



Through Him, With Him, In Him

KARUNA

Stories of humble humanitarian works by the Catholic Church of Gujarat during COVID-19

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From Vatican Gardens, Pope leads rosary to pray for pandemic's end



More than 100 people joined Pope Francis on May 30 for the early evening prayer in the Vatican Gardens at the Lourdes grotto. More than 50 Marian shrines around the world were connected by satellite.

Pope Francis led the recitation of rosary and asked Mother Mary to intercede to save the world from the pandemic by entrusting everyone to Mary under the title "Health of the Sick." Each decade of the rosary was led by a person directly impacted by the virus, including COVID-19 survivors Giovanni De Cerce and Sister Zelia Andrighetti, superior general of the Daughters of St. Camillus. Tea Pompeo, who is mourning her mother, represented those who lost a loved one

during the pandemic. Federica Polinari and Manuele Bartoli, with newborn Iacopo, represented families who had welcomed a new life into the world during the lockdown. Two doctors, a nurse, a pharmacist, a hospital chaplain, a television journalist and a civil protection volunteer also represented their peers.

Closing the rosary with the second prayer Pope Francis repeated the ancient and traditional prayer to Mary, "Sub tuum praesidium," or "We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God." "In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, mother of God and our mother, and seek refuge under your protection," the pope recited. "Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment," he prayed.

"Beloved Mother," he said, "Help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need." "Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer," Pope Francis prayed.

(Courtesy : Catholic News Service : May 30, 2020)

Great service by Our Lady of Pillar Hospital, Sanand



The Gujarat Government declared Our Lady of Pillar Hospital at Sanand near Ahmedabad as Dedicated Covid Care Centre (DCCC) by issuing an official notification on 14th May 2020. From 19th May, the hospital started welcoming Covid-19 patients. With God's grace and dedicated personal care from the Sisters and the staff of the hospital, the first patient, a 35 year old male, was discharged on 29th May 2020 after he fully recovered. Another 50 year female patient, who was sent from Sola Civil Hospital to Pillar Hospital, was also discharged having fully recovered on 30th May.

Number of government officials visited Our Lady of Pillar Hospital and checked the facilities, infrastructure and the arrangements. After

thorough inspection, the hospital was declared first and the best Covid Care Centre. Mr. Arun Mahesh Babu IAS (DDO – Ahmedabad) thanked OLPH with a public tweet. Indeed, a matter of pride for the entire Catholic community.

-by Dr. Sr. Lucy Joseph.

Director – Our Lady of Pillar Hospital, Sanand



KSSS serves the needy in Missions out of Ahmedabad

Kaira Social Service Society (KSSS) is the Social Service Wing of Ahmedabad Diocese. This wing has been working tirelessly from the beginning of Corona pandemic and the countrywide lockdown. They serve the poor and the needy in and around Ahmedabad city. In their continuous service, recently they provided ration kits to the needy families of Sardarnagar area of Ahmedabad.



They also cater to the needs of other places. Recently KSSS collaborated with Catholic Church, Umreth and St. Vincent

De Paul Society and distributed food grain kits to 100 poor and needy families of Padvaniya, Aashipura, Hameedpura, Bechri, Dhuleta, Bhatpura, Sundalpura, Ghora, Parvata, Khijalpur and Umreth villages. KSSS thanks their collaborators and volunteers for their relentless services.

-Fr. Jagdish Macwan

Director – KSSS



Generosity of Good Samaritans

During this Corona pandemic, the individuals and likeminded generous people have rendered great services. Some of such generous souls from Ahmedabad regularly help the people in need. With the financial support of these good Samaritans, 50 ration kits were distributed to the poor &



needy families of Maninagar area. The work was coordinated and supported by some volunteers of Maninagar Parish and the two

religious houses of the area, namely Sisters of the Little Daughters of St. Francis Xavier and Sisters of Mary Immaculate (SMMI). God bless them for their noble services.

– by Anthony Fidelis, Ahmedabad



SSSS : the much-needed human touch to the migrants

Sabarmati Samruddhi Seva Sangh (SSSS), the Social Service Wing of Gandhinagar Archdiocese continue with their charitable services to poor and daily bread winners. While out on the streets going for their daily charitable routine, when they see the migrants walking on the state highways, the SSSS staff would stop their vehicle and spend some time with the migrants, talking to them, counseling them. They also provide them with their daily needs such as biscuits, snacks, hair oil, soap, vicks, band aid, water and foot wear. Till date they have helped more than 200 migrant families on state and national highways around Gandhinagar. Kudos Director Fr. James and SSSS Staff !!!

