

Rajasthan Calling

DIOCESE OF AJMER

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MAY - JUNE 2025

HABEMUS PAPAM

Pope Leo XIV

267th Pope of the Catholic Church

"I WILL GIVE YOU SHEPHERDS AFTER MY OWN HEART."
– JEREMIAH 3 : 15



Most Rev. John Carvalho

007th Bishop of Ajmer Diocese

United In God, With People & Creation





PILGRIMAGE TO KARUNALAY, HATHIKHERA AND SARDHANA, MEERUT BY BEAWAR PARISHIONERS



GROTTO FEAST, LADPURA



AGRA REGIONAL BISHOP'S COUNCIL (ARBC) MEETING



WOMEN'S DAY AT IC CATHEDRAL CHURCH, AJMER



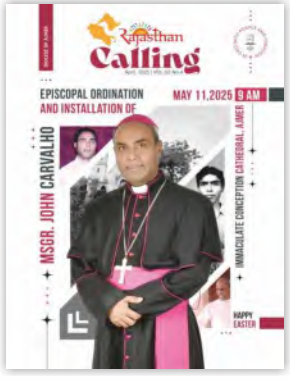


FATHERS' DAY, ST. MOTHER TERESA CHURCH, KUDI

Rajasthan Calling

May-June, 2025

PREVIOUS ISSUE



PATRON :

Most Rev. John Carvalho
BISHOP OF AJMER DIOCESE
Bishop's House
Kaiserganj, Ajmer - 305001

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Editorial Office

NAVEENTA
Diocesan Pastoral Centre
Near IGMENZ I.T.I., Madar,
Ajmer - 305024

Mob. 9672116724
Email : rajcallingajmer@gmail.com

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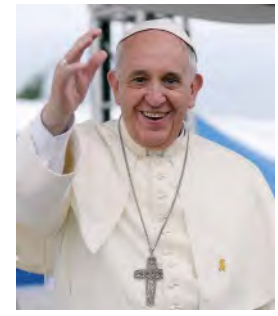
EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

After the passing of Pope Francis, a discussion arose among my friends: "Who will carry forward his legacy?" As we reflected on this question, one of the answers pointed to 2 Chronicles 36:15, which states: "The Lord, the God of their ancestors, sent persistently to them by His messengers because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place." This verse serves as a powerful reminder that God continually raises up leaders, prophets, and messengers to guide His people with love and mercy. Pope Francis was one such messenger - his leadership transformed the Church, breaking free from rigid traditions and embracing humility, service, and compassion.

The election of Pope Francis in 2013 marked a defining moment in the history of the Catholic Church. As Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, he entered the conclave with the heart of a humble servant. Yet, his words on the eve of the voting resonated deeply with the cardinal electors, setting the tone for his pontificate. Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino later recalled Pope Francis' powerful statement: "In the Book of Revelation, Jesus says that He stands at the door and knocks. Scripture tells us He knocks to enter from the outside. However, the image that comes to my mind is Jesus knocking from the inside, asking to be let out. We must allow Jesus to go out into the world."

With these words, Pope Francis redefined the Church's mission. He sought to open the doors, inviting Christ out into the world rather than confining Him within institutional structures. His leadership was not just about preserving tradition but about making faith accessible, compassionate, and deeply rooted in love. From the moment Pope Francis stepped onto the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, his message was clear: his leadership would be different. His communication style, marked by closeness, empathy, and tenderness, made him one of the most influential Christian voices of our time. He spoke the language of the people, reconnecting many with their faith and inspiring a new generation of believers.



Pope Francis prioritized serving the poor and forgotten. He frequently reminded the faithful that the Church must function as a field hospital, tending to the wounded and broken. It was not meant to be an institution of exclusivity but a beacon of hope for all. "Mercy is the air we breathe; without it, we cannot live," he declared, shifting the Church's focus toward compassion, justice, and peace. His teachings placed the poor at the heart of the Gospel, calling for an end to wars, oppression, and indifference.

Pope Francis' leadership was not without challenges. His commitment to reform and renewal faced resistance, yet he remained steadfast in his vision for an inclusive, merciful, and mission-driven Church. As the Church moves forward, his legacy serves as both an inspiration and a call to action. His vision—one of humility, service, and radical love—must continue beyond his time, guiding the Catholic faith toward a more compassionate, engaged, and hopeful future. May Pope Francis' life and teachings serve as a guiding light for generations to come—a reminder of the power of faith, love, and mercy in a divided world.

May he delight in the Beatific Vision

- Fr. Santhosh Francis

Chief Editor

Pope Pius XII: "The Sacred Heart is the extraordinary remedy for the extraordinary needs of our time."

SHEPHERD'S MESSAGE



Dear Bishops, Fathers, Religious and Lay Faithful,

As we enter the month of June, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I want to take this opportunity to greet you with the blessings of the Sacred Heart and to express my gratitude to God and to you for all your prayers and the trust you have placed in me. May God help us to live and grow in His love.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus represents the infinite love and mercy of God toward humanity. As we reflect on this devotion, let us remember the importance of cultivating a personal relationship with Jesus. Let us strive to deepen our faith and trust in Him.

As your Bishop, I exhort you to remain steadfast in your commitment to the faith. Let us support one another in our journey toward spiritual growth and holiness. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be our guiding light and source of inspiration. Let us pray for one another, that we may be filled with the love and compassion of the Sacred Heart. May our Diocese be a beacon of hope and love, reflecting the Heart of Jesus to the world.

First and foremost I thank God for all the blessings I have received from Almighty God. I also thank God for the blessings on Ajmer Diocese.

Recently after my Episcopal ceremony, Bishop Oswald was generous to thank each and every person in the Diocese for the contribution they have done during the past days and specially during my Episcopal Ordination.

Here I wish to thank Bishop Oswald for his meticulous planning and execution by personally heading the entire team. He is a clear visionary who foresees everything in advance. He works hard and leaves no area unattended. It is his leadership along with others has given us success and satisfaction for all that has taken place during the past few days, whether it is my Episcopal or Fr. Anand's Ordination. Thank you dear Bishop for your leadership. Thank you for your guidance and support.

My sincere thanks to Bishop Pius for his gracious presence in my ceremony and praying for me.

Deepest gratitude to Bishop Ignatius for his presence, prayers and for the words of wisdom for me and for the Diocese. You Bishops are blessings for our Diocese.

The Priests of our Diocese can match none. You are such loving and supportive collaborators that any work given, you have done it with utmost care, love and dedication.

My thanks to Fr. Joseph Olickal who headed the entire programme along with Bishop Oswald and executed it so well. All fathers who headed the committees along with other fathers and members did your work wonderfully. There are reports coming from all corners that our programme was the best organized. The Liturgy and Singing are well – appreciated. The accommodation was excellent and comfortable. Transport was of top order even some bystanders have taken advantage of the generosity of the team in airports and railway station. The food arrangement was well appreciated. The media took care of still photography and other type of coverage. Thanks for spacious tent and other facilities at our grounds.

I am grateful for the entire felicitation programme team for variety of programmes. Thanks to the school heads, staff and students for tasteful programme on the stage. The anchors and other members did their job well.

My people were over – cared, they were given extra attention. Thanks to all who did it and brought joy to them. They sent lots of love and gratitude.

There are fathers, sisters and people who worked tirelessly and continuously to make this entire event a success and joyful one. My cards, souvenirs, vestments, motto, coat of arms etc. were prepared with much planning. Thank you all.

The sisters and the lay people involvement made the entire event very flowless. The guests were really happy and full of positive words.

Along with all these our deacon Anand Dodiyar was preparing well for the ordination. Even the Ordination Ceremony and event was simultaneously looked after well.

Thanks to everyone. Congratulation to Fr. Anand and wish him God's blessings for his home celebrations.

God be praised and glorified. Once again thanks and God Bless You all.

Yours in Jesus Christ

+ John Carvalho
Bishop of Ajmer

बिशप स्वामीजी का संदेश

प्रिय धर्माध्यगण, पुरोहितगण, धर्मसंघी एवं लोकधर्मी,

जब हम प्रभु येसु के पवित्र हृदय को समर्पित जून महीनें में प्रवेश कर रहे हैं, मैं इस अवसर पर आप सभी को पवित्र हृदय की आशीषों के साथ शुभकामनाएँ देना चाहता हूँ और ईश्वर और आपके प्रति अपनी कृतज्ञता प्रकट करना चाहता हूँ, आप सबों की प्रार्थनाओं और मेरे प्रति भरोसे के लिए धन्यवाद।

ईश्वर हमें अपने प्रेम में बने रहने और आगे बढ़ने की कृपा प्रदान करे। पवित्र हृदय का प्रेम मानवजाति के प्रति अनंत प्रेम और करुणामय दया का प्रतीक है। जब हम पवित्र हृदय की भक्ति का मनन करते हैं, तो प्रभु येसु के साथ व्यक्तिगत संबंध बनाने का भी स्मरण रखें। उनमें गहरे विश्वास और भरोसे का प्रयास करें।

आईए हम अपने विश्वास और भरोसे को उसमें और गहरा करने का प्रयास करें। एक बिशप के रूप में, मैं आपसे आग्रह करता हूँ कि आप अपने विश्वास में अडिग बने रहें।

आईए, हम एक–दूसरे को आत्मिक विकास और पवित्रता की यात्रा में सहयोग करें। प्रभु येसु का पवित्र हृदय हमारा मार्गदर्शक और प्रेरणा का स्रोत बना रहे। हम एक–दूसरे के लिए प्रार्थना करें कि हम पवित्र हृदय के प्रेम और करुणा से परिपूर्ण हो जाएं। हमारा धर्मप्रांत दुनिया के लिए पवित्र हृदय पर मनन करते हुए आशा और प्रेम का उदाहरण बन जाए।

सर्वप्रथम मैं ईश्वर को उनकी सब कृपाओं के लिए जो मैंने प्राप्त की हैं, उनके लिए धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ। साथ ही अजमेर धर्मप्रांत पर उनकी आशीषों के लिए धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

मेरे धर्माध्यक्ष बनने के तुरंत बाद धर्माध्यक्ष ओवाल्ड ने प्रत्येक को गत दिनों, विशेषकर मेरे अभिषेक में योगदान के लिए धन्यवाद अदा किया था।

मैं धर्माध्यक्ष महोदय को उनकी अतिसावधानी पूर्वक योजना और उसके निष्पादन व अन्य दलों के व्यक्तिगत नेतृत्व के लिए धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ। वे दूरदृष्टि के व्यकित हैं, जो हर आगामी घटना का अग्रिम अनुमान लगा लेते हैं। उन्होंने बहुत परिश्रम किया और कोई आयाम अनछुआ नहीं रखा। जो कुछ इन दिनों हम देख रहे हैं, चाहे मेरा धर्माध्यक्षीय अथवा उपयाजक आनन्द का पुरोहिताभिषेक हो, ये सब दूसरों के साथ इनकी अगुवाई की सफलता है। आपके नेतृत्व, मार्गदर्शन और सहयोग के लिए मैं तहेदिल से आपका आभारी हूँ।

मेरे धर्मानुष्ठान में धर्माध्यक्ष पायस की उपस्थिति और प्रार्थना के लिए मैं उनका शुक्रिया अदा करता हूँ।

मैं धर्माध्यक्ष इग्नेशियस की उपस्थिति, प्रार्थना और मेरे व धर्मप्रांत के लिए उनके प्रोत्साहन भरे शब्दों के लिए अपने दिल की गहराईयों से कोटि–कोटि धन्यवाद देता हूँ। धर्माध्यक्षजी आप हमारे और धर्मप्रांत के लिए एक वरदान हैं।

अजमेर धर्मप्रांत के सभी पुरोहितों का कोई सानी नहीं, आप लोग मेरे बहुत अजीज सहयोगी हो। जिन्हें जो कार्य सौंपा गया, उसे आप लोगों ने पूर्ण प्यार, सावधानी, समझ और समर्पण से किया।

मैं आभारी हूँ, फादर जोसफ ओलिकल का जिन्होंने सब जिम्मेदारी अपने ऊपर ली और धर्माध्यक्ष ओसवाल्ड के साथ मिलकर पूर्ण निष्ठा से अपना दायित्व निभाया।

सब पुरोहितगण जो अपने–अपने विभाग के मुखिया थे, अन्य पुरोहितों और सदस्यों के सहयोग से भली–भांति अपना कार्य किया। चारों ओर से प्रतिक्रिया आ रही हैं कि सारा कार्यक्रम सुव्यवस्थित आयोजित किया गया था। पूजन–पद्धति और गायन की सराहना की गई। ठहरने आदि की व्यवस्था उत्तम और आरामदायक रही। आवागमन शीर्ष स्तर का रहा, जिसका कई अन्य अतिथियों ने इस सुविधा का लाभ उठाया। भोजन व्यवस्था व भोजन उम्दा रहा। संचार माध्यम वालों ने फोटोग्राफी व अन्य संचारों का बीड़ा उठाया, वे सभी धन्यवाद के पात्र हैं। विशेष प्रकार के टेन्ट तानने और मैदान पर उपलब्ध अन्य सुविधाओं के लिए धन्यवाद।

मेरी बधाई और सम्मान समारोह में विभिन्न कार्य करने वाले और कराने वालों को मैं दिल से आभार प्रकट करता हूँ। स्कूलों के प्रधानों, अध्यापकगणों और विद्यार्थियों के सुरुचिपूर्ण कार्यक्रमों के लिए धन्यवाद। सभी संचालकों, सहयोगी सदस्यों एवं कर्मचारियों को समारोह आयोजन में आपकी लगन और मेहनत के लिए तहे दिल से मैं धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ।

आप लोगों ने मेरे परिवार व प्रियजनों की बेहद परवाह और देखरेख की। उनके और उनकी खुशी के लिए जो कुछ भी किया मैं आप लोगों को उसके लिए धन्यवाद देता हूँ। उन्होंने अपना बहुत–बहुत प्यार और अपनी कृतज्ञता प्रेषित की है।

इस पूरे समारोह की सफलता और खुशहाली के लिए पुरोहितों, धर्मबहिनों और विश्वासियों ने लगातार अथक कार्य किया; जैसे – मेरे कार्ड, स्मारिकाएं, पूजन वस्त्र, आदर्श–वाक्य, धर्माध्यक्षीय प्रतीक, जिन्हें तैयार करने में योजना चाहिए। उनके सबके लिए आपको धन्यवाद।

धर्मबहिनों एवं लोकधर्मियों की भागीदारी ने समारोह में चार चांद लगा दिए। मेहमान खुश थे और भूरी–भूरी प्रशंसा कर रहे थे।

साथ में उपयाजक आनंद अपने अभिषेक की तैयारी कर रहे थे। उनका पुरोहिताभिषेक भी भली–भांति संपन्न हुआ। सब कुछ के लिए आपका धन्यवाद। फादर आनन्द को बधाई हो और घर पर कार्यक्रम और आशीर्वाद समारोह के लिए मेरी शुभ–कामनाएं और आशीष।

ईश्वर की प्रशंसा और महिमा होती रहे। पुनः आप सबको धन्यवाद व आशीष।

ईश्वर आपको आशीर्वाद दे!

