



KURNOOL VANI

NEWS LETTER - KURNOOL DIOCESE



September 2026

Issue 09

Vol XXXIX



HAPPY FEAST OF
NATIVITY OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Silver Sacerdotal Jubilee Celebration of His Excellency at Gatesville, Texas



Bishop's Visit to the Diocese of Greenbay, with Bishop David Ricken & Fr. Mark Vander Steeg, Vicar for Clergy





KURNOOL VANI

THE MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE ROMAN
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KURNOOL

September 2026

Issue 9

Most Rev. Dr. Johannes Gorantla OCD
Publisher

Rev. Fr. G. Inna Reddy
Editor in Chief

Fr. Naveen Arogya Raj
Consulting Editor

Jeevan Institute of Printing
Editing and Printing

CONTENTS

The Shepherd Speaks (English)	2
The Shepherd Speaks (Telugu)	7
Roles and Responsibilities of the Commission Secretaries	13
Coummication from Bishop's Desk	17
Bishop's Programme	18
Communications	19
News	20
News from Youth Commission of the Diocese	24
News from Health Commission of the Diocese	25
News From Jeevasudha Pastoral Centre (JPC)	26
Communications & News From the Desk	28
News From Kurnool Diocese Social Service Society (KDSSS)	29
Priestly Jouney of Rev. Fr. Ramaji Shoury	33
Foundation Masses in the Diocese	36
The Days to Remember	36

The Shepherd Speaks

Walking together as a family of Believers

Communion – Participation – Mission

My dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and beloved faithful in Christ,

As we enter the month of September, I wish to pause and reflect on the journey we, as a Diocese, have undertaken together: **“Walking Together as a Family of Believers.”** This reflection is not merely a reminder of what we have already begun, but also an encouragement and inspiration to continue our journey with renewed commitment towards the implementation of the vision and pastoral priorities of our Diocesan Synod and Pastoral Plan.



My dear brothers and sisters, I continually thank God for each one of you. I am deeply grateful to our priests who remain in close communion with me, with filial affection, respect and a spirit of generous collaboration, serving the Diocese faithfully wherever they are sent, especially in our difficult and remote mission areas. I am grateful to them for their willingness to work with me and to contribute wholeheartedly to the realization of our shared vision of building a vibrant, united and missionary Diocese. I also thank our religious priests, brothers and sisters who show me such affection and generously offer themselves, often quietly and selflessly, for the service of God and His people in our Diocese. I am equally grateful for our catechists and pastoral animators who tirelessly nourish and strengthen the faith of our communities. I see parents faithfully handing on the gift of faith to their children; I see young people searching for Christ and seeking meaning and direction in their lives; and I see families striving to live the Gospel amidst the joys, struggles and challenges of daily life. **For all these blessings, we have every reason to lift our hearts in gratitude and say: Thanks be to God!**

At the same time, the Lord is inviting us to go a step further. He is inviting us not merely to belong to the Church, but to build the Church together. **This is at the heart of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan, “Walking Together as a Family of Believers.”** We have begun forming Family Units, Parish Pastoral Councils and Parish Finance Committees. We are encouraging greater participation of the laity, women and youth. We are seeking to strengthen our pastoral, spiritual and missionary life through various commissions.

But these are not merely programmes or structures. They are an invitation to conversion. They are an invitation to become the Church that the Lord desires us to be. We belong to one another. St. Paul gives us a beautiful image: *“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”* (1 Corinthians 12:12)

The Church is the Body of Christ. We are not isolated individuals who happen to come together for Mass. Through Baptism, we have become members of one another. The hand needs the foot. The eye needs the ear. The strong need the weak, and the weak need the strong. In the same way, the priest needs the laity, the laity need the priest, families need the parish, the parish needs its families, young people need the guidance of the elders, and the Church needs the energy and creativity of its youth.

Every person has a place. Every person has a gift. Every person has a mission. Therefore, I would like to encourage all of us to move from “my parish” to “our parish,” from “my responsibility” to “our responsibility,” and from “what can the Church do for me?” to “what can I do for the Church?”. This change of heart is essential if we want our Pastoral Plan to bear fruit.

From spectators to participants: My dear brothers and sisters, the Church cannot be built by priests alone. Our priests have a beautiful and irreplaceable vocation. But the mission of the Church belongs to the whole People of God. This is why I place so much importance on our Family Units and Parish Pastoral Councils. I would like our Family Units to become genuine small Christian communities—places where families know one another, pray together, share their joys and sorrows, care for those in difficulty, visit the sick and elderly, and encourage one another in faith.

I would like our Parish Pastoral Councils to become genuine places of communion and discernment, where priests and lay faithful listen to one another, reflect together and work together for the good of the parish. Let us not allow these structures to become merely another set of meetings and registers. Let them become instruments of the Holy Spirit. **I appeal especially to our priests: trust your people and give them opportunities to serve.** And I appeal to our lay faithful: do not be afraid to take responsibility. Do not say, "This is the work of the priest." If the Lord has given you a gift, He has given it for the good of His Church.

From participation to mission: But there is another step. Our communion must lead to mission. Jesus tells us: "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.*" (Matthew 28:19). We cannot remain inside our churches and wait for people to come to us. There are families around us who need encouragement. There are people who have stopped coming to Church. There are young people who are searching for meaning. There are elderly persons who feel forgotten. There are sick people who need someone to sit beside them. There are poor families who need our solidarity. There are children who need someone to teach them how to pray.

Sometimes we think that evangelization requires great programmes and extraordinary talents. But evangelization can begin very simply. A visit can evangelize. A listening heart can evangelize. A word of encouragement can evangelize. A family prayer can evangelize. An act of forgiveness can evangelize. A helping hand can evangelize. Mission begins wherever Christian love becomes visible. I dream of a Diocese where every Family Unit becomes a little missionary community, where every parish becomes a centre of prayer and outreach, and where every Catholic feels personally responsible for bringing at least one more person closer to Christ.

Our young people are not merely the future. I wish to make a special appeal to our young people. You are not simply the future of the Church. You are the Church today. The Church needs your enthusiasm, your courage, your questions, your creativity and your generosity. Do not remain on the margins of parish life. Come forward. Take responsibility. Participate in prayer,

catechesis, liturgy, social service, evangelization and digital ministry. Use your talents for Christ. The world is full of voices competing for your attention. The Church wants to help you hear the voice of Jesus, who says: "Come, follow me." And I want our Diocese to be a place where every young person can discover that following Christ is not a burden but a beautiful adventure. In order to facilitate our youth ministry, I will soon publish the Youth Directory with concrete guidelines for the youth ministry in our diocese.

A special place for our women: I also wish to express my gratitude to the women of our Diocese. Much of the faith of our families is carried quietly by mothers, grandmothers, sisters and daughters. Often without recognition, they pray, teach, accompany, sacrifice and hold families together. I want to see the gifts and wisdom of our women increasingly welcomed in the pastoral life of our Diocese. The Church becomes richer when every gift is recognized and every voice is heard. Walking together means listening. We cannot walk together if we do not listen to one another. First, we must listen to the Word of God. Then we must listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit. And we must learn to listen to one another—especially to those whose voices are often not heard.

Walking together does not mean that we will always agree on everything. It means that, even when we have different opinions, we remain brothers and sisters. Let us therefore avoid unnecessary divisions, groupism, jealousy and criticism. Let us not allow small differences to become greater than our love for Christ. We have one Lord, one faith, one Baptism and one Church. What unites us is always greater than what divides us.

Our Pastoral Plan must become a way of life. It is not a document to be kept on a shelf. A Pastoral Plan succeeds not when all the activities are completed on paper, but when people encounter Christ, families become stronger, communities become united and the Church becomes more missionary.

As we begin this month, I ask each one of you to carry one question in your heart: "Lord, what are You asking me to do for Your Church?" Perhaps the Lord is asking you to become part of a Family Unit. Perhaps He is asking you to accept a responsibility in your parish. Perhaps He is asking you to visit

someone who is lonely. Perhaps He is asking you to forgive someone. Perhaps He is asking you to give some of your time or talent. Perhaps He is asking you to become more involved in the faith formation of your children.

Whatever it may be, do not think that your contribution is too small. The Lord does not ask us whether we have much. He asks whether we are willing to offer what we have. Five loaves and two fish may seem insignificant. But when they are placed in the hands of Jesus, they become enough to feed a multitude.

As your Bishop, I carry a dream in my heart. I dream of a Diocese where no Catholic feels forgotten, where every family feels that it belongs, where our parishes are alive, where our young people are enthusiastic disciples of Jesus, where women are respected and their gifts are fully appreciated, where priests and lay faithful work together with trust, where every Family Unit becomes a little community of faith and finally a Diocese where every parish becomes missionary. Above all, I dream of a Diocese where, when people encounter us, they can say: "See how they love one another." That is the Church I believe the Lord is asking us to become. Let us walk together.

My dear brothers and sisters, we have a long journey ahead of us. We may not have everything we need. We may face difficulties. We may sometimes make mistakes. But we do not walk alone. Christ walks with us. And when Christ walks with us, we have nothing to fear.

