



# MEGASABA PATRIKA

YEAR 3

October-November 2012

No 16

## Archbishop Speaks:

The Holy Father begins his Apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei* with the words: "THE DOOR OF FAITH is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into his Church... To enter through that door is to set out on a journey that lasts a lifetime..." We are all pilgrims on this journey that began with our Baptism and will end "with the passage through death to eternal life, fruit of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus..." The year the Holy Father has marked out for us, 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2012 to 24<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2013, Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King, is a period of intense living of the faith we profess. We are called to listen intently to the word of God, approach the Sacraments, and thus allow our hearts "to be shaped by transforming grace". The Year of Faith "is a summons to an authentic and

renewed conversion to the Lord, the one Saviour of the world".

The Year of Faith is a call to enrich our own faith as well as that of the communities entrusted to our ministry. The way forward is certainly to acquire a deeper knowledge of our Catholic Faith through reading the Scriptures, personal reflection and celebrating the Sacraments. Catechism classes in our institutions and Sunday Catechism in the Parishes, youth animation programmes and adult catechesis, renewal programmes and retreats: all traditional! But can we also find new methods of communicating our faith? And beyond imparting knowledge is the call to "rediscover the joy of believing and the enthusiasm for communicating the faith" also to those outside the Church.

## In Prayer and Recollection: Sabarkantha Missionaries.

Besides having spent a day of prayer and reflection in their respective mission stations, priests and religious currently engaged in Mission works in Sabarkantha district spent 2<sup>nd</sup> October in the Church of Himmatnagar in intense prayer and reflection that was animated by Fr. Arasakumar. Many of the over forty priests and religious, who came, approached the sacrament of Reconciliation. At the end of the day, the Archbishop presided at the Eucharist. It was an enriching day for everyone.