खीस्त में आपका
+जॉन करवाल्हो
अजमेर धर्मप्रांत के धर्माध्यक्ष



Bishop Pius D'Souza	04/05/1954
Fr. Samson Macwana	05/05/1975
Fr. Jose Kadanthott	08/05/1962
Fr. Joban OFM	10/05/1981
Fr. Dony CST	10/05/1987
Fr. Jitin Mathews	14/05/1986
Fr. Raymond Fernandes	15/05/1980
Fr. Mathew Pannikadu MCBS	22/05/1975
Fr. Anthony Davidson	23/05/1986
Fr. Sebastian Chundelikkattil MCBS	01/06/1986
Fr. Joseph Kallirikkumkalayil MCBS	04/06/1978
Fr. Rochit Suresh IMS	15/06/1980
Fr. Peter Vellam	23/06/1943
Fr. Joseph Puthuparambil MCBS	23/06/1980
Fr. Cantius Ligoury	30/06/1965



✝ Fr. John D'Souza	04/05/2001
✝ Fr. Joseph Anthony ofm cap	05/05/1979
✝ Fr. George Dsouza	19/05/2002
✝ Fr. Augustine Manoor	27/05/2023
✝ Bp. Pius Le Ruyet	09/06/1960
✝ Fr. Dominic Andrade	19/06/2003
✝ Fr. Frederick Andrade	27/06/1982
✝ Fr. Percy Popen	29/06/1963

St. Vincent de Paul: "The Sacred Heart is the source of all charity."

DAWNING OF GOLDEN DAY

"Alleluia! Sing a new song to the Lord,

Praise him in the assembly of his faithful" (Ps. 149).

A golden day dawns on the Diocese of Ajmer on Sunday May 11th 2025. A new Chapter begins in the history of 112 years old Diocese of Ajmer. It is a momentous occasion in the life of the Church in Ajmer as well as Rajasthan. This historical day will be written in golden letters and will go down into the annals of the diocese. "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us be glad and rejoice in it." (Ps. 118) It is the day when the new bishop of Ajmer Diocese, in the person of Msgr. John Carvalho will receive the Episcopal Ordination; will be anointed by the Holy Spirit and will be installed as the bishop of Ajmer diocese. To witness this momentous occasion there will be a galaxy of luminaries such as His Eminence Cardinal Oswald Gracias, the Principal Consecrator, Most Rev. Raphy Manjaly and Most Rev. Oswald Lewis as Co – Consecrators, His Excellency Leopoldo Girelli, the Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal, who is also the Ambassador of Vatican in India a host of Archbishops and Bishops, Major Superiors of various Religious Congregations, Priests, Religious men and women and the Faithful of Ajmer Diocese. There will also be civil authorities, representatives of various religions, members of Inter – faith groups, teaching community and students of our schools and many others. Indeed, it is a day to remember and celebrate.

With the installation of Bp. John Carvalho, a new era dawns in Ajmer diocese, that has more than 112 years of Catholic presence. This historic and grace – filled moment marks a new chapter in the life and mission of our local Church. The French Capuchin missionaries who toiled in Rajputhana mission for almost 56 years, left a beautiful legacy that was continued by the Indian missionaries and Bishops. Bp. John Carvalho, who is the 7th successor of the Servant of God, Bishop Fortunatus Henri Caumont, the first bishop of Ajmer – Rajputhana, has to continue what the predecessors have done but with a fresh beginning and with a new tag. That is why we sing with the Psalmist "Sing to the Lord a new song, Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell his glory among the nations, his wonderful deeds among the peoples." (Ps. 96)

The Second Vatican Council explains the office of the Bishop as - "The Order of Bishops succeeds the College of Apostles in teaching authority and pastoral rule."(Lumen Gentium 22) Therefore, Bishops "as successors of the Apostles, receive from the Lord, who was given all power in heaven and on earth, the mission to teach all nations and to preach the Gospel to every creature, so that by faith, Baptism and obedience to the commandments (Mt. 28:18) all people may attain salvation." (L.G. 24). "The College of Bishops, gathered under the one head, the Roman Pontiff, successor of Peter, express the unity, diversity and universality of the flock of Christ" (L. G. 22). Among the principal offices of Bishops, the preaching of the Gospel is preeminent, for Bishops are heralds of the faith, who lead new disciples of Christ, and are authentic teachers, who proclaim to the people entrusted to them the faith that is to be believed and that is to direct their conduct (L.G. 25). Just as through the ministry of the word they communicate God's power to those who believe unto salvation (Rom. 1:16), so too through the sacrament they sanctify the faithful; they regulate the conferral of Baptism, administer Confirmation, they are dispensers of Holy Orders and the moderators of penitential discipline. Anointed with the fulness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, Bishops are stewards of grace of the supreme Priesthood, especially in the Eucharistic. (L.G. 26)

Every bishop is appointed as a shepherd of the flock of his diocese. He has the responsibility

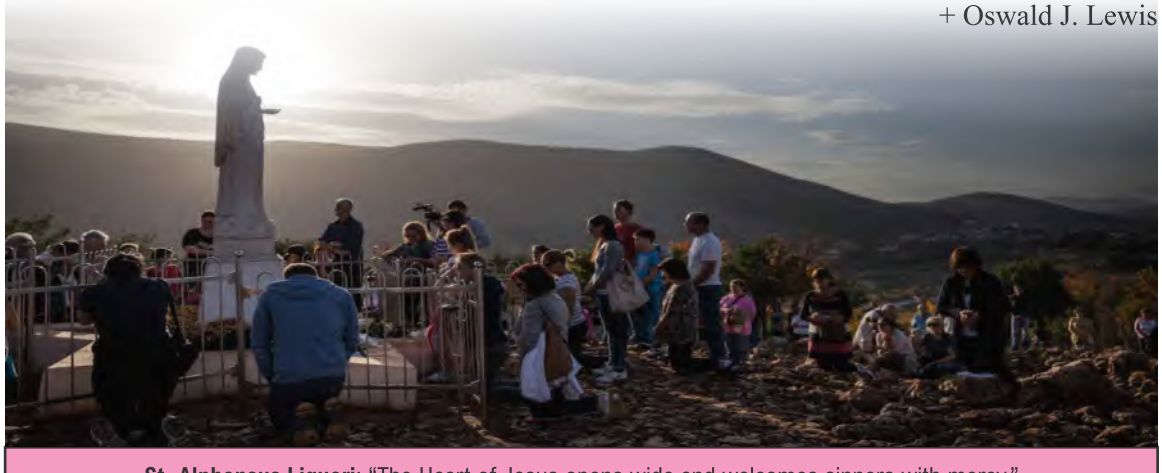
of taking care of the sheep entrusted to him. He has to be a good shepherd after the heart of the Good Shepherd. In the Gospel of St. John Chapter 10, Jesus says "I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own sheep and they know me just as my Father knows me and I know my Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep." (Jn. 10:14-15) Jesus is the good shepherd to His believers just as shepherds were for their livestock. A shepherd tended his flock day and night. He would gather the sheep into a sheepfold at night for their protection. The sheepfold was a pen, a cave or an area backed by stone walls. Since there were no doors, the shepherd would often sleep or sit in the opening, ready to guard his sheep from harm. A good shepherd had a genuine loving concern for his sheep, while a hired shepherd would run away in the face of danger. In John 10, Jesus illustrates how the shepherd cares for his flock, protecting them from bad weather, thieves, and predatory animals; how he loved and shielded them and when necessary; how he would lay down his life for them.

On April 22, 2018 Pope Francis ordained 16 men to the priesthood, reminding them to be like Jesus the Good Shepherd in the way they serve the members of their spiritual flock and minister to those who are lost and searching for God. "Always have before your eyes the example of the Good Shepherd, who did not come to be served but to serve and to seek and save what was lost." He further added "conscious of having been chosen from among men and elected in their favour to attend to the things of God, exercise in gladness and sincere charity the priestly works of Christ, solely intent on pleasing God and not yourself or human beings, or other interests".

On the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 3rd 2018, Pope Francis exhorted, "A Shepherd after the heart of God, has a heart sufficiently free to set aside his own concerns. He does not live by calculating his gains or how long he has worked; he is not an accountant of the Spirit but a good Samaritan, who seeks out those in need. For the flock he is a shepherd, not an inspector, and he devotes himself to the mission not fifty or sixty percent, but with all he has".

Such is the description of a good shepherd, which every bishop is called upon to follow, imitating the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. Now it is the obligation of all of us to pray for our new shepherd, Bishop John Carvalho. The Clergy, Religious and Faithful of Ajmer diocese are called upon to cooperate with the bishop in the mission of planting the Word of God in the diocese. Following the Synadal way, all will walk with the bishop and work in realizing the Pastoral plan envisaged for the diocese of Ajmer. May God grant him the necessary grace, wisdom, strength and ability to shepherd the diocese of Ajmer.

+ Oswald J. Lewis



St. Alphonsus Liguori: "The Heart of Jesus opens wide and welcomes sinners with mercy."

EPISCOPAL ORDINATION

A shepherd after God's heart...

"I will give you shepherds after my own heart" (Jer 3:15).

These words of Prophet Jeremiah came true for the Diocese of Ajmer as it received its seventh shepherd in the person of Most Rev. John Carvalho on May 11, 2025. The solemn Episcopal consecration ceremony was held with resplendence at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Ajmer.

The Pontifical Eucharistic celebration was officiated by His Grace, Raphy Manjaly, the Archbishop of Agra, as the principal consecrator. He was joined by co-consecrators Most Rev. Oswald Lewis, the then Apostolic Administrator of the diocese, and Most Rev. Joseph Kallarackal, the Bishop of Jaipur. The occasion was also graced by the presence of His Grace, Leopoldo Girelli, the Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal, and many bishops of the neighbouring dioceses. The event was witnessed with unprecedented joy by many priests, religious, and a large number of the faithful of the diocese.

The solemn Eucharist was held at 10:00 AM. Rev. Fr. Jose Mathias and Rev. Fr. Clement Coutinho presented Msgr. John Carvalho for consecration. The Apostolic bull was read out by Rev. Fr. Stephen Fernandez and Rev. Fr. Cosmos Shekhawat in Latin and Hindi, respectively. In his homily, Archbishop Raphy shared his reflection on the role and ministry of a bishop. He also encouraged everyone to join their shepherd as faithful and dedicated servants in building the kingdom of God.

The rendition of sacred hymns by the melodious choir added to the devotion and beauty of the ceremony.



The Eucharist was followed by a grand felicitation program in honour of the newly ordained bishop and the dignitaries present. Members of various parishes and institutions added joyful colours to the celebration with their cultural performances. In his speech, Bishop John expressed gratitude and requested the constant support and prayers of all, calling upon his flock to join him in the shared mission in the Lord's vineyard.

The ordination ceremony was a deeply moving and sacred celebration, embodying the essence of faith and unity within the Church. It marked a significant milestone in the history of the Diocese of Ajmer, symbolizing a new chapter in the spiritual journey of its people under the leadership of Bishop John Carvalho.

We assure His Lordship, John, of our sincere prayers for a fruitful episcopal ministry as the shepherd after God's own heart; 'united in God, with people and creation.'

- Br. Francis Vishal Tak

A Joyful Celebration: Priestly Ordination of Dn. Anand Dodiyar

"In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." – (Gen 12:3)

The Diocese of Ajmer rejoiced with great joy and gratitude to God on the occasion of the priestly ordination of Deacon Anand Dodiyar, who was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priesthood on 15th May 2025 at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Ajmer.

The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by His Lordship Most Rev. John Carvalho, Bishop of Ajmer, in the presence of Bishop Ignatius Menezes and Bishop Oswald Lewis.

The liturgy was made even more meaningful by the presence of numerous priests from the Dioceses of Ajmer and Udaipur, along with religious sisters, seminarians, and a large gathering of lay faithful who came together to witness this significant milestone in the life of the Church.