I entrust this journey of our Diocese to Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother. She walked with Jesus from Bethlehem to Calvary and beyond. She teaches us to listen, to trust, to say "Yes" to God and to serve with humility. May she accompany every family of our Diocese. May she accompany every priest and religious. May she accompany our children and young people. May she accompany our sick, elderly and poor. And may she help us to become what we are called to be: One family of believers, walking together, serving together and proclaiming Christ together.

Invoking God's blessings,
✠ JOHANNES GORANTLA OCD
Bishop of Kurnool

కాసరి పలుకులు

కలసి నడిచే విశ్వాస కుటుంబం సహవాసం - భాగస్వామ్యం - సువార్తీకరణ

ప్రియమైన గురువులు, దైవాంకితులు, క్రీస్తునందు ప్రియమైన విశ్వాసులారా,

సెప్టెంబరు మాసంలోకి అడుగుపెడుతున్న ఈ సమయంలో, మేత్రాసన స్థాయిలో మనమందరం కలిసి సాగిస్తున్న విశ్వాస ప్రయాణమును గురించి కొంత ఆలోచించి, ఆత్మపరిశీలన చేసుకోవాలని కోరుతున్నాను. “కలసి నడిచే విశ్వాస కుటుంబంగా మన మేత్రాసనాన్ని మార్చాలని కొన్ని నెలల క్రితం ప్రణాళిక బద్ధంగా ఒక యజ్ఞం ప్రారంభించాం. ఇది కేవలం ఒక నినాదం కాదు. మనం ఎటు వెళ్లాలి, ఎలా కలిసి జీవించాలి, ఎలా ఒకరినొకరు బలపరచుకోవాలి అనే దానికి ఇది ఒక మార్గదర్శకం. మన మేత్రాసన మహాసభలు మరియు ప్రేషిత ప్రణాళికలో నిర్దేశించిన దార్శనికతను, ప్రాధాన్యతలను నిజమైన జీవితంలో ఆచరణలో పెట్టడానికి మరియు నూతన చైతన్యముతో ముందుకు సాగడానికి ఈ నా మాటలు మీకు ప్రోత్సాహకరము గాను, స్ఫూర్తిదాయకముగాను ఉండాలి అని రాస్తున్నాను.

ప్రియ బిడ్డలారా, మీలో ప్రతి ఒక్కరి కొరకు నేను నిరంతరం దేవునికి కృతజ్ఞతలు తెలుపుతున్నాను. నాతో సన్నిహితముగా, సమైక్యతతో, పుత్రస్నేహం, గౌరవం, ఉదార సహకార స్ఫూర్తితో, ఎక్కడికి పంపితే అక్కడకు, ముఖ్యంగా కష్టతరమైన మరియు దూర ప్రాంత విచారణలో విశ్వసనీయంగా సేవచేస్తున్న మన గురువులకు నేను హృదయపూర్వక కృతజ్ఞతలు తెలియజేస్తున్నాను. మనమందరం కలసి కలగంటున్న సజీవమైన, ఐక్యమైన మేత్రాసన నిర్మాణంలో వారు సంపూర్ణ హృదయంతో భాగస్వాములవుతూ, నాతో కలిసి పనిచేయడానికి చూపుతున్న సుముఖతకు నేను కృతజ్ఞుడను.

అలాగే, నాపట్ల ఎంతో ఆప్యాయతను చూపుతూ, తరచుగా నిశ్శబ్దంగా, నిస్వార్థంగా దేవునికి, ఆయన ప్రజలకు సేవ చేయడానికి తమను తాము అర్పించుకుంటున్న మన అమ్మగార్లకు, సభ గురువులకు కూడా నేను కృతజ్ఞతలు తెలుపుతున్నాను. మన విశ్వాసాన్ని అలసట లేకుండా బోధిస్తూ, విశ్వాసులను బలపరుస్తున్న మన ఉపదేశులు మరియు ఉజ్జీవకులకు శతకోటి వందనాలు. తల్లిదండ్రులు కూడా తమ పిల్లలకు విశ్వాసమనే అమూల్యమైన కానుకను నమ్మకంగా అందిస్తుండటం చూస్తున్నాను. క్రీస్తును వెదకుతూ, తమ జీవితాలకు అర్థం మరియు దిశను అన్వేషిస్తున్న యువతను చూస్తున్నాను. దైనందిన జీవితంలోని ఆనందాలు, పోరాటాలు, సవాళ్ల మధ్య సువార్తను జీవించడానికి ప్రయత్నిస్తున్న కుటుంబాలను చూస్తున్నాను. ఇవన్నీ ప్రభువు మేత్రాసనానికి

ఇచ్చిన గొప్ప వరాలు. ఈ సమస్త ఆశీర్వాదాల కొరకు మన హృదయాలను కృతజ్ఞతతో పైకెత్తి దేవునికి స్తోత్రములు చెల్లించాలి.

అదే సమయంలో, ప్రభువు మనలను మరో అడుగు ముందుకు వేయమని ఆహ్వానిస్తున్నారు. కేవలం సంఘానికి చెందినవారిగా ఉండటమే కాకుండా, కలిసి సంఘాన్ని నిర్మించమని ఆయన మనలను పిలుస్తున్నారు. ఇదే మన మేత్రాసన ప్రేషిత కార్య ప్రణాళికనినాదమైన కలసి నడిచే విశ్వాస కుటుంబం యొక్క అంతరార్థం మరియు ముఖ్యోద్దేశం.

మనము కుటుంబ యూనిట్లను, సంఘ ప్రేషిత సలహా మరియు సంఘ ఆర్థిక మండళ్లను ఏర్పాటు చేయడం ప్రారంభించాము. విశ్వాసులు, మహిళలు, యువత మరింతగా భాగస్వాములు కావాలని ప్రోత్సహిస్తున్నాము. అంతేగాక వివిధ కమిషన్ల ద్వారా మన ప్రేషిత, ఆధ్యాత్మిక, మిషనరీ జీవితాన్ని మరింత బలపరచడానికి కృషి చేస్తున్నాము.

మనో పరివర్తన యొక్క అవశ్యకత

కానీ మన ఈ ప్రయత్నాలన్నీ కేవలం కార్యక్రమాలు ఏర్పాటు చేయడానికి లేదా నిర్మాణాత్మక మార్పులు తీసుకొనిరావడానికి మాత్రమే కావు. ఇవి మన మనో పరివర్తనకు లేదా మనసు మార్పుకు ఇచ్చే ఆహ్వానం. ప్రభువు మనలను ఏ విధమైన సంఘంగా చూడాలనుకుంటున్నారో, అటువంటి సంఘంగా మారమనే ఆహ్వానం. మనమందరం ఒకరికొకరం చెందినవారము. పునీత పౌలు గారు మనకు ఒక చక్కని సాదృశ్యాన్ని అందిస్తున్నారు: “శరీరం ఒక్కటే అయినా దానికి అనేక అవయవాలు ఉన్నాయి; అవయవాలు అనేకమైనప్పటికీ అవన్నీ ఒక్క శరీరమే. క్రీస్తు విషయంలో కూడా అంతే.” (1 కొరింథీయులకు 12:12). సంఘం క్రీస్తు శరీరం. మనం కేవలం దైవార్చన ఆరాధనకు అక్కడక్కడి నుండి వచ్చి చేరే వేరువేరు వ్యక్తులము కాదు. జ్ఞానస్నానము ద్వారా మనం ఒకరికొకరం అవయవాలమయ్యాము. చేతికి పాదం అవసరం. కన్నుకు చెవి అవసరం. బలవంతులకు బలహీనులు అవసరం; బలహీనులకు బలవంతులు అవసరం. అదే విధంగా, గురువుకి విశ్వాసులు అవసరం; విశ్వాసులకు గురువు అవసరం. కుటుంబాలకు విచారణ అవసరం; విచారణకు కుటుంబాలు అవసరం. యువతకు పెద్దల మార్గదర్శకత్వం అవసరం; సంఘానికి యువత యొక్క శక్తి, సృజనాత్మకత అవసరం.

సంఘములో ప్రతి ఒక్కరికీ ఒక స్థానం ఉంది. ప్రతి ఒక్కరికీ ఒక వరం ఉంది. ప్రతి ఒక్కరికీ ఒక బాధ్యత ఉంది. అందువల్ల మనమందరం “నా విచారణ” అనే మనస్తత్వము నుండి “మన విచారణ” వైపు, “నా బాధ్యత” నుండి “మన బాధ్యత” వైపు, “సంఘం నా కోసం ఏమి చేయగలదు?” అనే ప్రశ్న నుండి “సంఘం కోసం నేను ఏమి చేయగలను?” అనే ప్రశ్న వైపు మారాలని కోరుకుంటున్నాను. మన పాస్టరల్/ప్రేషిత ప్రణాళిక ఫలించాలంటే ఈ హృదయ పరివర్తన అనివార్యం.

