



YEAR XXXV

AUGUST-2017

NO. 92

Dear Fathers, Sisters and Faithful,

The recent heavy rains in Gujarat specially in the Districts of Banaskantha, Patan, Mehsana and Sabarkantha which comes under the ambit of Archdiocese of Gandhinagar in North Gujarat have taken peoples lives, houses destroyed, domestic animals died, crops zeroed down etc. Our social work centre looks forward to rebuild the lives of the hapless brethren by providing them housing, shelter, clothing, food and other basic needs. Any contribution is very big in itself. We may not be able to do direct relief work immediately but we can surely focus on rehabilitation and development of our affected people. We need your support. We earnestly request you to send your contribution either in cash or kind to:

Sabarmati Samruddhi Seva Sangh, Jeevan Vikas Kendra, Randheja Road, Pethapur- 382610 Gandhinagar. Phone No. 7283908224

Bank details: Sabarmati Samruddhi Seva Sangh, A/c No 732201010004075, Vijaya Bank, Plot no 18, Suman Towers, Sector-11, Gandhinagar, IFSC : VIJB0007322

**+ Thomas Macwan
Archbishop of Gandhinagar**

Dear Sisters, Brothers and Fathers,

August 15th marks the 70th anniversary of our country's independence. As a country, we have surely come a long way since 1947. So Independence Day should naturally be a great day for every Indian but sadly, a very large percentage of Indians will not feel this joy since they are still denied their legitimate rights and aspirations. These include the poor and the marginalised like the dalits, adivasis and the minorities.

Christians in India are a miniscule minority. Despite this, we have contributed immensely to the growth and development of our country through our educational and health care institutions and our wide range of social services to the poor and the needy. Our love for the country and our patriotism is beyond doubt. Since independence, we have always enjoyed the rights and privileges envisaged by the

National Leaders who gave us freedom and later on guaranteed in our Constitution.

The reality in the past few years has changed dramatically. Today we Christians and other minorities are on the back foot. Every effort is made to deny us our legitimate rights. Manipulations are on to tamper with the soul and letter of the Constitution. There are sufficient indicators, which point to this. The very idea of India is being destroyed; the very core of our Indian soul is at stake.

Whilst being concerned with what is happening we certainly do not need to get into a panic mode! Every new challenge makes us stronger and courageous. As a spiritual people, our hope and trust should be in the Lord Jesus. Prayer should be our force. 'Loving everyone and doing good to all' should always be our motto and path of action. Perhaps we now have a better opportunity to walk more closely in the footsteps of our Lord. Jesus also took a

stand against the injustices of his time. He was vocal and visible and reminds us “*not all who say ‘Lord’! ‘Lord’! shall enter the Kingdom of heaven..!*” Jesus should always remain our model!

We also need to formulate appropriate strategies to address the situation. Recently, ‘Jesuits in Social Action (JESA) sent some strategies, which will definitely help us in our present day struggle to effectively face the situation; the strategies include:

1. Most of our stakeholders are not fully aware of the hate ideology of saffron groups and educating them is therefore, a prime duty in our strategy. We should produce educational modules with counter narratives, films and documentaries to instruct students and the public. A module of ‘socio-cultural analysis’ should be integrated in all our educational institutions, formal and informal, professional and technical, as well as in our parishes, social and media centres. The education ministry should undertake this task with urgency.

2. A principal weapon to fight against communalism in India is our Constitution that places equality, fraternity and community as central tenets in contrast to the divisive agenda of the communalists. We should highlight the values of our Constitution in all our ministries. Our social ministries should collaborate with local government and law enforcing agencies to promote peace and reconciliation among communities at the grassroots. We should work for harmony, mutual understanding and anticipate communal tensions and work for peace and reconciliation of the protagonists after incidents of communal violence occur.

3. We should encourage and promote initiatives on inculturation and inter-religious dialogue.

4. A professional think tank needs to be created to continuously educate ourselves on the dangers of communalism and recommend ways to counter fundamentalism. As part of this process, there should be a schedule of discussions at various levels.

5. We need to create networks with church bodies, the media, civil society and other secular forces to promote a pluralistic and inclusive society.

6. We could create media cells in our institutions and build cadres within our own campuses to spread the ideology of secularism through new forms of alternative media.

The task is indeed urgent. In order to create the necessary impact, we must join all people of goodwill to defeat the divisive forces of hate and violence by promoting a culture of pluralism and inclusion that ensures justice, equality, liberty and fraternity.

All communities/ institutions are requested to treat this matter with the priority it needs, reflect on these issues and take courageous steps as soon as possible! Do send in a short report by the end of August, which would help plan the next steps at a wider level.

The Lord has promised us that he is with us until the end of times. If we truly trust in Him, we will not be afraid of any human power on earth!

May Mary our Mother, the Mirror of Justice, whom we celebrate on August 15th too, accompany us in our quest for a more authentic freedom for ourselves and the people of India!

God bless you!

+Archbishop Thomas Macwan

SAVING LIVES: POPE FRANCIS ADDS FOURTH PATH TO ROMAN CATHOLIC SAINTHOOD

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (Jn15:13)

Pope Francis has approved a fourth pathway to possible sainthood -- giving one's life in a heroic act of loving service to others. In a new apostolic letter, the pope approved new norms allowing for candidates to be considered for sainthood because of the heroic way they freely risked their lives and died prematurely because of "an extreme act of charity."

Archbishop Marcello Bartolucci, secretary of the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes, said the addition is meant "to promote heroic Christian testimony, (that has been) up to now without a specific process, precisely because it did not completely fit within the case of martyrdom or heroic virtues."

