

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

Peace and joy in the name of our Trinitarian God and our divine Mother Mary. I do appreciate and thank you all for your patience and valuable prayers. I am taking this opportunity to introduce myself to you. I am Fr. Bala (Bala Raju) Policetty from the diocese of Nalgonda, Telangana State. INDIA.

Family Background: I am the oldest of five children. I have 3 sisters and a brother, youngest of all. one of my sisters is Religious Nun working in the Missionary Society of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in India. The other two sisters and brother are married and settled. I have my mother alive and father gone to eternal rest in 2020 while I was at Barron Cluster Parishes.

I come from a very traditional Catholic community consisting of 600 Catholic families. We have 35 ordained Priests and 50 religious' nuns from my native parish as per today.

Ordination and Priestly ministry: I am a priest of 26 years, ordained on April 30th, 1996 in my home town. As a priest, 12 years I have worked as the pastor of the mission parishes and 6 years, I have worked as the principal and Rector of High School for both boys and Girls in the diocese of Nalgonda (home diocese). I have provided meals, housing, education and medical care for the children with the support of the diocese, friends and well-wishers. I have come across lot of fine young boys and girls who were looking for education. I have been continuing my support for such children even after finishing my term. It is a mission to support the young boys and girls. Among those children, 15 got ordained priests and quite numbers of religious nuns.

Apart from the above, I have also served in my mother diocese as the member of various diocesan committees: member of the diocesan synod (presbytery council), dean and diocesan education Board.

Besides this, I have been to Australia for a year and worked as a parochial administrator of the Parish cluster of 4 parishes.

I have come to render my priestly services in the diocese of Superior, Wisconsin, at the invitation of Most Rev. Bishop Peter F Christensen in 2015. I sincerely thank Bishop Peter for his invitation.

Bishop Most Rev. James P Powers was the one who has welcomed me into the diocese of Superior and assigned me as the Associate Pastor to Our Lady of the Lake parish and its cluster parishes at Ashland. I was there until September 21, 2016. Then I was moved to Barron Cluster parishes and served those 4 parishes with 5 Masses on weekend until May 2021.

Now I am looking forward to extend my cooperation and collaboration for the spiritual growth of the parishes of St. Pius X, St. Mary and St. Anthony of Padua in all ways possible under the able

leadership of our shepherd, Most Rev Bishop James Powers. I do appreciate and thank Most Rev. Bishop Powers for the opportunity given to me to be at these parishes as your priest.

I am interested in meeting you and joining in your family times of joy and grief. I don't want any one die of over work and either of boredom, while I am here. I intend to get to know you on the first name basis (last names can be hard). I figure the pronunciation of last names (yours and mine) will be pretty well take of itself, once we have spent time together in joy, in grief, in prayer and at table. That's my way of being a priest.

Already I can sense that your Catholic Faith is important to you, and for me too that is the main thing. I bring with me the Universal experience of "One, Universal and Apostolic Catholic Church". It is very encouraging that we all belong to one single church and share the SAME FAITH.

I welcome you, all to the church services to relax, to refresh and to regain peace, joy and strength from our God through the intercession of our mother Mary, St. Pius X and St. Anthony of Padua.

My studies: As part of my priestly formation, I have a Bachelor Degree in Philosophy as well as Theology. And as part of academic side, I do have Bachelor Degree in Education (B. Ed), Master Degree in Sociology and also Master Degree in English Literature.

May request you to continue praying for me to do my best in my priestly ministry and to be at God's service and you, all. Be sure of my prayers. May God bless all of you today and days to come.

Your priest – Fr Bala Policetty