



SPOTLIGHT

THE BARODA DIOCESE NEWSLETTER



June 2026

For Private Circulation Only

www.dioceseofbaroda.org

SAINT OF THE MONTH



ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA (1195-1231)

"He prays best who does not know that he is praying."

Men will surrender to the spirit of the age. They will say that if they had lived in our day, faith would be simple and easy. But in their day, they will say, things are complex; the Church must be brought up to date and made meaningful to the day's problems.

St. Anthony of Padua

(A class one relic of St. Anthony of Padua, brought from Padua, is in the Church of St. Anthony at Valsad)

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE POPE

JUNE: FOR THE VALUES OF SPORTS.

Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

JULY: FOR RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

BEGINNING A NEW PASTORAL YEAR

+ Seby Mascarenhas

Our God is not a mere union of Three, OUR GOD IS A COMMUNION OF THREE

Let us cultivate relationships! (Magnifica Humanitas 239)

"Let us cultivate relationships! In an era that favors speed and fragmentation, the human person still yearns to receive care and recognition from attentive minds, kind words and hands capable of tenderness. The digital culture multiplies connections and offers new opportunities for interaction; yet, the human heart retains an irrevocable need for genuine closeness. I invite everyone to cherish places and times where physical presence remains crucial, such as shared meals, Christian community gatherings, time spent with the lonely and serving the poor.



Renewing of the Baptismal promises at the inauguration of Zaroli Church



These are signs of a humanity that continues to believe that every person's body is a dwelling place of God and a temple of the Holy Spirit. It is precisely this covenant between glory and fragility that becomes the criterion for evaluating the anthropological models offered by contemporary culture". (MH 239)

The Pope has considered AI a paradigm shift in the history of humanity just like the Industrial Revolution was for his predecessor Leo XIII. All of us are necessarily sucked into this new reality and the Church has to respond with its truths that remain eternal in all the flux.

While reading Magnifica Humanitas on the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity (on the eve of the beginning of the new Pastoral year, my fourth in the diocese), this simple small sentence (paragraph) in Magnifica Humanitas (ca. 38,000 words of the first encyclical of Pope Leo), hit me to the core: **Let us cultivate relationships.**

Aptly, this is what the Mystery of the Trinity implies in simple language. The God who is communion, communication and relationships dwells in us so that we are enabled to live in communion, communication and relationship. Hence, **Let us cultivate relationships.** I thought it could be the inspiration for our Pastoral Year 2026-27.

We have new Provincials for the Jesuits, the SVDs and the Carmelites; the Salesians and the Pilar Fathers had new ones last year. Many women congregations also have new Provincials. A new round of discussions, strategic planning and goal setting will start at the beginning of the new year and the new terms for our apostolate. Our diocese and Gujarat has benefitted hugely from such elite planning.

After my experience of the last three years, it is prophetic that we begin our new pastoral year just after the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity. The Trinitarian life is our identity. Communion, Communication and Relationships are our way of being. Communio, Koinonia, Synodality are various terms expressions of the Trinitarian life to be lived by us.

Genuine Relationships in the manner of the Trinitarian life -- with mutual respect, self-emptying, self-giving, openness to one another, listening to one another, forgiveness

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OFFICIAL - JUNE 2026

COMMITMENTS OF THE BISHOP JUNE 2026

07-06-26	Installation - St Joseph Vadodara Health Commission Executive Meeting
13-06-26	Installation – Divine Mercy Umargaon
14-06-26	Installation – St. Francis Xavier, Zaroli
18-06-26	Diocesan Priest Opening Recollection
20-06-26	Installation – Mary Mothers and Queen, Godhra
21-06-26	Installation - St. Joseph, Jhagadia
26-06-26	Priest Council, Consultors and Finance Comm
27-06-26	Installation – Sacred Heart Halol
28-06-26	Confirmation - St Peter & Paul, Dharampur
28 June to 03 July	Diocesan Priests Annual Retreat (Optional)
04-07-26	GEBICI, Ahmedabad
04-07-26	Installation – Our Lady of Fatima, Gothada
05-07-26	Installation – Infant Jesus, Gorwa
06 to 09 July	Western Region Bishops Council Meet
11-07-26	Installation - St. Joseph, Dahod
12-07-26	Installation - Christ the King, Jhalod
13 to 18 July	Formation Program for Bishops
19-07-26	Installation - St. John Mary Vianney, Relwa
19 to 22 July	Diocesan Priest Interaction – G I Young

COLLECTIONS

**COLLECTIONS ON JUNE 21 -- PETERS PENCE (TO ROME)
COLLECTION ON JULY 26 – SEMINARIES (TO ROME)**

Please send your collections (Cheques) in favour of
"Dakshin Gujarat Seva Kendra", Bank: Indian Overseas Bank,
A/C no: 019501000011894, IFSC: IOBA0000195,
Branch: Alkapuri, Baroda.

Please contact Fr. Vincent Macwan, (Finance Administrator)
or Fr. Jaichand Baraik (96875 37771) for receipts and clarifications.

PLEASE PRAY

BIRTHDAYS

01-06-1959	Fr. Vasava Kanti
01-06-1976	Fr. Bala Madhanu
06-06-1966	Fr. Macwan Vincent
07-06-1961	Fr. Vasava Dalsukh
10-06-1977	Fr. Savri Muthu Peter
10-06-1987	Fr. Nakre Akash
24-06-1962	Fr. Macwan Manu
29-06-1974	Fr. Paul D'Silva
05-07-1960	Fr. Patel Julius
06-07-1977	Fr. Valerian Fargose
29.07.1959	Bishop Seby Mascarenhas
29-07-1973	Fr. Anthony Swamy

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

03-06-2014	Fr. Brazil D' Mello
27-07-2019	Fr. Raman Vasava

APPOINTMENTS

Fr. Sanjay Rodrigues SJ	Parish Priest, St. Joseph Church, Vadodara
Fr. Paul Raj SVD	PP Catholic Church, Jhalod
Fr Casmir Damor SVD	PP Catholic Church, Dahod
Fr Rajendra Toppo SVD	PP Catholic Church, Godhra
Fr Charles Armritraj SVD	PP Catholic Church, Halol
Fr Daniel Christian OCD	PP of Infant Jesus Church, Gorwa
Fr Mcsteain Olivera SFX	Priest of In Charge, Pardi
Fr. William Carvalho	PP, St Francis Xavier Church, Zaroli
Fr. Paul D'Silva	PP, St Joseph Church, Jhagadia
Fr. Joel Pais	PP. Our Lady of Fatima Church, Gothada
Fr. Ravi Kavala	PP, St. John Vianney, Relwa
Fr. Vincent Macwan	PA, Divine Mercy, Umargam
Fr. Joaquin Castiella SJ	APP Catholic Church, Dadhwada
Fr. Irudayaraj Manickam SJ	APP St. Joseph's Parish, Baroda
Fr. Hillary Joaquim Dias SJ	APP Catholic Church, Dadhwada
Fr. Francis Macwan SJ	APP Catholic Church, Subir
Fr. Vincent Moonnupeedikail SJ	APP Catholic Church, Ankleshwar
Fr Anup George SVD	APP Catholic Church, Godhra
Fr. Brijendra Kumar	APP, Umarpada
Fr. Sachin Kadam	APA, Divine Mercy, Umargam
Fr. Akash Nakre	APP, St Anthony Church, Valsad
Fr Don Tony D'Souza OCD	APP, Infant Jesus Church, Gorwa
Fr. Kanti Vasava	Rosary Church, Vadodara
Fr. Jaichand Baraik	Assistant to Diocesan Finance Administrator, Administrator, Bishops House
Mr. Joseph Bose	Chairperson, Commission for BECs

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-- are missionary attitudes that should be our way of life, first and foremost in our communities and between our communities. Our strategies and setting of goals can sometimes be at the cost of this core identity and turn us into mere run-of-the-mill success-oriented CEOs of our parishes and religious institutions.

