

Rajasthan Calling

DIOCESE OF AJMER

A Legacy of Faith, A Tradition of Spreading God's Word

50

Golden Moments, Timeless Messages - SINCE 1974

Honoring the Past, Illuminating the Future

Vol.52- No. 1 **January** 2025

Rajasthan Calling 50 Jubilee SPECIAL EDITION

A Legacy of Faith, A Tradition of Spreading God's Word
since

50 Years

Rajasthan Calling



"Let them know that you,
whose name is the Lord -
that you alone are the Most High
over all the earth."
- Psalm 83:18

Dear Reader,

In the golden glow of Rajasthan Calling's jubilee, we pause to thank The Almighty God and pay homage to the architects of this revered legacy. To the editors, whose hearts and hands have lovingly sculpted each edition, we extend our deepest gratitude and admiration.

Oh, valiant shepherds of the written word, your dedication has been the lifeblood of this publication. With every turn of the page, your passion has illuminated our path, guiding us through the annals of faith and community. Your pens, like quills dipped in divine inspiration, have etched stories of hope, reflections of grace, and chronicles of our shared journey.

To Fr. George D'Souza, the visionary whose dream birthed Rajasthan Calling, we bow in reverence. Your pioneering spirit and journalistic mastery laid the cornerstone of this enduring edifice. You wove words into a radiant mosaic of faith, binding us together in a sacred bond. May the souls of all the former chief editors—Fr. George Dsouza, Fr. Cyril Pereira, Fr. Sebastian Carvalho, Fr. Cyril Lobo, and Fr. Peter F. Andrade—who have departed this world find eternal rest. Their dedication and contributions have left a lasting impact, and their memory continues to inspire. I also extend heartfelt congratulations to all the other chief editors—Fr. Aubert Carvalho, Fr. Joseph Olickal, Fr. Mukesh Rawat, Fr. G. Francis, Fr. Raymond Fernandes, and Fr. Alok Rathore—who have diligently carried forward the esteemed legacy of editing and publishing Rajasthan Calling.

In the gentle pages of Rajasthan Calling, 1979, I found myself immersed in contemplation of the sagacity of the venerable priests and their endeavors to communicate. In those bygone days, communication presented a formidable challenge, yet it forged a bridge for unity through this cherished monthly bulletin. They disseminated news from parishes and revered institutions, recounted tales of service, tribulations, and memorable moments with striking clarity. Their connection was profound and heartfelt, enabling individuals to comprehend and feel a sense of belonging. Today, despite our advanced tools, can we truly claim to be connected at heart? In those simpler times, despite the paucity of communication, unity flourished, linking hearts across great distances.



During that era, messages traversed by pen or spoken word, yet their connections remained unwavering. The early articles of Rajasthan Calling gleamed with wit and wisdom, bearing testament to their heartfelt messages. Now, endowed with the marvels of modern communication, we must ponder whether we are genuinely connected. Despite their limited means, those priests remained united in spirit. The motto of Rajasthan Calling, "KNOW – LOVE – SHARE," encourages us to seek unity in the simplest of ways. Let us embrace this noble calling: "KNOW – LOVE – SHARE." By doing so, we can foster a sense of unity and connection, much like the venerable priests of old. In a world brimming with advanced tools, may we not forget the simplicity and profundity of genuine human connection.

Happy New Year -2025 & God Bless

Rev. Fr. Santhosh Francis
Chief Editor

Know - Love - Share

Rajasthan Calling

Since - 1974

A Legacy of Faith,
A Tradition of Sharing God's Word

COMPLETED 50 Glorious Years



PATRON

+ Most Rev. Oswald J. Lewis

Apostolic Administrator

Bishop's House, Kaiser Ganj,
Ajmer - RAJ.

"Speak truth to each other in love." - *Ephesians 4:15*

Rajasthan Calling 50 Jubilee SPECIAL EDITION



Chief Editor

Rev. Fr. Santhosh Francis

As we have completed 50 years of Rajasthan Calling we celebrate this special edition of "Rajasthan Calling" -

A Legacy of Faith,
A Tradition of Sharing God's Word

"Rajasthan still keeps calling and will always be, a noble call which is known to be- RAJASTHAN CALLING."

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We are the proud designers of this Special 50th Jubilee Edition

CONTENTS

- EDITORIAL
- APOSTOLIC NUNCIO'S MESSAGE -2
- JUBILEE YEAR 2025 – -3

GOLDEN JUBILEE WISHES AND MESSAGES
- ARCH BISHOP RAPHY MANJALY -5
- BISHOP OSWALD J. LEWIS -6
- BISHOP IGNATIUS MENEZES -7
- BISHOP DEV PRASAD GANAWA -8
- BISHOP JOSEPH KALLARACKAL -9
- SR GORETTI MSA -10
- SR JOICY PSA -11
- FR COSMOS SHEKHAWAT -12
- JOURNEY OF RAJASTHAN CALLING -13
- LEST WE FORGET -14
- A LABOUR OF LOVE … - 15