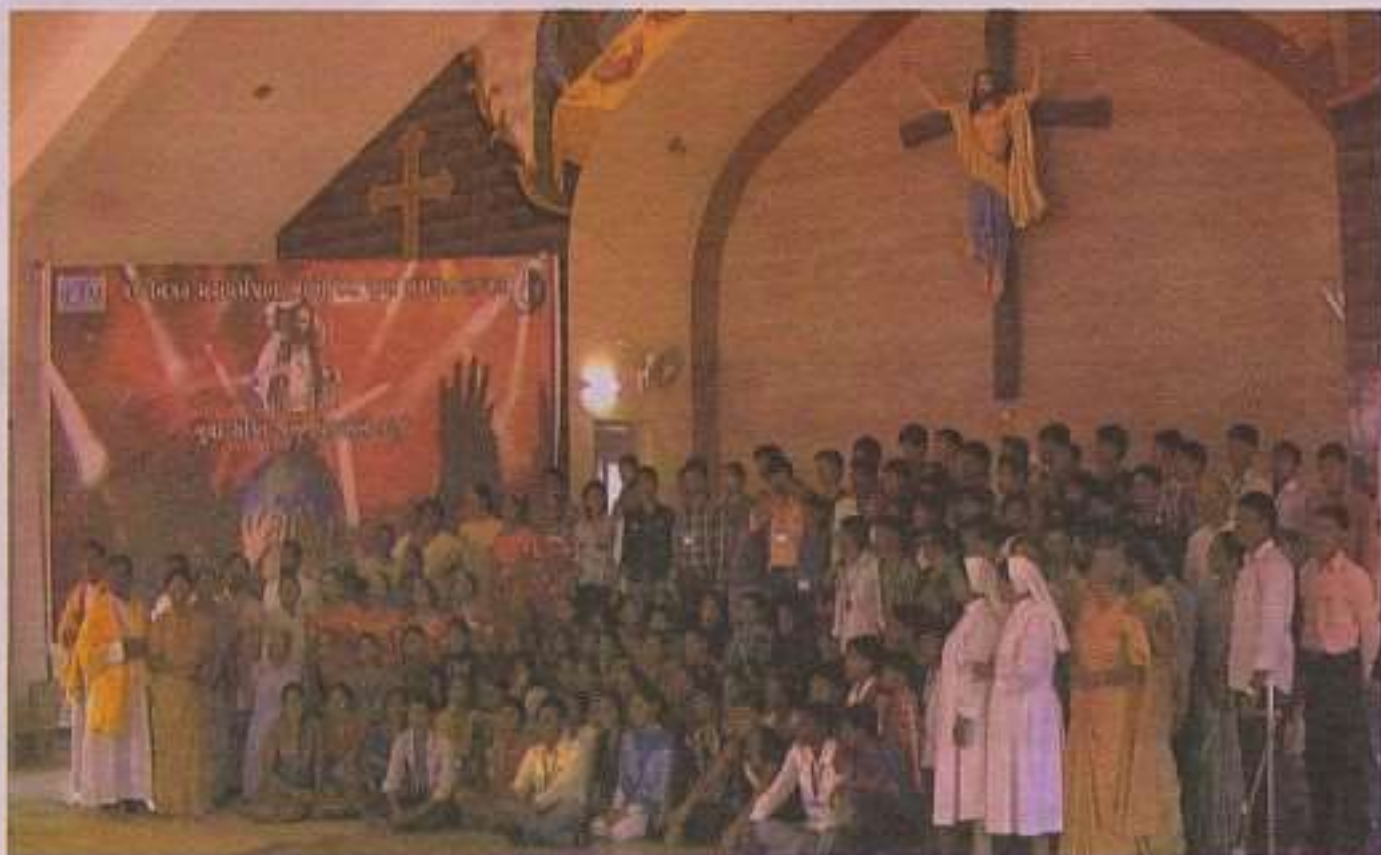
## Siddhpur Tidings

On 4th August 2012 was the inauguration and blessing of this rented parochial house. The Feast of St. John Mary Vianney was also celebrated on the same day. After the Vianney Sunday Eucharist, all the parish-members dined together, but only after blessing the house and serving milk to everyone. On 8th September, the whole parish celebrated the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady and Onam, the harvest festival. Mr. Shaji, Ms. Susan had prepared Onam meal which bound all of us together as one family.

On 9th September one of the parishioners, organized a day of recollection for all at Unteshwari which was well attended. Every one appreciated such initiatives by lay people. On 7th October, the whole parish joined in thanking the Lord on the occasion of the birthdays of Archbishop Stanny and Sr. Neeta. On 14th October, Mr. Mathew and Thangmma shared what they have with the inmates of Sandhya Vishram. The whole parish joined them in dining together with the elderly people at Sandhya Vishram, Unteshwari. The significant point was that the parents made sure that their children were all present during this faith exercise so that they imbibe the value of generosity and learn to take care of the elderly. On 21<sup>st</sup> October was the Mission Sunday and all the faithful contributed generously for the spread of the Gospel. That day's meal was prepared and brought by families of Siddhpur Parish reliving the early Christian community spirit. (Fr. James)

## Archdiocesan Youth S sammelan

More than 150 youths from various parishes in the Archdiocese spent useful time at St. Xavier's-Catholic Church, Himmatnagar, from October 26<sup>th</sup> evening to 28<sup>th</sup> evening. While St. Xavier's and the Parish House provided accommodation to the priests and boy youth, Jeevandhara, SMMI Convent was home to the girl youth and sisters who had come for the S sammelan. The number of participants was smaller than expected as many collegians had exams just in those days.



The sammelan was inaugurated on 26<sup>th</sup> October evening by Rev. Fr. Rocky D'Silva, Vicar General, with the Year of Faith overshadowing the subsequent days. His inaugural inspiring words and the key-note address of Fr. Xavier Manjooran, sj, set the tone for the youth days. The resource persons were Dr. Roman Bhatia, Fr. Vijay D'Souza, sj, and his team, Fr. Arasa Kumar, all of whom provided sufficient space for group discussions and interactions among the youth. The cultural night on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> brought out the artiste in the participants. Archbishop Fernandes celebrated the concluding Eucharist. After a group photo, all enjoyed the festive meal and dispersed to continue the spirit of the youth days in their parishes.