I know we have many challenges that create unrest for us from the outside. Could we be oasis of Trinitarian Communion first in our own communities of fathers or sisters and with our neighbouring communities of fathers or sisters? Could we lead our parishes to be oasis of Trinitarian life through our personal witness and lives, in the first instance? Could we lead our parishes to be oasis of Trinitarian life in the challenges that confront them in their day to day lives?

Let me begin with myself: *Let us cultivate relationships.*

The First Encyclical of Pope Leo ON AI - MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS

Between the Fragmentation of Babel and the Rebuilding of the Temple in Nehemiah DISARMING AI

WHY AI? WHY NOW?

Some might ask: why is the Pope writing about technology? Shouldn't the Church focus on prayer, sacraments, and salvation?

Pope Leo XIV answers this question directly, echoing his predecessor Leo XIII who faced the same objection in 1891 when he wrote *Rerum Novarum* about workers' rights and the Industrial Revolution. The proclamation of the Gospel, he insists, cannot overlook the concrete lives of people. And right now, the concrete lives of people are being shaped profoundly and rapidly by artificial intelligence.

THE 135-YEAR CONNECTION

One of the most striking aspects of *Magnifica Humanitas* is when it was signed: 15 May 2026, exactly 135 years after Leo XIII published *Rerum Novarum* on 15 May 1891.

That was not a coincidence.

Rerum Novarum was the Church's response to the Industrial Revolution, a world being transformed by machines, factories, and capitalism, where workers were being exploited and their dignity trampled. It became the foundation of modern Catholic Social Teaching. It changed how the Church engaged with society forever.

Pope Leo XIV is making a deliberate statement: what the Industrial Revolution was to Leo XIII, artificial intelligence is to us. The scale of disruption is comparable. The stakes for human dignity are just as high. And the Church cannot afford to be silent.

TWO CITIES, ONE CHOICE

At the heart of *Magnifica Humanitas* are two images drawn from Scripture that frame the document.

The first is the Tower of Babel, humanity using its collective power and technology to build something grand, but without God, without care for the vulnerable, and ultimately without wisdom. The result is not unity but fragmentation, not progress but confusion.

The second is Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, a different kind of building project. Not driven by pride or profit, but by prayer, shared responsibility, listening, and a genuine concern for every member of the community. Brick by brick. Together.

Pope Leo XIV says the same choice faces us today. We can use AI to build Babel, a world of algorithmic control, digital exploitation, growing inequality, and the slow erosion of what makes us human. Or we can use it to rebuild Jerusalem, putting technology at the service of human dignity, the common good, and genuine solidarity.

The encyclical is not anti-technology. It never says AI is evil. What it says is that technology is never neutral. It takes on the character of the people who build it, fund it, and use it. And so the question is not whether we will use



AI, we already are. The question is what kind of people we will be while using it.

DISARMING AI

The Pope coins a powerful phrase more associated with Nuclear weapons. "DISARMING AI means freeing it from the mentality of "armed" competition, which today is not limited simply to the military context, but is also an economic and cognitive phenomenon. This entails a race for ever more powerful algorithms and larger datasets, driven by the desire to secure geopolitical or commercial dominance. To disarm means discrediting the assumption that technical power automatically confers the right to govern. To disarm does not mean rejecting technology, but preventing it from dominating humanity".

DOES IT AFFECT ME?

You might not be a theologian. You might not read Vatican documents. But if you own a smartphone, use social media, worry about your future, care about justice, or are simply trying to live your faith in a world that feels increasingly confusing and inhuman, this encyclical was written for you.

Pope Leo XIV is not asking Catholics to become Luddites or to fear technology. He is asking us to remain profoundly human. To ask hard questions. To resist the slow drift toward a world where efficiency replaces compassion, where data replaces dignity, and where the logic of profit replaces the logic of love.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/africa/news/2026-05/what-is-magnifica-humanitas-and-why-should-you-care.html>

It is a bulky encyclical of 38,000 words. But it is worth reading. Especially towards the end.

PROPOSED SELECT DATES FOR 2026-27

COLOUR CODES

Confirmations and Parish Visits	Meetings of the Bishop
Programs for the whole Diocese	Various Statutory Meetings
Dates for Diocesan Priests	Available Sundays

- ❖ *The dates are suggested basically considering two areas: 1) where we are supposed to attend 2) where the bishop will be present (for your knowledge)*
- *In case there are mistakes you can please inform.*
- ❖ *Please organise your programs with these dates in mind, as they affect you*
- ❖ *Deanery Level programs will be conveyed to you by the commissions.*
- ❖ *Changes may be made as needed.*

DAY	HOLIDAY FEAST	EVENT	WHO ATTENDS/ORGANISES/LEVEL
JUNE 2026			
Sun 07		Installation - St Joseph Vadodara	Parish Level
		Health Commission Executive Meeting	Health Commission
Sat 13		Installation – Diviine Mercy Umargaon	Parish Level
Sun 14		Installation – St. Francis Xavier, Zaroli	Parish Level
Thu 18		Diocesan Priest Opening Recollection	Diocesan Priests
Sat 20		Installation – Mary Mothers and Queen, Godhra	Parish Level
Sun 21		Installation - St. Joseph, Jhagadia	Parish Level
Fri 26	Muharram	Priest Council, Consultors and Finance Comm	Select Members
Sat 27		Installation – Sacred Heart Halol	Parish Level
Sun 28		Confirmation - St Peter & Paul, Dharmapur	Parish Level
28 to Jul 3		Diocesan Priests Annual Retreat (Optional)	Diocesan Priests
JULY 2026			
Sat 04		GEBCI Ahmedabad	Bishop and School Personnel
Sat 04		Installation – Our Lady of Fatima, Gothada	Parish Level
Sun 05		Installation – Infant Jesus, Gorwa	Parish Level
6,7,8,9		Western Region Bishops Council Meet	Bishop
Sat 11		Installation - St. Joseph, Dahod	Parish Level
Sun 12		Installation - Christ the King, Jhalod	Parish Level
13-18		Formation Program for Bishops	Bishop
Sun 19		Installation - St. John Mary Vianney, Relwa	Parish Level
19-22		Diocesan Priest Interaction – G I Young	Diocesan Priests
AUGUST 2026			
Sun 02		NA Health Commission Narmada and Bharuch Deanery	Health Commission
Tue 04		DEANERY Meeting and Vianney Celebration	ALL PRIESTS AND NUNS AT EACH DEANERY LEVEL
Sat 15	Independ Day		
17-20		Diocesan Priest Interaction – G 2 Middle	Diocesan Priests
Sat 22		Visit to MC sisters Surat	
Sun 23		Visit/Conf to Godhra Parish	Parish Level
22-23		Women Commission Leaders of All Parishes Capacity Building	Women Commission
WED 26	Id	ANNUAL MISSIONARY MEETING	ALL PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS OF THE DIOCESE
Fri 28	Raksha Bandhan	BIBLE QUIZ FOR CLASS 8 & 9	PAN DIOCESE PROGRAM BIBLE COMMISSION
Sat 29		AGM of CRI – Bp House Baroda	All Religious
Sun 30		Confirmation in Rosary	Parish Level
SEPTEMBER 2026			
Fri 04	Janmashtami	Deanery Pastoral Council I	Select People at Each Parish Level – Organised by Dean
Sat 05		MC Sisters, Vadodara	
Sun 06		Confirmation in Bharuch	Parish Level
Tue 08		Confirmation in Dahod	Parish Level
		Visit to Muvalia	Parish Level

