



YEAR XXXVI

FEBRUARY - 2018

NO. 98

CONGRATULATIONS
to the
BISHOP DESIGNATE
MOST REV. RETHNA SWAMY
DIOCESE OF AHMEDABAD
BISHOP OF AHMEDABAD

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ARCHBISHOP THOMAS MACWAN

Invitation

Dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,

I am happy to invite you for the Episcopal Consecration of the Bishop Elect Retna Swamy. It will be held on 14th April, 2018 at Immaculate Conception Church, Nadiad at 3.00 p.m. Please book this date in your diary.

-Archbishop Thomas Macwan

BIODATA OF MOST REV. ATHANASIOUS RETHNA SWAMY :

PERSONAL

Full name: Athanasius Rethna Swamy

Date of birth: 10- 02-1961

Place of birth: Parampukkarai village, Kandavilai Parish, Kottar Diocese, in Tamil Nadu

FAMILY

Name of his father: Swamiadian P.

Name of his mother: Antoniammal

They are three brothers and three sisters of whom he is the 5th child. Two of his sisters are Religious Sisters in the Congregation of St. Ann's of Luzern. Parents died in the year 2003.

SCHOOLING

1966 –1969 : Std. 1-3 at St. Theresa's Primary School, Kandavilai

1969 – 1971 : Std. 4-5 at Little Flower Primary School, Nagercoil.

1971 – 1972 : Std. 6 at Carmel High School, Nagercoil

1972 -1977 : Std. 7 to 11 Carmel High School, Manalikkari, staying in the boarding run by OCD Fathers

VOCATIONAL JOURNEY

Candidacy :1977 to 1978, at St. Xavier Mission Home, Kottar diocese. PUC studies in Hindu College, Nagercoil.

Spirituality year :1978 to 1979, at Minor seminary, Madurai Diocese, Tamil Nadu.

Philosophy Cum B.A. :1979 to 1982, at St. Charles Seminary, Nagpur (B.A. at St. Francis D'Sales College, Nagpur)

Gujarati course :1982 to 1983, at Catholic Church, Maninagar.

B. Ed. :1983 to 1984, at H.M. Patel Institute, Vidyanagar.

Regency :1984 to 1985, Teaching at St. Xavier's School and boarding ministry Church, Umreth.

Theology :1985 to 1989, St. Charles Seminary, Nagpur.

Ordination to Priesthood :March 29, 1989, at Kandavilai Parish, Kottar Diocese, by Bishop Charles Gomes S.J.

PRIESTLY MINISTRY

1989 to 1991 : Starting of St. Mary's High School, Sanand; Assistant priest in Sanand Mission.

1991 to 1993 : Rector, St. Joseph's Minor Seminary, Mirzapur.

1993 to 1994 : Principal, St. Xavier's High School, Chavdapura; Assistant priest at Catholic Church, Jesus Nagar.

1994 to 1998 : Licentiate in Psychology, at the Institute of Psychology, Universita Gregoriana, Rome, Italy.

1998 to 2002 : Rector, Vianney Vihar Interdiocesan Theologate, at Shraddha, Ahmedabad; Professor at RTC (Regional Theologate Centre, PremalJyoti), Ahmedabad.

2002 to 2012 : Rector, St. Joseph's Seminary, Nadiad. Visiting Professor and Spiritual Director at GVD (Gujarat VidyaDeep), Baroda.

2012 to 2018 : Rector, Vianney Vihar Interdiocesan Seminary, Baroda; Professor and Spiritual Director, GVD, Baroda.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,
Peace of Christ!

We are nearing the end of the first month of 2018 - it has been a special month: much has happened in the world, in our country and in the Church. We continue to thank God for this New Year, for the many blessings he continuously showers down upon us and we pray for all specially for those who suffer physically, mentally, spiritually or in any other way.

This is being written, in the midst of **Pope Francis' Pastoral visits to Chile and Peru**. Both countries have sizable Catholic populations (Chile almost 60% and Peru more than 80%); however, the people there face some major problems both in the church and in their country. This is one of the most challenging trips to be undertaken by the Holy Father. We need to continue to support him and all his endeavours with our daily prayers: that God may always guide and protect him.