ప్రేక్షకుల నుండి భాగస్వాములుగా

ప్రియ సోదరులారా, గురువులు మాత్రమే సంఘాన్ని నిర్మించలేరు. మన గురువులకు అరుదైన, అందమైన మరియు ఎవ్వరూ భర్తీ చేయలేని ఒక పిలుపు ఉంది. దానికే వారు అభిషేకించ బడ్డారు. అయితే సంఘం యొక్క బాధ్యత దేవుని ప్రజలందరికీ చెందినది. అందుకే మన కుటుంబ యూనిట్లు, సంఘ సలహా మండళ్ళకు నేను ఎంతో ప్రాధాన్యత ఇస్తున్నాను. మన కుటుంబ యూనిట్లు నిజమైన చిన్న క్రైస్తవ సమూహాలుగా మారాలని నేను కోరుకుంటున్నాను. ఇట్టి యూనిట్లు, లేక కుటుంబ సముదాయాలు ఒకరినొకరు తెలుసుకునే ప్రదేశాలుగా, కలిసి ప్రార్థించే సమూహాలుగా, తమ ఆనందాలను, బాధలను పంచుకునే కుటుంబాలుగా, కష్టాల్లో ఉన్నవారిని ఆదుకునే సమూహాలుగా, రోగులను మరియు వృద్ధులను సందర్శించే సమాజాలుగా, విశ్వాసంలో ఒకరినొకరు ప్రోత్సహించుకొనే సమూహాలుగా మారాలి.

మన సంఘ సలహా మండళ్ళు నిజమైన సమైక్యతకు, వివేచనకు వేదికలుగా మారాలని నేను కోరుకుంటున్నాను. అక్కడ గురువులు, విశ్వాసులు ఒకరినొకరు పరస్పరం వినాలి, కలిసి ఆలోచించాలి, సంఘ శ్రేయస్సు కోసం కలిసి పనిచేయాలి. ఈ వ్యవస్థలు కేవలం మరొక మొక్కుబడిగా ఏర్పాటు చేసుకొనే సమావేశంగా మారకుండా జాగ్రత్తపడదాం. అవి పరిశుద్ధాత్ముడు సాధనాలుగా మారాలి. సంఘ నిర్మాణానికి కారణభూతమవ్వాలి.

ముఖ్యంగా ప్రియ గురువులారా: మీ ప్రజలను విశ్వసించండి; వారికి సంఘములో, విచారణలో మరియు మేత్రాసనములో సేవ చేసే అవకాశాలను ఇవ్వండి. అలాగే ప్రియ విశ్వాసులారా, సంఘములో బాధ్యతలు స్వీకరించడానికి భయపడకండి. “ఇది గురువు పని” అని అనకండి. ప్రభువు మీకు ఒక వరం ఇచ్చినట్లయితే, అది ఆయన సంఘం మేలు కోసమే ఇచ్చాడు అని మర్చిపోవద్దు.

భాగస్వామ్యం నుండి సువార్తీకరణ /విశ్వాస వ్యాప్తివైపుకు

అయితే మరో అడుగు కూడా ఉంది. మన సమైక్యత మనలను సువార్తపరిచర్య, విశ్వాస వ్యాప్తి వైపుకు నడిపించాలి. యేసు మనతో ఇలా అంటున్నాడు: “కాబట్టి మీరు వెళ్లి సకల జనులను శిష్యులుగా చేయండి.” (మత్తయి 28:19) మనం మన సంఘాల లోపలే ఉండి, ప్రజలు మన దగ్గరకు వచ్చే వరకు ఎదురు చూడలేం. మన చుట్టూ ఎంతో కొంత ప్రోత్సాహం అవసరమైన కుటుంబాలు ఉన్నాయి. సంఘానికి రావడం మానివేసినవారు ఉన్నారు. జీవితానికి అర్థం కోసం వెదుకుతున్న యువత ఉన్నారు. తమను ఎవరూ పట్టించుకోవడం లేదని భావిస్తున్న వృద్ధులు ఉన్నారు. తమ పక్కన కూర్చునే ఒక మనిషి కోసం ఎదురుచూస్తున్న రోగులు ఉన్నారు. మన సంఘీభావం అవసరమైన పేద కుటుంబాలు ఉన్నాయి. ఎలా ప్రార్థించాలో నేర్పించడానికి ఒకరి సహాయం అవసరమైన పిల్లలు ఉన్నారు.

కొన్నిసార్లు సువార్తీకరణకు/యేసు ప్రభుని ప్రకటించడానికి, ఇతరులలో విశ్వాస బీజాలు వేయడానికి గొప్ప కార్యక్రమాలు, అసాధారణ ప్రతిభలు అవసరమని మనం అనుకుంటాము. కానీ సువార్తీకరణ చాలా

సరళంగా ప్రారంభమవుతుంది. అవసరములో ఉన్నవారిని సందర్శించడం/చూడటానికి వెళ్ళడం సువార్తీకరణ కావచ్చు. శ్రద్ధగా వినే హృదయం సువార్తీకరణ కావచ్చు. ప్రోత్సాహకరమైన ఒక మాట సువార్తీకరణ కావచ్చు. కుటుంబ ప్రార్థన సువార్తీకరణ కావచ్చు. క్షమించే ఒక చర్య సువార్తీకరణ కావచ్చు. సహాయం అందించే చేయి సువార్తీకరణ కావచ్చు.

క్రైస్తవ ప్రేమ కనిపించే ప్రతి చోట సువార్తీకరణ ప్రారంభమవుతుంది.

ప్రతి కుటుంబ యూనిట్/సముదాయం ఒక చిన్న మిషనరీ/సువార్తీకరణ సమాజంగా, ప్రతి విచారణ ప్రార్థనకు మరియు ప్రజలను చేరుకునే సేవకు ఒక కేంద్రంగా, ప్రతి విశ్వాసి కనీసం మరొకరిని క్రీస్తుకు దగ్గరగా తీసుకురావడానికి వ్యక్తిగతంగా బాధ్యత వహించే వ్యక్తిగా ఉండే శ్రీసభను కర్నూలు గురు పీఠములో నేను కలగంటున్నాను.

మన యువత కేవలం భవిష్యత్తు కాదు

మన యువతకు నేను ప్రత్యేకంగా విజ్ఞప్తి చేయదలచుకున్నాను. “మీరు కేవలం సంఘం యొక్క భవిష్యత్తు మాత్రమే కాదు. మీరు వర్తమాన శ్రీసభకు మూల స్తంభాలు. సంఘానికి మీ ఉత్సాహం, మీ ధైర్యం, మీ ప్రశ్నలు, మీ సృజనాత్మకత, మీ ఉదారత అవసరం. విచారణ జీవితంలో అంటి అంటనట్లు ఉండొద్దు. అంచుల్లో నిలిచిపోవద్దు. ముందుకు రండి. బాధ్యతలు స్వీకరించండి. ప్రార్థన, బోధన, దైవార్చన, సామాజిక సేవ, ఆధునిక సాంఘిక మాధ్యమాలను మరియు సాంకేతికనుపయోగించి సువార్తీకరణలో పాల్గొనండి. మీ ప్రతిభలను క్రీస్తు కోసం వినియోగించండి. మీ దృష్టిని ఆకర్షించడానికి ప్రపంచంలో అనేక స్వరాలు పోటీ పడుతున్నాయి. “రండి, నన్ను అనుసరించండి” అని చెప్పే యేసు స్వరాన్ని మీరు వివేచనా సంఘం మీకు సహాయం చేయాలనుకుంటోంది. క్రీస్తును అనుసరించడం భారమైన బాధ్యత కాదు. అది ఒక అందమైన సాహసం అని ప్రతి యువకుడు, ప్రతి యువతి అనుభవించే పీఠంగా మన కర్నూలు ఉండాలని నేను కోరుకుంటున్నాను”. మన యువజన సేవను మరింత సులభతరం మరియు క్రమబద్ధం చేయడానికి, త్వరలోనే మన మేత్రాసనంలో యువజన సేవకు సంబంధించిన స్పష్టమైన మార్గదర్శకాలతో యూత్ డైరెక్టరీ ప్రచురిస్తాము.

మన మహిళలకు ప్రత్యేక స్థానం

మన మేత్రాసనంలోని మహిళలందరికీ కూడా నా హృదయపూర్వక కృతజ్ఞతలు తెలియజేయాలను కుంటున్నాను. మన కుటుంబాల విశ్వాసంలో, ఎక్కువ భాగాన్ని తల్లులు, అమ్మమ్మలు, అక్క చెల్లెళ్ళు, కుమార్తెలు నిశ్శబ్దంగా మోస్తున్నారు. చాలాసార్లు గుర్తింపు లేకుండానే వారు ప్రార్థిస్తారు, బోధిస్తారు, తోడుగా నిలుస్తారు, త్యాగం చేస్తారు, కుటుంబాలను ఐక్యంగా ఉంచుతారు. మన మహిళలకు దేవుడు జ్ఞానమనే గొప్ప వరాన్నిచ్చారు. మన మేత్రాసన ప్రేషిత పరిచర్యలో వారు మరింతగా స్వాగతించబడాలని, ఉపయోగించబడాలని, భాగస్వాములు

కావాలని నేను ఆశిస్తున్నాను. ప్రతి వరాన్ని గుర్తించినప్పుడు, ప్రతి స్వరానికి వినిపించే అవకాశం ఇచ్చినప్పుడు సంఘం మరింత సంపన్నమవుతుంది.