PROPOSED SELECT DATES FOR 2026-27

Sun 13		Visit to Rajpipla	Parish Level
14-16		Diocesan Priest Interaction G -3 Senior	Diocesan Priests
Tue 15	Ganesh Chaturthi	60 years of the Diocese of Baroda. Solemn Mass and FORMATION OF THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL.	ALL PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS OF THE DIOCESE. SELECT LAITY WHO ARE TO BE PART OF THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL AS PER STATUTES
Sun 20		CONFIRMATION IN Ankleshwar	PARISH LEVEL
Sun 27		Confirmation in Paraspada	Parish Level
OCTOBER 2026			
Fri 02	Gandhi Jayanti		
Sun 04		Confirmation in Jhagadia	Parish Level
Thu 08		AGMs of all Trusts under Diocesan Priests	Diocesan Priests
Tue 20	Dussehra	JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION CONFERENCE	JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION
Sun 25		Silver Golden Jubilee at St Anns	
Sat 31	Vallabhbai Patel	MEETING OF YOUTH PRESIDENTS & SECRETARIES OF EACH PARISH – FORMATION OF DIOCESE YOUTH TEAM	YOUTH COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 2026			
Sun 01		Confirmation in Infant Jesus, Gorwa	Parish Level
5-26	Diwali Holiday		
Sun 08	Diwali	Confirmation in Navsari	Parish Level
Sun 15		Confirmation in Unai	Parish Level
16 -19		ROUND TABLE FOR CONFIRMED CHILDREN	Youth Commission
Sun 22	Christ the King	Rosary Cathedral	Parish Level
Tue 24	Guru Nanak	Gujarat Jesuit Sammelan	Bishop
Thu 26		COLLOQUIUM OF BISHOPS AND MAJOR SUPERIORS	
Sun 29		Confirmation in Sagbara	Parish Level
DECEMBER 2026			
Sat 05		Visit to Pardi	Parish Level
Sun 06		Confirmation in Vapi	Parish Level
Thu 12		Diocesan Priests Advent Recollection	Diocesan Priests
11-14		Western Region Catholic Council Meet	Bishop, Select Laity
Sun 20		Visit to Songad	Parish Level
Mon 21		Christmas with other Religions in Each parish	Pan Diocese at Parish Level
Fri 25	Christmas	Vyara	Parish Level
Sun 27		Visit to Bhoj Padra	Parish Level
JANUARY 2027			
Sun 03		Confirmation in Jhalod	Parish Level
Sun 10		Confirmation in Gothada	Parish Level
		Health Commission Diocesan Level Meet	Pan Diocese – Select People
Thu 13/14	Makarsakranti	Common Fellowship of Diocesan Priests	Diocesan Priests
Fri 15		Ecumenical Meeting in each parish	Pan Diocese at Parish Level
Sat 16		KEEP THIS DATE FREE	PAN DIOCESE
Sun 17		Confirmation in Dediapada	Parish Level
19-25		CCBI Meeting	Bishops
Tue 26	Republic Day	Our Lady of the Forsaken Baroda	Pan Diocese
Sun 31		Confirmation in St Joseph	Parish Level
FEBRUARY 2027			
Tue 02		Zankhvav Melo	Parish Level
Tue 02		Deanery Meeting and Vita Consecrata Celebration (Tapi can have on another date)	Deans with all clergy & religious
Sun 07		Mandal Melo	Parish Level
Tue 09	Ramzan Id	DIOCESE LEVEL BIBLE QUIZ	Bible Commission
Wed 10	Ash Wed	Don Bosco	Parish Level
Thur 11		Sagbara Melo	Parish Level
Sun 14		Confirmation in Relwa	Parish Level
Thu 17		Deanery Pastoral Council Meeting	Deans with appropriate members
Thu 24		Diocesan Priests Lenten Recollection	Diocesan Priests

PROPOSED SELECT DATES FOR 2026-27

Sat 20		Korvi Melo	Parish Level
Sun 21		Confirmation in Bhesthan	Parish Level
Sun 28		Visit to Kawant	Parish Level
MARCH 2027			
Sat 06	Mahashivratri	☪ PAN DIOCESE MAHASAMMELAN FOR MEN	PAN DIOCESE – ALL PARTICIPATE
Sun 07		Katkuva Melo	Parish Level
Thu 11		Diocesan Priest Council, Consultors, Finance Council	Pan Diocese - Select People
Sun 14			
Thu 18		CHRISM MASS –	PAN DIOCESE – ALL PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS
Sun 21	Palm Sunday	Bharuch	Parish Level
Mon 22	Holi		
Thu 25	Maundy Thur	Surat	Parish Level
Fri 26	Good Friday	Dediapada	Parish Level
Sun 28	Easter Sunday	Umarpada	Parish Level
APRIL 2027			
Sun 04	Divine Mercy	Feast at Umargam	Parish Level
Sun 11		Confirmation in Halol	Parish Level
Thu 15		Closing Evaluatory Meeting	Diocesan Priests
Sun 18			
Sun 25			
MAY 2027			
Sun 09		Don Bosco Confirmation	Parish Level
Sun 16			
Mon 17	Bakri ID	Diocesan Pastoral Council – Evaluation of Synodal Processes in the Diocese as per the direction of the Holy See	Pan Diocese – All Diocesan Pastoral Council Members
Sun 23			
Sun 30			

WELLNESS FOR ALL....



The TREASURE SISTERSFORUM met on May 9,10th 2026, At Christ University ,Bangalore. Treasure is a forum- a professional network of women religious for sustainable mental health care and community support . this forum basically offers congregations a trusted faith -sensitive resource for mental health consultation, community support, formation and accompaniment. It consists of more than 120 health care professionals. During

the 2- day seminar, lot of inputs were given on mental health - The need of the hour. Different congregations have sisters with mental health issues who do not realize their problems for whom personnel online platform of psychologists and psychiatrists have been arranged in time of need. The gist of the gathering was creating awareness n the mental health of all.

Sr Dr Shiny Thomas cm.

CLOSING OF THE SYNODAL PROCESS --- SYNODAL ASSEMBLIES AT EVERY LEVEL

From the Directive of Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary of the Synod

ASSEMBLIES TO BE HELD AT DIOCESAN, REGIONAL, NATIONAL, CONTINENTAL
AND UNIVERSAL LEVEL TO CLOSE THE SYNOD



The Assemblies planned for the coming years constitute a decisive step in the implementation of the Synod. As already highlighted in the Pathways, this is not a matter of adding a formal stage or of repeating what has already been experienced in the analogous phases of the 2021-2024 Synod, but of helping the Churches to transform the experience gained into shared wisdom. What is at stake is not simply the continuity of a process, but its maturation.

The intention is at once simple and demanding: to recognize what the Holy Spirit has caused to grow, to understand the difficulties that still mark the journey, and to identify, with realism and trust, the steps to be taken. In this sense, the Assemblies are not a technical review, but occasions for discernment, shared co-responsibility, and thanksgiving, within a process shared by the whole Church.

An evaluation (assessment) Assembly is a spiritual process and a celebratory moment in which the threads of a communal journey of growth in synodality are drawn together.

