



# TAMM



## THE AHMEDABAD MISSIONARY

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### PRISON MINISTRY BY PAULINE PARIWAR



We, the **Pauline Pariwar** of Gujarat (Pauline Cooperators & Daughters of St Paul Sisters) from Ahmedabad had an opportunity to visit the inmates of the Central Jail situated on the banks of River Sabarmati, Ahmedabad, on 30th December, 2018.

**We staged an enactment on “A Woman Caught in Adultery” – John 8:1-11**

And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

The entire episode was enacted and well connected to the life of the Inmates by the Pauline Cooperators and Pauline sisters. Since it was the Christmas Season, we presented the Live Crib. The Santa distributed sweets among the inmates and danced to the tune of Christmas Carols. This live crib was well enacted.

Catholic religious women are the backbone of the prison ministry. We were informed that more than 4,000 Catholic nuns from 200 congregations volunteer with the ministry across India. The nuns regularly visit prisons, meet the prisoners’ families and arrange for the rehabilitation of those who are released.

The Pauline Cooperators felt the need to do something for the most rejected and neglected in the society, so this was truly a meaningful and fulfilling experience for us.

Prison Ministry India volunteers help prisoners’ rehabilitation and manage several rehabilitation centers across India. The group also helps release people who are wrongly imprisoned and provides legal assistance to those on trial, helps prisoners marry or remarry, and helps them find work after their prison terms end.

The Prison ministry demands patience, non-judgmental attitude, and a listening and a compassionate heart. We love this ministry and consider it as a blessing to help the least and lost in the society.

It is an enriching experience for the Pauline Cooperators and sisters to work together and support the prison ministry through various ways.

– **George J Fernandes**  
**Pauline cooperator**

### Encounter and experience of the Risen Christ!!!

Bible Convention at Bakrol is a response to Jesus’ perennial command to “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature” (Mk 16:15). Obeying this mandate of the Lord is not an option for the Church. In the words of the Second Vatican Council, it is her essential task, for the Church is missionary by nature. Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, she exists in order to evangelize.

February 1st to 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019 became a historical event to Koinonia John the Baptist community and to the land of Gujarat in the diocese of Ahmadabad.

When we experience Jesus in our life, He transforms us entirely. For the people the occasion was a golden opportunity to experience the warmth of the love of the Risen Christ. Even though the weather was cold, people from far and



wide flocked in big numbers. We met the Spiritual needs of the people, like Confession and Holy Eucharist; we also provided meal to all the participants.

On the first day, the preacher Rev. Fr. Bobby VC spoke on Fear which is experienced in every realm of life. As we see in our everyday life, fear is the root cause of all problems, and Faith in Jesus enables us to overcome the fear. Bishop Rethna Swamy of Ahmadabad spoke about the importance of the Bible. The Word of God must be part of our life; love and reverence for the word of God is a must for every believer. Many who listened to the Word of God from different Parishes of the dioceses experienced healing.

On the second day, there was renewal of the vows of a Consecrated Sister and ten of our external members. The preacher spoke about the importance of our body as a temple of the Holy Spirit, which is holy and worthy to give praise to our God. The main celebrant of this feast was Bishop Devprasad Ganawa SVD of Udaipur.

On the third Day, the Holy Eucharist was presided over by the Archbishop Thomas Ignatius Macwan, of Gandhinagar.

All the three days, there were facilities for confession and silent adoration. Many people experienced spiritual, psychological and physical healing. It was a time of outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the preaching of the Gospel. – Fr. Raju Mathew

## HUMAN DIGNITY AWARD TO St. Vincent De Paul, Society (Gujarat Conference)

Kaira Social Service Society (KSSS), a Diocesan Centre for social action celebrated, its 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of its foundation as Human Dignity Day, at Town Hall, Anand on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Fr. Jagdish Macwan, the Director of KSSS highlighted the significance of the day by sharing the Word of God: “God has created man in His own image and likeness, so we need to work tirelessly for Human Dignity”. He also recognized the works and services of St. Vincent De Paul Society and congratulated the team. Fr. Rocky Pinto welcomed all the dignitaries and participants for the program. Mrs. Tarlaben Parmar, highlighted the achievements of KSSS by reading the Annual Report. Bishop Rethna Swamy of Ahmedabad who is the president of KSSS conferred the Eleventh Human Dignity Award to St. Vincent De Paul Society, Gujarat Conference for the outstanding dedicated services in promoting the dignity of the aged, sick and the poor who are in the periphery of the society - unaccepted, unwanted and pushed out of the society. Mr. Daniel Christi received the Human Dignity Award on behalf of the society.