కలిసి నడవడం అంటే ఒకరినొకరం వినడం

మనం ఒకరినొకరం వినకపోతే కలిసి నడవలేం. మొదట మనం దేవుని వాక్యాన్ని వినాలి. తరువాత పరిశుద్ధాత్మ స్వరాన్ని వినాలి. ఆ తరువాత ఒకరినొకరం వినడం నేర్చుకోవాలి - ముఖ్యంగా తరచుగా వినిపించని వారి స్వరాలను. కలిసి నడవడం అంటే ప్రతి విషయానిలో మనం ఎప్పుడూ ఒకే అభిప్రాయంలో ఉండాలని కాదు. మన అభిప్రాయాలు వేరుగా ఉన్నప్పటికీ మనం సహోదర సహోదరీలుగానే ఉండడం. కాబట్టి అవసరం లేని విభేదాలు, వర్గవాదం, అసూయ, విమర్శలను దూరం చేద్దాం. చిన్న చిన్న భేదాలు క్రీస్తుపై మనకున్న ప్రేమకంటే గొప్పవిగా మారనివ్వకండి. మనకు ఒకే ప్రభువు, ఒకే విశ్వాసం, ఒకే జ్ఞానస్నానం. మనందరం అభిషేకించబడిన సంఘం. మనలను ఏకం చేసేది, మనలను విభజించేదానికంటే ఎల్లప్పుడూ గొప్పది.

మన ప్రేషిత ప్రణాళిక

మన ప్రేషిత ప్రణాళిక మన సంఘ జీవన విధానంగా మారాలి. అది ఒక అలమారలో పెట్టి ఉంచే పత్రం కాదు. ప్రజలు క్రీస్తును కలుసుకున్నప్పుడు, కుటుంబాలు బలపడినప్పుడు, సంఘం ఐక్యమైనప్పుడు, సువార్తీకరణ బాధ్యతను స్వీకరించినప్పుడు మాత్రమే మన ప్రణాళిక విజయవంతమవుతుంది. కాగితంపై అన్ని కార్యక్రమాలు పూర్తయినప్పుడు కాదు. ఈ సందర్భంలో, మీలో ప్రతి ఒక్కరూ ఒక ప్రశ్నను మీ హృదయంలో మోసుకెళ్లాలని కోరుతున్నాను: “ప్రభువా, నీ సంఘం కోసం నేను ఏమి చేయాలని నీవు కోరుతున్నావు?” బహుశా మీ విచారణలో ఒక బాధ్యతను స్వీకరించమని పిలుస్తున్నారేమో! బహుశా ఒంటరిగా ఉన్న ఒకరిని సందర్శించమని కోరుతున్నారేమో. బహుశా ఎవరో ఒకరిని క్షమించమని కోరుతున్నారేమో. బహుశా మీ సమయం లేదా ప్రతిభలో కొంత భాగాన్ని అందించమని కోరుతున్నారేమో. బహుశా మీ పిల్లల విశ్వాస వికాసంలో మరింత చురుకుగా పాల్గొనమని కోరుతున్నారేమో. అది ఏదైనా కావచ్చు, మీరు అందించే సహకారం చాలా చిన్నదని ఎప్పుడూ అనుకోకండి. మన దగ్గర ఎంత ఉందో ప్రభువు అడగరు. మన దగ్గర ఉన్నదాన్ని అందించడానికి మనం సిద్ధంగా ఉన్నామా అని అడుగుతారు. ఐదు రొట్టెలు, రెండు చేపలు చాలా స్వల్పమైనవిగా కనిపించవచ్చు. కానీ అవి మన ప్రభువు చేతుల్లో ఉంచబడినప్పుడు, ఒక గొప్ప జనసమూహానికి ఆహారంగా మారాయి.

మీ కాపరిగా నా కల

మీ కాపరిగా, నా హృదయంలో ఒక కలను మోస్తున్నాను. మన సంఘములో ప్రతి సభ్యుడూ మరచిపోయినట్లు అనిపించని మేత్రాసనాన్ని నేను కలగంటున్నాను. ప్రతి కుటుంబం “మేము ఈ సంఘమనే కుటుంబానికి చెందినవారమే” అని చెప్పుకొని సంతోషించే అనుభూతి చెందే మేత్రాసనాన్ని నేను కలగంటున్నాను. మన విచారణలు సజీవంగా ఉండాలని, మన యువత యేసు యొక్క ఉత్సాహభరితమైన శిష్యులుగా ఉండాలని, మహిళలు గౌరవించబడుతూ వారి వరాలు సంపూర్ణంగా గుర్తించబడాలని, గురువులు మరియు విశ్వాసులు

పరస్పర విశ్వాసంతో కలిసి పనిచేయాలని, ప్రతి కుటుంబ యూనిట్ విశ్వాసం కలిగిన సమూహంగా మారాలని, చివరికి ప్రతి విచారణ ఒక సువార్తీకరణ కేంద్రంగా మారాలని నేను కలగంటున్నాను. అన్నింటికంటే ముఖ్యంగా, మనలను కలుసుకునే ప్రతి వ్యక్తి “చూడండి, వారు ఒకరినొకరు ఎంతగా ప్రేమించుకుంటున్నారో!” అని చెప్పగలిగే పీఠాన్ని నేను కలగంటున్నాను. ప్రభువు కూడా మనం ఇట్టి సంఘముగా మారాలని మనసుండి కోరుకుంటున్నారు. కాబట్టి మనం కలిసి నడుద్దాం.

నా ప్రియ సోదరులారా, మన ముందున్న ప్రయాణం ఇంకా ఎంతో దూరం ఉంది. మనకు అవసరమైన ప్రతిదీ మన దగ్గర లేకపోవచ్చు. మనం సవాళ్ళను, కష్టాలను ఎదుర్కోవచ్చు. కొన్నిసార్లు మనం తప్పులు చేయవచ్చు. కానీ మనం ఒంటరిగా నడవడం లేదు. క్రీస్తు మనతో కలిసి నడుస్తున్నారు. క్రీస్తు మనతో నడుస్తున్నప్పుడు మనం భయపడవలసినదేమీ లేదు.

మన మేత్రాసనము యొక్క ఈ ప్రయాణాన్ని మన పరలోక తల్లి మరియు మన మేత్రాసన పాలకురాలైన పరిశుద్ధ లూర్దామాతకు అప్పగిస్తున్నాను. ఆమె బెత్లెహేము నుండి కల్వరి వరకు, దానిని దాటి కూడా యేసుతో కలిసి నడిచింది. వినడం, విశ్వసించడం, దేవునికి “అవును” అని చెప్పడం, వినయంతో సేవ చేయడం ఆమె మనకు నేర్పుతుంది. ఆమె మన పీఠంలోని ప్రతి కుటుంబానికి, ప్రతి గురువుకు, ప్రతి అమ్మగారికీ, ప్రతి సోదరి, సోదరునికి, మన చిన్నారి బిడ్డలకు, మన యువతకు, మన రోగులకు, వృద్ధులకు, పేదలకు ఆమె తోడుగా ఉండునుగాక. మరియు మనం ఎలా ఉండాలని పిలువబడ్డామో, అనుకుంటున్నామో అలా మారడానికి మనకు సహాయం చేయుగాక: ఒకే విశ్వాస కుటుంబంగా కలిసి నడుస్తూ కలిసి సేవ చేస్తూ, కలిసి క్రీస్తును ప్రకటిస్తూ కలిసి నడుద్దాం. దేవుడు మనందరినీ ఆశీర్వదించుగాక. మీ ప్రార్థనలలో నన్ను కూడా జ్ఞాపకం చేసుకోండి. మిమ్మందరినీ నా ప్రేమతో మిమ్మందరినీ మనసున ఉంచుకొని, ప్రార్థనలో నిరంతరం స్మరిస్తూ, దీవించే

మీ జ్ఞాన తండ్రి

✠ గోరంట్ల జ్వాన్సేన్, ఓ.సి.డి.

కర్నూలు పీఠ కాపరి.

HOLY FATHER'S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION



- **For the care of water :** Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that every one may have equal access to it.



DIOCESE OF KURNOOL

Role and Responsibilities of the Commission Secretaries (Orientative Guidelines)

1. INTRODUCTION

In the light of the diocesan pastoral vision that seeks to build “*communities of faith as families of believers*”, the Commissions of the Diocese of Kurnool play a vital role in animating, coordinating, and implementing the pastoral mission of the Church.

These Commissions are constituted in correspondence with the structures of the **Catholic Bishops’ Conference of India (CBCI)**, the **Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI)**, and the **Telugu Catholic Bishops’ Council (TCBC)**. They serve as instruments of communion (*communio*) and mission (*missio*), fostering collaboration between the universal, national, regional, and local Church. In accordance with the spirit of the **Code of Canon Law (cf. cann. 394 §1; 511–514)**, the diocesan bishop promotes coordinated pastoral action, and the commissions assist in realizing this mandate through specialized pastoral care.