CALENDAR

The calendar of the Assemblies follows what has already been indicated in the Pathways:

- FIRST SEMESTER OF 2027: DIOCESAN AND EPARCHIAL EVALUATION ASSEMBLIES
- Second semester of 2027: national or regional evaluation Assemblies
- First four months of 2028: continental evaluation Assemblies;
- October 2028: Ecclesial Assembly in the Vatican.

THE QUESTION

To preserve the unity of this process, a common question is proposed to guide the work at all levels, while leaving to each stage the task of articulating it according to its own context: In light of the journey undertaken after the conclusion of the 2021-2024 Synod, and with a view to offering its fruits as a gift to the other Churches and to the Holy Father: what concrete form of a missionary synodal Church, and what new paths of synodality, are emerging in your community?

TOOLS

In the light of this question, the task is to examine how the Final Document of the Synod as been implemented, what processes have been initiated, what transformations are underway, what difficulties have emerged, and what perspectives are coming into view. In order to support this work and help make it concrete, the Pathways suggest a number of areas in which the local Churches may question themselves in order to recognize steps of reception and development:

- Promotion of a synodal spirituality (cf. FD, nos. 43-46) and of a liturgy lived in a synodal key (cf. FD, no. 27);
- Fostering of ministries and charisms; access by lay faithful to leadership roles that do not require the Sacrament of Orders and to other ecclesial responsibilities (cf. FD, nos. 60, 75-77);
- Practice of ecclesial discernment (cf. FD, nos. 81-86), decision-making processes in a synodal style (cf. FD, nos. 93-94), and the functioning of participatory bodies in a synodal style (cf. FD, nos. 103-106);
- Development of practices of transparency, accountability, and evaluation (cf. FD, nos. 95- 102);
- Missionary renewal of parishes and local communities (cf. FD, nos. 117-119); - bonds among neighbouring Dioceses, within regions, and across countries (cf. FD, no. 124);
- Synodal style in ecumenical relations (cf. FD, nos. 137-138);
- Synodal style in interreligious relations (cf. FD, no. 123);
- Synodal style in organized presence within society (education, culture, human promotion, hospitality, healthcare, etc.; cf. FD, no. 118) and in the promotion of peace, justice, and care for our common home (cf. FD, nos. 47-48, 121);
- Formation activities in synodality (cf. FD, nos. 143-151) and the synodal character of the paths of Christian

SYNODAL STUDY GROUP REPORTS

The Synodal Process continues. Pope Francis had appointed 10 Study Groups. Pope Leo is continuing the work and the Study Groups are Publishing their reports. So far the following group reports have been published.

STUDY GROUP N. 2:
TO HEAR THE CRY OF THE POOR AND THE EARTH

STUDY GROUP N. 3
THE MISSION IN THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT

STUDY GROUP N. 4
THE REVISION OF THE RATIO FUNDAMENTALIS INSTITUTIONIS SACERDOTALIS FROM A SYNODAL MISSIONARY PERSPECTIVE

STUDY GROUP N. 5
THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE LIFE AND LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

STUDY GROUP N. 7
SOME ASPECTS OF THE PERSON AND MISSION OF THE PERSON AND MINISTRY OF THE BISHOP

STUDY GROUP N. 9
THEOLOGICAL CRITERIA AND SYNODAL METHODOLOGIES FOR SHARED DISCERNMENT OF EMERGING DOCTRINAL PASTORAL ETHICAL ISSUES

The full reports are available in the Synod website [https://www.synod.va/en/the-synodal-process/phase-3-the-implementation/the-study-.](https://www.synod.va/en/the-synodal-process/phase-3-the-implementation/the-study-) They have also been sent to you as we receive them. It is recommended that we read them. Perhaps the Pope will give us some magisterial document to follow from these reports.

I publish two interesting paragraphs from the reports that might whet your appetite to read the whole report!

FROM THE REPORT ON THE BISHOPS
4. DISCERNMENT BY THE LOCAL CHURCH AND THE BISHOPS OF THE TERRITORY TOWARDS APPOINTMENT OF BISHOPS

C. It is desirable that each local Church periodically undertake processes of discernment regarding its current state and needs. These processes should allow, on the one hand, **the identification of priests within the diocese to be proposed as episcopal candidates**, and on the other, **the development of a profile for the future Pastor of that same local Church**. These processes must involve, in particular, **the diocesan participatory bodies**. Therefore, in preparation for the session in which the bishops of the ecclesiastical province (or of the episcopal conference) are called to **draw up a list of episcopal candidates** to be submitted to the Apostolic See (cf. CIC, can. 377 §2), the bishop must convene **the presbyteral council and the diocesan pastoral council**. Under the guidance of their Pastor, in an atmosphere of common prayer and fraternal exchange, each of these bodies will collegially formulate a written opinion on the state and needs of the diocese.

Furthermore, as a fruit of this discernment, each member of these bodies will submit to the bishop, in a sealed envelope: **1) the names of priests serving in the diocese whom they consider suitable for the episcopate** (specifying, for each, the type of local Church for which he might be best suited, based on his qualities, experiences, and competencies); **2) an opinion on the profile of the future bishop of their local Church and the names of bishops or priests (not necessarily serving in the diocese) whom they consider suitable for succession**. All proposals must be accompanied by clear justifications. **Where circumstances allow, the cathedral chapter, the diocesan finance council, the lay council, the unions of consecrated men and women, and diocesan groups that institutionally represent youth and the poor should also be convened.**

FROM THE REPORT ON WOMEN

23. The cooperation of the lay faithful in the work of the pastors is thus understood as **genuine co-responsibility**. The Second Vatican Council emphasized in particular the “secular character” of the apostolate of the laity, although this does not exclude forms of active participation in the life and mission of the Church. Such co-responsibility assumes even greater importance in the context of a synodal Church, in which, as Pope Francis has reminded us, **“The lay faithful are not “guests” [...]; [this] is their home and they are called to care for it as such.”** In fact, “the layperson is more than a ‘non-cleric’ or a ‘non-religious’; he or she must be considered as a baptized person, a member of the holy People of God,” and laypeople are therefore invited to “leave behind ways of acting separately, on parallel tracks that never meet. Clergy separated from laity, consecrated persons from clergy and the faithful,” since the Church is “a people united in mission.” **It follows that “co-responsibility implies [...] participation, that is, involvement. [...] We must take the initiative, we must take risks, walk, meet. Only in this way can we develop communities with a maternal face and a style of effective fraternity, where all have ‘one heart and one soul’.”**

23. Women have a capacity for theological reflection that is different from that of us men. [...] The Church is woman. And if we do not understand what a woman is, what a woman’s theology is, we will never understand what the Church is. **One of the great sins we have committed is to “masculinize” the Church.** And this cannot be resolved through the ministerial route; that is something else. It can be resolved through the mystical route, through the real route. Balthasar’s thinking has given me a lot of insight: the Petrine principle and the Marian principle. This can be debated, but the two principles exist. **The Marian principle is more important than the Petrine principle, because there is the Church as bride, the Church as woman, without masculinizing herself.** And you may ask yourselves: where is this argument leading? Not only to tell you to have more women here – that is one thing – but to help you reflect. The Church as woman, the Church as bride. (Pope Francis)

INAUGURATION OF NEW CHAPEL AT DHAJ HAMLET



Remote Dhaj hamlet, lies deep within the forested hills and streams of Zankhvav Mission. It had been gearing up for the festive inauguration of its new chapel in decades. So it was with some joy and pride that families prepared to welcome Bishop Sebastian Mascarenhas in their little known hamlet. More than a hundred guests from the surrounding villages had gathered in anticipation of this wonderful event.