## The Concept of Year of Faith Logo



YEAR OF FAITH 2012  
2013

The logo is composed of a square, bordered field on which a boat, symbolizing the Church, is represented as sailing on a graphically minimal representation of waves. The main mast of the boat is a cross from which sails are displayed in the form of dynamic signs which compose the trigram of Christ (IHS). The background to the sails is a sun which, associated with the trigram, refers also to the Eucharist.

## Unteshwari Matano Melo



Unteshwari was once again decked with lights as its annual *bhakti-Melo* was celebrated on Monday 22nd October. Many pilgrims took the *padayatra* with faith and devotion while praying the Rosary. This 'yatra' to Mother Mary's shrine is unique in this area with pilgrims coming from parishes of neighbouring Ahmedabad Diocese and beyond. In this Year of Faith, the presence of pilgrims coming from as far as Talasari (Vasai Diocese) and guests from abroad was a faith experience for the local faithful. Archbishop Stanislaus Fernandes as the chief shepherd guided the whole congregation in the Eucharist while Fr. Francis Prammar SJ broke the word of God. The local faithful led by the Unteshwari community of Fathers and Sisters welcomed the guests and encouraged one another by providing and sharing the community meal.

## Sandhya Vishram : Senior Citizen's Day

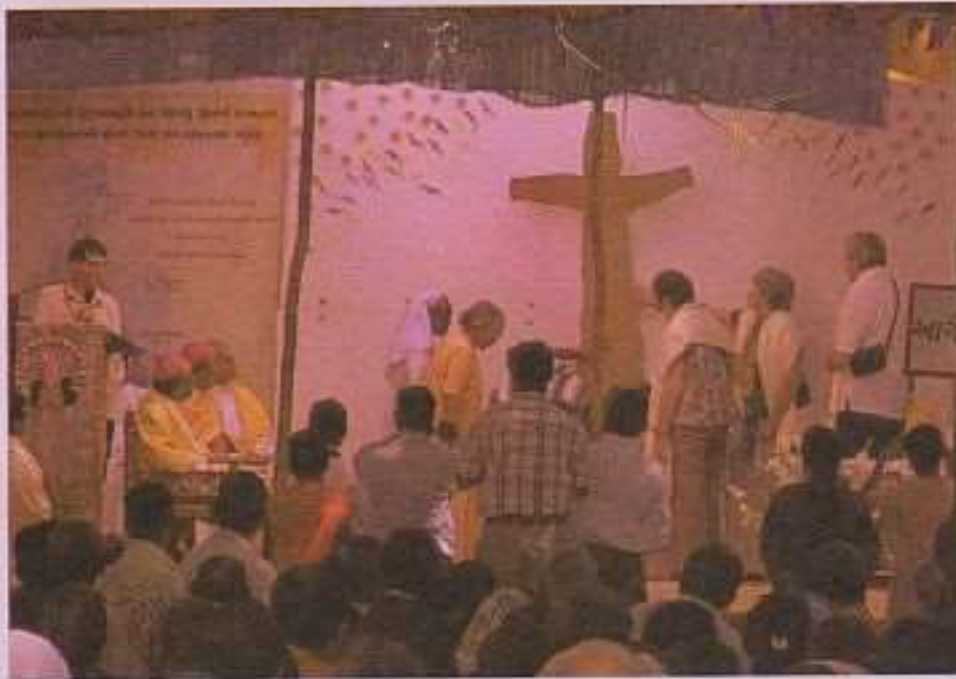
The 36 inmates of Sandhya Vishram and a couple of elderly people from Unteshwari Village were all dressed up and



extremely happy to celebrate Senior Citizen's day on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2012. The day began with Holy Eucharist presided over by Archbishop Stanislaus Fernandes. Frs. Prasad, Ignas Ordonez and Girish joined him in praying for the elders. Those inmates who were able entered the Church in procession with lighted lamps, that symbolized their life. The Archbishop invited them to be as enthusiastic as they are: praising God and giving thanks for the blessings received in their lives. The offering of gifts and *art* were all managed by the elderly of the home.