2. Identity of a Commission Secretary

A Commission Secretary is not simply an organizer, but:

- A **pastoral animator** who inspires and mobilizes.
- A **bridge-builder** between the Diocese and national/regional Church structures.
- A **listener and discerner**, attentive to the signs of the times.
- A **facilitator of synodality**, fostering collaboration among clergy, religious, and laity.

He/She exercises this role in communion with the Bishop, who is the chief shepherd and moderator of all pastoral activity (cf. can. 391).

3. ROLE AT THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

Commission Secretaries serve as official representatives of the Diocese in their respective sectors. Their responsibilities include:

- Maintaining active communication with the CBCI, CCBI, and TCBC Commissions.
- Provide timely information to these bodies whenever requested

- Receiving, studying, and disseminating guidelines, policy documents, and pastoral orientations issued at national and regional levels.
- Participating in meetings, seminars, and workshops organized by these bodies.
- Representing the Diocese of Kurnool by articulating its pastoral realities, challenges, and contributions at broader ecclesial forums.

The Diocese shall ordinarily support participation in such meetings by providing necessary financial assistance (travel, registration, etc.), recognizing this as an essential dimension of ecclesial communion and co-responsibility.

4. ROLE WITHIN THE DIOCESE

Within the Diocese, Commission Secretaries are entrusted with the responsibility of contextualizing and implementing the pastoral directives received from higher bodies, always in harmony with the diocesan pastoral plan and under the guidance of the Bishop (cf. can. 391).

They are to:

- Prepare a **Strategic annual/triennial Plan** for their respective commission.
- Submit the plan for approval to the Bishop.
- Form and animate a **team or sub-commission**, including clergy, religious, and competent lay faithful (cf. can. 228 §1).
- Encourage co-responsibility and participation of the laity in the mission of the Church (cf. can. 204 §1).
- Organize programs at diocesan, deanery, and parish levels.
- Periodically review and evaluate pastoral initiatives.

5. SPECIFIC AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY, FOR EXAMPLE

i. Bible Commission

- Promote love for Sacred Scripture (cf. *Dei Verbum*, 21–25).
- Develop programs such as Vacation Bible Schools, Bible quizzes, and Scripture study groups.
- Facilitate access to the Bible in families and communities.
- Engage collaborators, including catechists, religious, and trained laity.

ii. Commission for Migrants

- Identify and accompany migrant Catholic families within the Diocese.
- Ensure their integration into parish life and sacramental participation.

- Promote pastoral care inspired by the Church's teaching on migrants (cf. *Erga migrantes caritas Christi*).
- Coordinate welfare initiatives addressing their socio-spiritual needs.

iii. Commission for Women

- Promote the dignity and vocation of women (cf. *Mulieris Dignitatem*).
- Ensure women's participation in decision-making bodies where applicable (cf. can. 228).
- Organize leadership formation and empowerment programs.
- Encourage active involvement of women at all levels of ecclesial life.

iv. Liturgy Commission

- Ensure faithful implementation of liturgical norms (cf. can. 838).
- Promote active participation of the faithful (cf. *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 14).
- Organize formation programs for clergy, religious, and laity.
- Foster liturgical music, decorum, and meaningful celebrations.

v. Health Commission

- Collect information of all the Doctors/Nurses/Medical officers of the diocese of Kurnool
- Promote the healing ministry of Christ (cf. Mt 25:36).
- Organize medical camps and health awareness programs.
- Collaborate with healthcare institutions and volunteers.

vi. Family and Laity Commission

- Strengthen Christian family life as the "domestic Church" (cf. *Familiaris Consortio*).
- Conduct pre-marriage courses and post-marriage accompaniment.
- Promote lay participation in the Church's mission.

vii. Youth Commission

- Accompany youth in their faith journey (cf. *Christus Vivit*).
- Organize youth gatherings, leadership programs, and formation initiatives.
- Make sure that the youth participate actively in the regional and national youth programs
- Initiate programs for school drop outs, coaching centres, job oriented courses to help the youth in finding jobs etc.
- Foster missionary spirit and social responsibility among youth.

viii. SC / BC / ST Commission

- Promote justice, dignity, and inclusion of marginalized communities.
- Advocate for equal opportunities within Church structures.
- Take initiatives to fight for justice, abolition of 1950 Presidential Order concerning the SC status for Christians.
- Develop empowerment and awareness programs.

ix. Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue

- Promote unity among Christians (cf. *Unitatis Redintegratio*).
- Foster respectful dialogue with other religions (cf. *Nostra Aetate*).
- Encourage collaboration for peace and social harmony.

x. Vocation, Clergy, and Religious Commission

- Promote vocations to priesthood and consecrated life (cf. can. 233 §1).
- Organize vocation camps and discernment programs.
- Support ongoing formation of clergy and religious.

xi. Prison Ministry

- Provide pastoral care to prisoners (cf. Mt 25:36).
- Organize visits, spiritual assistance, and rehabilitation initiatives.
- Collaborate with civil authorities for the welfare of inmates.

xii. Doctrine and Theology

- Organise seminars to study the magisterial teaching of the Church especially the new encyclicals for clergy, religious and lay faithful

6. COLLABORATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

All Commission Secretaries are accountable to the Bishop and are expected to:

- Submit **annual reports** of activities and finances.
- Participate in diocesan pastoral review meetings.
- Work in collaboration with other commissions, parishes, and institutions.

7. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION of Diocesan Commissions

- Annual Diocesan Allocation:* The Diocese shall make an annual financial allocation to each Commission according to its pastoral priorities, programmes and available resources. The Secretary of the Commission shall prepare a realistic

annual plan and budget and ensure that the amount allotted is used prudently and exclusively for the approved purposes.

- ii. *Responsible Stewardship and Accountability:* The Secretary is entrusted with the responsibility of administering the allotted funds with prudence, integrity and accountability. Every expenditure should serve the mission of the Commission and should be properly documented. A brief financial report, together with the necessary supporting documents, shall be submitted to the Diocese as part of the annual report of the Commission.
- iii. *Mobilising Resources within the Diocese:* The financial responsibility of a Commission should not depend entirely on the diocesan allocation. Secretaries are encouraged to mobilise resources from within the Diocese by presenting the vision and activities of their respective ministries to the parishes and individual donors. The faithful should be invited to participate not merely as donors but as partners in the mission of the Church, contributing according to their ability, time, talents and resources.
- iv. *Transparency Inspires Generosity:* Transparency, accountability and a clear pastoral purpose create trust, and trust inspires generosity. When people see that resources are being used honestly, responsibly and for a genuine pastoral purpose, they are more willing to join hands and support the ministry. Every Commission, therefore, should cultivate a culture of openness, responsible stewardship and shared ownership, so that the faithful may feel that their contribution is truly helping to build the Church and serve her mission.

8. CONCLUSION

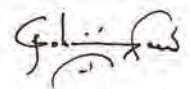
The effectiveness of the Commissions depends on the dedication, creativity, and pastoral zeal of the Secretaries and their teams. Rooted in prayer, guided by the Word of God, and inspired by the teachings of the Church, they are called to build a vibrant, participatory, and missionary Diocese. May their service contribute to the growth of a **synodal Church**, walking together in faith, hope, and charity.

✠ JOHANNES GORANTLA OCD
Bishop of Kurnool

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER 2026

01 - 03	Tue		TCBC Meeting
05	Sat	10:00 am	Mass at Hyderabad
		06:00 pm	Mass at Mother Teresa Convent, Kurnool
06	Sun	05:30 pm	Mass at Arogya Matha Shrine, Bellary
07	Mon	06:00 pm	Festive Mass at Arogya Matha Church, Kalluru
08	Tue	09:00 am	Festive Mass of Our Lady of Good Health at Peddakotala
		03:00 pm	Festive Mass at Our Lady of Good Health Shrine, Guntakal.
09	Wed		In Office
10	Thu		10 th Episcopal Anniversary of Bishop of Guntur
12	Sat	10:30 am	Golden Jubilee of CMC Convent, Sirvel
13	Sun	06:30 am	Mass at Cathedral & Regional Health Commission Meeting.
14 -18	Mon		CCBI & CBCI Bangalore
19	Sat	10:30 am	Golden Jubilee of CMC Convent, Pathikonda
20	Sun	07:30 am	Mass at Anantapur
21-25	Mon		Diocesan Clergy Retreat
26	Sat	09:00 am	Mass at Vincentian Regional House, Vijayawada.
28	Mon		Ecumenical Meeting - Jeevasudha
29	Tue		In Office
30	Wed		In Office



✠ JOHANNES GORANTLA OCD
Bishop of Kurnool

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Holy Masses Received:

Our Lady of Health Shrine, Guntakal	1037 Masses X Rs.100/-	103700/-
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Anantapur	132 Masses X Rs.100/-	13200/-
Holy Family Parish, Polur	60 Masses X Rs.100/-	6000/-
St. Teresa's Co-Cathedral, Kurnool	106 Masses X Rs.100/-	10600/-
St. Joseph's Church, Gooty	53 Masses X Rs.100	5300/-
Fr. C.J. Varghese, Samarpana	30 Masses X Rs.100	3000/-
Infant Jesus Church, Adoni	50 Masses X Rs.100/-	5000/-
St. Mary's Pilgrim Church, Premagiri	100 Masses X Rs.100/-	10000/-
Sinai, Divine Retreat Center, Premagiri	780 Masses X Rs.100/-	18000/-
Fr.B. Marreddy, Navajeevan	50 Masses X Rs.100	5000/-

Masses from Bishop's Friends:

2 Gregorian Masses for the repose of the souls of::

➤ Lionel Sterling, ➤ Rev. Paul Pang, OFM.

