



YEAR XXXV

OCTOBER- 2017

NO. 94

**ADC wishes**  
**Archbishop Thomas**  
**Macwan**  
**A Very Happy Birthday**  
**On the completion of 65 years of**  
**life on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2017!**  
**-Editor, Fr. Avinash Parmar**

**Official**

Fr. Jagdish Macwan, the Assistant Director of KSSS is appointed by me as the Director of Labour Commission for the Diocese of Ahmedabad.

The Little Daughters of St. Francis Xavier are having their General Chapter from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2017. Please keep the sisters in your prayers.

The members of the "Work of Church" will be visiting our diocese. I will be meeting them on 26<sup>th</sup>, October, 2017.

Let us celebrate Mission Sunday with truly Missionary zeal and encourage our faithful to be generous towards this missionary cause.

**-Archbishop Thomas Macwan**

**Retreats**

The two retreat dates for diocesan priests are as follows:

1. From 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 evening to 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2017. Preacher - Fr. Jose Prakash, Bhopal.
2. From 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 evening to 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018, preacher - Fr. Bonaventure from St. Peter's Major Seminary, Bangalore

Place: Nadiad Pastoral Centre.

Priests are request priests to register their names in advance with Fr. Lawrence A, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Nirmal Nagar, Juna Dumral Road, Nadiad - 387002, Kheda Phone No. 0268-2555677, 09426759326 or e-mail: [frlawrencea@gmail.com](mailto:frlawrencea@gmail.com), [frlawrencea@yahoo.com](mailto:frlawrencea@yahoo.com)

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

Following the example of Jesus, the Church promotes activities for giving sight to the blind. The Catechism of the Catholic Church has made it clear that ‘donating organs after death is legitimate and meritorious.’ (2301) Pope Francis promoted this by saying, “go to the ends of the earth where the blind are waiting for sight”. Thus eye donation is a biblical, spiritual and legal activity, promoted by the Church. Let us cooperate in this task.

In support of this cause the Diocese of Ahmedabad invites you to be a part of “BLIND WALK RALLY” with the purpose of spreading awareness and encouraging people to take up the noble cause of donating their eyes after death. Two rallies have been organized as follows:

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2017. Time 10.00 a.m., Place: from Gandhigram Railway Station, Ashram Road to Mount Carmel School, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad.

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2017. Time 10.00 a.m., Place: from Nagar Palika Office to Santram Mandir, Nadiad

Please do join in one of the rally.

-Archbishop Thomas Macwan

## Letter from Archbishop Thomas Macwan

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We have just celebrated the Navratri Festival in Gujarat; during these days, several of our Parishes also held special devotions to Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother. These devotions were for many, a time of renewal and of a deepening in our faith life.

As we enter the month of October, we continue to celebrate and thank God for the gift of Mary in our lives. **On October 7<sup>th</sup>** we celebrate the feast of **Our Lady of the Rosary**-, which should come as an important reminder to all of us of the significance of the rosary in our lives. Many of us have been nurtured in families, which did not miss the recitation of the daily rosary. Sadly, this very meaningful devotion seems to have disappeared from several of our families. Is it possible that during this month of October, we make every possible effort to encourage and promote the daily family rosary among the Catholics of our parishes and institutions?

This brings one to the prayer intention of Pope Francis for the month of October, which is for **‘Workers and the Unemployed’**: *“that all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good”*. Yes we need to pray for all workers and ensure that all (especially those who work in our institutions) receive a just wage, with clearly

stipulated working hours and that the rights of workers are respected. There is also growing unemployment in our country; besides many youth are unable to find appropriate employment.

October 2<sup>nd</sup> is the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation. It is also observed as the **‘International Day of Non-Violence’**. Bapu left us with his twin doctrine of ‘Ahimsa’ and ‘Satyagraha’; sadly the country seems to be systematically moving away from this. Just in this last month of September, the country has witnessed so much violence everywhere and we are aware that not enough is being done to contain it.

In the month of October, we also celebrate the Feasts of several significant Saints of the Church: St Teresa of the Child Jesus and St Theresa of Avila; St Francis of Assisi and Sts. Simon and Jude among others; let us also not forget the Feast of Our Guardian Angels on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

Many of us will also begin a well-deserved Diwali break and some will be making their Annual Retreat. May this month of October be a time of spiritual rejuvenation for everyone. We need to continue to pray for Pope Francis, for the Church, for the world, our country and especially for the Dioceses here in Gujarat. Pray for me too!

With my prayers and blessings,

+Archbishop Thomas Macwan

## On the Values, Freedoms and Rights enshrined in the Constitution of India

Thanks to the Constituent Assembly led by the visionary Dr. B. R. Ambedkar ‘we the people of India’ can take legitimate pride in the fact that we have with us a Constitution which is one of the best Constitutions among the Democracies of the world; besides it is the longest written Constitution. Our Constitution is the ONLY Sacred Book, which belongs to every citizen of the country.

Sadly, in the last few years we have been witnessing the systematic erosion of the values, freedoms and rights which are enshrined in our Constitution and which have been guaranteed to every single citizen of the country.

Today the key principles of **Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity**, which are at the heart of the Preamble of the Constitution, are being trampled upon. Every effort is being made to negate the Secular and Socialist aspects of the country. India is the biggest democracy in the world; unfortunately, the very notion of being “*a government by the people, of the people and for the people*” is being thrown to the winds. Fundamental rights of the people: the right to life and liberty, to equality, to freedom of speech and expression, to freedom of religion is being denied all the time. More than ever, we have to be concerned that if the current ruling dispensation gets the numbers required in Parliament they are bound to change the Constitution and foist the ‘Hindutva’ ideology on the country. There are currently several indicators pointing to this possibility.