In his homily, Bishop John addressed Dn. Anand and the congregation with words filled with fatherly encouragement and spiritual depth. Quoting St. John Paul II, he reminded the assembly, *"A priest is a man chosen from among the people, consecrated by God Himself to make the love of Christ present in the world."* Bishop emphasized that the priest is a sacramental bridge through whom God's love and mercy are poured out upon His people, especially through the celebration of the sacraments.

The rite of ordination unfolded with deep reverence. Dn. Anand publicly pledged his obedience to the bishop, after which he lay prostrate as the Litany of the Saints was chanted, invoking the intercession of the heavenly hosts. The laying on of hands by Bishop John—joined silently by the concelebrating priests - followed,



a sacred and ancient gesture tracing its roots back to the apostles. This was followed by the solemn prayer of ordination.

Dn. Anand was then vested with the stole and chasuble by Rev. Fr. William K. and Rev. Fr. Cosmos, signifying his new role as a priest of Christ. His hands were anointed with sacred chrism, consecrated for the sacred duties of offering sacrifice, blessing, and sanctifying. Finally, he received the gifts of bread and wine, symbols of the Eucharist which he is now empowered to celebrate.

After the Holy Mass, a felicitation program was held at St. Anselm's School Auditorium to honor the newly ordained Fr. Anand. The event was filled with expressions of gratitude and joyful celebration. A special note of thanks was extended to His Lordship Bishop Oswald Lewis in recognition of his generous and selfless service as the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Ajmer during its recent period of transition.

The evening concluded with a joyous fellowship meal, where clergy, religious, family members, and parishioners came together in thanksgiving and celebration, rejoicing in the gift of a new shepherd to the Church.

We entrust Rev. Fr. Anand Dodiyar to the loving guidance of the Good Shepherd and assure him of our prayers, that he may serve God's people with zeal, humility, and pastoral love all the days of his priestly life.

- Br. Conrad Clifford Coelho

A Grace-Filled Encounter with Pope Francis

Ever since Pope Francis became the shepherd of our Church, I held a deep desire in my heart to meet him—not merely out of admiration, but from the profound spiritual connection I felt with his humble and Christ-like example. By the grace of God, that wish was recently fulfilled in the Eternal City, Rome.



Meeting our Holy Father was an unforgettable experience, etched forever in my heart. I had the immense privilege of personally greeting him and presenting a special gift: a beautifully crafted peacock, a symbol of our homeland and a sign of resurrection and eternal life. To my delight, the Holy Father received it with joy and asked me to open it and show it to him. His warm smile and genuine interest made the moment even more special.

Pope Francis radiates kindness and humility. In his presence, I truly felt I was meeting a shepherd who "carries the smell of his sheep"—a pastor who walks closely with his people. His simplicity, listening heart, and gentle spirit are a living testimony of the Gospel in action.

This grace-filled encounter has left a lasting impression on me. It was more than just a meeting—it was a moment of spiritual renewal, a reminder of our call to live with compassion, humility, and faith. My heart overflows with gratitude and love for our beloved Holy Father.

May Pope Francis' legacy of mercy, simplicity, and service continue to inspire the world. And when his earthly journey comes to an end, may God welcome him into the bliss of paradise. Until then, dear Holy Father, pray for us, your flock, and continue to shower your blessings from heaven.

- Sr. Josita MSA

HOW POPE LEO IV IS ELECTED

The new Pope is elected only when the Apostolic See becomes vacant either by death or the resignation of the Pope. It is very usual that Pope dies but it is very unusual the Pope resigns (It happened only twice in the history: Celestine V -1294, Benedict XVI- 2013). Can. 332 § 2 *CIC* 1983 says, "*If it happens that the Roman Pontiff resigns his office. It is required for validity that the resignation is made freely and properly manifested but not that it is accepted by anyone.*" Hence, it is necessary for the valid resignation of the Pope that it may be freely and properly manifested. In the event of the death/ resignation of Pope, the applicable legislations deals with the Vacant Apostolic See are: Code of Canon Law (1983), Apostolic Constitution *Universi dominis gregis* (1996 – hereafter UDG) by Pope John Paul II which was amended later by Pope Benedict XVI through *Motu proprios* in 2007 (*Constitutione apostolica*) and in 2013 (*Normas nonnullas*), the liturgical laws – *Ordo exsequiarum Romani Pontificis* (Funeral Liturgy 2000) revised also in 2024, *ordo rituum Conclavis* (Conclave Liturgy and Procedures-



2000) and *Ordo Rituum pro Ministerii Petrini initio Romae Episcopi* (Liturgy to mark beginning of Petrine Ministry – 2005). Though College of Cardinals has the faculty to interpret the doubtful and controverted points (UDG 5), everything in the Apostolic Costitution *Universi dominis gregis* has to be followed in all types of vacancy.

Election of New Pope

"*The right to elect the Roman Pontiff belongs exclusively to the cardinals of Holy Roman Church, with the exception of those who have reached their eightieth birthday before the day of the Roman Pontiff's death or the day when the Apostolic See becomes vacant. The maximum number of Cardinal electors must not exceed one hundred and twenty. The right of active election by any other ecclesiastical dignitary or the intervention of any lay power of whatsoever grade or order is absolutely excluded*" (UDG- 33). Hence, it is to the College of Cardinals belongs the power to elect the new Roman Pontiff. At present there are 136 cardinal voters to elect the Pope with the age less than that of eighty. The conclave is to begin within 15 to 20 of the death or resignation of the Pope. The 15 days period is given with a purpose of celebrating *Novendiales* – 9 days of Memorial mass for the soul of diseased Pope and to summon all the Cardinals to Rome.

Why cardinals elect the Pope? They are considered as the most important clergy of the diocese of Rome. They are assigned to important churches in Rome and it is as if the Bishop of the diocese of Rome (Pope) is elected by the clergy of Rome.

The College of Cardinals is divided into three hierarchical orders, each with specific roles and historical significance within the Catholic Church. These orders are: **1. Cardinal Bishops:** They hold highest rank among cardinals and are traditionally assigned to suburbicarian dioceses around Rome (e.g., Ostia, Velletri). They too include Eastern Catholic Patriarchs elevated to cardinal rank. One of them is elected as the Dean of the College of Cardinals, who presides over the conclave unless he is over 80**. 2. Cardinal Priests**: The majority of cardinals fall into this category. They are usually archbishops or bishops of important dioceses around the world. They are symbolically assigned a titular church in Rome to signify their link to the Pope. **3. Cardinal Deacons:** They are Often curial officials (those working in the Roman Curia, the Vatican's administrative apparatus). They may also include theologians or diplomatic personnel. After 10 years as a cardinal deacon, they can opt to become a cardinal priest.

The Dean and Vice-Dean of the College of Cardinals are pivotal figures in the governance of the Catholic Church, particularly during the *sede vacante* period—when the papacy is vacant due to the death or resignation of a Pope. The Dean is the presiding officer of the College of Cardinals, often referred to as the "first among equals." He presides over the General Congregations of cardinals during the *sede vacante*. He convenes and presides over the conclave for the election of a new Pope. If under 80, leads the conclave proceedings; if over 80, the conclave is presided over by the *most senior cardinal bishop*. He announces the election of a new pope and asks the elected cardinal if he accepts the election and by what name he will be known. Dean is elected by the cardinal bishops (those holding suburbicarian sees) and confirmed by the Pope. Vice-Dean of the

College of Cardinals assists the Dean, acting as his deputy in his absence or incapacity. He supports the Dean in overseeing the activities of the College of Cardinals. He is elected by the cardinal bishops and confirmed by the Pope.

Prior to the conclave, cardinals gather in congregations: **General Congregations** and **Particular Congregations**. General congregation includes all cardinals (including non-electors). It is held before the beginning of election. Particular congregation involves Camerlengo (who oversees everything during the vacant See) and three cardinals one of each order, chosen by lot from among electors for three days and next three is elected after three days. In the conclave, the general congregation involves only those who are electors and presided over either by dean or Vice dean (in case they are above the age of 80, senior cardinal elector presides over the election. In 2025, Cardinal Parolin would do so). Preparatory General Congregation (UDG 11) is held prior to beginning of election. It is decided by Camerlengo and the senior cardinal elector of each order. All participants swear an oath of Secrecy.

The Conclave (*cum clave* – with keys) starts after 15 full day of the death of the Roman Pontiff i.e., May 7 this year. The conclave must begin within maximum of 20 days. Cardinal electors are lodged in *Domus Sanctae Marthae* (UDG 42) and the election is held in Sistine Chapel. Cardinal electors cannot communicate with outsiders and exception is given only when there is a proven and urgent necessity, recognized by Particular Congregation. Other than the cardinals these are admitted to the cardinals such as: Secretary of the College of Cardinals, Master of Papal Liturgical Celebrations, Ecclesiastic to assist cardinal dean or the Cardinal who takes his place, regular clergy for confessions, two medical doctors and persons for cooking, serving and housekeeping. They are asked to keep the secrecy until they die.

The votive mass *pro eligendo papa* (for the election of Pope) is celebrated in Vatican Basilica normally in the morning presided over by the Cardinal who heads the election. The cardinals move in procession to enter the conclave in Sistine Chapel chanting the Litany of the saints seeking their intercession. It is a prayerful moment as everything is engulfed by prayer. Conclave begins with the hymn to the Holy Spirit (*Veni Creator*) and the taking the oath by the cardinals. Before the election begins, Papal Master of Cermonies announces "*Extra Omnes* – let those who do not belong here may go out". Only electors remain. There is no election by acclamation and inspiration or by compromise. Election takes place by ballots and there should be two third of the electors should be present for the valid election (i.e., in 2025 90 Cardinal electors). If the election begins on afternoon on 7 May 2025, there will be one ballot that afternoon and two ballots each in the morning and the after noon until someone is elected. If Pope is not elected after thirteen ballots in the Conclave, one day will be allotted for prayer, mediation and informal instructions and it resumes with regular intervals. If pope is not elected with in 34 ballots (roughly 13 days), election is held between two candidates who have secured highest number of votes. One who receives two third majorities of votes is elected as Pope.

There are three phases in voting process: **1. Pre-scrutiny:** Preparation and distribution of ballot papers and Drawing by lot of 3 Scrutineers, 3 infirmarii and 3 Revisers. **2. Scrutiny:** Placing ballots in receptacle, mixing and counting of ballots and opening of the votes. **3. Post-scrutiny**: Counting of votes, checking of votes and burning of the ballots. If Pope is elected the ballots are burned resulting in the white smoke outside and black smoke in case of non election. Once a cardinal receives the two third majority of votes, Cardinal first in order and seniority (UDG 87 and Ordo 58-60) asks the candidate "*Acceptasne electionem de te*

canonice factam in Summum Ponteficem? " (Do you accept the election?). Once the candidate accepts the election, the choice of the name for the new Pope is sought. If in case a person is elected from outside the conclave, he is to be brought in secret to the conclave and his consent is sought. If the person is not a bishop, he is to be ordained a bishop within the conclave itself. Then, New Pope vests and cardinals take oath of allegiance to New Pope. Cardinal Proto- Deacon announces from the external loggia of Saint Peter's Basilica the election saying " *Annuntio vobis gaudium magnum: habemus Papam.....*" Then the new Roman Pontiff appears on loggia and imparts his first *Urbi et Orbi* blessing.

After the conclave, there is a Solemn Eucharist to mark the inauguration of the New Pontificate (UDG 92). There will also be a visit to Papal Basilica of Saint Paul outside the Walls and taking possession of the Papal Basilica of Saint John Lateran (Cathedral of Rome).

- Fr. Joseph (Jijo) Varghese

LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

As we reflect on the luminous mysteries of the holy rosary, let us reflect on the voice of:

(1) Our Heavenly Father

(2) Our Heavenly Mother

(3) The voice of Jesus

1. The Baptism of Our Lord in the River Jordan:

"And when Jesus had been baptized, just as He came up from the water, suddenly the Heavens were opened to Him and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him.

And a voice from His Heavenly Father said, 'This is my Son, the beloved, with whom I am well pleased." — Mt. 3:13–17

Am I also worthy to be called God's beloved son/daughter?

2. The Wedding Feast at Cana:

Here we see Mother Mary's concern over the embarrassment of the bridegroom's party, that they are running short of wine. Mother Mary gently speaks to her Son, "Son, they have no wine."

Thereafter Mother Mary speaks to the servants: "Do whatever He tells you." — Jn. 2:3-5

Mother Mary tells each one of us also the same thing: "Do whatever He tells you." Am I willing to obey???

3. The Proclamation of the Word:

"Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News to the whole creation" — Jesus commissioned the disciples after His resurrection. — Mk. 16:15

In my own way, I am also commissioned by Jesus to go and proclaim the Good News of His kingdom… the kingdom of Hope, love, peace and joy.

4. The Transfiguration of Our Lord:

At the transfiguration episode, we hear the voice of the Heavenly Father, "This is my beloved Son." — Mk. 9:7

If I live a righteous life, the Heavenly Father will say the same about each one of us… "This is my beloved son/daughter."

5. The Institution of the Holy Eucharist:

Then He took a cup and after giving thanks, He said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves." Then He took a loaf of bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given up for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." — Lk. 22:17–19

At every Eucharist, it is the same enactment of the Last Supper and Calvary. Jesus'

body is broken and bloodshed. I am also called to do the same during the course of my day's journey… My body broken and bloodshed.

— Sr. Deena M.S.A, Bagidora

Granny's Stories

The Golden Touch

"Granny, what's this you're reading?" queried the little girl running into the drawing room.

"This? This is a story book. There are many short stories here. Look!" Granny said, pointing to the index.