4 Novena Masses for the Intention of...

➤ Augustine and Barbara Young, ➤ John KT Lie,

➤ Leo John Goodstadt family, ➤ John Ignatius Kung.

3 Triduum:

➤ Rose Goodstadt, ➤ Tom and Terese Kung, ➤ Agnes Kung

UPCOMING SPIRITUAL GATHERING:

DIOCESAN ANNUAL RETREAT

➤ **September 21–25:** Annual retreat for spiritual renewal at Jeevasudha Pastoral Center, Kurnool.

NEWS

1. KURNOOL PRIESTS CELEBRATE SILVER JUBILEE OF BISHOP JOHANNES IN TEXAS

GATESVILLE (Texas), August 7, 2026: Priests from the Diocese of Kurnool currently serving in the United

States gathered at Our Lady of Lourdes Church to celebrate the sacerdotal silver jubilee of Most Rev. Dr Johannes Gorantla ocd, and Father Kowtiki Antony. Father Jayaraj Polishetty, the parish priest, hosted the event, which brought together clergy



ministering across Texas who cannot attend the main celebrations in India. During the interactive session, Bishop Johannes outlined his vision for the diocese, emphasizing the urgent need for financial self-reliance and long-term sustainability. He urged the overseas clergy to maintain deep connections with their home diocese and contribute toward its growth, particularly in light of changing Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) rules in India. Father Bhaskar Morgudi, the mission procurator, coordinated the structural arrangements and the Bishop's itinerary for the promotional tour.



The international gathering concluded with a concelebrated Mass of thanksgiving and a formal renewal of priestly promises. Bishop Johannes exhorted the assembled clergymen to focus on future pastoral challenges while strengthening the home diocese's administrative framework. The event allowed the diaspora priests to express solidarity with their local leadership and discuss practical strategies for the diocese's development. Attendees included local parishioners, visiting religious sisters, and representatives from various Texan parishes.

2. JMJ SUPERIOR GENERAL SR. MARY KARICKAKUNNEL MEETS BISHOP OF KURNOOL ON OFFICIAL VISIT

KURNOOL August 26, 2026: Most Reverend Dr. Johannes Gorantla ocd, Bishop of Kurnool, received Reverend Sister Mary Karickakunnel JMJ, Superior General of the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph (JMJ), at the Bishop's House here during her maiden visit to the diocese. The Bishop welcomed the global head of the congregation along with Reverend Sister



Tresa Kandlakunta JMJ, General Councillor, to discuss ecclesiastical collaboration. The Superior General greeted bishop with a bouquet and shawl. Bishop Gorantla reviewed the current pastoral, educational, and healthcare works of the congregation in the diocese of Kurnool. Bishop shared his pastoral priorities for the diocese. He extended his assurance of support to the leaders for their upcoming initiatives in education and healthcare. During the interaction, the Bishop commended the sisters for their presence in the diocesan parishes. The prelates concluded the session with a blessing ceremony and a photograph in the bishop's office.

3. NEW SGN PROVINCIAL TEAM VISITS BISHOP OF KURNOOL

KURNOOL August 26, 2026: Most Rev. Dr. Johannes Gorantla ocd, Bishop of Kurnool, was visited by Rev. Sr. Johncia SGN, Superior General of the Sisters of Good News, along with the newly elected Provincial Superior, Sr. Rincy Matthew SGN, and her provincial team. The visit was held to introduce the new provincial leadership and the newly formed Holy Family Province, which



serves the Rayalaseema region. The Sisters of Good News have recently divided their administration into two provinces, the Holy Family Province and the Sacred Heart Province. The provincialate of the Holy Family Province will be located at Kunuturu village in Dharmavaram Parish of the Diocese of Kurnool. During the

meeting, the new provincial team introduced themselves to the Bishop and discussed their services in the diocese. The Bishop assured the Sisters of his continued support, while the Sisters of Good News expressed their commitment

to continue their services through education, evangelization and pastoral ministry. The Bishop wished Sr. Rincy Matthew and her team success in their new responsibility.

4. CULTURAL CONVERGENCE: BISHOP'S HOUSE MARKS ONAM WITH FEAST AND TRADITION

KURNOOL, August 26, 2026: Most Reverend Dr. Johannes Gorantla ocd led the Onam festival celebrations at the Bishop's House in the Diocese of Kurnool, alongside his clergy, religious sisters, and domestic staff. Members of the Sisters of St. Ann of Bangalore (SAB) and the Sisters of the Adoration of the



Blessed Sacrament (SABS) congregations joined the household staff for the occasion. Sister Little Terese and her companions from the Adoration congregation and Bishop House Cooks prepared a traditional Onam Sadya featuring 30 varieties of food, including chitrannamu (colour rice), sweets, and regional delicacies. Candidates of the Adoration sisters and the house staff



managed the event arrangements and laid out the Pookalam, the traditional floral carpet, on the floor. During the gathering, Most Reverend Dr. Johannes Gorantla OCD addressed the assembly, explaining the history of the Kerala state festival, which marks the visit of King Mahabali and commemorates the assurance of prosperity, health, and wealth received from Vamana. The Bishop concluded the celebration by wishing the attendees a happy feast and thanking the sisters and staff for preparing the meal and decorations as well as for performing the cultural dances.

5. GUNTAKAL SHRINE BEGINS NOVENA FOR ANNUAL FEAST WITH FLAG HOISTING

GUNTAKAL, August 29, 2026: Msgr. David Arulappa of the Diocese of Kurnool inaugurated the novena for the annual feast of Our Lady of Good Health shrine. Prior to the recitation of the rosary, Msgr. David Arulappa blessed

the statue of Our Lady of Good Health, leading the congregation in a solemn procession around the church grounds. Following the procession, the clergy hoisted the religious flag to mark the official commencement of the spiritual preparation ahead of the feast on September 8, 2026. During the Eucharistic celebration, Msgr. David Arulappa delivered a homily focusing on the significance of the flag in the Catholic tradition, explaining how the banner serves as a public witness of faith, a symbol of divine protection, and a rallying point that unites believers under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Parish Priest, Father A. Chowrappa, alongside Father G. Prathap, the Asst. Parish Priest confirmed that the parish administration finalized logistical arrangements to accommodate the influx of pilgrims and devotees traveling from across the Kurnool diocese and neighboring regions. Father Chowrappa concluded the inaugural event by expressing gratitude to the Msgr. David Arulappa for presiding over the introductory ceremonies and blessing the community.



6. Nandyal Parish Radiant with Grace as Bishop Celebrates Feast, Confers Sacraments

August 30, 2026: During the Feast of Our Lady of Good Health, Nandyal Parish erupted in spiritual fervor as Most Rev. Dr. Johannes Gorantla ocd, celebrated a solemn Holy Eucharist and administered sacraments to thirty



youth, with fifteen receiving First Holy Communion and fifteen receiving Confirmation. In a profound homily, the Bishop reflected on the divine call to proclaim God's Word, reassuring the faithful that God strengthens His messengers against all challenges and persecutions. Drawing a powerful parallel to the prophet Jeremiah, who bore the Word like a burning fire and could not remain silent, the prelate urged the congregation to receive the Scripture deeply to transform their lives. The Bishop emphasized that while God's Word often discomforts us by challenging our faults, weaknesses, and wrong attitudes, it speaks the essential truth for human salvation. Concluding the celebration, he exhorted everyone to listen attentively, open their hearts, and respond faithfully, transforming the parish feast into a courageous renewal of apostolic mission.

ADONI DEANERY YOUTH CELEBRATE NATIONAL SUNDAY

ADONI: More than 200 young people from various parishes participated in the National Youth Sunday Celebration at Infant Jesus Church here on August 8, 2026. Reverend Father G. Praveen Kumar, Dean of Adoni Deanery, and Reverend Father K. Rajendra Kumar, Diocesan Youth Director, inaugurated the event by lighting a lamp alongside community leaders and youth representatives. Father Kumar urged the youth to take responsibility in church life and utilize their talents for the community. Father Rajendra Kumar shared the vision of Most Reverend Dr. Gorantla Johannes, Bishop of Kurnool Diocese, emphasizing leadership, faith, and service. Digital media influencer Mr. Srujeen Segev conducted the opening session on artificial intelligence and social media networks. They instructed the participants to use technology with responsibility according to Christian values.



