

இறையரசு மலர்



“அவர் உங்களுக்குச்  
சொல்வதெல்லாம் செய்யுங்கள் யோவான்” 2:5

# DIOCESAN NEWS LETTER VELLORE

(FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY)

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Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

We are in the month of November that is dedicated for All Souls. We are called to remember and pray for all souls throughout this month. Especially on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November let us pray for all our beloved parents, family members and friends who have departed us and rested in the Lord. In a special way let us remember all our former bishops, priests, religious, teachers, catechists and laity who have worked for the diocese and died in the Lord. During this Covid -19 pandemic situation after the demise of our beloved bishop Most Rev. Dr. P. Soundararaju, SDB., we have lost 4 of our priests namely, Fr. S. Arulappan, Fr. K.P. Kurian, Fr. M. Rayappa and Fr. R. Fathimanathan. Let their souls rest in peace.

All Souls Day reminds us three things: 1. **Remembering** the beloved ones who have departed us: their love, care, concern, contributions, teachings, good model of life, and



sacrifices. 2. **Thanking** them for having been part of the growth of our life and added meaning to it. 3. **Strengthening** our faith: the death of our beloved ones reminds us that we also will one day meet the event of death. Are we ready? After the death we have to face the Lord for judgment. How we are going to face? Let us not give up our faith and hope because death is not an end. There is another life after the death that is eternal and everlasting. That is the resurrected life. Jesus our Master has risen from the dead. That is our faith. St. Paul proclaimed this, “ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain”(1 Cor 15:13-14) So let us have the same faith in the risen Christ and march towards the fullness of life.

Before All Souls Day we also celebrate All Saints Day on 1 Nov. It is the feast of everyone. Let us wish everyone very happy feast also pray for them. The feast of all Saints Day reminds us that we too are called to live the life of holiness. We priests and people are prismatic of holiness to the world.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of this month we celebrate the feast of The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome. What is the importance of this Basilica alone? There is a story behind this which would be very informative to know the sacredness of the Basilica or any church for that matter.



*In the eighth chapter of his Confessions, Saint Augustine relates the story of an old and learned Roman philosopher named Victorinus. He had been the teacher of many a Roman senator and nobleman and was so esteemed that a statue of him was erected in the Roman Forum. As a venerable pagan, Victorinus had thundered for decades about the monster gods, dark idols, and breathless demons in the pantheon of paganism. But Victorinus assiduously studied Christian texts and whispered to a friend one day, "You must know that I am a Christian." The friend responded, "I shall not believe it...until I see you in the Church of Christ." Victorinus responded mockingly, "Is it then the walls that make Christians?" But in his grey hairs, Victorinus finally did pass through the doors of a Catholic church to humbly bow his head to receive the waters of Holy Baptism. There was no one who did not know Victorinus, and at his conversion, Augustine writes, "Rome marveled and the Church rejoiced." A church's walls do not make one a Christian, of course. But a church has walls nonetheless. Walls, borders, and lines delimit the sacred from the profane. A house makes a family feel like one, a sacred place where parents and children merge into a household. A church structurally embodies supernatural mysteries. A church is a sacred space where sacred actions make Christians unite as God's family. Walls matter. Churches matter. Sacred spaces matter. Today the Church commemorates a uniquely sacred space, the oldest of the four major basilicas in the city of Rome. The Lateran Basilica is the Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Rome and thus the seat of the Pope as Bishop of Rome.*



*Beautiful churches are like precious heirlooms passed down from one generation to the next in God's family. Walls do not make us Christians, but walls do clarify that certain sacred rituals are practiced in certain sacred spaces and in no others. A family in its home. A judge in his court. A surgeon in her operating room. An actor on his stage. God on His altar. We come to God to show Him the respect He deserves. He is everywhere, yes, but He is not the same everywhere. And we are not the same everywhere either. We stand taller and straighter when we step onto His holy terrain.'*

This year we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe on 22 Nov. which is the last Sunday of the Ordinary year. The Solemnity of Christ the King tells us the governing aspect of Priesthood. Governing here means not ruling the people rather shepherding the faithful by leading them to the green pasture and running stream. As a shepherd we the priests are called to embrace our sheep and smell them both in their joys and sufferings, good and bad, victories and failures, weaknesses and strength; search them in their trials and tribulations, confusions and chaos, dejection and rejection. It is also the feast of our late bishop Most Rev. Dr. P. Soundararaju, SDB., Kindly remember him in your prayers.

I know many parishes have celebrated the month of Rosary meaningfully by encouraging the parishioners to recite Rosary in the families and Anbians. I appreciate all the parish priests and religious for their wonderful ministry.



As I have already mentioned in my last circular proper information about the Priests' Annual Retreat, CRI & Diocesan Christmas celebration will come after the council meeting that is going to be held next week.

Once again I wish you all a very happy feast of Christ the King and happy beginning of Advent. Stay happy and healthy.

God bless,

Yours in Christ

**Very Rev. Msgr. I. John Robert**  
Diocesan Administrator

