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Habemus Papam.... POPE FRANCIS

Archbishop's Message

વિશ્વ ધર્મસભાના નવા સુકાની. વડા ધર્મગુરુ ફ્રાન્સીસ માટે આપણે સૌ આપણી વફાદારી, સંનિષ્ઠા, પ્રેમ, આસ્થા અને આપણી પ્રાર્થના નિત્ય ચાલુ રાખીએ. તેમના આ નવીન કાર્યના પ્રથમ દિવસે તેમની જીવનશૈલીમાં સાદગીને જે પ્રાધાન્ય આપ્યું છે તે મને આંજી દે છે. ભારતીય બિનસાંપ્રદાયિક સામયિકોએ તેમની નિખાલસતા અને સાદગીપૂર્ણ જીવન પર ભાર મૂક્યો છે. નવા વરાયેલ વડા ધર્મગુરુ ઈસુગુરુને પગલે ચાલીને ઈસુના અને શુભસંદેશના સાચા અનુયાયીઓ બનવાનો માર્ગ બતાવ્યો છે.

ભૂતપૂર્વ વડાધર્મગુરુ બેનેદિક્ત સોળમા શ્રદ્ધાવર્ષની ભેટ આપતાં, પુનરુત્થાન પામેલા ઈસુ વિશેના જ્ઞાનમાં ઊંડા ઉતરવાની ને ઈસુમાં અને ધર્મસભામાં તીવ્ર શ્રદ્ધા દાખવવાની વાત પર ભાર મૂકે છે. પુનરુત્થાન પામેલ ઈસુની ઘોષણા કરવાની આપણી વચનબદ્ધતા હોવી જોઈએ. વડાધર્મગુરુ ફ્રાન્સીસ વડાધર્મગુરુ તરીકે

પ્રથમ ધર્મોપદેશ આપતા કહે છે કે “જો આપણે ઈસુ એ ખ્રિસ્ત છે એ કબૂલ ન કરીએ તો સઘળું નિરર્થક છે. જો ઈસુની ઘોષણા કરવામાં આપણે નાનમ દાખવીશું તો આપણે ધર્મસભાના બદલે માત્ર દયાજનક સંસ્થા જ બની રહીશું.” આ શ્રદ્ધાવર્ષમાં પાસ્ખાપર્વની ઉજવણી એ ઈસુ પુનરુત્થાન પામ્યાં છે અને તેની અમે ઘોષણા કરીએ છીએ તેમાં દ્રઢ બનવાની હાકલ છે. અમે આની જ ઘોષણા કરીએ છીએ અને તમે એમાં જ શ્રદ્ધા મૂકી છે. (૧ કરિંથ ૧૫:૧૧)

આલેલુયા! સૌને પાસ્ખાપર્વની શુભેચ્છા. *Happy Easter to All!*

Lenten missions and preparations in the Archdiocese

Most parishes in the Archdiocese organized Lenten mission services, recollections, retreats, special confession services, devotionally following Jesus carrying his Cross in the 'via Crucis': all in the spirit of dying with him to rise to new life in his Resurrection. The youth of Gandhinagar parish went one step forward as they enacted live the 'via Crucis' along the public road around The Cathedral and St. Xavier's. Fr. Xavier James of Siddhpur quoting Evangelii Nuntiandi (no. 15), says "Evangelization is inherent in the very nature of the Church." In other words 'The Church exists to evangelize' and so Siddhpur parish held the 'via Crucis' on Fridays in different homes in order to profess the togetherness among the families and to proclaim the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus to people of other faiths.

The missions of Mehsana deanery held common retreats for different age groups, viz. children, youth and women and elderly men at Unteshwari. To make it easy for the women to attend, they were brought together in two batches: mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law. Nana Kantharia and Palanpur invited Fr. Ignas Canis to narrate the Jesus-story in Katha form. Gandhinagar parish preferred Biblical themes for the Sundays of Lent. Fr. Ishanand and Fr. Mathew Muthuplackal prepared the Malayalam-speaking community of Kalol, Mehsana respectively for Easter. Whereas the team invited from Kerala preached 'Kerygma Retreats' to Catholics of Gandhinagar and Siddhpur, who were joined by Catholics of Palanpur.