Mr. Amalnath led the second session, which focused on faith and daily Christian living. He challenged the youth to live the Gospel and act as witnesses of Christ in society. An open-floor discussion followed where participants questioned the speakers and priests about faith matters and resolved their doubts. The youth shared lunch before attending the Holy Eucharistic celebration, which Father Praveen Kumar and Reverend Father M. Joseph concelebrated. Father Rajendra Kumar delivered the homily, urging the youth to direct their energy toward church and societal development. The Adoni Deanery Youth Executive Committee organized the entire event, which concluded with a pledge by the youth to act as active disciples and leaders.

LOURDHU MATHA HEALTH CLINIC OPENS AT KURNOOL CATHEDRAL

Kurnool, Cathedral, August, 30, 2026: The Health Commission of the Diocese of Kurnool headed by Dr. Suhashini, inaugurated the Lourdh Matha Health Clinic at Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral, near the Bishop's House in Kurnool, on Sunday.



The commission organised the clinic under the guidance of Most Rev. Dr. Johannes Gorantla ocd, with the cooperation of Rev. Fr. K. Prathap Reddy, parish priest. The clinic aims to provide basic medical care to members of the local church community who need medical support. A team of doctors, including Dr.

Suhasini (Paediatrician), Dr. Pradeep (Ophthalmologist), Dr. Sandeep (Physician), Dr. Y. BalaKotaiah (Ophthalmologist), Dr. Joji Reddy, MD (Radiologist), and Gali Shanthi (nurse) Sr. Jayavani, along with the hospital health staff, attended to about 90 registered people and issued health record books. The medical team conducted blood sugar, blood pressure and weight checks for 60 patients. The screening identified 10 people with high blood pressure and around 10 to 20 people with diabetes. The doctors offered medical consultations, while a dietitian advised patients on food and nutrition.

The clinic will function on the first Sunday of every month from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The health committee plans to invite specialist doctors in the coming months and will discuss ways to support the cost of laboratory tests and medicines. With the support of the staff, nurses and 230 active church members, the commission also plans to extend the service to youth counselling, dietary consultation, physiotherapy and home care for the sick. Through the clinic, the Health Commission seeks to put into practice the mission of sharing God's love and love of neighbour through healthcare and service.

DIOCESAN ANIMATORS CONCLUDE WEEKLY OUTREACH ACROSS THREE PARISHES

1. Procession Marks Conclusion of Owk Mission

The pastoral animators of Kurnool Diocese concluded their five-day outreach mission at Owk Parish with a thanksgiving mass on August 2, 2026. Deployments began on July 29, 2026, with teams visiting households across every substation to gather family statistics, lead prayers, teach hymns, and preach in village churches. Parish Priest Reverend Father Suripogula Ravi coordinated local logistics,



while villagers provided food, lodging, and travel expenses for the visiting ministry teams. Father Ravi led a procession to the altar before the Diocesan Director Fr. P. Joseph celebrated the Holy Eucharist and spoke on the teachings of Jesus. The Salesian Missionaries of Mary Immaculate (SMMI) sisters arranged the liturgical ceremony, and the animators managed the choir. Father Ravi felicitated the delegation before concluding the event with a community meal for the animators and parishioners.

2. Velugodu Parish Hosts Animators for Rural Outreach

Pastoral animators completed their five-day mission deployment at Velugodu Parish on August 16, 2026. The teams commenced their fieldwork on August 12, 2026, reaching every substation to survey households, conduct family prayer



sessions, and catechize youth through hymns and sermons. Parish Priest Reverend Father Satish VC welcomed the animators, while the local laity managed hospitality, lodging, and travel expenses. The outreach cycle culminated with a thanksgiving mass where the Diocesan Director celebrated the Holy Eucharist and delivered a sermon on faith. The Sisters of the Precious Blood managed the altar arrangements, and the animators led the congregation in hymns. Father Satish felicitated the animators and the director at the church premises, where the parish hosted a lunch for all participants.

3. Five-Day Pastoral Drive Ends in Nandyal Region

Pastoral animators wrapped up a multi-parish outreach program across Maseedpuram, Chapirevula, and Nandyala parishes on August 23, 2026. The deployment, which began on August 19, 2026, saw teams visiting every substation to compile parish census data, lead



family prayers, and preach in local chapels. Parish Priests Reverend Fathers Rajesh, Jojireddy, and K.D. Joseph supervised the logistics, while village communities funded the travel and hosted the animators. The campaign concluded with a unified mass at Nandyala Parish, where the Sisters of Saint Ann organized the liturgy and the animators conducted the choir. Reverend Father K.D. Joseph thanked and felicitated the Diocesan Director Fr. P. Joseph and the ministry teams during the final session, which ended with a shared dinner for the congregation and animators.

NEWS FROM THE DESK

DESK DIRECTOR CONDUCTS AWARENESS DRIVE IN BOARDING SCHOOLS

Father Lahasthraya, acting as resource person, and Father Bhaskar, Director of the Diocesan Educational Society of Kurnool (DESK), conducted a series of awareness sessions during their recent visit to various boarding institutions.



The initiative aimed to instill values of character development, promote positive community living, and raise educational awareness among students. Father Lahasthraya delivered a talk focusing on honesty, discipline, respect, and methods to find joy in boarding life through friendships. He also provided students with

practical advice on study habits and time management. Father Bhaskar conducted classes highlighting the role of education in shaping future career prospects. He motivated the boarders to set personal goals, cultivate reading habits, participate in class activities, and seek support from mentors when needed.

The students participated in discussions, raised queries, and expressed gratitude to the visiting team at the conclusion of each session. This interaction fostered teamwork, boosted student confidence, and created a supportive



environment across the campuses. The drive resulted in an improved understanding of character growth and enhanced awareness regarding academic excellence. The sessions boosted student morale and generated a positive outlook toward boarding house routines. Observers noted that the combined efforts of Father Lahasthaya and Father Bhaskar provided moral and academic support to the children. The organizers recommended the regular continuation of these interactive sessions to sustain the positive impact among the institutional boarders.

NEWS FROM KURNOOL DIOCESE SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY (KDSSS)

1. HEALTHCARE REACHING THE UNREACHED: MEDICAL CAMP AT DIGUVAPADU

The Kurnool Diocese Social Service Society (KDSSS), in collaboration with St. Theresa's General Hospital, conducted a medical camp at Diguvapadu village in Uppaladadiya parish on August 9, 2026. The village, with a population of about 1,670, has access to treated tap water and functioning hand pumps, which provide drinking water throughout the year. During the camp, doctors examined children and found that regular access to government nutrition programmes was supporting their physical development and growth. The medical team provided multivitamin supplements to the children to help prevent seasonal deficiencies and support their health. Doctors also examined elderly residents and found stable vital signs among most participants, while some reported joint pain and mild hypertension. The team provided free medicines, health screenings and dietary advice to the elderly. The camp concluded with an awareness session on sanitation, nutrition and safe drinking water, stressing the need for these practices to protect the health of the community.



2. BLACK DAY: CHRISTIANS SEEK EQUAL RIGHTS FOR DALIT CHRISTIANS

The Kurnool Diocese observed Black Day at the Kurnool District Collectorate on August 10, 2026, following a call by the Telugu Region Catholic Bishops' Council and the National Council of Churches in India. The protestors demanded Scheduled Caste status for Dalit Christians, the repeal of Paragraph 3 of the 1950 Presidential Order and the withdrawal of anti-

conversion laws in 12 states. Rev. Msgr. David Arulappa described Paragraph 3 as contrary to the principles of equality, while Rev. Fr. Pratap said that denying Scheduled Caste status to people who embrace Christianity or Islam discriminates against them. He referred to Articles 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution in support of the demand for equal rights. Rev. Fr. Lahastraya said that a change of religion does not change a person's caste and noted that caste-based discrimination and untouchability continue in different forms. Rev. Fr. John David referred to the findings of the Justice Ranganath Misra, Chidambaram and Kaka Commissions and called for an early resolution of the petitions concerning Dalit Christians pending before the Supreme Court. Pastors Jayakanth and David Raju, representatives of Christian organisations, sisters and lay faithful took part in the demonstration. At the end of the protest, the participants submitted a representation addressed to the Prime Minister to the District Joint Collector, who assured them that it would be forwarded to the Central Government.



3. EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH THE ART OF TAILORING

The Kurnool Diocese Social Service Society (KDSSS) has set up tailoring training centres at KDSSS, Nagalooty and CSI Palem in Nandikotkur to help women develop skills for employment and self-employment. The centres train women in stitching, garment making and the preparation of school uniforms, giving participants a skill that can be used to earn an income from home or through small tailoring businesses. The programme focuses on women from families with limited employment opportunities and enables them to balance income-generating work with household responsibilities. Through the training, participants learn a trade that has regular demand in both rural and urban communities. The centres also provide a space where women can learn together, exchange experience and build confidence. KDSSS aims to help the participants use their tailoring skills to contribute to family income, improve their financial security and become more self-reliant.