Womenfolk attired in beautiful outfits and jewellery came forward to help bishop Seby to cut the red ribbon before going on to consecrate the new altar and bless the 4 walls with the sacred oils and sprinkle holy water. This chapel is dedicated to St. Joseph, guardian of the families.

Bp Sebastian preached a simple touching homily highlighting the significance of this house of God in their midst. This house would soon become an intimate part of their home and hearts.

By Fr. Peter

PATADI (DEDIAPADA)

COMMUNITY HALL RENOVATED

The renovated COMMUNITY HALL of Patadi was blessed by Bishop Seby on November 14, 2026. Built about 45 years ago, this hall serves about thirty families in the area. Led by Fr Rakesh and his team of priests, sisters and faithful, and with the help of well wishers from all over Gujarat, the people have a beautiful new chapel.



JAMAPURA CHAPEL

Wednesday, 13th May 2026, the feast of "Our Lady of Fatima" a village called Jamapur of Vyara Parish has celebrated a golden Jubilee of the "Word of the Lord". In 1976, the first time the village people heard Jesus. When the Catholic Church was active in nearby villages, Late Muljibhai Gamit attended a prayer service, conducted by a catechist master named Mr. Kalidas Gamit. Influenced by Word of God and prayer service he invited Mr. Kalidas Gamit to come to his village and instruct them in Christianity. After the permission of Late Fr. Valerian D'souza sj Mr. Kalidas started visiting Jamapur every week regularly. After

four years of primarily catechism, in 1980 the first baptism took place by late Fr. Coral sj. Slowly with the help of village faithful a mud Church was put up in Late Muljibhai's land. Later Fr. Albert had built the concrete Church. Today village people are very grateful for Fr. Albert Gonsalves who improved the economic condition by starting social work and land levelling. Today there is sizeable Catholic Community in the village.

Along with the golden Jubilee, nearly 211 boys and girls have been confirmed by Rt. Rev. Bishop Sebastiao Mascarenhas SFX.

RENOVATING A CHURCH

ZAROLI – THE ENTRANCE OF THE FAITH TO THE TRIBAL AREAS OF THE DIOCESE OF BARODA



Standing in classic white under the scorching sun, the renovated Church of Zaroli was inaugurated by Bishop Sebastiao Mascarenhas on 24th May 2026 the Solemnity of the Holy Spirit in a beautifully organised ceremony led by the Parish Priest Fr Julius Patel with devout participation from the faithful, priests and religious. The ceremony was marked with deep symbolism and vibrant cultural expressions.

The mass was preceded by a solemn procession with a relic (a tiny piece of skin) of St Francis Xavier around the Church campus. The relic is a gift of the Church of Goa, thanks to Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao. It is apt to have a relic of St Francis Xavier as Zaroli could be called the entrance portal of the faith to the tribal belt of Gujarat. It will be a source of attraction for pilgrims to this parish.

After solemnly cutting the ribbon and unveiling the celebratory plaque, the Bishop entered the Church with the priests and religious. The baptismal font is placed in the Centre of the Church to emphasise the sacrament of Baptism. It is in the shape of a ship in honour of St Francis Xavier, the Patron of the Church, who travelled the oceans to bring the faith, especially to India. The holy water flows from the mouth of a fish, designed by world famous clay artist Verodina from Goa. The fish was the symbol of Christians at a time when they were persecuted in the first centuries. The Greek word for Fish IΧΘΥΣ stands prominently as the acronym for Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour. It is symbolic for the times we live in.

The Bishop blessed the font and the Water. After sprinkling the Holy Water on the faithful, the Bishop blessed the walls of the Church and the entire church.

Before the proclamation of the Word, the Lectern, shaped in the form of the wild date palm was blessed. Wild date palms are prominent in the Zaroli landscape but they also remind us of the travels of Jesus proclaiming the gospel in the date palmed landscape of Israel.

The homily emphasised the People of God as the living Temple where the Spirit dwells in each of us. Significantly the Zaroli Church was blessed on the Solemnity of the Holy Spirit, the day we theologially interpret that the CHURCH was finally revealed (founded). The Altar was anointed with oil and incensed. The altar is huge stone from the village symbolising the solidity of the faith of the people of Zaroli. The statues and the way of the Cross were blessed. Finally the relic was solemnly brought into the Church. At this juncture, the people, the real temple, pronounced their baptismal vows with candles raised to the heavens. This living church was once again emphasised as the people held hands to recite the Our Father together, symbolising our bonds as children of God.

After communion, the tabernacle was blessed. A solemn procession of the Blessed Host went around the Church after which the Blessed Host was placed in the tabernacle. The key of the Tabernacle was handed over to the parish priest Fr Julius marking the completion of the Blessing of the Church.

Symbolically at the end of the Mass, after kissing the relic, each person was given a bottle to carry the Holy Water from the Baptismal font. It reminded them that they were a holy people, a chosen people, a people who shared in the triple priesthood of Christ.

The Church is worthy of the legacy of faith of Zaroli. It is a homage to first faithful, the tireless catechists, the Franciscan brothers (Nov 1921), the Capuchins, The Bombay Diocesan priests, the Jesuits, the Baroda diocesan priests, the Canossian Sisters (May 1943)... From a little tent near the Bhilad railway station to the beautiful Church today is a testimony to the journey of faith of the people.

It is to the great credit of Fr. Julius Patel who courageously led his faithful people to visualise such a grand Church. He went around with great fortitude to raise huge funds to realise the dream of the people.

Seventy percent of the funds for this church have been raised by the people from their own contributions or by approaching various people and organisations. The construction committee deserves special mention. They put their hearts and minds into it and worked tirelessly day and night. A Local Artist, Mahindra Patel has done the Way of the Cross and the Warli paintings. Especially impressive is the Warli style depiction of the Trinity in heaven above the main altar.

In its architecture and interior decoration, the Church is a dynamic blend of the tradition of the Church, the theology of the sacraments, the culture of the place and current faith expressions. It is to the credit of the local people and the construction committee that they could bring these elements in their work of love. It is a witness to the maturity of the faith of the people. As the Bishop said, the Church building would help the faithful of Zaroli to be an even more vibrant and living temple. Finally, he said, the building gets its value only from the living temple of the people of God.

And finally, till the day of the inauguration, it was not sure what would be ready. Veritably the words of the Psalmist literally came true: Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain (Ps 127:1). As the construction committee said to us, even Hindus and Muslims opened their hearts to us. It is the work of the Lord.

Two Franciscan Brothers in Nov. 1921

Two Sanyasis in brown habits and knotted cords pitched up a tent between Bhilad Station and the Portuguese Enclave. From there they started pioneering and contacting. Within a few days hostile forces conspired against them: boycotted, they quit the place. Before the year was out, a friendly Talati allows them to return. In February, 1922, the Brothers are back. In spite of a cold reception, on Good Friday the skeleton of a rawbrick house stood beside the Kalu River. A huge cross was planted. It now stands, as a relic, on a special platform. Jamburi was an auxiliary centre: Zaroli, Bhilad and Nagvas were provided with a school. In Nagvas was born the first Dhoria priest, Mgr. George Chhagan.