The chief guest, Imam Maulana Lukman, the President of Global Imam Council, thanked KSSS whole heartedly. In his address, he said that every religion teaches only one thing: to be a Human. He also said that it is important to celebrate Human dignity day. Mr. Daniel M. Christi, President of St. Vincent De Paul Society thanked KSSS and all the resource persons for their generosity and kindness. Dr. Ghanshyam Gadhvi, representative of CDHO, congratulated the services of KSSS and promised to help KSSS in the future at any time.



The Bishop of Ahmedabad, Rethna Swamy, in his speech, focused on serving humans because God dwells in every human person. So we need to give respect to every human person irrespective of his/her caste, creed, region, language, etc. Also he congratulated Fr. Jagdish Macwan and his team for the wonderful work.

Thereafter 60 poor children were given Late Bishop Edwin Pinto Scholarship amounting to Rs. 87,000/- for their education. Then cultural programs was held by KSSS Parivar. The other dignitaries along with 500 community leaders, sarpanches, panchayat members, Fathers, Sisters and Representatives of NGOs participated in this joyous occasion. Mrs. Norma Parma thanked all the guests and participants. The event was concluded with the fellowship meal.

– Sneha J Christian, KSSS – Ahmedabad

## WITNESSING TOGETHER TO PRIESTLY COMMUNION: SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF PRIESTLY ORDINATION

Ten diocesan priests celebrated together the Silver Jubilee of their Priestly Ordination (1994–2019): Frs. Arulanandam Alankaram, Alex Clement and Savariraj Savrimuthu, from the archdiocese of Gandhinagar and Frs. Francis Kulandai, Lawrence Aruldoss, Lukas S., Maria Joseph, Peter Lopes, Xavier Amalanathan and Varuvel Gnanadhas from the diocese of Ahmedabad. As the ordination batch of 1994, they decided to have a common celebration of their Silver Jubilee on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at Our Lady of Forsaken Shrine (*Anathoni Mata Thirthadham*), Khambholaj.

Fr. Lawrence Aruldoss was the main celebrant. Other nine priests concelebrated the Eucharist in the presence of the Archbishop of Gandhinagar Thomas Ignatius Macwan, the bishop of Ahmedabad, Rethna Swamy, Fr. Francis Parmar SJ, the Provincial of Gujarat Jesuits. All the Jubilarians were vested in silver vestments and each Jubilarian played a significant role to make this jubilation a memorable one. Around 125 priests shared in the joy of these priests and thanked God for the graces showered upon them and upon the people of God through them. A good number of religious sisters from various congregations came to praise God for these priests. The presence of the faithful, well-wishers, friends and family members of the Jubilarians, who came from various parts of India added more joy to the celebration. The brothers of Vianney Vihar, Sevasi, led the congregation with devotion and piety with their melodious singing.

On this auspicious occasion, Msgr. Varuvel Gnanadhas (now serving in Rome) preached a meaningful and enriching homily in which he explained that the celebration was neither to boast about their priesthood nor to self-glorify their achievements as parish priests or principals. He reminded the audience that Jesus called his disciples to become his own, co-workers and friends. So also we are called to be close to Him.

Msgr. Varuvel Gnanadhas acknowledged, in the words of St. Paul that the priests are unworthy servants with their own weaknesses and limitations; nevertheless with the grace of God they have been able to perform their own responsibilities and duties well, at times with some hiccups. All the more, they always experience the hand of God in all that they do. Also they get a lot of encouragements and respect from the people of God in order to carry out the mission.

In conclusion, he said that it is a challenge for priests in this contemporary world to live out the ideals of Jesus. In



accordance with Pope Benedict XVI, priests are needed, because he says, “when the priesthood is wiped out, the Eucharistic presence of Christ will be reduced in the world”. Msgr. VG Dhas requested the parents to encourage their sons or grandsons to choose priesthood. And also he asked them to pray for priests. Before the final blessings, the Jubilarians knelt down in front of the altar and sang melodiously in one voice a thanksgiving hymn.

At the end of the Eucharistic celebration, there was a short felicitation programme. The ten Jubilarians were felicitated and congratulated. The school girls of Khambholaj performed a lovely dance, which captured the attention of the audience. In his message, Archbishop Thomas Macwan thanked all of them wholeheartedly for their wonderful priestly services and sacrifices for the Gujarat Church. He encouraged them to re-dedicate themselves in the selfless service of the people of God. Bishop Rethna Swamy said that the fullness of priesthood is realized when we become kind, loving, forgiving, and caring like Jesus: in short, each priest is called to become another Christ.

Fr. Alex Clement proposed the vote of thanks to one and all for the support they offered on their vocational journey, starting from their entrance into the minor seminary till now, and in a special way he expressed their gratitude to the Late Bishop Charles Gomes SJ, and the present bishops for their encouragements and guidance.

A celebration of Jubilee with the entire batch is an exemplary way to bear witness to God’s love. I am sure that the ten Jubilarians’ example will inspire us to build up communion with one another. Thanks to Fr. Lawrence Aruldoss and his collaborators at Khambholaj Shrine for holding this celebration and making it a memorable one.