"Are there any pictures in this book?"

"Yes. Here… See…" Granny said turning the pages.

"Granny, what story is this?" Amelia asked pointing to a particular picture of a king looking exasperatedly at his hands.

"Oh… This one? This is the story of 'The Golden Touch'. It's about a king called Midas."

"King Midas? Who was he? Tell me this story, Granny," said Amelia and settled down on a footstool beside her grandmother.

"Hmm… Ok. So, long, long ago there was a king. His name was…?" Granny took off her spectacles and looked her granddaughter questioningly.

"Midas!" chirped little Amelia.

"Correct! King Midas was very fond of gold and wealth. He usually sat in his treasure rooms and counted his wealth, admiring all the gold he had. But he wasn't happy. He wished he could have more wealth, more gold. One day as he sat counting his gold coins, a Greek God appeared before him."

"Ohh…" whispered Amelia, eyes round in amazement.

"He told King Midas that he was pleased with some good deeds Midas had done. So, Midas could ask him for a wish," Granny said.

"Wow! What did he ask for Granny?"

"King Midas was thrilled. He could think of nothing else but more gold. And, he wished that everything he touched would turn into gold."

"What? Then did everything he touch become gold, Granny?" queried little Amelia, her chin resting in the palms of her hands.

"Yes, dear. The god granted his wish and disappeared. King Midas was excited to try out this boon. He stepped into his garden and touched an apple tree. Lo and behold! The entire tree with its apples was turned to gold in the blink of an eye! See this!" Granny said opening the book and pointing to a picture.

"Ohh… What else did he touch, Granny?" asked Amelia curiously.

"He touched a fountain…"

"And it changed to gold? Even the flowing water?" Amelia questioned in disbelief.

"Yes, but it stopped flowing. The lovely tinkling sound of the fountain was silenced. He went on to touch some pretty red roses in the garden, and a marble bench. He happily walked into his palace and touched some swords, a spear or two, the furniture in the courtroom, a jug, some plates and even the huge dining table. Slowly his excitement began to wear out and he started feeling hungry. He called the servants and ordered them to get him a meal. He sat down at the table and admired it while waiting for his food to be brought in. His stomach rumbled and grumbled, so he decided to eat an apple," Granny said with a twinkle in her eye.

"His stomach also rumbled like mine, Granny?" giggled Amelia.

"Yes, Mia dear. He picked up a juicy, rosy red apple from a golden bowl and bit into it and

then cried out in dismay!"

"Why Granny? Did it have a worm in it?"

"No Mia, my dear. It had become solid gold!" exclaimed grandmother.

"What?"

"Yes. He tried eating a banana but the same thing happened. He picked up a glass to drink some water, he couldn't drink that either. He looked around in disappointment. Just then, the servants brought in his meal and laid it on the table. A delicious aroma rose from the food…"



"What did the Cook prepare, Granny?" Amelia queried, climbing onto her grandmother's lap.

Granny put her arms around her and said, "Ahh… Let me see. There was roast chicken, mutton biryani, kebabs, cucumber-tomato salad, and rice pudding."

"Yummy! Yummy!" Amelia smacked her lips and clapped happily.

"Yes, the food was truly yummy," Granny said with a smile. "But…"

"But?"

"But he couldn't eat any of it."

"Why, Granny?"

"Well, the moment he touched any of it, it turned into gold!"

"Oh no! All that delicious food… All wasted!" the little girl said in disappointment.

"True. He looked at the chicken, and kebabs in despair. He was starving. He didn't know what to do. Just then his daughter ran into the room. She looked at her father's face filled with sadness and rushed to put her arms around him. Before he could stop her, she hugged him. He put out his hands to stall her and…" Granny paused and looked at her granddaughter.

"Oh no! She also turned into gold?" Amelia exclaimed in horror not wanting to believe the unbelievable.

"Yes, she too became a golden statue. Her father turned pale and stared in disbelief at the golden figure of his daughter. He groaned in anguish as he realized the great mistake he had made by asking for the golden touch. He cried in despair and called out to the god. When the god appeared, King Midas begged him to turn his daughter back into a living being."

"Did the god change her back, Granny?" the little girl asked, her lip trembling.

"No. The god said he couldn't do that because Midas had touched his daughter with a gift he received. So, Midas pleaded that the god take away his golden touch. The god looked with pity at the grieving father. He told Midas to go and bathe in the pond in his garden. He instructed Midas to take some water from the pond after that and sprinkle it on everything he had turned to gold. Midas thanked him and hurried to the pond. He did as the god had told him to do," Granny said, tucking a tiny curl behind a small ear.

"Then what about his daughter, Granny?"

"He sprinkled some water on her also and

she became her normal self again," Granny smiled.

"Hurray!" Amelia said and clapped happily.

"Did you like the story, Mia?"

"Yes, Granny. What a lovely story!"

"Good. What did you learn from this story?" queried Granny.

"Hmm… I think I learnt we must be happy with what we have. When we want too much then we make ourselves unhappy," the little girl said solemnly.

"Very good, Mia. One mustn't be greedy. Greed brings dissatisfaction and later downfall," Granny said hugging her tenderly.

- Elvira Fernandez

The Incredible Journey of Florence Nightingale

(The Lady with the Lamp)



Founder of Modern Nursing 205th Birth anniversary

The theme for International Nurses Day 2025, announced by the International Council of Nurses (ICN), is "Our Nurses, Our Future. Caring for nurses strengthens economies." This theme emphasizes the crucial role of nurses in the healthcare system and the importance of supporting them to strengthen economies and improve health outcomes globally.

Florence Nightingale was born on May 12, 1820, into an upper-class, wealthy British family in Italy. As a woman of her time and social class, she was expected to marry, maintain a lovely home, and be a hostess. However, God had a different plan for Nightingale. She felt called to help others. Despite her family's objections, Florence became a nurse, even though nursing was not a respected profession at the time. It was only after her entry into nursing that it became a noble profession. At the age of 24, Nightingale defied her parents' expectations to marry a suitable match and left England to study at Kaiserswerth Hospital in Germany. When she returned from Germany, she took a job as a nurse at a hospital in London, and after a year, she was promoted to Head Nurse. There, she improved sanitary conditions so significantly that she was recognized as a reformer and advocate for public health.

During the Crimean War, the British press exposed the pathetic conditions of wounded soldiers in Turkey. The army turned to Florence Nightingale for help. Nightingale and her band of nurses arrived at the hospital in the Crimea and were shocked to see that the hospitals were dirty and that patients were dying from infections caused by wounds sustained on the battlefield. Nightingale insisted on fresh air and water for all soldiers, nutritious food, and that all bandages, bedsheets, and blankets were adequately laundered daily.

The soldiers called her "The Lady with the Lamp" because she walked through the wards at night, checking on injured soldiers and caring for them by lamplight. By the time she had implemented her reforms, she succeeded in reducing the death rate in military hospitals by two-thirds. She became known as the "Angel of Crimea."

Upon her return to England, she received a heroic welcome, a medal from Queen Victoria,

and a gift of $250,000. But her work did not stop there. After the war, she continued to fight for better healthcare and founded a nursing school, setting new standards for training nurses. In 1860, she established the Nightingale Training School for Nurses at St. Thomas' Hospital in London, the first professional nursing school. Florence Nightingale's dedication and compassion transformed nursing into a respected profession, earning her the title of "Founder of Modern Nursing." She passed away in 1910, but her legacy lives on in the heart of every nurse.

International Nurses Day is celebrated each year on May 12, the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale. Two hundred five years after the birth of "The Lady with the Lamp," we continue to recognize this social reformer as the foundational philosopher of modern nursing.

Happy Nurses Day to all nurses!

- Sr. Elizabeth Fernandes MSA

दो नवीन ग्राम विकास परियोजनाओं का पदार्पण

समृद्धि परियोजना : दिशा आर.सी.डी समाज सेंवी संस्था अजमेर द्वारा अपने समाज सेवा के क्षेत्र मे विस्तार करते हुए अजमेर जिले के केकडी ब्लॉक के 5 ग्राम पंचायत के 7 गांवो मे पर्यावरण सुशासन व सशक्तिकरण को बढावा देने के उद्देश्य से समृद्धि परियोजना का पर्दापण किया गया है। अगले एक वर्ष मे संस्था द्वारा पंचायतो के इन गांवो में पिछड़े वर्ग व समुदाय के साथ पर्यावरण संरक्षण व सुशासन और सशक्तिकरण आदि के माध्यम से उन के उत्थान के लिए कार्य किया जायेगा। यह



कार्यक्रम 8 अप्रैल 2025 को पंचायत समिति सभागार केकडी मे आयोजित किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम में समस्त विभागीय अधिकारी जैसे मुख्य पशुचिकित्सक प्रधान,सरपंच, संस्था निदेशक कृषि अधिकारी व परियोजना कार्य क्षैत्रों से जुड़े कृषि, पशुपालन व पंचायत राज विभाग से जुड़े सभी सरकारी अधिकारियों कि उपस्थिति रही। साथ ही विभिन्न सम्बंधित गांवों से भी सहभागीयों ने भाग लिया।

प्रगति परियोजना : राजस्थान के ब्यावर जिले के मसूदा ब्लॉक में 12 ग्रांम पचांयत के 27 गांवों में प्रगति परियोजना का संचालन किया जा रहा है। इस परियोजना के द्वारा बेहतर कृषि, पशुधन तकनीकों और सरकारी आजीविका योजनाओं तक पहुँच के माध्यम से सभी छोटे और सीमांत किसान परिवारों की आय में वृद्धि करने का प्रयास किया जाऐगा। इस के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न गतिविधियों का आयोजन कर जिसमें कृषि – प्रथाओं व,उन्नत कृषि तथा पशुपालन पद्धतियों पर प्रशिक्षण ,स्थानीय बीजों व पशु नस्ल को बढावा देना। आजीविका केंन्द्र कि स्थापना करना। सामाजिक सुरक्षा योजनाओं का लाभ दिलवाना। सरकारी विभाग के साथ तालमेल बिठाना। इत्यादि के माध्यम से परियोजना लाभार्थियों को लाभ सुनिश्चित करने का प्रयास किया जाऐगा।

इस प्रकार पर्यावरण सुशासन व

सशक्तिकरण पर आधारित समृद्वि परियोजना तथा बेहतर कृषि, पशुधन व आजीविका केन्द्र पर आधारित प्रगति परियोजना का सफलतम संचालन कर दिशा संस्था द्वारा पिछडे वर्ग,समुदाय व छोटे और सीमांत किसान परिवारों की आय में वृद्वि सुनिश्चित कर समाज विकास में अपना सहयोग प्रदान करेगी।

– दिशा, समाज सेवी संस्था अजमेर

AJMER DEANERY

Pilgrims of Hope

As pilgrims of hope, we, the parishioners of Infant Jesus parish, Beawar and Sts. Peter and Paul parish, Narbatkhera embarked on pilgrimages in the Lenten season.

Shrine of Our Lady of Graces, Sardhana, Meerut

All roads lead to Sardhana, the shrine of Our Lady of Graces. Fr. G. Francis, our parish priest of Infant Jesus Church, Beawar led us on this spiritually enriching pilgrimage on 29th March, 2025.

The Church of Sardhana was built by Begum Samru and dedicated to Mother Mary in the year 1822. It was known as St. Mary's Church until 7th November 1957 when the Holy Shrine of "Our Lady of Graces" was started by installing the Holy Image by Archbishop Evangelisti. Later, this beautiful Church was raised to the dignity of a Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Graces in December 1961 by Pope John XXIII. The Church is a protected monument by the Central Government Since 28th March 1924. Pilgrims come to visit the Church not only from all over India but also from abroad.

We decide to travel overnight by train both ways, as that was the most convenient and time-saving way to do it. We were 26 adults and two children. This included three MSA Sisters and three Prabhudasi Sisters from our neighboring parish at Narbatkhera. Thanks to Prabhu Singh Rawat, who booked all our tickets, we were able to have a comfortable journey both ways.



On reaching the venue, we participated in the Holy Eucharist in the church at the shrine concelebrated by our Parish Priest, and a priest of Meerut diocese. This was followed by a devotional Way of the Cross in the scorching midday heat The goal and focus was so clear to all, and so no one complained about the weather.

A simple bread, butter and namkeen breakfast was provided by Ma'am Rachel and distributed by Sr. Ignatia msa and Meenal Rawat. Lunch was booked at the shrine by Fr. G. Francis. The MSA Sisters at Meerut were gracious to give us supper before we left.

After lunch, three priests were arranged for us to avail of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We took a short break to visit the stall with religious articles and as well as to offer Masses for various intentions. We then sat on the lawn under the shady trees to pray the Rosary.

Our return journey was delayed by more than two hours due to the late arrival of our train, but that did not dampen our spirit nor fade away the glow on our faces. Our renewal was from within!

Hathikhera church and Karunalaya prayer centre, Ajmer

"It started as a pilgrimage, exalting minds and making all the burdens light" This is how the great Jewish poet Nissim Ezekiel begins his poem 'Enterprise'.

Well, ours was not an enterprise, but truly a pilgrimage in every sense. This time we were 46 of us including two priests, seven nuns and parishioners of Infant Jesus parish and Narbatkhera parish. The destination was Karunalaya prayer centre, Ajmer as well as St. Jude's shrine, Hathikhera, Ajmer. Both these places have been declared as pilgrim centres in the diocese, and therefore a visit to these places helped us gain a plenary indulgence.

"The second stage explored but did not test the call. The sun beat down to match our rage (enthusiasm)".We left at 9.00 a.m. by bus from the church campus, Beawar on 14th April. The day coincided with Ambedkar Jayanti and luckily a school holiday.

