



Through Him, With Him, In Him

# KARUNA

Stories of humble humanitarian works by the Catholic Church of Gujarat during COVID-19  
Blessed by the Bishops of Gujarat and Issued by Fr. Vinayak Jadav, Spokesperson, Catholic Church-Gujarat State.

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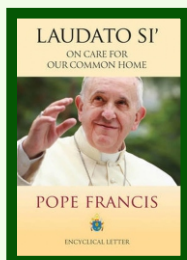
## "We cannot pretend to be healthy in a world that is sick" - Pope on Environment Day 2020

The celebrations for this year's World Environment Day – June 5, scheduled to take place in Colombia, were held online instead due to the corona virus pandemic. In a letter addressed to Colombian President Ivan Duque, Pope Francis stresses that "the protection of the environment and respect for the biodiversity of the planet are issues that affect us all." "We cannot pretend to be healthy in a world that is sick", writes the Pope. "The wounds inflicted on our mother earth are wounds that also bleed in us."

"This is not a time to continue looking the other way, indifferent to the signs that our planet is being plundered and violated by greed for profit, very often in the name of progress." The Holy Father says "we have the chance to commit ourselves to passing a better, healthier world on to future generations."

He then recalls the recent celebrations of the fifth anniversary of his encyclical 'Laudato Si'. This "drew attention to the cry that mother earth lifts up to us. Finally, the Pope expresses his trust that all deliberations and conclusions "will always foster the building of an increasingly habitable world and a more humane society, where all of us have a place and no one is ever left behind."

(Courtesy - Vatican News)



## Serving through Community Kitchens : SXSSS, Ahmedabad

Pandemic Covid-19 has triggered one of the world's biggest humanitarian crisis. It has turned millions of Indians jobless, uncertain and left them in misery, fear, deprivation and destitution. With the weakening of the socio-economic system, a large number of people losing their livelihood are in danger of irreversible impoverishment. Most of the people living in the slums of Ahmedabad are basically poor migrants, jobless and without any money to provide for their needs.

St Xavier's Social Service Society, Ahmedabad continues to reach out to these sections of the society through community kitchen. SXSSS in collaboration with the local CBOs is running Community Kitchens in places like Barasancha ni Chawl in Saraspur - feeding 584 people twice a day and at Chhotalal ni Chawl in Gomtipur -feeding 425 people two meals a day and at Gajanand Parikh ni Chawl in Rakhiyal - feeding 125 persons twice a day. Through



these Community Kitchens on average 1134 people are served two meals a day.

-FR. Isaac Rumao, SJ

Director - SXSSS



## SXSSS distributes grocery kits to vulnerable families



During the month of May 2020 SXSSS has distributed nearly 1234 Food Baskets to the most poor and needy people -Widows, Homeless, Daily wage workers and Rag Pickers in the slums like Shahapur, Shankarbhuvan, Nagori Kabrasthan, Vadaj, Naranpura, Chandkheda, Sabarmati, Juhapura, Saraspur, Gomtipur, Odhav and Aslali area. SXSSS is working on war footing from day one to reach out to the most deprived and marginalized fallouts of the Corona Crisis.

-FR. Isaac Rumao, SJ

Director - SXSSS



## Acts of Mercy by CA & SSVP, Rajkot

The Immaculate Conception Church, Mochi Bazar, Rajkot in cooperation with the members of Rajkot Catholic Association and Society of St. Vincent De Paul helped the poor and the needy. The associations warmly obliged to the

request and 35 needy families were given ration kits. The Catholic Association extended their charitable services by donating 100 kg of Sugar and Tea Powder to the inmates of Mother Teresa Ashram. The Catholic Association members with the

Parish Priest visited the Ashram and spent some time with the inmates. The Parish Priest whole-heartedly expressed sincere gratitude to the members of both the associations for their generosity and blessed them

-by Fr. Anton Macwan

Parish Priest



## KSSS continue their charitable works

The Social Service Wing of Ahmedabad Diocese, Kaira Social Service Society (KSSS) helped with food grains to 86 needy families of Manaj and Sansej

villages of Tarapur Parish. KSSS also provided ration kits to 100 families in Pansora village. KSSS is serving the poor and the needy from the beginning of the lockdown.

-by Fr. Jagdish Macwan

Director – KSSS





## Act of Service by St. Anne Sisters, Kalol (North Gujarat)

Sisters of St. Anne, Kalol (N.G.) are doing commendable social service in the nearby areas. During the Corona pandemic, the sisters served the villages around Kalol town. They identified 350

needy families who are poor and downtrodden. The Sisters distributed ration kits to all these families and helped them to get their daily bread.

