



YEAR XXXV

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**Official**

I have appointed Deacon Sigeon Kumar at Holy Spirit Church, Vatva and Deacon Anthony R. to Catholic Church Umreth for their diaconate ministry. We wish them a fruitful diaconate ministry!

**+Archbishop Thomas Macwan**

Dear Fathers. Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings and prayerful wishes from  
Archbishop Thomas Macwan!

The dates of Gujarat State Assembly have been declared. The results of this election will have its repercussion and its reverberation throughout our beloved nation. It will influence the future course of this nation. We are aware that the secular and democratic fabric of our country is at stake. Human rights are being violated. The constitutional rights are being trampled. Not a single day goes without an attack on our churches, church personnel, faithful or institutions. There is a growing sense of insecurity among the minorities, OBCs, BCs, poor etc. Nationalist forces are on the verge of taking over the country. The election results of our State Assembly can make a difference!

We Christians, though a minority in Gujarat State, are not to be mere spectators. We make sure that our names are registered in the voting list and help those whose names are not yet registered. Every vote is important and we must express our franchise without fail. We

need to join hands with like-minded people who are open to secularism and democracy.

There is nothing to worry about! Our hope is in the Lord! He has assured us of His accompaniment to the end of the age. He is with us. We need to look at Him and trust in His Providential care. Our prayers to Him will serve as a powerful source to stand on our feet without stumbling. He can work miracles but we need to pray to Him and not lose courage.

I urge you to organize prayer services in your parishes and convents so that we may have such people elected in the State Assembly who would remain faithful to our Indian Constitution and respect every human being with out any sort of discrimination. The recitation of the Holy Rosary at individual, community, family and parish levels will be of great help. Encourage your faithful to pray the Rosary. Time and again it has proved to be a protective hand. History bears witness to this statement. Communist governments have been tumbled in the past through the protecting hand of our beloved Mother Mary. It has brought the

level of abortion incidents in Poland from 30% to 4%. It saved Europe during the victory at Lepanto from being taken over by people of other faith. It will save our country from nationalist forces too! Even the Lord while he was praying in the garden of Gethsemane had asked his

disciple to watch and pray. Let us take His advice seriously.

Let us trust in our Lord Jesus and ask His help!

**+ Archbishop Thomas Macwan**

### **Message from the Holy Father**

At the conclusion of the Jubilee of Mercy, I wanted to offer the Church a *World Day of the Poor*, so that throughout the world Christian communities can become an ever greater sign of Christ's charity for the least and those most in need. To the World Days instituted by my Predecessors, which are already a tradition in the life of our communities, I wish to add this one, which adds to them an exquisitely evangelical fullness, that is, Jesus' preferential love for the poor.

I invite the whole Church, and men and women of good will everywhere, to turn their gaze on this day to all those who stretch out their hands and plead for our help and solidarity. They are our brothers and sisters, created and loved by the one Heavenly Father. This *Day* is meant, above all, to encourage believers to react against a culture of discard and waste, and to embrace the culture of encounter. At the same time, everyone, independent of religious affiliation, is invited to openness and sharing with the poor through concrete signs of solidarity and fraternity. God created the heavens and the earth for all; yet sadly some have erected barriers, walls and fences, betraying the original gift meant for all humanity, with none excluded.

It is my wish that, in the week preceding the World Day of the Poor, which falls

this year on 19 November, the Thirty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time, Christian communities will make every effort to create moments of encounter and friendship, solidarity and concrete assistance. They can invite the poor and volunteers to take part together in the Eucharist on this Sunday, in such a way that there be an even more authentic celebration of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King, on the following Sunday. The kingship of Christ is most evident on Golgotha, when the Innocent One, nailed to the cross, poor, naked and stripped of everything, incarnates and reveals the fullness of God's love. Jesus' complete abandonment to the Father expresses his utter poverty and reveals the power of the Love that awakens him to new life on the day of the Resurrection.

This Sunday, if there are poor people where we live who seek protection and assistance, let us draw close to them: it will be a favourable moment to encounter the God we seek. Following the teaching of Scripture (cf. *Gen 18:3-5; Heb 13:2*), let us welcome them as honoured guests at our table; they can be teachers who help us live the faith more consistently. With their trust and readiness to receive help, they show us in a quiet and often joyful way, how essential it is to live simply and to abandon ourselves to God's providence.