Later in the morning, the students of Shivhari English Medium School of Kadi staged a variety entertainment program for the elders who were extremely happy. They were not only kept laughing but the more agile even came onto the floor to dance. The inmates of Sandhya Vishram were touched when they were told that the students considered them as their own grandparents and not as 'Senior Citizens.' The day ended with sharing of gifts and thoughts among the inmates and staff of Sandhya Vishram. (Sr. Jyotsna Gamit)

## 50 Years Of Sabarkantha Mission



In 1962 Swami Dindayanand Luis Espasa (a Spanish Jesuit missionary) began to visit the villages around Bhiloda and thus establish the mission at Mankroda-Bhiloda. The annual feast of Our Lady at Mankroda-Bhiloda is kept on Dassera which this year fell on 24th October. Hence that date was chosen to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the birth of Catholic Church in Sabarkantha. To prepare for the event and share responsibilities, the Sisters and Fathers had held several meetings, and deanery and parish wise recollections and prayers meetings. Prayer is the source and spirit of any missionary endeavour and must inspire our missionary life. This atmosphere of prayer was expressed when all missionaries of Sabarkantha gathered in Himmatnagar, and during

the 'navratri' days preceding the Jubilee celebration. On each day, different missions of Sabarkantha dedicated a day to pray for the Church that was completing fifty years of age by celebrating Holy Mass and other devotions.

The Church in Sabarkantha was happy to have four members of the Espasa family for the jubilee celebration on 24th October. Bishop Devprasad Ganawa came from Jhabua (Madhya Pradesh). His few words at the end of the Mass summed up the mood of joy at being brothers and sisters united in our faith in Jesus Christ. Laity, priests and religious from so many parishes of Gandhinagar and our neighbouring Dioceses of Ahmedabad, Jhabua, Udaipur joined in the celebration of our one faith in Jesus and to thank God for Father Espasa and the many missionaries who have laboured to preach the Good News to the people.

The jubilee celebration began with the 'aarti' to Our Lady. Then the congregation went in procession around the mission compound onto the main road and gathered for the Eucharistic celebration which began with the 'story' of the growth of the Church that has reached Poshina in the north and Bayad in the south. The 'tree-story' was a true story with the actors being the Espasa family members, priests, religious, catechists from the different centers and the vocations -priests, sisters, seminarians and scholastics- as the symbolic fruit of the Catholic community of Sabarkantha. The Archbishop accompanied by Bishop Ganawa presided at the Eucharist with Fr. Kamji Dund preaching the homily. Till the vote of thanks by the Parish Priest, Fr. Stany Pinto, the congregation remained in an attitude of devout reverence for the near five-hour programme! A simple yet tasty community meal was served.



Alongside the convent was an exhibition of the history and apostolates of each mission center. The celebration was 'an effort to keep the unity of Spirit There is one body, one spirit There is one God, one faith, one baptism.' (Eph. 4.3-5) All the priests, religious and faithful of Sabarkantha and especially Bhiloda parish contributed in some way their time and might to make the celebration a success. (Abp. Fernandes)

## YEAR OF FAITH CELEBRATIONS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

### ADG Inaugurates Year of Faith

As the whole universal Church rejoiced at the opening of the YEAR OF FAITH on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October by Holy Father Benedict XVI, the Archdiocese, in its own way commemorated the day in various ways at different parishes and mission stations.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of October, the Diocesan Clergy came together for a day of prayer and recollection at the Cathedral Parish of Gandhinagar. Together with the Archbishop and Fr. Rethnaswamy, the chief moderator of the day's proceedings, the participants shared their experiences in community life under the theme of 'Relationship in Priestly Life.' Deliberations in zonal groups came up with concrete plans to live life in community more meaningfully. After the program, the Archbishop and priests joined by other religious priests and sisters and faithful celebrated the Eucharist in the Cathedral to officially inaugurate the YEAR OF FAITH. At the end of the Mass the Gujarati Catholic New Testament in Braille script was released.