Heaven with the Trinity in Warli art- Ceiling above the Main altar



Collecting the Blessed Water for Sprinkling



Blessing of the Baptism font in the shape of a ship



Solemn Procession with the relic around the Church



Carrying the Relic into the Church



The Certificate for the Relic



The Relic in the Pyx



Kissing of the Relic



Anointing of the Altar



The Tabernacle



Handing over the Keys of the Tabernacle



Incensing of the Statue of Our Lady



Cutting the ribbon with the Parish Priest Fr Julius Patel



Unveiling the Plaque of Memory



The Tarpa Dance of Joy



The Canossian Sisters with other religious



The Bible Vandana Dance



Holding hands to recite the Our Father



Communion Children holding hands for the Our Father



Sharing of Peace



Taking the Holy Water to their Homes



Communion Children with the Concelebrants

EASTER CELEBRATIONS IN CATHOLIC CHURCH, SAGBARA



Easter marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ, a moment that symbolizes victory over death, darkness and despair. For Christians around the world, this event offers a message that resonates far beyond religious walls—it speaks to the very human need for hope in times of uncertainty. The faithful of Sagbara Parish gathered in huge numbers to express their faith in the resurrected Christ. The spirit of Easter has further strengthened the faith of the faithful of Sagbara Parish. This fact was clearly seen in their participation and devotion. Children, adults and seniors came on their own to partake in the celebrations of Easter. May the Risen Christ strengthen their faith and keep them close to his heart.

EASTER BLESSINGS IN THE PARISH

The Easter Octave week is the most appropriate and suitable time to bless the families of the Parish. The Priests of the parish went around blessing the families throughout the week. The heads of the families welcomed the priests by making their traditional aarti. This not only shows the faith of the parishioners but also their love and respect for the priests.

PILGRIMAGE TO DIVINE MERCY CHURCH, UMARGAM

Almost 45 parishioners went to Umargam to participate in the celebration of the feast of Divine Mercy. The parishioners have a great devotion towards Divine Mercy. They were longing to visit the shrine at Umargam. The scorching heat of the sun could not stop the parishioners from worshipping their Lord and God. May the faith of the parishioners get strengthened so that they may always cling to Jesus their Saviour.

Fr. Praveen Viegas (Sagbara Parish)

EASTER CELEBRATION IN THE LAP OF NATURE AT SUBIR

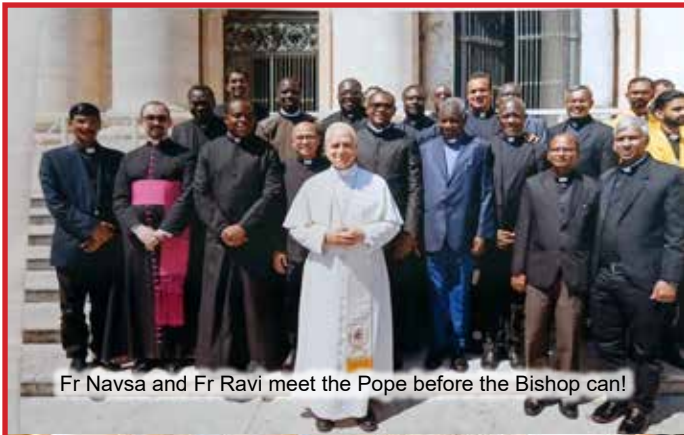
After a detailed planning regarding the Easter Celebration, done by the Pastoral Committee, it was decided to have it in a village called Badinagavtha. Badinagavtha is situated on the border of Gujarat and Maharashtra. The tribals had their dinner, cooked and served by the host village Badinagavtha. The Mandap, stage and the sound system were put up to elevate the standard of the celebration. Tribals from 27 villages, numbering to almost 1000 people, participated in the Easter Eucharist, presided over by Fr. Raymund A. Chauhan sj. The darkness was slowly but steadily made to disappear as almost a kilo meter long procession, made its way with lit candles. The sound of the Shahenai and dholaks penetrated the atmosphere, spreading joy, cheer and gaiety.

The Holy Eucharist, celebrated therein, was an experience of the risen Lord to all those who took part in it. Throwing off all the worries, concerns and anxiety to the wind the tribals wholeheartedly got involved in the entrance dance, Bible Vandana, Offertory dance, aarti and farewell dance. To top it all, the tribals missed no chance to end the whole celebration with their traditional Dangi dance.

The Easter Celebration pulled the non-Christian tribals as well, making them one with all. The division of Christian and non-Christian tribals got melted into the Easter Candle, rising above such petty discriminations.

By Fr. Joseph Parmar SJ and Fr. Raymund Chauhan SJ, Subir)

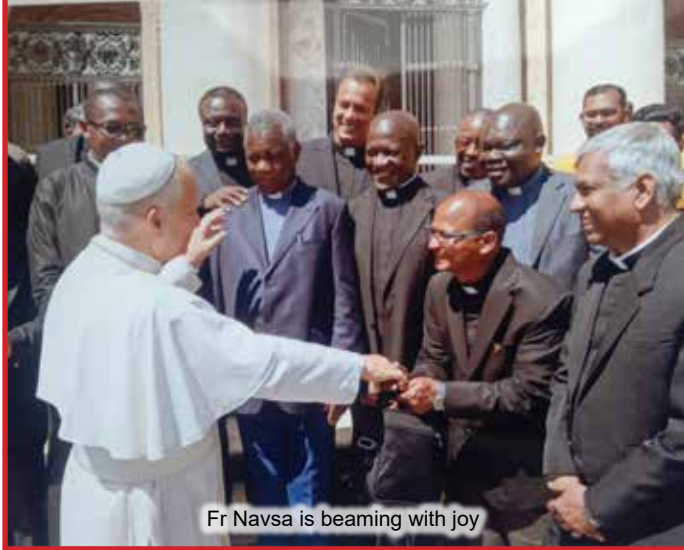




Fr Navsa and Fr Ravi meet the Pope before the Bishop can!



Fr Ravi kisses the Pope's ring



Fr Navsa is beaming with joy

RELVA SUMMER CAMP



St. Vianney Parish, Relva organized Summer Catechism Camp for all the Catholic children of the parish. Nearly 63 children from different villages actively took part in the camp. Together with the help of all parish Sisters, youth, boarding staff & Agewans, we successfully conducted the camp. On the final day, after diligent preparation the eligible students received the First Holy Communion!