At the heart of all the many concrete initiatives carried out on this day should always be *prayer*. Let us not forget that the *Our Father* is the prayer of the poor. Our asking for bread expresses our entrustment to God for our basic needs in life. Everything that Jesus taught us in this prayer expresses and brings together the cry of all who suffer from life's uncertainties and the lack of what they need. When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, he answered in the words with which the poor speak to our one Father, in whom all acknowledge themselves as brothers and sisters. The *Our Father* is a prayer said in the plural: the bread for which we ask is "ours", and that entails sharing, participation and joint responsibility. In this prayer, all of us recognize our need to overcome every form of selfishness, in order to enter into the joy of mutual

acceptance.

I ask my brother Bishops, and all priests and deacons who by their vocation have the mission of supporting the poor, together with all consecrated persons and all associations, movements and volunteers everywhere, to help make this *World Day of the Poor* a tradition that concretely contributes to evangelization in today's world.

This new *World Day*, therefore, should become a powerful appeal to our consciences as believers, allowing us to grow in the conviction that sharing with the poor enables us to understand the deepest truth of the Gospel. The poor are not a problem: they are a resource from which to draw as we strive to accept and practice in our lives the essence of the Gospel.

### **First World Day of the Poor, 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2017**

At the conclusion of the Jubilee of Mercy, the Holy Father Pope Francis wanted to offer the Church a World Day of the Poor, so that throughout the world Christian communities become an ever greater sign of Christ's charity for the least and most in need. He invites us to react against a culture of discard and waste, and to embrace the culture of encounter.

The Pope desires that, in the week preceding the World Day of the Poor, which falls this year on 19<sup>th</sup> November, the Thirty-third Sunday of the Ordinary Time, Christian communities make every effort to create moments of encounter and friendship, solidarity and concrete assistance to those in need. He also emphasizes that at the heart of all the many concrete initiatives carried out on this day should always be prayer. He asks us to make this World Day of the Poor a tradition that concretely contributes to evangelization in today's world.

I appeal to all the parish priests, principals, head of institutions and superior of convents to celebrate the World Day of the Poor from 12<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 in a visible manner. This period should become a powerful appeal to our consciences as believers, allowing us to grow in the conviction that sharing with the poor enables us to understand the deepest truth of the gospel. Make this time a memorable one!

**-Archbishop Thomas Macwan**

## ARCHBISHOP'S PROGRAMME FOR NOVEMBER, 2017

1. All Saints Day
2. All Souls Day – Mass in the cemetery at Ahmedabad
- 3-4. At Indore for the Beatification of Sr. Rani Maria
5. a.m. Blessing of the renovated chapel at Manaj  
p.m. Inauguration of the Bicentenary celebration of the foundation of Jesus and Mary congregation at Vadodara
6. Formator's Meeting at St. Joseph's Seminary, Nadiad
- 7-8. Seminary batch-mates gathering at Mt. Abu
9. Meeting of the Archbishops at Sarvodaya, Mumbai
11. Jagprakash Kanya Chhatralaya Programme at Pansora
12. Sacred Heart Feast celebration, Confirmation and First Holy Communion service at Vadtal
14. Pastoral visit to Nana Kantharia parish
15. Pastoral visit to Pahadiya parish  
p.m. Pastoral visit to Patan parish
16. Pastoral visit to Sidhpur parish
17. Pastoral visit to Palanpur parish
18. Banaskantha Deanery Programme at Deesa
19. First World Day of the Poor-  
a.m. Confirmation at Hansol parish  
p.m. Confirmation at Loyola parish
23. General Body meeting of the Archdiocesan Clergy at Pethapur
25. School Annual Day function at Balasinor
26. a.m. Christ the King Feast celebration and Confirmation at Gandhinagar  
p.m. Christ the King procession at Ahmedabad
27. Silver Jubilee celebration of St. Xavier's School, Mehsana
30. Blessing of SanThoma office in Ahmedabad near Thaltej chowkdy, Ahmedabad

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS....!

#### NOVEMBER

1st	Rev. Fr. Martinappa	19 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Fr. Leo Stephan
1st	Rev. Fr. Anton Macwan	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Rev. Fr. Prakash Macwan
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rev. Fr. Josephat	25 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Fr. Packiaraj T
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rev. Fr. Jelastine Rodrigues	29 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Fr. Xavier Amirtham
12 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Fr. John Baptist	30 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Fr. Arulanandam A
16 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Fr. David Dabhi		<b>DECEMBER</b>
18 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Fr. Bipin John V	1 <sup>st</sup>	Rev. Fr. Ambrose Dabhi
18 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Fr. Walter D'Souza	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rev. Fr. Thomas Vadakedom
19 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Fr. John Britto		
19 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Fr. Pius Macwan		

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