-by Sr. Mary Simon  
St. Anne - Kalol



## Charity with support from Public servants



During the Corona pandemic lockdown, a Maninagar parishioner who is also the Congress Mahila Pramukh of Khokhra Ward arranged to distribute



around 200 ration kits with the financial support from local MLA among the poor families of Gomtipur area.

-by Pushpaben Francis D'costa

## News from SSSS, Gandhinagar



Sabarmati Samruddhi Seva Sangh (SSSS), the Social Service Wing of Gandhinagar Archdiocese continues with their charitable services. SSSS reaches out to migrants and poor, needy families. They have distributed family ration kits to 4 families in Gandhinagar, 10 families in

Pethapur, Gogulpura and 13 families of widows, orphans and the disabled of Kalol, Daneda, Ridrol and Mansa villages as well as 13 migrant families of Gandhinagar. SSSS also helped needy families in Jamgad, Motipandoli, Meghraj. It was a great joy to have His Grace Archbishop Thomas Macwan to distribute the provisions and encourage SSSS staff constantly.

-By Fr Xavier James

Director – SSSS





## Navsarjan, Surat



Navsarjan-Surat is an NGO managed by the Jesuits. Navsarjan reached out to the people in the slums that fell in the containment zone and distributed rations to them. Women rag-pickers and some orphans were helped financially. Navsarjan is active in data collection through electronic means and in monitoring government schemes for COVID-19. They have also



begun a Childline at Surat Railway station. The Education Unit is engaged in online lesson preparation with the primary school teachers of the slums as well as updating their knowledge and skills. Navsarjan is thankful for the support they receive from St. Xavier's School, Surat.

-by Fr. James C. Dabhi

Director – Navsarjan



## Live with Corona, Live with Karuna



### Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Corona in India has completed more than 4 months and so also the humanitarian works following it. The works of charity reached its climax with the migrant crisis when people rose to the need of the hour and reached out to those in need of the basic necessities of life. The doctors, nurses, paramedical staff, security persons, sanitary workers, media persons and numerous shopkeepers provided the much needed medical and material services. Corona caused us deep pain and suffering at the same time it enhanced compassion and charity within humanity. We witnessed a genuine human fellowship beyond class, caste, creed and gender that united the human family in love and care.

To acknowledge and encourage those engaged in the humanitarian works within the four Catholic dioceses of Gujarat, we came up with the initiative of Karuna- a newsletter that shared the works of Charity by the Catholic clergy, religious and lay faithful. As we close the newsletter with this 13th undeterred issue, I join my fellow bishops of Gujarat-Archbishop Stanislaus Fernandes SJ, Bishop Jose Chittooparambil CMI, Bishop Rethna Swamy and Bishop Godfrey de Rozario SJ; and appreciate the witness of Christian charity borne by numerous lay individuals, lay associations, religious congregations, schools, dispensaries, Social Centers and Diocesan Social Work Coordinators of all the four dioceses of Gujarat.

While I thank and congratulate each Catholic individual and institution, I specially commend the courage of Christ Hospital- Rajkot and Our Lady of Pillar Hospital-Sanand in offering themselves for the positive and post care patients of COVID-19. What we have witnessed is just the tip of the iceberg. Much more has been done, everything of which cannot be published. Still the good works continue without halt.

We end with a word of gratitude to Rev. Fr. Vinayak Jadav S.J. for rendering his yeoman service as the Spokesperson of the Church in Gujarat during this critical phase and for preparing Karuna newsletter. We also thank his team and all those involved in the preparing and circulating the Newsletter.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and our own Government has now asked us to learn to "Live with Corona", may we also then continue to "Live with Karuna. (Compassion)"

With Prayerful wishes and Blessings,

+Archbishop Thomas Macwan

## THANK YOU

As humanitarian works by the Catholic Church of Gujarat continue ceaselessly according to the Call of Christ, we announce that this is the concluding issue of Karuna.

We sincerely thank Mr. Rajesh Christian and Mrs. Indu Rao for their News Coordination. We thank Mr. Vijay Macwan and Mr. Dharmesh Vaghela for the designing. We also thank Frs. Shaji Jacob, Fr. Ashok Vaghela, Mr. Vijay BBN and Mr. Jagdish Christian for circulation of Karuna. May God bless you and your families.