DOB SUMMER CAMP



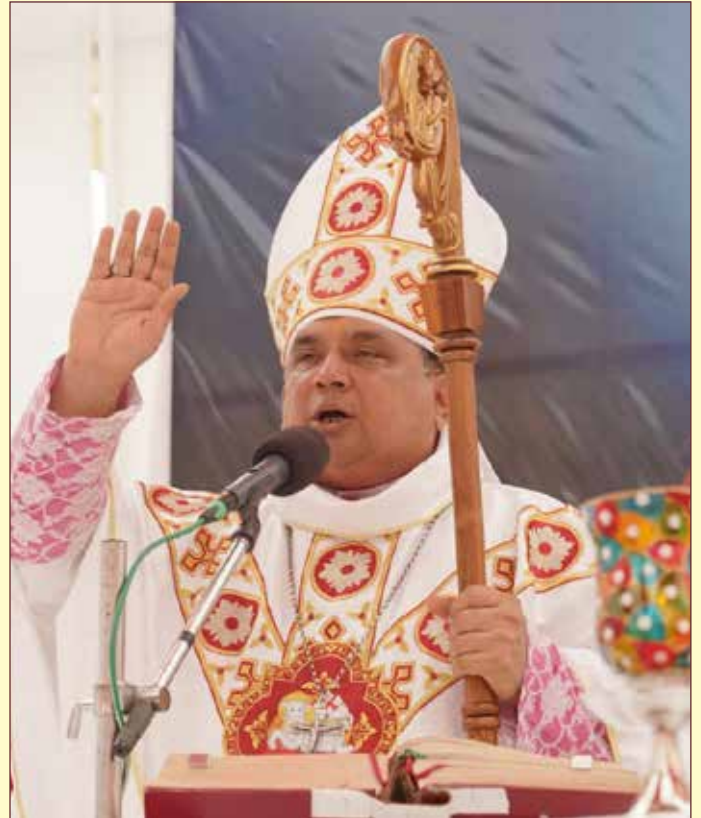
JESUIT SCHOLASTICS INTERACT WITH BISHOP SEBY AT SAPUTARA



NEW JESUIT PROVINCIAL FR. FRANCIS PUDICHERRY

DIVINE MERCY FEAST, UMARGAM

The Feast of Divine Mercy was celebrated on 12th April, 2026 at Divine Mercy Shrine, Umargam. The devotees participated in the Holy Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet before the Holy Eucharist. Rt Rev. Bishop Thomas D'souza the bishop of Vasai presided over the Holy Eucharist. In his homily the bishop laid emphasis on the mercy of God is greater than our sins. Besides Gujarat, the devotees came from Maharashtra too. The number of devotees is increasing year by year. Nearly two thousand faithful were present for the feast. After the Eucharistic celebration the Bishop Thomas D'souza, was felicitated by Rev. Fr. Kanti Vasava, the parish priest of the shrine. All the con-celebrants and the Religious sisters were offered flowers. All the devotees had sumptuous meal and departed.



LAY LEADERS DAMAN PILGRIMAGE 3RD APRIL 26

60 PPC leaders from Dediapada, Sagbara and Umarpada attended the traditional Good Friday Celebration in Daman. The body of Jesus is brought down devoutly from the cross and carried in procession around the town. It is then laid to rest in a Coffin. People of all faiths come to venerate it on Good Friday and Holy Saturday.



આ વર્ષએ પવિત્ર શુક્રવારના દિવસે દમનમાં ભક્તી યાત્રાનું આયોજન કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું. સાગબારા, ઠાંડિયાપાડા અને ઉંમરપાડાના 58 જેટલાં ભક્તોજનોને ભાગ લીધો હતો. આ ભક્તી યાત્રા દરમિયાન મને દમનમાં કૃષ્ણ માર્ગની ભક્તિમા એને પવિત્ર શુક્રવારની ભક્તિમા ભાગ લેવાનું શોભાગ્ય મળ્યું તે બંદલ બીશપ સેબીનો દિલથી આભર માનું છું. કૃષ્ણમાર્ગની ભક્તીથી એમને પ્રભુણી દ્વારા અને પીડાનો અનુભવ થયો. દમનના ભવ્ય દેવાલય એને લોકોની વિશ્વાસ જોઈની મારાં વિશ્વાસમાં વધારો થયો. પવિત્ર શુક્રવારની પ્રાર્થના વિધિથી હૂ પોતે ભાવુક બની ગયો હતો. મને ગમે અને પ્રાર્થના કરવાં ફાવે એવું સુંદર મોહલમાં અમેને પ્રાર્થના કરવાનું મોકો મળ્યો તેય બંદલ હુ બધાનો આભર માનું છું.

અજય (દેવગીરી) ઉંમરપાડા તાંબો

દમણ ખાતે ગુડ ફ્રાઈડે નિમિત્તે ઈસુ ખ્રિસ્તના બલિદાનનું સ્મારક ઉજવાયું

સાગબારા તાબાના આગેવાનો અને ભક્તોની ઉપસ્થિતિમાં ભક્તિમય કાર્યક્રમ, બિશપ સેબીનો પ્રેરણાદાયી સંદેશ



દમણ મુલાકાતના પ્રતિનિધિ દ્વારા અહેવાલ

ગુડ ફ્રાઈડેના પવિત્ર અવસરે સાગબારા તાબામાંથી કેથોલિક ચર્ચના આગેવાનો અને મોટી સંખ્યામાં ભક્તજનો દમણ મુકામે યોજાયેલા વિશેષ ધાર્મિક કાર્યક્રમમાં ઉપસ્થિત રહ્યા હતા. ઈસુ ખ્રિસ્તે માનવજાતના ઉદ્ધાર માટે આપેલા બલિદાનની સ્મૃતિમાં આ કાર્યક્રમનું આયોજન કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું.

કાર્યક્રમની શરૂઆત પ્રાર્થના અને ધાર્મિક વિધિઓ સાથે કરવામાં આવી હતી. ભક્તોએ શ્રદ્ધાભાવે કોસ માર્ગ (સ્ટેશન્સ ઓફ ધ ક્રોસ)નું સ્મરણ કરી ઈસુના દુઃખભોગ અને ત્યાગને યાદ કર્યા હતા. સમગ્ર વાતાવરણમાં શાંતિ, શ્રદ્ધા અને આધ્યાત્મિકતા છવાઈ ગઈ હતી.

આ પ્રસંગે કેથોલિક ધર્મગુરુ બિશપ સેબી વિશેષ ઉપસ્થિત રહ્યા હતા. પોતાના આશીર્વાચનમાં તેમણે જણાવ્યું હતું કે ગુડ ફ્રાઈડેનો દિવસ આપણને ત્યાગ, ક્ષમા અને નિસ્વાર્થ પ્રેમનો સંદેશ આપે છે. ઈસુ ખ્રિસ્તે કોસ પર સહન કરેલા દુઃખો માનવજાત માટે આશા અને મુક્તિનું પ્રતિક છે. તેમના ઉપદેશો હાજર ભક્તજનોમાં નવી પ્રેરણા અને આધ્યાત્મિક ઊર્જા ભરી હતી.

સાગબારા તાબાના ગામડાના આગેવાનો અને શ્રદ્ધાળુઓએ એકતા અને ભાઈચારા સાથે કાર્યક્રમમાં ભાગ લીધો હતો. અંતે વિશ્વશાંતિ, સમાજની સુખાકારી અને સર્વજન હિત માટે વિશેષ પ્રાર્થના કરવામાં આવી હતી.

આ સમગ્ર કાર્યક્રમ ભક્તિ, એકતા અને આધ્યાત્મિક ભાવનાનું જીવંત પ્રતિબિંબ બની રહ્યો હતો.



A GLANCE AT THE DAHOD MISSION AS WE SAY GOOD-BYE, AFTER 26 YEARS.

A journey of Grace: our thanksgiving as we leave Dahod

"We are grateful the Holy Spirit Sisters who served for 25 years in our Diocese. They have left their holy legacy in Dahod. God Bless them and their congregation." - + Seby Mascharenhas

The Holy Spirit Sisters had taken over the collaboration of St. Stephen's School and mission from the SMA Sisters in the year 2000, June 6th. Sr. Frances Mary, Sr. Pushpa Thomas and Sr. Manju Lakra were the pioneers of this mission in Dahod. They were accompanied by a group of students who had joined them to complete their +2 studies. Since then the SSsS sisters are counting their service in the field of education and mission in collaboration with the Divine Word Missionaries, SVD fathers.

The School is located in Freeland gung area of the Dahod and established by the Catholic Church of Baroda in 1932. The honorable Bishop of Baroda is its proprietor and the School is run by the SVD fathers in collaboration with us. SVD's took over the school in 1973.

St. Stephen's school is well organized. What adds to our advantage that many of our teachers are our own ex-students? The infrastructure is now highly improved with increased number of students. The school is aimed to impart education to all the sections of the society irrespective of their social economic, cultural. Considerable numbers of students are taken in under the provision of the R. T.E. act in different primary classes. Though it is challenging to educate and teach them, yet we are putting up our best possible efforts in this service.

Looking at the political scenario, there have been struggles and adversities. But we have kept up in pace with our mission. Valuable support from many parents. Our teaching staff and also well-wishers have made us stand firm in tough situations also the school administration consequently runs very smoothly and the school is progressing forward.

