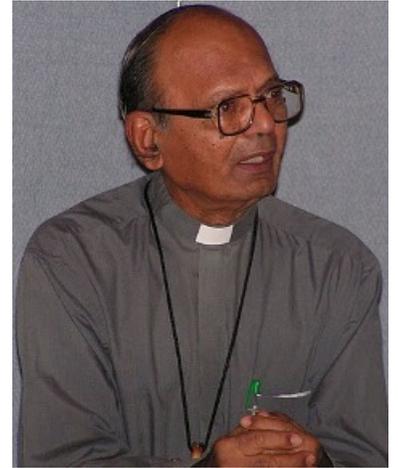


From Archbishop S. Fernandes,sj
Archbishop's House, Sector 8
Gandhinagar, 19th May 2012

To
Mr. Jagdishbhai Christian and
Members of Gujarati Catholic Samaj
New York / New Jersey, U.S.A.



Dear Friends and Well-wishers of Fr. Alex Clement Joseph,

I have known Father Alex Clement since he was a seminarian and student of Theology. After his ordination 1994 he began his ministry in the missions of the Diocese of Ahmedabad. I had him for some years as my Secretary. Thereafter he was Rector of the Minor Seminary. In all these positions he proved himself as gentle, unassuming, attentive and welcoming with his disarming smile. Yet he could be firm and effective in his expectations of those in his care. With a little training he could better guide and direct our seminarians in being more human and spiritual.

That consideration sent him to the NVSC that changed the direction of his life. He was chosen to be on the staff. Then began his long training and formation in counselling that took him to New York and Fordham. From there you know him more and better than I do. He has done well in the studies he was sent for. The Pastors he has stayed and worked with have been appreciative of his ministry in their parish churches. As a fall-out of his pastoral spirit, you have received the blessings of his accompaniment at your gatherings and celebrations as well as at moments of loss and suffering of a near and dear one. Your farewell programme to wish him God's blessings as he returns to India is a token of your appreciation of him.

I know you will miss him and that he will remain in your hearts, and surely he will keep in close touch with you. The CBCI has been counting on his return for the formation programme for our seminarians and priests and religious at the NVSC. Do pray that his presence and ministry there will prepare the way to have more human and spiritual Priests and Religious for our country.

Stanislaus Fernandes,sj,
Archbishop of Gandhinagar,
Archbishop's House, Sector-8,
Gandhinagar - 382008