– Fr. S. Jeyaraj

### Rejoice with the Lord for the silver years JAG PRAKASH KANYA CHATRALAYA, PANSORA

“Every small beginning gives rise to great ending. Every downpour is just a rain drop, every fire is just a spark, every harvest is just a seed, every journey is just a step because without that step there will be no journey; without that raindrop there can be no shower; without that seed there

can be no harvest” says William Wilberforce. Jag Prakash Kanya Chatralaya had the celebration from 3<sup>rd</sup> February to 9<sup>th</sup> February 2019 with grandeur and enthusiasm. On 3<sup>rd</sup> February boarding and VEP celebrated the parent’s day, on 5<sup>th</sup> February the school celebrated the Annual day, and on



7<sup>th</sup> February the S.H.G women had a day of celebration with joy. We have much to praise and thank God for the marvels accomplished through this institution which is dedicated to Jesus the light of the world.

On 9<sup>th</sup> February we began our festive day with the Holy Eucharistic banquet which was presided over by Rev. Rethna Swamy, the Bishop of Ahmadabad Diocese. The Holy Mass began inviting the entire congregation to rejoice and celebrate with us. The boarding girls performed a dance which led the main celebrant and con-celebrants to the altar. After the holy Eucharist, there was a short cultural program from the different sectors of our mission. The function commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp to invoke divine blessings for the successful accomplishment of the program. Thereafter, the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honors were accorded a formal welcome with bouquets and shawls. The function commenced with a prayer dance by the boarding girls on accomplishment of the 25 years of the institution's glorious journey having crossed many memorable milestones with splendid glimpses of success. Bishop Rethna Swamy and our provincial Sr. Ritha Dora Thomas released the souvenir.

After that the boarding children, Students from School, VEP, VTC and SHG women rocked the stage with spectacular cultural events. At the end of the program our boarders sang the silver jubilee song with their melodious voices followed by the fellowship meal. Indeed we are grateful to God for his blessings. The inauguration of the silver jubilee year celebration was a delightful event. The atmosphere during the entire celebration was Vibrant, charming and colorful. With immense joy & gratitude to God the Almighty, we bow before Him for His abundant blessings on this institution in the past and very especially during this year! – Sr. Nayana

### Inauguration of Holy Spirit Church –Limdapura

The year 2001 was marked with golden letters as the Holy Spirit Parish was bifurcated from the parish of Anand–Gandi. So far the faithful gathered in the boarding hall for the liturgical celebrations. After 16 years, the former Parish Priest Fr. K. Tony dreamed about building the house of God.



The dream of having a beautiful house of God came true on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2019. More than two thousand devotees witnessed the grand inauguration and blessing of the newly built Holy Spirit Church, Limdapura. The inauguration program began with a procession from the mother park at 3.15 pm. In the procession, people participated with devotion by singing bhajans.

Prior to the Eucharistic celebration, the newly built Church was inaugurated by Bishop Rethna Swamy of Ahmedabad, by cutting the ribbon. In the Holy Eucharist presided over by him, he explained the importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives. He also said that the Holy Spirit not only lives in churches but also in our hearts to guide us in each and every moment of our life. For this, we need to keep our hearts open.

There was a brief felicitation program after the Holy Mass. Benedictbhai, the president of the parish council welcomed the gathering. On this special occasion, people sang birthday song for the bishop as it was his birthday. During the felicitation, the bishop congratulated Fr. K. Tony, the former parish priest of Limdapura, Fr. Josephat, the present parish priest, Fr. Antony R., the Assistant PP, the Sisters, Fr. Siby, the artist, and all the parishioners for the role they played in building the beautiful church. Finally, the people were happy to enjoy the meal prepared for them.

This beautiful church dedicated to the Holy Spirit also fosters devotion to the Infant Jesus. May all the devotees who come to the church receive the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, and the abundant blessings of Infant Jesus.

– Fr. Antony Rayappan

### INAUGURATION OF ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH AT AHIMA



St. Joseph's Church at Ahima village of Khambholaj parish was blessed and inaugurated by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Bishop Rethna Swamy, on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2019. There were nine priests, which included the present and the former parish priests, assistant parish priests and priests from the village itself, religious Sisters and a large number of faithful from various parishes. They were all welcomed by the villagers and taken in a procession to the church.

The Bishop in his homily appreciated the hard work of the village faithful, the parish community and the donors from other parishes in helping to build the new church. He put emphasis on prayer life, daily reading of the Bible and inculcating the habit of hard work like St. Joseph, the patron Saint of the village Church. The Bishop, priests, nuns, village elders and the benefactors were felicitated and honoured by the villagers. The celebration ended with the fellowship meal provided for all.

– Bro. Golden