For centuries, consideration for the sainthood process required that a Servant of God heroically lived a life of Christian virtues or had been martyred for the faith. The third, less common way, is called an equivalent or equipollent canonization: when there is evidence of strong devotion among the faithful to a holy man or woman, the pope can waive a lengthy formal canonical investigation and can authorize their veneration as saints. These three roads to sainthood remain unchanged.

According to the apostolic letter, any causes for beatification according to the new pathway of "offering of life" would have to meet the following criteria:

-- Free and willing offer of one's life and a heroic acceptance, out of love, of a certain and early death; the heroic act of charity and the premature death are connected.

-- Evidence of having lived out the Christian virtues -- at least in an ordinary, and not necessarily heroic, way -- before having offered one's life to others and until one's death.

-- Evidence of a reputation for holiness, at least after death.

-- A miracle attributed to the candidate's intercession is needed for beatification.

Archbishop Bartolucci explains that the new norms arise from the sainthood congregation wanting to look into the question of whether men and women who, "inspired by Christ's example, freely and willingly offered and sacrificed their life" for others "in a supreme act of charity, which was the direct cause of death," were worthy of beatification. For example, throughout history there have been Christians who willingly put themselves at risk and died of infection or disease because of aiding and serving others. Archbishop Bartolucci further explains that the new provisions do nothing to alter church doctrine concerning Christian holiness leading to sainthood and the traditional procedure for beatification rather offers new horizons and opportunities for the edification of the people of God, who, in their saints, see the face of Christ, the presence of God in history and the exemplary implementation of the Gospel.

We are called to be saints. With this new apostolic letter the Church offers us one more way of becoming a saint. There are many in the Church who died out of heroic charity. It is a fresh motivation for us to risk our lives out of love for others. We welcome the Pope's apostolic letter *Maiorem hac dilectionem* and think seriously how we can render our services to our brethren and ultimately reach holiness of life.

+Archbishop Thomas Macwan

Parish Priests are requested to send "Peter the Apostle collection" (collection of 1st Sunday of August, 2017) to the Diocesan Procurator at your earliest.

Parish Priests, who have not yet sent their "Peter Pence collection" (last Sunday of June) to the Diocesan procurator, are also requested to send at their earliest.

-Fr. Avinash Parmar

ARCHBISHOP'S PROGRAMME, AUGUST, 2017

- 2 Pastoral visit to Thaltej parish
3 p.m. St. John Mary Vianney Feast Day celebration at Pastoral Centre, Nadiad for the Clergy of Diocese of Ahmedabad
4 a.m. St. John Mary Vianney Feast Day celebration at Premavtar Isu Mandir at Gandhinagar
5-6 Mass at Immaculate Conception Church Rajkot and visiting Bishop C.C. Jose CMI and Bishop Gregory Karotemprel CMI
7 Rakshabandhan day at Mirzapur
8 a.m. Feast Day celebration of St. Dominic at St. Mary's nursing Home, Gomtipur
p.m. Pastoral visit to Pallaiya parish
9 Pastoral visit to Pansora and Umreth parish
10 Pastoral visit to Thasra parish
11 Visiting the Pious Union of Jesus and Mary members at Camp
12 Meeting with Rev. Sr. Rose, Provincial Superior of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul at Mirzapur
13 a.m. Prison Ministry Sunday, Pastoral visit to Radhanpur Mission
15 a.m. The Assumption of Our Lady Feast Day celebration with MACAF at Ahmedabad
p.m. Independence Day visit at Governor's Home, Gandhinagar
16 Meeting with Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, Chairman of Caritas
17 Meeting with Most Rev. Devprasad Ganava SVD, Bishop of Udaipur, Provincial Superiors of Jesuits and SVD Priests, religious and lay representatives of Bhiloda deanery for the smooth handing over of the areas under Udaipur Diocese presently taken care by Gandhinagar Archdiocese
19 Meeting with Rev. Sr. Dora Thomas, Provincial Superior of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians at Pethapur
20 Bible Sunday celebration for Gandhinagar Archdiocese
Golden Jubilee celebration of Rev. Sr. Marceline DHM at Vataman
21 Pastoral visit to Koth parish
22 Immaculate Heart of Mary Society feast day of the Missionaries of Charity at Shanti Nilaya Home, Ranip, Bhimjipura
p.m. SSSS General body meeting at Pethapur
23 Visit to Himmatnagar parish
24 Pastoral visit to Khiloda parish
25 Dungari Mata Feast celebration at Nana Kantharia
26 Visit to Kheralu mission
27 Bible Sunday celebration for Ahmedabad diocese
Feast Day of Our Lady, Queen of the Universe Church, Deesa
29 Seminar organized by GUCFHR at Pastoral centre, Nadiad

Happy Birthday to Dear Fathers...

August

5 th Fr. Alfonso D'Souza	15 th Fr. Ramesh Chilka
5 th Fr. Peter Lopes	19 th Fr. Vikram Mahida
6 th Fr. Stany D'Souza	24 th Fr. Patrick Rebello
7 th Fr. Justin T.	27 th Fr. Jagdish Macwan
8 th Fr. Anthony Swamy	29 th Fr. Francis Xavier
15 th Fr. Rocky Pinto	

Please pray for the souls of: Mrs. Paulina D'Sa, mother of Fr. Peter D'Sa. Mr. Jacob Dabhi, father of Fr. David Dabhi and Master Paul A. Parmar, the father of Fr. Avinash Parmar

Please send your news articles for Chronicle and TAM to the Editor Fr. Avinash Parmar, Parish Priest, Holy Spirit Church, Vatva & Archbishop's Secretary for the Diocese of Ahmedabad on adctam@gmail.com. Published From:
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