching. May I request the Parish Priests to make sure that all those who are 18 years and above have enrolled their names to exercise their franchise. Casting a vote is a great responsibility that no one should neglect.

**11. Happy Easter:** As we are going to celebrate Easter at the end of this month, on the 31st of March 2013. I take this opportunity to wish all the priests, religious and the faithful, a very Happy Easter. May the Risen Lord Jesus bless us all in this Year of Faith and the Golden Jubilee Year of the Diocese.

Enclosures:

- (1) The Lenten Message of His Holiness Benedict XVI
- (2) The Final Statement of the CCBI XXV Plenary Assembly held from February 5-10, 2013, at Vailankanni, Tamil Nadu, India.

*Yours sincerely,*



(Most Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Swamy)  
Bishop of Chikmagalur

## DIOCESE OF CHIKMAGALUR



Bishop's Office, Jyothinagar,  
Chikmagalur, Karnataka-577102  
Ph.: Office : (08262) - 220389,  
Bishop-(pers) - 221689  
Fax : (08262) - 220389  
E-mail : bishopckm@yahoo.co.in

**CIRCULAR**

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04-03-2013

**1. Resignation of Pope Benedict XVI:** It came as a big shock and surprise when Pope Benedict XVI announced his Resignation on 11th February, 2013. Pope himself gives the answer for his Renunciation of the Petrine office saying, "After having examined my conscience before God, I have come to certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of Petrine ministry." He officially tendered his resignation at 08:00p.m., on 28th February 2013. Henceforth he will be known as (His Holiness, Benedict XVI) Pope Emeritus. The Karnataka Regional Bishops have sent a letter of Appreciation and gratitude to His Holiness, Benedict XVI.

His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias, the President of CBCI and CCBI has requested for our prayers that the Holy Spirit be with the Cardinal-Electors as they elect the new Pope in the coming days.

I request all the Clergy, the faithful and particularly the sisters of Cloistered Convents to pray continuously for this intention, asking God to guide the Church.

**2. Clergy Recollection and Chrism Mass:** The Clergy Recollection will be held on Monday, 25th March 2013, at 10:00 AM, at St. Joseph's Minor Seminary and the Chrism Mass, at 06:00 PM at the Cathedral.

**3. Mission Sunday Collection:** I thank you all very sincerely for the efforts made to collect the contribution towards the Mission Sunday. The total Collection of this year has reached to Rs.11, 58,427=00. I thank sincerely Rev. Fr. Fredrick D'Souza, the Diocesan Secretary for PMS, for his efforts to collect the amount and to remit it to the P.M.O., on time.

**4. Meeting of the Diocesan Commissions:** will be held on 6-3-2013, at Bishop's House. The Co-ordinator, Rev. Fr. R. Shanthraj has requested all the Secretaries and the Joint Secretaries to come with the Action plan. The Karnataka Regional Co-ordinator Rev. Fr. T. Lourdasamy will be present for the Meeting. The meeting will begin at 10:00AM.

**5. Seminars held on Deanery level:** Thanks to Rev. Fr. Charles Pereira, the Convenor of the Committee for the Year of Faith and the Golden Jubilee of the Diocese for having organized Seminars in all the three deaneries on the Year of Faith and the Golden Jubilee of the Diocese. The resource persons were Msgr. George D'Souza and Rev. Fr. Ronald Cardoza. I thank all those who participated in the Seminar.

**6. School Admissions:** This is to remind you in advance that the Heads of Catholic Schools should never deny admissions to Catholic children. Poor children should be given the maximum concession with regard to the fees. Parish Priests are requested to help the poor students financially from their parish funds.

**7. Constructions:**

- a) The new Higher Primary School Building was blessed and inaugurated at the Cathedral Premises on 3rd January 2013. I thank Rt. Rev. Msgr. George D'Souza for his hard work and effort. May God bless all the donors.
- b) A new community Hall was blessed and inaugurated at St. Francis Xavier Parish, Magee, on 30-01-2013. Special thanks to Rev. Fr. M.J. Moses for raising the funds from the M.P. and M.L.A. quotas, the Minority Commission Scheme and the local contributions. May God bless all those who have contributed generously.
- c) A new Presbytery was blessed and inaugurated at St. Anthony's Parish, Mudigere on 29-01-2013. I thank Rev. Fr. Lancy Pinto for his special effort and hard work. I thank all the donors for their generous help. May God bless them abundantly.
- d) New School Building was blessed and inaugurated at Belur on 02-02-2013, in the presence of Very Rev. Fr. Archibald Gonsalves, OCD, the Provincial, Rev. Fr. Cyril Menezes, OCD the parish priest and Rev. Fr. Suresh Saldanha, OCD, the Principal. I thank all the donors. May God bless them all.

**8. Sound and Light Programme:** In view of the Year of Faith and the Golden Jubilee of the Diocese of Chikmagalur, the Jubilee Committee for implementation of the events has organized a Sound & Light Programme, in two places in the Diocese, viz. (1) Hassan, at the District Stadium, and (2) Chikmagalur, at the District Field. This programme, depicting the Birth, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ will be performed by the famous artists of Mariapura, Bangalore. The performance involves about 250 artists, dancing aided with sound light, which is going to be 'once in a life time programme' in the Diocese. So, I request all the Parish Priests to announce all the details of the programme to all the faithful during their Sunday Announcements.

- i) The programmes will be held on 19th April, 2013 at Hassan, and on 21st of April, 2013 in Chikmagalur
- ii) Please keep these dates free for the programme; do not book any feasts, weddings, or any other event on those days.
- iii) The organizing team will approach you one of these days, with more details of the programme and with printed handbills, flex banners, receipt books for collection and the like. Kindly co-operate with the team.
- iv) As it involves a huge expenditure, (approximately Rs. 7,50,000/= for each programme x 2), please try to make good collections from well wishers and donors, acknowledging each contribution with a receipt provided by the team.
- v) Receipt books are to be returned, along with the amount collected, at the very latest, by 10th April, 2013, to the Procurator of the Diocese.
- vi) Above all, please ask the faithful to pray for the success of these events, which are also going to be a part of the evangelization. You could also include a petition during the Prayers of the Faithful during Holy Mass, Holy Hours, Family Prayers and other prayer meetings.
- vii) Encourage the faithful to participate in the programme, along with their non-Christian friends, but you will have to make your own arrangements for the travel, food etc... There will be some canteens at the venue, where you can get items on payment.