4. APSSS GENERAL BODY MEETING ON 13TH AUG'2026

The General Body Meeting of the Andhra Pradesh Social Service Society (APSSS) was held at Amruthavani Communication Centre, Secunderabad, on August 13, 2026, with the participation of directors of diocesan social service

societies. The meeting was chaired by Most Rev. Dr. Polimera Jayarao, Bishop of Eluru and Chairman of APSSS, with Most Rev. Dr. Thaman Kumar, Bishop of Nalgonda and Vice-Chairman, in



attendance. The members reviewed the programmes, achievements and strategic priorities of the diocesan social service centres and examined the challenges faced by the communities they serve. They identified areas that require greater attention and discussed strategies for the next phase of APSSS programmes. The meeting also stressed coordination between APSSS and diocesan social service centres to improve programme implementation. Rev. Fr. Jojappa Chintapalli, SCJ, assumed charge as the new Secretary of APSSS and said he would continue the work with the guidance of the previous members. The meeting gave priority to programmes for women, youth and children and called for stronger efforts to respond to emerging social needs.

5. OUR FREEDOM; OUR RESPONSIBILITY; OUR FUTURE

The Diocese of Kurnool marked the 79th Independence Day of India on August 15, 2026, at the Yathrikulamatha Shrine, where Msgr. Rev. Fr. Arulappa hoisted the national flag. Addressing the gathering, he recalled the sacrifices of the freedom fighters and said that citizens have a



responsibility to protect the freedom gained through their struggle. He called on people to keep the country clean and green, reduce pollution, address global warming and plant more trees. Sr. Neethu DSS said that freedom came through the sacrifices of many people and that each generation must protect it through responsible action. She said Christians have a responsibility to use their freedom to speak the truth with love, stand with the poor, welcome strangers and build bridges in society. Rev. Fr. Bhaskar, Rev. Fr. Lahstraya, sisters from different congregations and lay faithful took part in the celebration. The programme ended with a commitment to serve society, protect the environment and promote peace, justice and unity.

THE PRIESTLY JOURNEY OF REVEREND FATHER RAMAJI SHOURY : 1978 TO 2026

The Diocese of Kurnool extends its deepest gratitude, admiration, and prayers to Reverend Father Ramaji Shoury as he marks the completion of an extraordinary priestly journey spanning from 1978 to 2026. For nearly five decades, Father Ramaji Shoury has been a steadfast pillar of faith, a compassionate shepherd, and a dedicated servant of God. His life's work leaves an indelible mark on our diocese, his native village of Onteddupalli, and the countless communities he touched globally.



● A FOUNDATION OF FAITH AND FORMATION

Born on September 22, 1951, to devout parents Ramaji Swamidas and Ruthamma in Onteddupalli—a traditional Catholic village renowned for its deep spiritual heritage—Father Ramaji Shoury answered the divine call early in life. His rigorous academic and spiritual formation took him from local schools to minor seminary studies in Cuddapah (completing his Latin course), followed by major seminary studies in Hyderabad where he studied Philosophy and Theology.

His intellectual pursuit expanded well beyond the seminary; as an external student of Osmania University, he earned a B.A. in Arts and a Master's degree in Sociology. He also completed diploma courses in Journalism, Social Development, Spiritual Theology, and Missiology, equipping himself fully for a life of multifaceted ministry.

● A CHRONOLOGICAL JOURNEY OF PRIESTLY SERVICE

Ordained a priest on January 31, 1978, in his native village by the Most Reverend Joseph Rajappa, the first bishop of our diocese, Father Ramaji Shoury embarked on an impeccable, decades-long timeline of dedicated service:

- **1978 (Feb 3):** Commenced his ministry at **Adoni** as Assistant Priest.
- **1980 (Apr 7):** Served at **Kurnool Cathedral** (then St. Theresa's Church) as Assistant Priest.
- **1980 (Aug 14):** Undertook Special Studies in Spirituality at **Bangalore-Carmelaram**.
- **1981 (Mar 15):** Appointed Parish Priest of **Gargeyapuram**.
- **1982 (Jan 21):** Served as Professor, teacher of Spiritual Theology, and Procurator at **St. John's Regional Seminary, Hyderabad**.
- **1984 (Jun 10):** Appointed Parish Priest of **Maddikera**.
- **1985 (Nov 3):** Appointed Spiritual Director to the Minor Seminary and Chaplain to the **New Cathedral**.
- **1987 (Sep 24):** Appointed Parish Priest of **Atmakur**.
- **1988 (Nov 7):** Appointed Parish Priest of **Velugodu**.
- **1989 (Apr 20):** Appointed Parish Priest of **Nandikotkur**.
- **1992 (Feb 11):** Appointed Parish Priest of **Allagadda**.
- **1992 (May 27):** Undertook Special Studies in Mission Theology in the **Philippines**.
- **1993 (Apr 10):** Took charge as Priest of **Ramadurgam Parish**.
- **1993 (May 5):** Appointed Parish Priest of **Owk**.
- **1996 (Mar 26):** Formally proclaimed the **Great Jubilee Year 2000** throughout the Diocese, alongside five years of teaching the instructions of Pope John Paul II. During this era, he also served as Director for Laity, Evangelization, Ecumenism, and Youth.
- **2000 (Feb 13):** Appointed Parish Priest of **Peddakottala**.
- **2001 (Jan 28):** Appointed Parish Priest of **Padamati Yaleru**.
- **2002 (Aug 26):** Appointed **Ananthapur** Parish Priest and Dean.
- **2005 (Jun 18):** Appointed Parish Priest and Shrine Director at **Guntakal**.

- **2006 (May 30):** Returned to serve as Parish Priest of **Ramadurgam**.
- **2009 (May 19):** Traveled for ministry exposures in the **United States of America**.
- **2009: Parish Priest at Maddikera**
- **2010 to 2025:** Served with distinction as an External Priest in the **United States of America**.
- **2025 (Sep 22):** Returns from the U.S.
- **2026 (Jan 26):** Energetically provided three months of pastoral assistance to the brother priest in **Pathikonda Parish**.
- **2026 (Jun 6):** Provided two months of pastoral assistance to the brother priest in **Dhone Parish**.
- **2026 (Jul 27):** Returned to **Samarpana**, where he remains present today.

● **A LEGACY OF GLOBAL VISION AND UNWAVERING FIDELITY**

Throughout this extensive timeline, Father Ramaji Shoury's strategic vision shone brightly. From initiating the Charismatic movement in the diocese to visiting global centers of faith—including France, Germany, Italy, the Vatican, and the Philippines—he always sought to bring the global experience of faith back to his local community. Through all these changing times and places, Father Ramaji Shoury remained completely docile, faithful, and obedient to the Magisterium of the Church, the Holy See, and the Diocesan Hierarchy.

● **WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE**

As Father Ramaji Shoury returns to his quiet residency at Samarpana, the Diocese of Kurnool collectively bows its head in appreciation. We thank you, Father Ramaji Shoury, for your unyielding fidelity, your tireless labor, and your loving pastoral heart. May the Good Shepherd reward you abundantly for your forty-eight years of impeccable priestly service, blessing your retirement with deep peace, robust health, and joyful serenity.

FOUNDATION MASSES IN THE DIOCESE

When someone dies in our diocese, there is a possibility to the family to make a substantial donation to the diocese, which will fix it and use its interest to celebrate regular masses in memory of the deceased member, in whose name the foundation mass is established. To establish a foundation Mass, the minimum donation has to be Rs. 50,000. In addition, people can establish foundation masses also for the intentions of the living.

- For a fixed amount of Rs. 50,000: The diocese will celebrate 6 Masses each year as long as the diocese exists. For a fixed amount of Rs. 100,000: The diocese will celebrate 12 masses every year, i.e. once a month on the date of demise.
- The Chancery will ensure and guarantee these celebrations
- A certificate will be granted to those who establish the foundation, signed by the Bishop and the Chancellor. Please inform this in our parishes and if anyone is interested please encourage them to contact the diocesan office.

THE DAYS TO REMEMBER

Many Many Happy Returns of the day to you dear Fathers ...

1. Rev. Fr. K. Rajendra	01-09-1987
2. Rev. Fr. M. Anthony	09-09-1979
3. Rev. Fr. S. Prakasham	11-09-1988
4. Rev. Fr. K. Jones	16-09-1957
5. Rev. Fr. Ch. John David	18-09-1982
6. Rev. Fr. R. Shoury	22-09-1951
7. Rev. Fr. M. Prasanna Kumar	24-09-1980

*Congratulations to you dear Fathers on the day of your
Priestly Ordination Anniversaries...*

Rev. Fr. A. Prashanth	05-09-2011
Rev. Fr. Gnana Prakash	05-09-2011
Rev. Fr. M. Ravindra	05-09-2011



Rev. Fr. Isaiah	21-09-1987
Rev. Fr. G. Francis Reddy	26-09-2008

**Let us remember our Departed Brother Priests, May the souls of the
Faithful Departed through the Mercy of God Rest in Peace.**



Lourdhu Matha - Health Clinic at our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral, Kurnool



First Holy Communion and Confirmation at Arogya Matha Shrine, Nandyal





ST TERESA OF CALCUTTA – PRAY FOR US