In the Year of Faith: Palanpur



Palanpur Parish organized a faith-renewal programme on 17th February for the Banaskantha deanery. The encouraging response of the faithful is a sign of their "Thirst for God's word". Kathakar Fr. Ignas Canis, SJ with his team took the faithful back to the world of the Bible to rekindle in them the spark of faith planted by dedicated missionaries and catechists. In this regard Fr. Nelson's thoughtfulness and the whole-hearted support of the RJM Sisters and other Fathers and Sisters of the deanery is appreciated (Fr. Das)

SCC Animators' Training Program

અગાઉ યોજાયેલ બીસીસી તાલીમના અનુસંધાનમાં જેવીકે, પેથાપુર ખાતે બીજી એક તાલીમ તા. ૩ માર્ચ ૨૦૧૩ના રોજ યોજવામાં આવી હતી. જેમાં ૪૦ તાલીમાર્થીઓએ ઉત્સાહપૂર્વક ભાગ લીધો. ફા. ટાઈટસ (અમદાવાદ ધર્મપ્રાંત) અને ફા.



રોકી ડી'સીલા (વિકાર જનરલ, ગાંધીનગર મહાધર્મપ્રાંત)એ આ તાલીમનું સફળ સંચાલન કર્યું. સાત તબક્કામાં 'બાઈબલ સત્સંગ'નો સહારો લઈને પારિવારીક સમુદાયમાં પ્રાર્થના કરવાની પ્રેરણા આપવામાં આવી. તાલીમના અંતે મહા ધર્માધ્યક્ષશ્રીએ પરમયજ્ઞ અર્પણ કર્યો અને સૌને પારિવારીક સમુદાયમાં જોડાવવા હાકલ કરી.

Foundation laid for New Church building, NK



On the 3rd and 6th of March, NK parish witnessed unusual flow of faithful! The first Sunday of March saw the Church compound drawing the parishioners to listen to Kathakar Fr. Ignas SJ as he and his team narrated the story of God's love for humanity. Even after Fr. Ignas' departure, the youth and boarding children continued humming tunes of songs from the Katha that the Kathakar had narrated. Later, during the week on Wednesday 6th after Holy Mass, Archbishop Stanislaus Fernandes laid the foundation stone for the new Church building. (Br. Dominic)

Women's Day at JVK



ગાંધીનગર મહાધર્મપ્રાંત દ્વારા ૧૦ માર્ચના રોજ જેવીકે, પેથાપુર ખાતે આંતરરાષ્ટ્રીય મહિલા દિનની ઉજવણી કરવામાં આવી હતી. શ્રદ્ધાવર્ષને કેન્દ્રમાં રાખીને “નારી ઈશ્વરની પ્રતિમૂર્તિ” એ વિષય પર વધુ ભાર મુકવામાં આવ્યો હતો. વિવિધ ધર્મવિભાગોમાંથી ૧૫૦ મહિલાઓએ તેમજ મહાધર્મપ્રાંતમાં કાર્યરત ૨૫ સાધ્વીબેનોએ આ ઉજવણીમાં ભાગ લીધો. ડા. સ્ટેની પિન્ટો એસ. જે. (બીલોડા)એ કુટુંબ, સમાજ અને ધર્મસભામાં નારીએ કેવી ભૂમિકા ભજવવી જોઈએ તેની વિસ્તૃત છણાવટ કરી. “કુવા કાંઠે શમરુની બાઈની પ્રભુ સાથે મુલાકાત” અને “વ્યભીચાર કરતા પકડાયેલ સ્ત્રી” જેવા બાઈબલના પ્રસંગોને મહિલાઓ એ નાટિકારૂપે રજૂ કર્યા હતા. અંતમાં, સી. નીલા ભાટિયાએ મહિલાઓને હિંમતપૂર્વક કુટુંબ, સમાજ અને ધર્મસભાના વિકાસ માટે આગળ આવવા હાકલ કરી હતી. (સી. મારિયા, પી.એસ. એ. તથા સી. લીના પરેરા, બી.એસ.)