Our first halt was at Karunalaya prayer centre where we made the Way of the Cross. This was followed by Confessions thanks to the availability of Capuchin Fr. Joban and Fr. Martin Mangal. After all had made their confessions, we were served packed lunch packets of a simple fare of puris, sabzi and gulab jamun.

Without any delay, we proceeded to Our Lady's shrine at Hathikhera where Fr. G. Francis and Fr. Alok concelebrated the Holy Mass for us. MSFS Fr. Prabhakar, the resident priest served us a refreshing drink of butter-milk.

On our return journey we enjoyed ice-cream sponsored by Fr. G. Francis and reached home , for "home is where we gather grace".

- Sr. Mariola MSA

सेन्ट जोसफ-द वर्कर डे व माता मरियम की रोजरी माला का महिना

दिनांक 1 मई, 2025 भट्टा स्थित सात दुःखों की माता गिरजाघर में आज का दिन अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण पर्वो को समर्पित किया गया। दोनों पर्वो की जानकारी देते हुए भट्टा चर्च के पल्ली पुरोहित श्रद्धेय फादर कॉसमास शेखावत ने बताया कि 1 मई को काथलिक कलिसिया दो पर्वो का आयोजन गिरजाघरों में करती है ।

प्रथम – आज कैथोलिक कलिसिया 1 मई को सेन्ट जोसफ – द वर्कर का दिवस मनाती है, और गिरजाघरों में तथा अपने–अपने कार्य स्थलों में काम में ली जाने वाले कलपूर्जों को गिरजाघर में लोग समर्पित करते और सेन्ट जोसफ, जो श्रमिकों के संरक्षक संत है उनसे विशेष प्रार्थना व आशीष मांगी जाती है। कई पिताओं की तरह, यूसुफ ने येसु को अपने ही शिल्पकार के व्यवसाय में प्रशिक्षित किया। सुसमाचारों में येसु को "बढ़ई का पुत्र" कहा गया है।

संत यूसुफ का जीवन हमें मानव श्रम की गरिमा का बोध कराता है। कार्य न केवल मानव का कर्तव्य है, बल्कि उसकी पूर्णता भी है, जिसके द्वारा वह सृष्टि पर अधिकार करता है, सृष्टिकर्ता के कार्य में भाग लेता है, समाज की सेवा करता है और ईश्वर की मुक्ति–योजना में सहभागी बनता है। यूसुफ अपने कार्य से प्रेम करते थे। उन्होंने कभी थकान की शिकायत नहीं की; बल्कि, एक विश्वास से परिपूर्ण व्यक्ति के रूप में, उन्होंने अपने श्रम को एक सद्गुण के रूप में अपनाया। उन्हें अपने कार्य में संतोष मिलता था, क्योंकि वे न तो धन की लालसा करते थे, न अमीरों से ईर्ष्या करते थे। उनके लिए कार्य केवल व्यक्तिगत लालच को पूरा करने का साधन नहीं था, बल्कि अपने परिवार का

पालन–पोषण करने का माध्यम था। यह पर्व औपचारिक रूप से 1 मई 1955 को पोप पायस बारहवें द्वारा स्थापित किया गया, ताकि श्रमिक ईसाई दृष्टिकोण से श्रम की महत्ता को न भूलें। लेकिन इससे पहले के कई संत पिताओं ने इसकी नींव तैयार कर दी थी। धन्य पायस नवम ने एक तरह से श्रमिक के रूप में संत यूसुफ के महत्व को स्वीकार किया था, जब उन्होंने उन्हें "संपूर्ण कलीसिया का संरक्षक" घोषित किया। कार्य को अनंत जीवन की प्राप्ति के साधन के रूप में देखने की यह भावना संत जॉन पॉल द्वितीय ने अपने विश्वप्रसिद्ध विश्वपत्र 'Laborem EÛercens' में दोहराई, जिसमें उन्होंने "श्रम का सुसमाचार" कहा।

द्वितीयः 1 मई को कैथोलिक कलिसिया माता मरियम – मदर मैरी की रोजरी माला का महिना पर्व भी मनाती है तथा पूरा मई माह माता मरियम की रोजरी माला विनती के लिए, समर्पित महिना होता है। प्रति दिन माता मरियम के श्रद्धालु माता मरियम की मूर्ति के आगे नतमस्तक होकर रोजरी माला विनती करते है और रोजरी माला के पॉच भेदों को प्रतिदिन अलग–अलग भेदों को समर्पित करते हुए, मानव समाज की एकता और विश्व शान्ति के लिए प्रार्थना करते हैं।

इतिहासः मध्यकाल में भी इसी प्रकार की परंपराएं प्रचलित थीं, जो मुख्यतः सर्दी को विदा कहने और नए जीवन की शुरुआत (मई 1 से) के इर्द–गिर्द केंद्रित थीं । समय Tricesimum नाम की परंपरा शुरू हुई, जिसे "लेडी मंथ" या "मरियम को समर्पित तीस दिन" कहा जाता था। यह पर्व 15 अगस्त से 14 सितंबर तक मनाया जाता था और कुछ स्थानों पर आज भी जारी है। बैरोक काल में मरियम को समर्पित पूरा महीना मनाने की परंपरा स्पष्ट रूप से सामने आई। हालांकि वह हमेशा मई में नहीं होता था, लेकिन 'मरियम मंथ' के दौरान 30 दिन की विशेष आध्यात्मिक साधनाएं की जाती थीं। इसी काल में मई और मरियम के महीने का मेल हुआ और मई को मरियम का महीना घोषित किया गया। पूरे महीने विशेष भक्ति कार्यक्रम रखे जाने लगे। यह परंपरा उन्नीसवीं सदी में विशेष रूप से लोकप्रिय हुई और आज भी जारी है। पुरा मई महिना माता मरियम को समर्पित महिना रहेगा और प्रत्येक दिन माता मरियम के भक्त माता मरियम की मूर्ति के सामने इक्टठा होकर सायः 6:30 बजे रोजरी माला हाथ में लिए माता मरियम के आदर मे रोजरी विनती करेंगे।

आज के दिन सेन्ट जोसफ व माता मरियम के भक्तगण गिरजाघरों में इक्टठा होकर अपने मनोरथों के लिए समर्पित भाव से प्रार्थना व अराधना करते हैं। आज की प्रार्थना व मिस्सा बलिदान में मुख्य याजक के रूप में पल्ली पुरोहित श्रद्धेय फादर कॉसमॉस शेखावत ने प्रार्थना की, प्रवचन दिया, और विश्व में शान्ति प्रेम व सदभाव के लिए विशेष कृपायें मॉगी। कार्यक्रम का संचालन प्रभुदासी सिर्स्टस व होली फैमली अस्पताल की सिर्स्टस ने संयुक्त रूप से किया।

– फादर कॉसमॉस शेखावत
पल्ली पुरोहित

Women's Day

Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Ajmer

"The beauty of Our Mother Mary flows from the grace she carries within."

On 9th of March 2025, the Women's Cell Committee of Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Ajmer, organized a faith-filled celebration to honor Women's Day. The event began with a solemn Eucharistic celebration, concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Raymond Fernandes, the Parish Priest.

The celebration saw the presence of women from diverse walks of life—mothers, individuals, nurses, teachers, and religious sisters from nearby and distant communities - each contributing to the spirit of the occasion. The liturgy was thoughtfully prepared, featuring a meaningful introduction to the Mass, sincere



Prayers of the Faithful, and a melodious choir that elevated the celebration to a truly divine experience.

In his homily, Fr. Raymond reflected on the indispensable role of women in nurturing happy families and building a wholesome society. He emphasized that a virtuous and God-fearing woman is not only the strength of her home but also a guiding force for the nation. Whether as a homemaker or a leader, a woman's presence brings life, warmth, and balance to every space she inhabits.

He acknowledged the daily challenges women face and praised their quiet strength in meeting life's demands with patience, dignity, and grace. Women, he noted, are no longer confined to the four walls of a home but manage responsibilities in all spheres with unmatched courage, simplicity, and wisdom.

The celebration also paid homage to the Blessed Virgin Mary—held up as a shining example of simplicity, holiness, and kindness. As a token of love and appreciation, a small gift—a keychain was presented to all the women present, symbolizing gratitude for their countless contributions to family, Church and society.

- Mrs. Savvy Anthony
Women's Cell Secretary
ICC, Ajmer

दो दिवसीय प्रार्थना संत मार्टिन चर्च भवानी खेड़ा

चालीसा काल पश्चाताप त्याग प्रार्थना उपवास दान पुण्य का समय है। इसी उपलक्ष्य में भवानी खेड़ा पल्ली में संत मार्टिन चर्च में 30 व 31 मार्च 2025 को दो दिवसीय प्रार्थना द्वारा आध्यात्मिक जीवन की तैयारी की गई। इसमें करुणालय की टीम सिस्टर विनया, फादर जोबन, व गायक मंडली आदि ने गिरजाघर में आकर प्रार्थना, ईश्वर वचन व भक्तिमय गानों द्वारा चालीसा काल की तैयारी कराई।

पहले दिन सिस्टर विनया ने पश्चाताप करके ईश्वर के नजदीक आने के तरीके बताएं साथ ही खुद के जीवन के महत्वपूर्ण अनुभव भी बताएं । फादर जोबन ने प्रेम के तीन प्रकार बताएं जैसे स्नेह, वात्सल्य प्रेम व प्यार किस प्रकार करना चाहिए उसके बारे में विस्तार से बताया।

दूसरे दिन सिस्टर विनया ने सुसमाचार के वचनों पर प्रकाश डाला, जीवन में ईश्वर का कितना महत्व है। यदि हम ईश्वर के साथ रहेंगे तो हम अधिक फलवंत होंगे। ईश वचनों को सुनने व ध्यानपूर्वक पड़ने पर अधिक बल दिया। उन्होंने बताया कि जब तक हमारा पुराना बुरा स्वभाव नहीं त्यागते हैं तब तक हम ईश्वर से दूर ही रहते हैं। प्रकाशना ग्रंथ व संत पौलुस के पत्र से पदों को लेकर उसे समझाया तथा अपने जीवन से जुड़ी रोचक व महत्वपूर्ण घटना के बारे में बताते हुए कहा कि कोई भी काम शुरू करने से पहले ईसा मसीह तथा पवित्र आत्मा का आह्वान करना चाहिए। फादर जोबन ने पाप स्वीकार करने का तरीका तथा हमारे जीवन में उसका कितना महत्व है समझाया। उन्होंने बताया कि किस प्रकार आत्महत्या करने जा रहे व्यक्ति को उससे नया बल व जीवन मिलता है वह पाप स्वीकार के द्वारा उनके मरने की धारणा बदल जाती है और वह बहुत बड़ा बिजनेसमैन बन जाता है उन्होंने उड़ाऊ पुत्र की कहानी द्वारा

परिवार का तथा आजादी का महत्व बताया। इस प्रकार उनकी दो दिवसीय प्रार्थना से सभी शामिल हुए लोगों को लाभ मिला सभी ने बड़ी भक्ति व श्रद्धा से इसमें भाग लिया इस प्रार्थना सभा का नेतृत्व फादर जोस मथायस हमारे पल्ली पुरोहित के द्वारा किया गया। फादर व सिस्टर्स को हम बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद देते हैं। इस प्रकार धन्यवाद के साथ दो दिवसीय प्रार्थना सफलतापूर्वक संपन्न हुई। धन्यवाद। जय येसु।

— मधु रावत
संत मार्टिन चर्च, भवानीखेड़ा

मदार पल्ली के समाचार

पास्का सप्ताह : खजूर रविवार

पूरे माह अपने को उपवास और प्रार्थना में समर्पित करते हुए सभी पल्लीवासियों ने पास्का सप्ताह में प्रवेश किया।

ईस्टर से पहले रविवार को यीशु मसीह के येरूशलेम में विजयी प्रवेश की याद में मनाया जाता है, जो पवित्र सप्ताह की शुरूआत का प्रतीक है। यीशु इस दिन शहर में प्रवेश करते हैं जो शांति का प्रतीक माना गया। भीड ने सडक पर ताड की शाखाएँ व डालीया और कपडे बिछाकर उनका स्वागत किया और सम्मान के संकेत के रूप में चिल्ला कर अभिवादन किया, दाउद के पुत्र को होसाना और धन्य है वह जो प्रभु के नाम से आता है। मदार पल्ली में भी खजूर रविवार को विधिवत तरीके से आयोजित किया गया। जिसमें आई.टी.आई से चर्च तक सभी पल्ली वासीयों ने हाथ में खजूर कि डालीया लिये गाते हुए जलूस निकाला। इस पूरी विधि और मिस्सा कि अगुवाई हमारे श्रद्धेय बिशप ओसवाल लूईस व पल्ली प्रोहित फा.डोनी द्वारा कि गई तथा मिस्सा बलिदान भी चढाया गया।

पवित्र सप्ताह : पुण्य बृहस्पतिवार :

पवित्र सप्ताह कि शुरूआत पवित्र ब्रस्पतिवार को बारह चेलों के पैर धोने से कि गई। इस विधि को फा. जेरीश व फा.डोनी द्वारा सम्मपन किया गया। मिस्सा बलिदान चढाया गया। यूक्रिस्तीय कि स्थापना कर कि गई। तथा सामुहिक अराधना का आयोजन किया गया।

पुण्य शुक्रवार :