-By Fr Xavier James

Director – SSSS



SSSS continue COVID-19 relief work

During last few days Sabarmati Samruddhi Seva Sangh (SSSS) reached out to Radhanpur and Himatnagar parishes. Around 100 very poor families were given family ration kits of food grains and other daily essential items.

SSSS also helped and supported with food grains 10 families with disabled persons at Pethapur, Vavol, Vasan villages of Gandhinagar district.

SSSS has so far distributed 12,400 masks and 150 liters of sanitizer covering 3,500 persons. It reached out to 1,184 families and 6,093 persons with food grains. It reached out to 828 families of migrants and 4,265 beneficiary persons. It reached out to 200 walking migrants with essential commodities on NH 48.

-By Fr Xavier James

Director – SSSS



Social service by Don Bosco - Vadodara

The Don Bosco Development Society (DBDS) launched the second phase of relief work in the slums of Vadodara; mostly reaching to the families of adolescent girls and young women. Through the distribution of relief kits containing ration for a month, toiletries and hygiene kits this second phase will benefit more than 3,500 beneficiaries. This relief work is financially supported by Mix for Kids, Germany.



On the first day 100 relief kits were distributed to people from the areas of Vishwamitri, Pradeep Chawl and Subhash Nagar. After seeking prior permission from the government Social Defense Officer (SDO), it was suggested that the distribution be held at the main entrance of Don Bosco Snehalaya while providing stipulated time slots to the beneficiaries. Fr George Miranda (Director – Snehalaya) along with Ms Jagruti Patil (Coordinator – DBDS) and a number of other staff and volunteers are carrying out this relief



operation. During this relief work social distancing and other government compliances were strictly adhered to

-By Fr Rolvin D'Mello

Executive Director – DBDS

Catholic Church, Mission Road, Nadiad

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted the normal life. In a close vicinity of Mission Road Catholic Church, Nadiad, few migrants were stuck up due to sudden lockdown. They are the people selling blankets, carpets, plastic chairs, etc. on the footpaths. They stay in roadside makeshift tents under trees. During the day they go



round the nearby villages to earn their daily bread. The priests and nuns with some parishioners of Mission Road Parish visited these migrants and helped them with daily rations. The Parish is also helping very poor families of nearby four villages.

-By Fr Antoni K.

Parish Priest – Mission Road Church, Nadiad



Noteworthy service from Don Bosco, Chotaudepur

DRISTI Don Bosco Kapadvanj assessed the situation of financial contributions and approached the Self Help Groups [SHGs] in 65 village of Kapadvanj Block in Kheda District. In a spectacular response, DRISTI received Rs. 65,000/- cash, 1500kg wheat, 100kg bajri, 30kg sugar, 50kg rice. The generosity 'of the people, by the

people, for the people' is an eye-opener and a rewarding result of the animating and mentoring of DRISTI.

Phase 03 helped 148 most needy poor, with each kit containing 7kg wheat, 3kg rice, 500gm toovar dal, 500gm moog, 500gm cooking oil, 2kg sugar, 1pkt salt, 1pkt tea powder, 1pkt chilli powder, 1pkt turmeric powder, 1pkt garam masala, 1 bathing soap, and 5 washing soaps. Personally prepared by the Director



of Amrutdhara, with the help of three youth volunteers from the villages and with DRISTI staff.

DRISTI had an encouraging experience in Hadmatia village where the SHG group had promised 50kg wheat, but upon arrival, the villagers filled the entire jeep with wheat sacks, amounting to more than 150 kgs. Many of the SHGs women with other women of the village walked in the hot sun with sacks of wheat to reach out to the poorest needy. Similar experiences of the extraordinary generosity in cash and kind in many villages has enabled DRISTI to reach 740 individuals in 148 families in 32 villages of Kapadvanj Block.

- Fr. Mayank Parmar, sdb



A Divine thoughtfulness



During this pandemic and the lock down, individuals and institutions have served many. The Dias family thought of helping the graveyard care taker family. In memory of late mother Flora Dias, this family provided rations to the graveyard care takers. Indeed a noble act !

-by Jockin Macwan, Maninagar



Karuna is released only after we get fresh stories that are newsworthy and unique from the ones published before.
May God bless you and may you continue the good work you have begun
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