In view of this, all of us have a duty to protect and promote the sanctity, the beauty and richness of our Constitution. We can do so in several different ways; here are some possibilities:

- to ensure that you have at least ONE COPY of the Constitution of India (in Gujarati and in English) in your Community/ Institution (if not buy one / download it today)
- to make sure that you/ others read it (and put into practice)– at least key sections like the Preamble, Fundamental Rights and Duties, Directive Principles
- to organize group discussions/ seminars/ workshops on the Constitution for your staff, students, Alumni, Parish Councils, Collaborators etc. Invite resource persons who are knowledgeable on the subject. Make as many as possible aware of how the rights and freedoms of the poor,

marginalized, minorities, vulnerable are being trampled upon. Look for positive interventions/solutions.

- to make our Annual Days themes focus on values related to the Constitution.
- to realize that the values enshrined in the Constitution are ALSO Gospel values. Jesus lived and died to make our world a more just, equitable, free and fraternal place. Can we use these themes in our homilies, in our Catechesis?
- to print copies of the Preamble, distribute them freely. Make plaques of them to be given as mementoes at our functions (instead of bouquets of fresh flowers-which should not be encouraged)
- to observe in our schools/institutions days like November 26<sup>th</sup> ( It is the Constitution Day. On this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, and it came into effect on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1950. It was chosen to spread the importance of the constitution and to spread thoughts and ideas of Dr. Ambedkar.) and January 26<sup>th</sup>
- to use social media : (Facebook, WhatsApp, twitter) and folk media to propagate the values of the Constitution (also encourage others to do so)
- to write articles on the Constitution and their application today (also encourage others to do so)
- to think of many more ways/ possibilities to protect and promote the Constitution

Finally, let us all remember what Justice Khanna writes in the conclusion of his *Making of India's Constitution*:

"If the Indian constitution is our heritage bequeathed to us by our founding fathers, no less are we, the people of India, the trustees and custodians of the values which pulsate within its provisions! A constitution is not a parchment of paper; it is a way of life and has to be lived up to. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty and in the final analysis, its only keepers are the people."

+ Archbishop Thomas Macwan

**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY IS CELEBRATED ON 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER, 2017.**

Parish Priests, Superior of the Convents and the Head of the Institutions are requested to send their "Mission Sunday Collection" to the Treasurer at your earliest.

**- Fr. Avinash Parmar**

**ARCHBISHOP'S PROGRAMME: OCTOBER-2017**

1. Bible Convention at Premavtar Isu Mandir, Gandhinagar
2. Inter-faith prayer service at Gandhi Ashram, Ahmedabad
3. Meeting with the Provincial Superior of the Ursuline Sisters at Mirzapur
4. Consecration of Gujarat State to the Immaculate Heart of Mary through Adoration, Holy Mass and veneration of Our Lady of Fatima at Premavtar Isu Mandir, Gandhinagar
- 5-7. Inauguration of the Bicentennial Celebration of the arrival of the Religious of Jesus and Mary to India, at Agra
8. a.m. St. Vincent de Paul feast day celebration at Dakor  
p.m. Celebration of the Feast of the Holy Cross at Kathlul
9. Celebration and thanksgiving Mass on the occasion of the completion of 25 years' services of the FMM sisters at Chavdapura
10. a.m. Meeting with Sr. Berchmans, Provincial Superior of the Queen of the Apostles at Mirzapur  
p.m. Think Tank Meeting at Mirzapur
12. a.m. Feast of Our Lady of Pilar celebration at Sanand  
a.m. Celebration of World Vision day at Ahmedabad  
p.m. Celebration of World Vision day at Gandhinagar
- 13-14. At Pethapur
15. Our Lady of Rosary feast celebration and Confirmation at Umreth
16. a.m. Holy Mass for the children undergoing faith formation at Nana Kantharia  
p.m. Holy Mass for the children undergoing faith formation at Pethapur
19. **Diwali Day** – Our Lady of the Forsaken feast day celebration at Khambholaj
22. Mission Sunday
24. Inauguration of the Fellowship of Indian Missiologists at Pastoral Centre, Nadiad
- 25-29 General Chapter of the Little Daughters of St. Francis Xavier at Pushpvihar, Gamdi, Anand
31. Our Lady of Velankkani feast celebration at Amod

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU DEAR FATHERS:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Fr. Francis Rex Parmar

4<sup>th</sup> Fr. Sergio Dias

**8<sup>th</sup> Archbishop Emeritus Stanislaus Fernandes SJ**

10<sup>th</sup> Fr. Leslie D'souza

**14<sup>TH</sup> ARCHBISHOP THOMAS MACWAN**

19<sup>th</sup> Fr. Arthur Pinto

20<sup>th</sup> Fr. Tulsi Dabhi

21<sup>st</sup> Fr. Francis C.

22<sup>nd</sup> Fr. Anthony Raj

26<sup>th</sup> Fr. Edwin Rajkumar

31<sup>st</sup> Fr. Lucas S.

*Please send your news articles for Chronicle and TAM to the Editor **Fr. Avinash Parmar**, Parish Priest, Holy Spirit Church, Vatva & Secretary of Archbishop Thomas Macwan for the Diocese of Ahmedabad on [adctam@gmail.com](mailto:adctam@gmail.com), Published from Bishop's House, Mirzapur, Ahmedabad – 380 001, Gujarat*