In the month of January, the Universal Church observed two significant days: the **World Day of Peace** (January 1st - we observe this day in India on January 30th the anniversary of the martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi) and the **World Day of Migrants and Refugees** (January 14th). The messages of Pope Francis for both these days focused on the displaced and the excluded: *"Migrants and Refugees: men and women in search of peace"* and *"Welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating migrants and refugees"*. The **Migrants &**

Refugees Section in the Vatican has published an important document with 'Twenty Pastoral Action Points' so that all of us make every effort to respond to the cries of our sisters and brothers: refugees, migrants, others- who are displaced and excluded from society.

We have also just begun the octave of prayer for **Christian Unity**. We need to continue to pray as Jesus desired and prayed that we *"may be one"*. Since the last several years, many of our Churches have been working together on some issues, through the 'Gujarat United Christian Forum for Human Rights'. We are all aware though, that much more remains to be done.

With **Ash Wednesday** (February 14th), we begin the holy and joyous **season of Lent**. May these forty days be a time of prayer and deep renewal in our faith for all of us. We are invited to do more meaningful acts of self-denial and to selflessly reach out to those who need us the most. In particular, let us pray for the universal intention of Pope Francis for the month of February: **Say "No" to Corruption** (*that those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption*); and to do our best to put our prayer into action.

Pray also for our country the Church in Gujarat, for our Diocese and for me,

With my blessings and prayers
+Archbishop Thomas Macwan

Official

Dear Fathers/Sisters/Brothers.

Chrism Mass will be celebrated at Mount Carmel Cathedral on 27th March, 2018, Tuesday at 6.30 p.m. Priests are requested to come along with alb and stole. You are also invited to join for the fellowship meal after the Chrism Mass.

-Archbishop Thomas Macwan

11th February, 2018 will be celebrated as the Holy Childhood Sunday. Please contribute generously to the Pontifical Society of Holy Childhood. Parish priests, superior of the convents and the Heads of the institutions are requested to send the Holy Childhood contribution to the diocesan procurator at your earliest.

-Fr. Avinash Parmar

ARCHBISHOP'S PROGRAMME: FEBRUARY 2018

- 1-9. CBCI Meeting at St. John's Bangalore
10. First Holy Communion and Confirmation at Karamsad parish
11. a.m. Perpetual Succour feast day celebration at Kalol
p.m. Infant Jesus feast day celebration at Hansol
12. Human Dignity Day celebration and honouring of the Missionaries of Charity organized by KSSS at Town Hall, Anand
14. Ash Wednesday service at Holy Spirit Church, Vatva
15. Gujarat United Christian Forum for Human Rights meeting at CNI Bishop House
17. Prison Ministry National meeting at Pastoral Centre, Nadiad
18. a.m. Confirmation at Maninagar parish
p.m. Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee celebration of Rev. Fr. Lawrence Martis at Hansol
- 19-23. Office Work at Mirzapur
24. a.m. Meeting with Mother General Rev. Sr. Stella of the Helpers of Mary
p.m. St. Xavier's School annual day celebration at Himmatnagar
25. a.m. Confirmation at St. Paul's Church, Sabarmati
p.m. Confirmation at Mariampura
- 26-5th March, Personal Retreat at Pethapur (4th March, Mass for the youth during Bible Convention at Chavdapura)

March -2018

6. Think Tank Meeting at Mirzapur
8. a.m. Women's Day celebration at Pethapur
p.m. St. Xavier's School annual day celebration at Deesa
- 9-11. Bible Convention at Nana Kantharia

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU DEAR FATHERS:

FEBRUARY

- 02 Fr. Melchior
03 Fr. Sebastian A

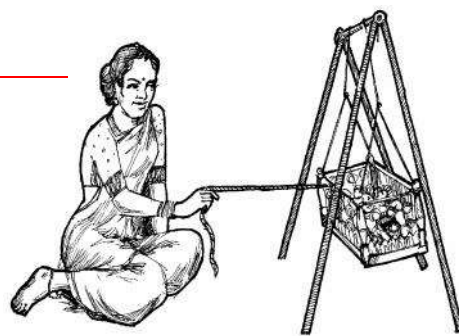
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- 27 Fr. Jerald Ramesh

MARCH

- 06 Fr. Lawrence A
08 Fr. Salvador Britto
08 Fr. Edwin Anand
17 Fr. Mari Joseph
18 Fr. Cyril Dias
25 Fr. Dominic Savio



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