



اُسقفیہ عظمیٰ کراچی

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MESSAGE

It is heartening to know that Pope Francis will be visiting Sri Lanka from 13th -15th January 2015. On 16th January the Feast of Blessed Joseph Vaz is celebrated in Sri Lanka and in the Archdiocese of Goa and Daman. Expectations are high that the Pope may canonize Blessed Joseph Vaz on that occasion. We are eagerly awaiting an announcement to this effect from Rome.

I am happy to know that the Joseph Naik Vaz Institute, Berkeley, California, has arranged to celebrate a Solemn Mass at Santa Maria in Vallicella, Piazza della Chiesa Nuova, Roma (Rome) on 23rd September, 2014, for the following intentions:

- The commemoration of the beginning of the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Goa, on September 25, 1685 by Blessed Joseph Vaz, C.O.
- For the canonization of Blessed Joseph Vaz, C.O. Apostle of Kanara and Sri Lanka
- For inter-religious peace and harmony inspired by the protection granted to Blessed Joseph Vaz by the Buddhist King of Kandy, Vimaladharma Surya II from Dutch persecution
- For the success of the Pope's visit to Sri Lanka and to the Philippines in January 2015

The Joseph Naik Vaz Institute is inviting Bishops and Priests to offer or sponsor a Companion Mass in September 2014. I also hear that the Sri Lankan Bishops have made the 14th September a Day of National Prayer for the canonization of Bl. Vaz and of Thanksgiving for the gift of Bl. Joseph Vaz. In solidarity with the Church in Sri Lanka I myself would like to offer a Companion Mass on 14th September 2014.

Blessed Joseph Vaz is the greatest missionary that Asia has produced. His biographer, Fr. S.G. Perera, S.J. state: "It may be doubted whether his achievement in Ceylon has any parallel in the wide world".

We pray that the long awaited day may dawn and we might see Blessed Joseph Vaz numbered among the Saints of the Universal Church.

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(+Evarist Pinto)

Archbishop Emeritus of Karachi,
8th September, 2014.