



CIRCULAR LETTER
of H.E. Mgr. Mario Grech
Bishop of Gozo

Episcopal Ordination of Friar George Bugeja OFM

To the Reverend Archpriests, Parish Priest, Rectors, Religious Superiors, Consecrated Persons and Lay faithful.

Dear Brethren,

We have welcomed the news that one of our brothers, Friar George Bugeja OFM, was chosen to be Coadjutor Bishop of Tripoli, Libya in a spirit of prayer under the protection of Our Mother of Ta' Pinu. The same Spirit which shed its light on Mary, is still shedding its light on the Church and its pastors serving in their mission. Together with our Christian brethren in Libya, who are living their faith in very difficult circumstances due to the situation in their country, we all thanked God who constantly visits his sons and daughters with the gift of those who, following on the footsteps of the Apostles, continue to spread the good news to the ends of the world that Jesus Christ has truly risen from the death.

I therefore exhort the Christian assembly on our island to prepare for the Episcopal Ordination of our brother Friar George, which will take place on Friday 4th September at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of ta' Pinu at 6.30p.m. I am convinced that the most beautiful gift that God's chosen can receive from his brothers and sisters is the gift of prayer to God to bless, sanctify and consecrate his servant. Therefore in the coming days it is highly recommended that we offer the rosary for this intention. I exhort all to attend the prayer vigil to be held at the parish church of Xaghra, next Thursday 27th August at 8.00p.m. Moreover I appeal to the priests and the Christian laity of this Diocese to attend for the ordination so that we can experience this strong moment of prayer when Friar George is consecrated bishop.

We should also manifest our love by making a charitable offering to the community which is being entrusted to the new Bishop. Therefore the collection held during the masses on Sunday 30th August in all the churches of the Diocese will be donated to our Christian brothers and sisters in Tripoli. This would be a tangible sign of the love binding all Christian communities.

We entrust our brother Friar George to the protection of Our Lady of ta' Pinu, in whose arms he is putting his new ministry, so that as a pastor, with a paternal and a maternal heart, he may lead the people of God to the eternal pastures.

Given from the Bishop's Curia, Victoria Gozo, today Saturday 22nd August, commemoration of the Blessed Mary Queen of heaven.

✠ Mario Grech
Bishop of Gozo