### For the first time: Catholic New Testament in Braille script

All were overcome with awe when on 12<sup>th</sup> (at the Cathedral Church) and 22<sup>nd</sup> (Unteshwari Melo) of October the first reading during the Eucharistic celebration was done by a person born blind! Hence, it is aptly stated that 'through Christ, now the blind too can see.' Such is the miracle and fruit of the hard work of Fr. Girish SJ who, with the help of Blind People's Association of Ahmedabad, took up the Herculean task of producing the Gujarati Catholic NT in Braille Script for the benefit of the vision impaired. The presentation of 'બેઈલમાં બાઈબલ: કેથલિક નવો કરાર' is symbolic to the Year of Faith: 'Lord, open our eyes.' (Mt.20/33) that the blind too may read THE GOSPEL!



Release of the first copy of the Gujarati New Testament in Braille

### Year of Faith Celebration at N.K

Special prayer for the Jubilee of Sabarkantha Mission and the inauguration of the Year of Faith brought joy and happiness together with a renewed sense of Christian living in Nana Kantharia Parish on 16<sup>th</sup> of October. The celebration, attended by people from all villages, began with Benediction at 6:30 pm followed by Holy Mass at 7 pm. During the Eucharistic celebration Parish Pastoral Council members, Youth Council members and representatives of boarding children and faithful received a lamp from Fr. Kamji Dund, the first Catholic priest of Sabarkantha. All then moved to the altar in procession with the lighted lamp as a sign of their promise to keep the Faith alive in their villages. The people agreed to take the lamp to their homes and light it during morning and evening prayer along with the special prayer for the Year of Faith. This procedure will continue throughout the Year of Faith from house to house. Fr. Jeyaraj, Parish Priest, led the day's proceedings by explaining to the faithful their role in the evangelizing mission of the Church and impressing on the parents their responsibility in inspiring and forming the faith of their children. (Bro. Dominic Savio)

## Year Of Mother Veronica

Mother Veronica is the Foundress of the religious order (women) Apostolic Carmel (AC). The YEAR of MOTHER VERONICA (1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2011 to 30 September 2012) was concluded very vibrantly at Mount Carmel High School Gandhinagar. The year long celebration had begun with the inauguration of the 'Mother Veronica Stadium' on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Oct 2011. Various activities were conducted throughout the year to make known to the wider society Mother Veronica's exemplary life and works of mercy. The main aim of Mother Veronica was the education of the Girl Child. The Mount Carmel Schools continue her mission and aim to educate especially girls. 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2012 marked the closure of the Mother Veronica Year and brought a large number of former Carmel students to a reunion on the school campus. Parents, guests and well-wishers too were invited to the event where Mt. Carmel students presented the inspiring life of St. Veronica in 'bhaval' form of folk-drama. The life was beautifully presented and the young artistes received a great round of applause. (Sr.Vimala Raval A.C).



Celebration in honour of Mother Veronica, Foundress of Apostolic Carmel Sisters

## India gets its New Cardinal



His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cleemis, Major Archbishop of Trivandrum Syro-Malankara Catholic Archdiocese, and Vice-President of CBCI, is elevated to the rank of Cardinal by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI. The official investiture ceremony will take place at St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at 15.30 hrs. IST.

**From GEBCI Secretary:** GEBCI Governing Body meeting is scheduled to be on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at St. Xavier's Social Service Centre (opposite to Loyola Hall), Ahmedabad from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For private circulation: Archbishop's House, Sector-8, Gandhinagar.