प्रभु के दुःख भोग का समारोह, प्रभु यीशु मसीह के क्रूस पर चढने और मृत्यु की याद में मनाया जाता है। मानव जाति को पापों से मुक्ति के लिए उनका बलिदान। इसे पवित्र शुक्रवार कहा जाता है। फादर. जान करवालो कि अगुआई में इस दुःख भोग यात्रों को सभी पल्ली वासीयों के साथ 14 स्थानों को याद करते हुए निकाली गई। इस में प्रत्येक स्थान के लिए एक परिवार को नियुक्त किया गया। परिवार जनो द्वारा ही क्रूस को उठाया व बाईबिल पाठ किया। इस मे पल्ली पुरोहित फा. डोनी व फा.सन्तोष का विशेष सहयोग रहा। मिस्सा बलिदान चढाया गया जिसके अन्तर्गत क्रॉस को चूमकर पल्ली वासीयों ने मसीह को उनके बलिदान के लिए याद किया।

पास्का जागरण :

जागरण तथ मोमबती प्रज्वलन का समारोही प्रारम्भ आग की आशीष तथा मोमबत्ती की तैयारी (जुलूस) शब्द समारोह, प्रतिज्ञा नवीनीकरण,जल की आशीष से कि गई।

पास्का रविवार :

पास्का रविवार अर्थात ईस्टर यीशु मसीह के पुनरूत्थान का जश्न मनाने वाला एक महत्वपूर्ण पर्व है। यह गुड फ्राइडे के बाद रविवार को मनाया जाता है, जो यीशु को क्रुस पर चढाया गया लेकिन इस दुखद घटना के तीन दिन बाद रवीवार के दिन एक चमत्कार हुआ – प्रभु यीशु पुनःजीवित हो गए तभी से इस दिन को ईस्टर संडे के रूप में

मनाया जाता है। रात्रीकाल में मोमबती प्रज्वलन के साथ इस कि शुरूआत कि गई मिस्सा बलिदान में येसू के दुःख भोग की घटना को दोहराया गया। शब्द समारोह व प्रतिज्ञा का दौहराण कर नवीनीकरण जल कि आशीष कि गई। मिस्सा उपरान्त सभी को पुरोहितों कि और से ईस्टर कि बधाई दी गई।

प्रभु के दुःख भोग झांकी का आयोजन :

चालीसा काल के महत्वपूर्ण दिवस पामसन्डे पर अजमेंर धर्म प्रान्त के सभी पल्लीयों द्वारा प्रभु येसु के दुःख भोग को जीवंत झांकियों के माध्यम से दर्शाया गया। जिससे यह सन्देश जन जन तक पहुचे। प्रभु येसू के "क्रूस यात्रा" में उनका अपने ईश्वर के प्रति प्रेम व विश्वास व अपने कलिसिया के पापों की क्षमा के लिए दिया गया बलिदान का चित्रण किया गया।। मदार पल्ली द्वारा प्रभु येसु के पुनरूथान का चित्रण झांकि के द्वारा दर्शाया गया। इस झांकी को तैयार करना व उसे प्रस्तुत करने का कार्य हमारे पल्ली के यूथ सदस्यों द्वारा किया गया।

घर कि आशीष :

ईस्टर के बाद घर को आशीर्वाद देना एक महत्वपूर्ण धार्मिक परम्परा होती है क्योंकि यह विधि घर को पवित्र करती है साथ ही यीशु के पुनरूत्थान व मृत्यु पर विजय और नए जीवन की आशा का प्रतीक है। यह घर में प्रेम,शांति और समृद्धी को आंमत्रित करता है। इस आशीर्वाद से घर में पवित्रता आती है। इस हेतु पल्ली पुरोहित फा. डोनी द्वारा यूनिट वार योजना बना कर इस परम्परा को पूर्ण किया गया।

संत पापा फ्रान्सिस को श्रद्धांजली :

हमारे संत पापा फ्रान्सिस ने इस संसार को विदा किया और अपनी आत्मा को प्रभु को समर्पित किया। पूरा संसार उन कि मृत्यु पर शोकाकुल है। संसार भर के गिरजा घरों में उनके लिए प्रार्थना व मिस्सा बलिदान चढाया गया। मदार पल्ली में भी उन कि आत्मशान्ति के लिए मिस्सा बलिदान चढाया सभी पल्लीवासीयों ने इस में भाग लिया। मिस्सा के उपरान्त उन कि फोटो पर पुष्प अर्पित कर उन्हें श्रद्धांजलि दी गई।

— आनन्द फैलिक्स
होली रोजरी चर्च मदार

संत मरिया गोरेत्ती

गतांक से आगे...

असुंता की अंतिम विदाई

असुंता ने अपनी प्रिय मरियम को अंतिम विदाई दी तो उसके होठों पर एक कोमल चुंबन था और आंखों से दुःखभरे आंसू बह रहे थे। उसकी आत्मा की शांति के लिए प्रार्थना करते हुए, उसने मरियम को अलविदा कहा, लेकिन उसकी स्मृतियाँ उसके हृदय में सदैव जीवित रहने वाली थीं। मरियम का पार्थिव शरीर दक्षिणी रोम के नेल्लुनू स्थित सांता मारिया देले ग्राजिए के महामंदिर के गुप्त तहखाने में विश्राम कर रहा था, जहां भक्ति और श्रद्धा का वातावरण व्याप्त था।

एलेक्जेंडर : अपराध, दंड और बदलाव

एलेक्जेंडर सेरेनेली को जल्द ही गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया। न्यायिक प्रक्रिया के दौरान वह हत्या के अपराध में दोषी सिद्ध हुआ और उसे 30 वर्षों की कठोर कालकोठरी की सजा सुनाई गई। अपने घमंड और असहयोगी स्वभाव के कारण वह लंबे समय तक अपनी गलती स्वीकार नहीं कर सका। पहले छह वर्षों तक वह मरियम को ही दोषी ठहराता रहा, बार–बार यही कहता कि उसने ही उसे उकसाया था। लेकिन चिकित्सा गवाहियों ने उसके झूठ को नकार दिया।

न्यायालय ने उसकी युवा अवस्था और उसके परिवार में व्याप्त मानसिक अस्थिरता को ध्यान में



रखते हुए उसकी मृत्यु दंड को उम्रकैद में बदल दिया। शुरू के तीन वर्षों में उसे ऐसी कालकोठरी में रखा गया जहां केवल पहरेदार दिन में तीन बार निरीक्षण करने आते थे, ताकि कोई कैदी आत्महत्या न कर ले। इस कठोर दंड ने उसे तोड़ा, और वह धीरे–धीरे अपनी कठोरता छोड़ने लगा।

वर्षों तक वह इस त्रासदी के लिए मरियम को दोषी ठहराता रहा, लेकिन चर्च के पुरोहितों ने उसे सच्चाई स्वीकार करने की प्रेरणा दी। मरियम के निधन के बाद, उसके मध्यस्थता प्रयासों और प्रार्थनाओं के कारण चमत्कारों की खबरें आने लगीं। इटली और यूरोप की पत्रिकाओं में उसकी महिमा और पवित्रता की चर्चा होने लगी।

दर्शन और कायापलट वर्ष 1908कृमरियम के गुज़रने के छह वर्ष बाद, एक रात एलेक्जेंडर ने उसे स्वप्न में देखा। लेकिन वह स्वप्न नहीं, बल्कि एक दिव्य अनुभूति थी। उसने देखा कि उसकी अंधेरी कालकोठरी एक सुगंधित वाटिका में परिवर्तित हो गई थी। वहाँ एक स्त्री थी, सफेद वस्त्रों में, जो कुमुदिनी के फूल चुन रही थी।

जब वह उसकी ओर मुड़ी, एलेक्जेंडर चौंक उठाः "मरियम! ओह..."

मरियम ने उसकी ओर बढ़ते हुए उसे सफेद लिली का गुच्छा सौंपाकृवे फूल प्रत्येक घाव का प्रतीक थे, जो उसने उसे दिए थे। उसने कोमलता से कहा, "मैं चाहती हूँ कि एक दिन तुम्हारी आत्मा परलोक में मेरे साथ हो।"

इस अद्भुत दर्शन ने एलेक्जेंडर को पूर्ण रूप से बदल दिया। वह एक आदर्श कैदी बन गया। उसने 30 वर्षों में 27 वर्ष तक जेल में सेवा की और अंततः उसने अपनी झूठी कहानी छोड़ दी। शपथ लेते हुए उसने कहा, "मरियम पूरी तरह निर्दोष थी। उसने अपने कुंवारेपन की रक्षा के लिए संघर्ष किया और यहाँ तक कि अपने हमलावर की आत्मा की चिंता भी की।"

इस सत्य गवाही के बाद मरियम की धन्यता का मार्ग प्रशस्त हुआ। एलेक्जेंडर ही उसके निर्दोष होने का प्रत्यक्ष साक्षी था, और अब वह अपनी आत्मा की शुद्धि की राह पर था। क्रमशः

– फा. जोसफ सुन्नी

अचल विश्वास के सारथी : ऐतिहासिक यात्रा

यह जालारापाटन–सुकेत मिशन की शुरुआत की कहानी है जो "दी राजपुताना मिशनः पायनियर्स एंड शेपड्र्स" पुस्तक जो स्वर्गीय पुरोहित "आर. एच. लैसर द्वारा रचित है, उसका हिंदी अनुवाद है. (आगे की कहानी अगले चरण में पाए)

जालारापाटन-सुकेत मिशन

एपिसोड 3

जनवरी 1925 में, बिशप ने कैटेचिस्ट्स' ट्रेनिंग स्कूल को भवानिखेड़ा से स्थानांतरित करने का निर्णय लिया। फादर गाय को स्कूलों का निदेशक नियुक्त किया गया और ब्रदर क्लॉड को उनका सहायक बनाया गया। लेकिन अगस्त में, बिशप ने फादर गाय और ब्रदर क्लॉड के बीच मतभेदों का उल्लेख किया, जिसमें इस मामले में फादर मैथ्यू ब्रदर क्लॉड का समर्थन कर रहे थे। 27 अक्टूबर को बिशप फिर से सुकेत लौटे, इस बार नए चर्च के आशीर्वाद हेतु। उन्होंने उल्लेख किया कि भजन और लिटनी का गायन उत्कृष्ट था।

इससे पहले गाँव में एक गाय की हत्या को लेकर एक समस्या उठी थी। एक धर्मत्यागी ने हमारे

ईसाइयों को दोषी ठहराया। यह आरोप विशेष रूप से गंभीर था क्योंकि कॉलोनी के उद्घाटन के समय, ईसाई धार्मिक अधिकारियों ने कोटा राज्य के राजनीतिक अधिकारियों को आश्वासन दिया था कि गाँव के ईसाई गाय या मोर को नुकसान नहीं पहुँचाएंगे। पुलिस जांच करना चाहती थी। सौभाग्य से कोई सबूत नहीं मिला, और मामला वहीं थम गया।

लेकिन उसी वर्ष (1924) एक और समस्या उत्पन्न हुई। कोटा के राजा ने एक अध्यादेश जारी किया जिसमें किसी भी शैक्षिक या धार्मिक संस्थान को हिंदू अनाथों को भर्ती करने से मना किया गया, क्योंकि कोटा में उनके लिए विशेष अनाथालय पहले से था। यह अध्यादेश स्पष्ट रूप से ईसाई मिशनों के खिलाफ निर्देशित था, चाहे वे कैथोलिक हों या प्रोटेस्टेंट।

22 दिसंबर 1925 को फादर गाय और ब्रदर क्लॉड के बीच तनाव अपने चरम पर पहुँच गया। इसके बाद, बिशप ने फादर मैथ्यू को थांदला और ब्रदर क्लॉड को झाबुआ स्थानांतरित कर दिया। फादर गाय को पेरिश प्रीस्ट और कैटेचिस्ट्स' ट्रेनिंग सेंटर का निदेशक बना दिया गया। उन्होंने फादर माउफोर्थ को उनका सहायक और बाद में ब्रदर फिलिबर्ट को स्टेशन के भौतिक कार्यों की देखरेख हेतु नियुक्त किया। ब्रदर फिलिबर्ट ने तुरंत स्कूल का निर्माण शुरू किया, जिसका आशीर्वाद 14 जून 1926 को दिया गया।

इसके बाद सुकेत का स्वर्ण काल आया। फादर मैथ्यू ने स्टेशन में कुछ व्यवस्था और नैतिकता लाई, जो फादर गाय के साथ मतभेदों के बावजूद बनी रही। अब फादर गाय ने छात्रों के गठन पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया। इस कार्य में फादर माउफोर्थ ने उनका भरपूर सहयोग किया। उस समय चर्च में गाना इतना सुंदर था कि हिंदू आगंतुक भी मुग्ध हो जाते थे और कुछ ने इसे एक मध्यकालीन मठ से तुलना की।

11 नवम्बर 1926 को सुकेत में ऑब्लेट्स का समुदाय स्थापित हुआ। भवानिखेड़ा के बेनेडिक्ट को सुकेत लाया गया, जिससे उनके माता–पिता ने अदालत में मामला दर्ज कर दिया। यह संस्था 1931 में समाप्त हो गई क्योंकि युवाओं में ब्रह्मचर्य के लिए बुलाहट नहीं थी।

फादर माउफोर्थ, यद्यपि विद्वान और धार्मिक थे, एक मठवासी नहीं थे। बिशप कौमोंट ने उन्हें तैयारी के लिए एक वर्ष का समय दिया और फिर इस कार्य को धर्मप्रांतीय पादरियों को सौंप दिया। इस बीच ब्रदर फिलिबर्ट ने स्थानीय सामग्री और श्रमिकों का उपयोग कर स्कूल की मरम्मत की और नया स्कूल बनाया, जिसका आशीर्वाद 31 जुलाई 1927 को दिया गया।