Along with education we are also involved in mission such as: catechism for catholic children, family visits for catholic as well as non-Catholics and whenever meetings are organized we took part. Our parish also organizes pilgrimage to different churches in Gujarat where we have an active participation. The altar decorations are done by us every Saturday and during various celebrations held in our parish.

When the students were with us, there used to be lot of active vibrancy in the school and mission as well, along with number of youths taking active participations in various activities held in the parish, that is still missed and fondly remembered as they do not continue to be with us anymore. The necessity of studying Gujarati language had become tough so they shifted to other places. We are really happy and content to work with people here despite the age bar and all sorts of discriminations eg: Caste, Creed etc. Also we keep on receiving the best and prompt support for our community members. Though sometimes



we find ups and down but we still do not stop us from accomplishing our responsibilities.

We have been in cordial terms with our immediate neighborhood and elsewhere as well. There is sharing of sweets and goodies from both the sides on festive occasion that extends our goodwill and we have faced no issues until now.

We have been hosting the Zonal meeting of our SSsS community every year with great pleasure and enthusiasm. The guest sisters are well taken care of. We appreciate their kind and cordial concern towards these meetings. Also we receive the support from SVD brothers and fathers. We appreciate with gratitude all the help our SVD brethren have given us whenever we called on them, especially in the school, in pastoral ministry. We have worked as a team in the parish, in visiting families, praying together, with the women's group, youth group, teaching catechism and decorating church every Saturday and feast days, along with our pre-primary catholic teachers. The jubilee year Holy Cross procession and prayer in every family brought us closer to one another. It was indeed a jubilation and celebration.

With a grateful heart, we sincerely thank you Bishop Seby Mascharenhas,

for your constant guidance, encouragement, and fatherly care. Your wise words and leadership have inspired us and strengthened us in our mission. May God bless you abundantly with good health, wisdom, and peace as you continue to shepherd and guide us.

We are indebted to late Fr. Rayyappan the principal of our school for 26 years and Fr. Paulraj still is the principal, and to all the parish priests.

With deep gratitude, we extend our heartfelt thanks to you for your dedicated guidance and valuable training given to our sisters, your wisdom, leadership, and

commitment have shaped our sisters into the inspiring leaders as they are today. Through your support and mentorship, you have helped to build a strong foundation that continues to benefit our school community. We truly appreciate your patience, encouragement, and vision.

May God bless you abundantly for your noble service and dedication to education. Thank you for being guiding lights to our sisters and to many others.

We thank our SSps sisters, as headmistress, teachers and kg in charges, all those who have contributed to this mission in education and pastoral ministries.

With heart full of gratitude, we thank each one of you dear sisters for your loving service, your dedication, patience, and tireless efforts to shape young minds and guide our students on the path of knowledge, values, and faith.

Your gentle care, wise guidance, and selfless commitment inspire both students and staff every day. You not only teach lessons from books but also lessons of kindness, discipline, and love. We deeply appreciate your sacrifices, your leadership, and the beautiful example you set before us. May God bless you abundantly with good health, joy, and strength to continue your noble mission. Thank you, dear sisters, for being shining lights in our school and in the parish community.

Gratitude to the SVD and SSps administration.

With deep respect and heartfelt gratitude, we sincerely thank the SVD and SSps Administration for your constant guidance, encouragement, and loving support. Your visionary leadership, wise decisions, and generous care have strengthened our mission and inspired us to serve with dedication and joy. We are truly grateful for the opportunities you have given us to grow in our vocation and to carry out our responsibilities with confidence. May God bless you abundantly for your tireless efforts, your commitment to our welfare, and your unwavering support. We assure you of our continued prayers and cooperation in fulfilling our shared mission, in. Thank you for being pillars of strength and inspiration to us all.

A word thanks to our supporting staff.

Today we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our dear supporting staff. Without your dedicated service, quiet sacrifices, and constant help, we would not be able to carry out our daily responsibilities so smoothly.

You not only provided us with delicious food, your hard work often happens behind the scenes, yet it plays a very important role in making our convent a peaceful, clean, and welcoming home. Your sincerity, patience, and willingness to serve support us in our mission each day.

We deeply appreciate all that you did for us. May God bless each one of you and your families abundantly always.

To all the sisters who have been part of this community I say a word of Thanks. With a heart filled with gratitude



and deep emotions, I take this moment to say goodbye to Dahod, a place that has been more than just a mission – it has been a home, a family, and a sacred journey of grace.

As we look back last 26 years in Dahod, we are overwhelmed with thankfulness to God, who guided our steps and blessed our ministry in countless ways. Every day spent here was a gift, filled with opportunities to serve, to learn, and to grow. The children who filled our classrooms with laughter and curiosity, the parents who entrusted their little ones to our care, and the teachers and staff who stood beside us in dedication, all of you have been a precious part of our journey.

Serving in this mission was not just a responsibility but a calling. Together, we faced challenges, celebrated achievements, and worked tirelessly to nurture young minds and shape bright futures. The smiles of the children, their eagerness to learn, their innocent love have left an unforgettable mark on my heart.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our management, priests, sisters, teachers, and supporting staff whose cooperation and encouragement made our mission fruitful. Without your teamwork, commitment, and sacrifice, our journey would not have been possible. Each one of you contributed in your special way to the success of our school and community.

To the people of Dahod, thank you for your warmth, acceptance, and love. You welcomed us not as a stranger but as a member of your own family. The memories we created together, the festivals we celebrated, the prayers we shared, and the dreams we built will remain with me forever. Though we may be leaving this place physically, Dahod will always remain alive in our hearts, the lessons we learned here, the relationships we built, the experiences we gained have shaped us into a better person and strengthened our faith and mission.

As we move forward to a new chapter, we carry with us the blessings, love and prayers of this wonderful community. We entrust Dahod and all its people to God's loving care, praying that He continues to bless this mission abundantly and guide everyone on the path of growth and transformation.

Thank you Dahod, for being a beautiful chapter in our lives. With gratitude in our hearts and faith in God we bid you farewell.

By Sr. Lincy Varkey SSps

TIDBITS FROM DADHWADA

By Fr. Harry Martis SJ

TEJAS YOUTH RETREAT

From 17th and 21st May, 43 youth from Dadhwada Parish participated in the Hindi Tejas Youth Retreat at Tabor, Maharashtra. Prior to this event, a half-day orientation program at the parish was held to prepare them for the journey, retreat, and sightseeing. The retreat provided profound spiritual renewal, leaving the youth deeply uplifted.

Following the retreat, a Mumbai Darshan was organized, giving the participants a chance to explore the city's landmarks and enjoy sightseeing. The experience was truly memorable one.



HANDS-ON NATURAL/ORGANIC FARMING PROGRAM

On 4th May, the parish hosted a Hands-on Natural/Organic Farming Program organized by the Xavier Research Foundation (XRF) under the leadership of Fr. Suresh Antony SJ and his team. This follow-up initiative focused on preparing essential materials for natural farming. Farmers received both theoretical insights and practical training, equipping them with sustainable methods and hands-on skills to apply in their fields.



FOUR-DAY PARISH CAMP (FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & MUSIC)

From 7th to 10th May, a Four-Day Parish Camp was held in preparation for the First Holy Communion. Parish youth took the lead in guiding children through catechism for this important sacrament. Alongside this, a parallel music workshop on instruments was conducted for participants of all ages, with elders offering strong encouragement and support to the initiative.



*Please send your matter for SPOTLIGHT TO Fr. Vincent Lobo,
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