Effective Church in Gujarat: Colloquium

In view of taking CBCI's vision and theme 'Role of the Church for a Better India', the Church in Gujarat under the leadership of the Bishops of Gujarat, organized on the 14th of March a one-day Colloquium of Bishops and Major-Superiors at Social Service Center, Hansol (Ahmedabad). During the colloquium time was spent fruitfully on reflecting on the 'Role and response of the Church in Gujarat' in the particular ministries of Education and Socio-Development and Health programs. Prof. Alan D'Souza (formerly at IIM, Ahmedabad) and Rev. Dr. Jimmy Dabhi (BSC, St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad) were the resource persons for the above sessions through presentations, reflections and challenges. The need for greater collaboration among the

dioceses and congregations in various ministries of the Church in Gujarat was emphasized. The role and opportunities at the Regional Theologate-GVD at Sewasi was also discussed and explored. The organizers thanked Fr. Joseph Appavoo (Director, Social Service Center, Hansol) and his team for their hospitality and service.

One-day Seminar and Chrism Mass



The ministry that takes up much of the personnel and financial resources of the Church in Gandhinagar Archdiocese is among the youth in the parishes and students in the schools and boardings. A need has been felt to evaluate and reflect on this ministry of the Church. A questionnaire was distributed among a few parishes and responses elicited that were reflected upon during the one-day recollection-cum-seminar that was held on 23rd March at St. Xavier's School, Gandhinagar. The plan was to conclude the day with the Mass of the Sacred Chrism. Fr. Henry D'Souza, SJ, who has had long years of experience in schools and boardings tabulated the responses that were presented to the community of eighty religious and priests who had gathered. A panel comprising Mr. Victor Christi, Sr. Lucy Columban and Fr. Augustine also shared their 'boarding' experiences with the gathering.

After a lunch-break, Fr. Isaac SDB presented some inputs about involvement in the youth ministry. Workshop groups were formed for personal sharing followed by an open-house discussion. All agreed that these ministries are vital to the growth and life of the Church and society. Abp. S. Fernandes concluded with an appeal for greater personal involvement and

engagement of the sisters, brothers, fathers and lay collaborators with students and youth entrusted to their ministries. The experience of the day required not only further reflection but also living out a positive attitude to the students and youth.

All congregated in the Cathedral where local parishioners of Gandhinagar and nearby parishes had come for the Blessing of the Holy Oils and the Chrism Mass. Inspired and confirmed by these sacramental signs, priests and faithful would continue to live their Christian commitment.

Brothers' day out at Gandhinagar



Candidates of Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad and Baroda under training at St. Joseph's Minor Seminary, Nadiad, had a two day visit to the Archdiocese of Gandhinagar on the 9th and 10th of March. They had a pleasant stay at JVK – Pethapur where Archbishop Stany welcomed them and spent time with them. All sixteen of them cherished their 'Mission visit' to Unteshwari Dham and Mandali Parish. Fr. Prasad SJ, Fr. Raju SJ and veteran missionary Fr. Garriz SJ initiated them into the history of the North Gujarat Missions which inspired them to follow in the footsteps of the veteran missionaries.

News in brief

- Archbishop S. Fernandes spent Holy Week (Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday) celebrating the Liturgies in the North Gujarat missions.
- On Easter Tuesday, 2nd April, the Archbishop met with Bishops and Elders of the ecumenical group: Gujarat United Christian Forum for Human Rights. They discussed at length the framework of a Constitution for their better functioning.
- The Orthodox Diocese of Ahmedabad and the Interfaith Coalition for Peace, New Delhi, organized on 11th April a seminar on 'Interfaith and Religious Harmony for Peace and Development'. Archbishop Fernandes gave the presidential address.
- The Archdiocese was privileged to have the visit of Ms. Veronique Vogel and Mr. Peter van Hoof of Church in Need, a Church-aid organization with headquarters in Germany. They visited several missions on 5-7th April.
- The Pilar Sisters were elated on 8th April when they began drilling operations on their plot in Khiloda and struck water on the very first morning!

Let us pray for the Souls of:

**Father of Fr. John Peter (Deesa)
Elder brother of Fr. Isidore Almeida. (Vadgam)
Sister of Sr. Heena, OP, (Bileshwarpura)
Aunt (God-Mother) of Fr. Siby Mathew
(Gandhinagar)**