1928 में मिशन के कुछ अवांछित लोगों को निकालना पड़ा, जिससे सुकेत में शांति और समृद्धि आई। लेकिन 1929 में दो शादियाँ हुईं और फादर गाय ने टिप्पणी की कि हमारे ईसाईयों के गीत और नृत्य गैर–ईसाइयों से अलग नहीं थे। उन्होंने निष्कर्ष निकालाः "वे केवल सतही रूप से ईसाई थे।"

उसी वर्ष, माताओं ने एक परित्यक्त हिंदू शिशु को दया से गोद लिया। एक धर्मत्यागी की शिकायत पर पुलिस जांच हुई, लेकिन मामला शांतिपूर्वक समाप्त हो गया।

1929 में सबसे बड़ा दुखद घटना फादर रेने की मृत्यु हुई, जो फ्रांस से छह महीने पहले आए थे। वे शिकार पर गए और लौटे नहीं। अंततः उनकी लाश जंगल में मिली, पास ही मरा हुआ हिरण भी था। संभवतः गर्मी और प्यास से उनकी मृत्यु हो गई।

7 जुलाई 1931 को फादर गाय को मंगलौर में भारतीय कैपुचिन्स के नोविसिएट का प्रभार दिया गया और उनकी जगह फादर एलियाकिन को नियुक्त किया गया। उन्होंने अस्पताल का निर्माण

शुरू किया, जिसे 1932 में फ्र. एडगर ने पूरा किया। उन्होंने सतेलखेड़ी और रिछड़िया में स्कूल शुरू किए और पामाखेड़ी के स्कूल को मजबूत किया।

1934 में फादर इग्नास स्टाफ में शामिल हुए। स्कूल को सरकार से मान्यता मिली और छात्र इलाहाबाद विश्वविद्यालय से पूर्व–विश्वविद्यालय डिग्री प्राप्त कर सकते थे। यह स्कूल राजपुताना में सर्वश्रेष्ठ में गिना जाता था।

ईसाई बसने वालों ने कृषि में सफलता पाई और कुछ ने संपत्ति भी अर्जित की। फादर एडगर ने उनकी सहायता की, खेतों की चारदीवारी बनवाई, और गाँव को मुख्य सड़क से जोड़ने वाली सड़क में सुधार का प्रयास किया।

2 जून 1934 को मिशन ने ब्रदर फिलिबर्ट की मृत्यु से अपूरणीय क्षति झेली। उन्होंने स्कूल, अस्पताल, खेत, रसोई, बच्चों और दवा की देखभाल की। अंततः अत्यधिक श्रम के कारण उन्हें मलेरिया और फिर ब्लैक वाटर फीवर हो गया। उन्हें अजमेर ले जाया गया लेकिन 2 जून को उनकी मृत्यु हो गई।

1941 में, फादर अमांडस ने फादर एडगर की जगह ली, जिन्हें अजमेर भेजा गया था। उनके सहायक फादर पर्सी क्विटेरियो थे, जो बाद में डच गयाना (अब सूरीनाम) गए और वहाँ 1980 में उनका निधन हुआ।

1943 में फादर अमांडस की जगह धर्मप्रांतीय पादरी फादर जॉन कोएलो ने ली। उन्होंने रामगंजमंडी में मिशन शुरू करने के उद्देश्य से कुछ मकान खरीदे, लेकिन उनके स्थानांतरण के बाद वहाँ शरणार्थियों ने कब्जा कर लिया।

1945 में, फादर डोनाश्यन ने स्टेशन का प्रभार लिया और 1949 में उनकी जगह एक अन्य धर्मप्रांतीय पादरी ने ली।

– फा. विशाल रेमंड

National Workshop on Interreligious and Ecumenical Ministry & The Meeting of Regional and Diocesan Directors of Dialogue and Ecumenism

The National Biblical Catechetical and Liturgical Center (NBCLC) in collaboration with the CBCI Office for Dialogue and Desk for Ecumenism conducted a National Workshop on Interreligious and Ecumenical Ministry on April 08-09, 2025. It is for the first time a national level workshop on interreligious dialogue and ecumenism, and the national meeting of the regional and diocesan secretaries / directors of Dialogue and Ecumenism were organised. The purpose of the Workshop was to provide update on the Catholic teaching and ministry of Interreligious Dialogue and Ecumenism in the light of the Synod on Synodality. There were 60 participants who were mostly the regional and diocesan directors of intertriginous dialogue and ecumenism. In the two-day Workshop, the first day of which was dedicated to the subject of Interreligious Dialogue and the second to Ecumenism.



In the inaugural session, the inaugural address was given by the Auxiliary bishop of Bangalore Joseph Susainathan while the Keynote Address was delivered by Bishop Joshua Mar Ignathios of Mavelikara and the National Chairman of CBCI Office for

Dialogue and Desk for Ecumenism. The distinguished resource persons on Interreligious Dialogue and Synodality were Fr Dr Anthoniraj Thumma, the National Secretary of CBCI Office for Interreligious Dialogue & Desk for Ecumenism, and Fr. Dr. Robin Shaya Seelan, the Secretary of FABC for Interreligious and Ecumenical Affairs. Fr. Arun Louis SJ, Director of Ashirvad Dialogue Center, Bengaluru, moderated the panel discussion of the eminent speakers from five different religious traditions.

First day concluded with the Meeting of the Secretaries of Dialogue and Ecumenism Commissions of the sui juris Churches, and the Regional and Diocesan Directors.

On the second day, ecumenical issues were dealt by Dr Fr Jose Kizhakkekuttu CMI, Assistant Professor in Dharmika Vidya Kendrum (DVK), and CSI Bishop Emeritus Surya Prakash, who was Professor Emeritus of United Theological College (UTC), Bengaluru. The Panel Discussion on synodality and ecumenical relations was moderated by Fr Dr Baptist Pius SVD, the Secretary of CCBI Commission for Ecumenism.

The Eucharistic celebration was presided over on the first day by Bishop Joshua Mar Ignathios, and on the second day by Archbishop Peter Machado of Bangalore. The participants expressed their satisfaction of being enlightened by the presentation of erudite resource persons and panellists, and by the mutual sharing and fellowship of the group discussions. The felt that the Synod on Synodality has strengthened their commitment for journeying together with the neighbouring Faiths and Churches as partners in the task of building up the Divine Reign of love, justice and peace.

Reported by :
Fr. Dr. Anthoniraj Thumma,
National Secretary of CBCI Office for
Interreligious Dialogue &
Desk for Ecumenism

A Tribute of love to our dear Sr. Janet

"Well done good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much, enter into the joy of the Master" (Mt:25:21)

"Sister Janet's radiant presence touched countless lives, leaving an enduring legacy of cherished memories. Loved in life, mourned in passing, her beautiful spirit continues to inspire and uplift all who knew her."



On **May 20, 1932**, the Lord blessed **Mr. Augustine and Mrs. Mary George** with a lovely, bouncy baby girl in **Allengad, Kerala**, whom they lovingly named **Teresa Augustine Moolen**. She received her **early education in Kerala** and later in **Bhopal**.

The Lord kept watching over His little Teresa, and finally, He called her to belong to Him in the **Congregation of the Mission Sisters of Ajmer**. She joined the **Pre-Novitiate on September 10, 1953**, and made her **first profession on July 16, 1956**, taking the name **Sr. Janet**. She made her **final profession on July 2, 1961**. She went on to complete her **B.Sc. from Maharani College, Jaipur, in 1963**, followed by **B.Ed. in 1966**. She was **92 years old and in the 69th year of her religious life**.

As the years rolled on, **capable, practical, and reliable** as she was, she was chosen by God to be the **Animator** of our communities at **Jaipur, Jodhpur, Mother House, Sophia College, and Provincial House**. Sister was **kind-hearted, generous, caring, compassionate, and fun-loving**. Her hearty laughter brought joy to the community. She lived life to the fullest and loved acting in plays and dressing up during **fancy dress programs**.

Sister Janet was a **leader chosen by the Lord**, and she was elected **General Councilor and Assistant to the Superior General** for two terms in **1981 and 1987** and again as **General Councilor for the third time in 1993**. She was elected **Vice Provincial in 2007** and once again as **Provincial Councilor in 2010**. Sister celebrated her **Golden Jubilee in July 2006** and **Diamond Jubilee in 2016**.

Sister Janet was an **excellent Mathematics teacher**. She was **patient and had a very unique manner of teaching**. She was very **logical and analytical** and wanted her students to be the same. Sister will continue to live on in the hearts of **her sisters, teachers, friends, well-wishers, and students** as a **loving, sensitive, kind, and wonderful human being**.

Sister Janet was **in charge** of the **Education Apostolate of the Congregation** for many years. She was a **walking rulebook**, knowing **all the rules and pay scales** by heart. We are yet to find someone of her **caliber**. Sister was always ready to help out **whenever and wherever needed**. **Sr. Janet** was a **great devotee of St. Jude**, and like him, she **would reach out to all problematic and difficult cases in our congregation**. She was **ever ready and willing**, with her **black purse under her arm and a little pencil in her pocket**, reaching out to **rescue** our sisters. With her **wisdom, wit, and support of St. Jude**, she would solve all the problems they encountered.

A **true missionary and daughter** of our **Beloved Father Founder**, **Sr. Janet had a heart of gold**, reaching out in **love and compassion** to the **poor, needy, orphans, and all those in need**. She always **walked the extra mile** to bring a **smile to someone's face**.

In **2015**, Sister was transferred to **Provincial House**. As always, **Sr. Janet** was **full of fun** and had **witty answers** for all who visited her. She would share her **advice and rich stories** of her life with the **younger sisters**.

Sr. Janet, who had enjoyed **good health all her life**, began experiencing a **decline in health due to age**. In **April 2024**, she was shifted to **St. Francis Hospital**. Her condition **deteriorated day by day**, and she **passed on to her eternal reward on April 13, 2025, at noon**.

We express our **gratitude to the doctors, sisters, nurses, and healthcare workers at St. Francis Hospital, Ajmer**, who lovingly cared for **Sr. Janet**. We sincerely thank **Rt. Rev. Oswald Lewis** and **Rt. Rev. Ignatius Menezes** for officiating at the **Eucharistic Celebration**, along with all the **concelebrants** who were present to **pray for the soul of our dear Sr. Janet**.

The **funeral service** was held on **April 14, 2025, in the Chapel of St. Francis Provincial House, Ajmer, at 4:30 PM**. We thank **Bishop Oswald Lewis, the Apostolic Administrator of Ajmer Diocese, Bishop Emeritus Ignatius Menezes, and Msgr. John Carvalho** for officiating at the **Eucharist** along with the priests for the **repose of the soul of Sr. Janet**.

Today, in **Sr. Janet**, we have an **intercessor in heaven**, along with our **pioneering sisters who have gone before us**. We are **grateful to God for His gift of Sr. Janet to the MSA Congregation and the Church at large**.

– MSA Family
St. Francis Province, Ajmer

मध्यस्थ हमारी माता मरिया

ईश्वर ने दी है हमें एक मध्यस्थ,
माता मरिया के रूप में,
संग रहती है जो सदा हमारे,
क्या छाँव में क्या धूप में।
विश्वभर के तीर्थ स्थलों पर भी,
सदा रहती है वो विद्यमान,
भिन्न भिन्न भाव भंगिमाओं में,
अलग अलग प्रारूप में।।

कहीं हाथ जोड़ विनती करती,
कहीं बाहें फैलाये वो बुलाती है,
कहीं बैठा कर गोद में अपनी,
बालक येसु, को सहलाती है।
कहीं सजाया गहनों से उसको,
घर माथे पर मुकुट रानी का,
राजदण्ड लिये कहीं हाथ में,
जीवन की राह दिखलाती है ।।

तीर्थ अनेक हैं नाम पर उसके,
अनेक बार हैं उसने दिये दर्शन,
उसके द्वारा प्रदत्त कृपाओं का,
जन जन भी करता है वर्णन ।।

श्रद्धा भाव से जब जिसने मांगा,
झोली उसकी भरी है उसने,
निराश नहीं करती अपने भक्तों को,
विश्वास को उनके देती समर्थन।।

कभी आकर ख्वाब में किसी के,
प्रभु का संदेश सुनाती है,
कभी हो कर प्रकट स्वयं ही,
अपना अहसास कराती है।।

साक्ष्य देती है वजूद का अपने,
विराम लगाती अटकलों को,
दे कर दर्शन जन मानस को,
भक्तों का मनोबल बढ़ाती है।।
होती प्रसन्न वो भक्तों के अपने,
माला विनती के जाप से,
इस जाप से भक्त रहता है मुक्त,
पापों के अभिशाप से।।

निहित विनती में दूत का संदेश,
और येसु का धन्य नाम,
संग याचना के विनती के लिये,
मृत्यु समय भक्ति भाव से।।

ममता की मूरत करुणा की देवी,
मानव जाति को वरदान है,
मानव मुक्ति की ईश्वरीय योजना का,
एक अदद फरमान है।।

सदेह स्वर्ग में उठा ली गई वो,
प्रभु के संग विराजमान है,
ईश पुत्र को जन्म देने वाली,
सब संतों में महान् है।।

दुखित हो जाती है माँ मरिया,
जब भी कोई करता अपराध,
अपने बेटे के खोने के डर से,
हो जाती है वह उदास।।

कहती है हर प्राणी से माता,
लौट आओ फिर से प्रभु के पास,
हर गलती को वो करेगा माफ,
उस पर लाओ तुम अपना विश्वास।।

आओ हम सब मिल कर बोलें,
प्रणाम मरिया कुंवारी माँ,
चरणों में हम को बनाये रखना,
दयामयी हे प्यारी माँ।।

जानती वो मंतव्यों को हमारे,
उजागर करने से ही पहले,
प्रभु से हम पापियों के लिये,
करना याचना हे दुलारी माँ।।

– एंथनी ग्रेगरी फर्नाण्डीज 'राज'

Pope St. John Paul II: "In the Sacred Heart, every treasure of wisdom and knowledge is hidden."

ADDRESS OF THE HOLY FATHER TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE JUBILEE AND THE MEETING OF PONTIFICAL REPRESENTATIVES



Dear friends, I am taking my first steps in this ministry that the Lord has entrusted to me. And I also feel towards you what I confided some days ago, when speaking to the Secretariat of State: namely, my gratitude towards those who are helping me to carry out my service day by day. This gratitude is even greater when I think – and directly touch upon as I address various topics – that you work very often goes before me! Yes, and this applies in a particular way to you, because when a situation is presented to me that relates, for example, to the Church in a given country, I can rely on the documentation, reflections and summaries prepared by you and your collaborators. The network of Pontifical Representations is always active and operative. This is for me a cause for great appreciation and gratitude. I say this thinking certainly of the dedication and organization, but, even more so, of the motivations that guide you, the pastoral style that should characterize you, the spirit of faith that inspires us. Thanks to these qualities, I too will be able to experience what Saint Paul VI wrote; that through his Representatives, who reside in various nations, the Pope is able to participate in the very life of his sons and, almost by becoming part of it, becomes aware, in a surer and more rapid way, their needs and at the same time their aspirations (cf. Apostolic Letter issued Motu Proprio *Sollicitudo omnium Ecclesarium*, Introduction).

And now I would like to share with you a biblical image that came to mind when thinking of your mission in relation to mine. At the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles (3:1-10), the story of the healing of the cripple describes the ministry of Peter well. We are at the dawn of Christian experience, and the first community, gathered around the Apostles, knows it can count on a single reality: the risen and living Jesus. A crippled man sits begging at the door of the Temple. It appears to be the image of a humanity that has lost hope and is resigned. Even today, the Church often encounters men and women who no longer have any joy, whom society has sidelined, or whom life has in a certain sense forced into begging for their existence. This page of the Acts relates: "Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said 'Look at us'. He paid attention to them, expecting to receive something from them. Peter said, 'I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, [rise and] walk'. Then Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles grew strong. He leaped up, stood and walked around, and went into the temple with them, walking and jumping and praising God" (3:4-8).

The request Peter makes to this man – "Look at us" – makes us think. To look into one's eyes means to build a relationship. The ministry of Peter is to create relationships, bridges: and a Representative of the Pope, first and foremost, serves this invitation to look into the eyes. Always be the eyes of Peter! Be men capable of building relationships where it is hardest to do. But in doing so, preserve the same humility and the same realism of Peter, who is well aware that he does not have the solution to everything: "I have neither silver nor gold", he says; but he knows he has what counts, namely Christ, the deepest meaning of every existence: "in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, walk!".

To give Christ means to give love, to bear witness to the charity that is ready for everything. I am counting on you so that in the countries where you live, everyone may know that the Church is always ready for everything out of love, that she is always on the side of the last, the poor, and that she will always defend the sacrosanct right to believe in God, to believe that this life is not at the mercy of the powers of this world, but rather is traversed by a mysterious meaning. Only love is worthy of faith, in the face of the suffering of the innocent, the crucified of today, whom many of you know personally, as you serve peoples who are victims of war, violence, and injustice, or even of the false wellbeing that deludes and disappoints.

Dear brothers, may you always be consoled by the fact that your service is *sub umbra Petri*, as you will find engraved on the ring that you will receive as a gift from me. Always feel you are bound to Peter, protected by Peter, sent by Peter. Only in obedience and in effective communion with the Pope may your ministry be effective for the edification of the Church, in communion with the local bishops. Always have a blessing gaze, because the ministry of Peter is to bless, that is, always to know how to see the good, even that which is hidden, which is in the minority. Feel that you are missionaries, sent by the Pope to be tools of communion, unity, serving the dignity of the human person, promoting sincere and constructive relations everywhere with the authorities with whom you are required to cooperate. May your competence always be enlightened by the sound decision for holiness. The Saints who were in the diplomatic service of the Holy See, such as Saint John XXIII and Saint Paul VI, provide an example to us. Dear friends, your presence here today strengthens the awareness that the role of Peter is to confirm in faith. You are the first to need this confirmation in order to become its messengers, visible signs in every part of the world.

May the Holy Door we all passed through together yesterday spur us to be courageous witnesses of Christ, who is always our hope. Thank you.

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संतों के चरण चिन्हों में

धन्य अगस्टस जटोरस्की

अगस्टस वास्तव में पोलैंड के राजघराने के सदस्य थे। राजनीतिक संघर्षों के कारण उनके परिवार को फ्रांस में शरण लेनी पड़ी। उनका जन्म 2 अगस्त 1858 को पेरिस में हुआ। जब वह केवल 6 वर्ष के थे, उनकी माता का स्वर्गवास हो गया। तपेदिक की बीमारी, जो उनकी मां को थी, का अंश अगस्टस को भी प्राप्त हुआ। उस समय इस बीमारी का कोई सही इलाज नहीं था, इसलिए अगस्टस स्वास्थ्य लाभ के लिए विभिन्न देशों में भ्रमण करने लगे। उन्होंने स्विट्जरलैंड, मिस्र, स्पेन आदि देशों का दौरा किया।

इस यात्रा के दौरान उनके मन में स्वास्थ्य से अधिक अपनी बुलाहट (ईश्वर की सेवा करने की आंतरिक पुकार) की चिंता घर कर गई। उन्होंने समझ लिया था कि राजसी जीवन उनके लिए नहीं है। 20 वर्ष की उम्र में उन्होंने अपने पिता को पत्र लिखकर यह सूचित किया कि, "जिन मनोरंजन व पार्टियों में मुझे भाग लेना पड़ रहा है, उनसे मैं तंग आ गया हूँ। यह बेकार के मनोरंजन मुझे पीड़ा पहुँचाते हैं। भोज और दावतों से मैं ऊब चुका हूँ।"

अगस्टस को शिक्षा देने वाले जोसेफ कलिनोविस्की, जो एक कमिट सन्यासी थे, का उन पर गहरा प्रभाव पड़ा। उन्होंने अगस्टस को संत एलॉयसियस गोंजागा, संत कोस्मा और अन्य संतों के जीवन से परिचित कराया। उन्होंने अगस्टस को उनकी बुलाहट पहचानने में मदद की और ईश्वर के साथ गहरी एकता प्राप्त करने के लिए प्रेरित किया। उनका आदर्श वाक्य था, ''"मेरा जन्म महंत (पवित्रता) प्राप्त करने के लिए हुआ है।"''

''डॉन बॉस्को से मुलाकात और बुलाहट''

जब अगस्टस 25 वर्ष के थे, तब उनकी मुलाकात संत डॉन बॉस्को से हुई। डॉन बॉस्को ने पेरिस में अगस्टस के परिवार के चैपल में पवित्र बलिदान चढ़ाया। डॉन बॉस्को को देखकर अगस्टस ने अनुभव किया कि यही वह पिता हैं जो उनके भविष्य का निर्माण करेंगे।

डॉन बॉस्को संकोच कर रहे थे कि किसी राजवंश या धनवान व्यक्ति को समाज में प्रवेश देना सही रहेगा या नहीं। संत पिता लियो 13वें ने डॉन बॉस्को के संदेह को दूर करते हुए अगस्टस का परीक्षण किया और कहा, "यह संत पिता की इच्छा है कि आपको सल्सियन धर्म संघ में शामिल किया जाए।"

डॉन बॉस्को ने संत पिता की इच्छा को मानते हुए अगस्टस को धर्म संघ में भर्ती किया। सन 1887 में अगस्टस ने अपने सारे पारिवारिक मामलों को सुलझाकर संघ में प्रवेश किया।

''संत बनने का मार्ग''

धर्म संघ में, फादर एंड्रिया बेल्ट्रामी उनके मित्र बन गए। दोनों विदेशी भाषाओं का अध्ययन करते और ईश्वर की पवित्रता को प्राप्त करने में एक–दूसरे की सहायता करते।

जब अगस्टस की बीमारी बढ़ने लगी, तो फादर एंड्रिया को उनकी देखभाल का जिम्मा सौंपा गया। 2 अप्रैल 1892 को अगस्टस का पुरोहित अभिषेक हुआ। उनका स्वास्थ्य और खराब हो गया, और 8 अप्रैल 1893 को उन्होंने शनिवार शाम को अंतिम सांस ली। उनकी मृत्यु ईस्टर सप्ताह के दौरान हुई थी।

उन्होंने अपने प्रथम पवित्र बलिदान के कार्ड में लिखा था: "हजार दिनों तक और कहीं रहने से अच्छा है, एक दिन तेरे प्रांगण में रहना। तेरे मंदिर में रहने वाले धन्य हैं, जो निरंतर तेरी स्तुति करते हैं।" (भजन संहिता 83)''

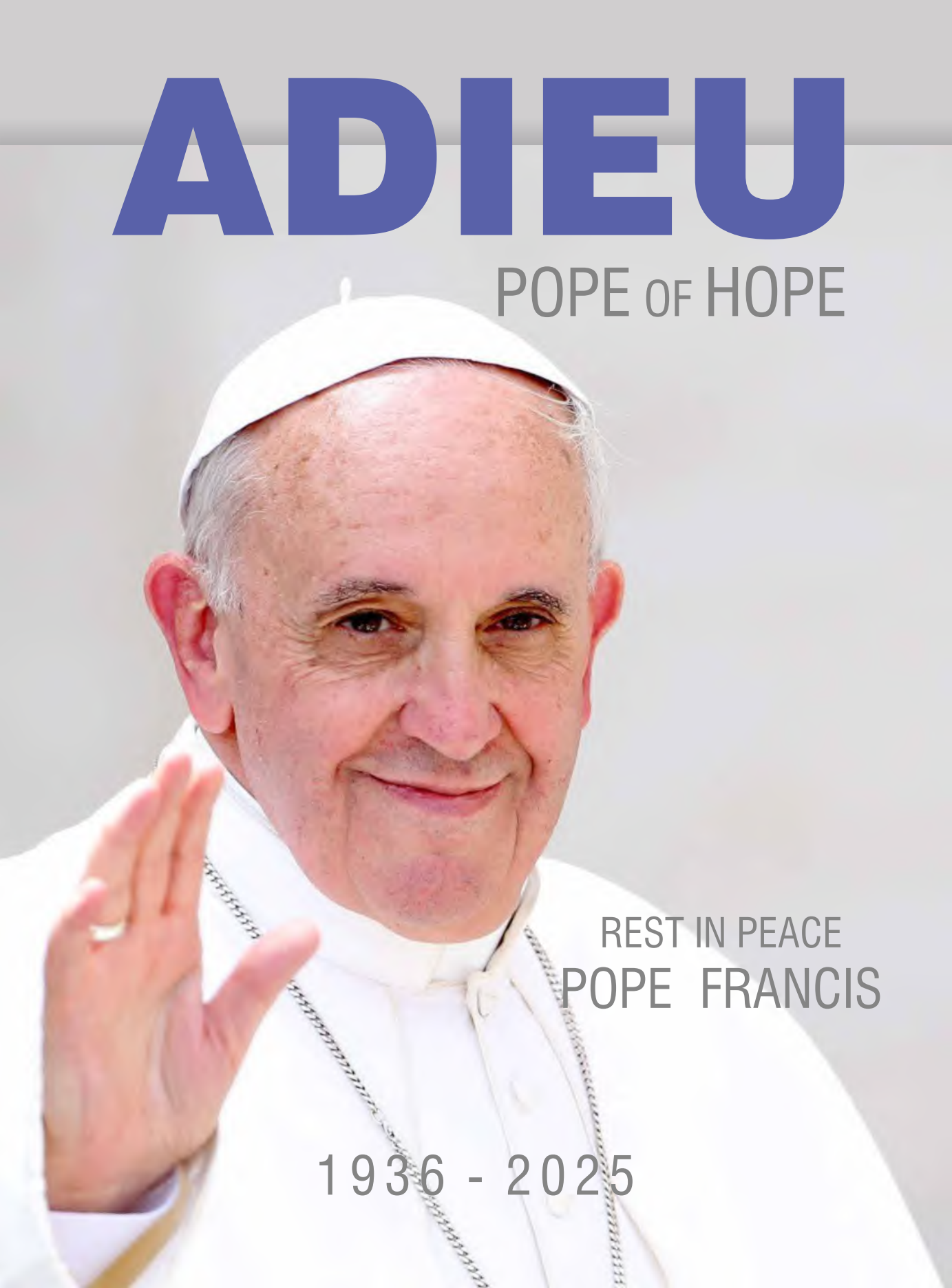
''धन्य घोषित''

अगस्टस ने अपनी बुलाहट और ईश्वर की इच्छा को समझते हुए निर्धनता का जीवन अपनाया। उन्होंने साहस और समर्पण के साथ गरीबों और जरूरतमंदों की सेवा की। उनके ईश्वर प्रेम और सेवा को देखते हुए कलीसिया ने उन्हें धन्य घोषित किया।

– सि. क्लारीसा, पीएसए

ADIEU

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