FROM THE DESK OF THE FORMER EDITORS
- FR AUBERT CARVALHO -16
- FR JOSEPH OLICKAL -16
- FR MUKESH RAWAT -17
- FR G FRANCIS -18
- FR RAYMOND FERNANDES -18
- FR. ALOK RATHORE -19
- BIRDS EYE VIEW OF DILEXIT NOS -20
- GRANNY'S STORIES - GIFT OF THE MAGI -21
- DIOCESAN BIBLE FESTIVAL -23
- JUBILEE – PILGRIMS OF HOPE -26
- A JOURNEY ENDS, ANOTHER BEGINS -27
- CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER -28
- JODHPUR DEANERY REPORT – JUBILEE 2025 -29

HINDI SECTION
- बिशप स्वामी का सन्देश -31
- सुकेत पल्ली के समाचार -32
- धन्य वचन -33
- संत मत्ती -35
- संत फ्रांसिस जेवियर -36
- संतो की चरण चिन्हो में -38
- न्यायाधीशो की पुस्तक -39
- माढार पल्ली के समाचार -40
- सर्व धर्म मैत्री संग -41
- कुपोषण के खिलाफ एक अभियान -41

RESULTS -43
APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR'S PROGRAM -47
TRIBUTE TO SR. BRENDA MSA -48

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE IN INDIA

The Apostolic Nuncio



Message

On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Rajasthan Calling, the monthly magazine of the Diocese of Ajmer, Iam pleased to convey my hearty congratulations to Rev. Fr. Santhosh Francis, the current chief editor, to all the past chief editors and the Staff of this publication for their tireless efforts and commitment in spreading real news as well as the values of the Gospel and nurturing the faith of the people of God.

It has given me great joy to learn that Rajasthan Calling has published many insightful articles on Church teaching and has offered its readers invaluable guidance on how to live a Christ centered life. It has also given scriptural reflections on various life issues and heartwarming narratives on the theological virtues, thus enabling the people to have an intense encounter with the living God.

Moreover, it provides inspirational reading by providing its readers with practical advice on contemporary challenges of the faith, on thought-provoking life issues and on relevant news items. The magazine also fosters a sense of community among its readers with its featuring stories and events from Catholic communities, both local and global.

May the Rajasthan Calling magazine, through its wide range of articles on spirituality, family values and social issues, inspire us to build God's Kingdom of love, joy and peace.

It is my hope that on the auspicious occasion of the 50-year milestone of this magazine, it continues to spread the light of Christ far and wide, and nurture the spiritual growth and pastoral zeal of the faithful.

New Delhi, 20 January 2025

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE NEW DELHI

+ Leopoldo Girelli

Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli
Apostolic Nuncio

Jubilee Message

Bishop Oswald Lewis
Apostolic Administrator of Ajmer Diocese



Joy, happiness, jubilations and celebrations – Ordinary Jubilee 2025. A long awaited time is over. It is now the fullness of time, a time for joyful celebration. Just as the Israelites waited for centuries for the arrival of the Messiah, we too have been waiting for the past two years. While announcing the Jubilee Year 2025, Pope Francis had given the theme for the Jubilee – "The Pilgrims of Hope". He reminded us that we are all pilgrims here on earth. We march towards our homeland as pilgrims. These two years of waiting period was well planned under the instructions of the Holy Father, himself, as the time of preparation for the ordinary Jubilee. The year 2023 was a year of learning. We studied the Word of God, reading the Holy Scriptures. We studied the Second Vatican documents in particular the four Constitutions: 1. Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium), 2. Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum), 3. Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes), 4. Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilum). The year 2024 was a year of payer. While continuing our learning we prayed earnestly for the coming of the Lord. Meanwhile Pope Francis promulgated a decree known as a "Bull of Indiction titled "Spes Non Confundit" "Hope does not Disappoint" on May 9th 2024, on the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. He directed us to spend the year in spiritual preparation, fasting, doing penance and praying.

The Jubilee 2025 of the Birth of Jesus Christ will be inaugurated on 24 December 2024, Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, with the opening of the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Peter in the Vatican. He will also open the Holy Doors of the other main Basilicas in Rome – Basilica of John the Lateran, Basilica of St. Mary Major, Basilica of St. Paul subsequently. On Sunday 29 December 2024, Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the opening of the Jubilee will be celebrated in various dioceses of the Universal Church. The Solemn Opening of the Jubilee Year takes place at the celebration of the Eucharist at which the diocesan bishop presides in the Cathedral Church, mother of all the Churches of the diocese. This is the only Eucharist to mark the opening of the Jubilee. The celebration of the opening does not take place in other Churches of the diocese.

Jubilee Message

"Pilgrims of Hope" being the central theme of the Jubilee celebration, the solemn opening of the Jubilee Year is marked with the pilgrimage of the faithful to the Cathedral. The blessing of the Cross, especially prepared for the occasion takes place at a given place where people assemble. Then led by the Cross the faithful move in procession to the Cathedral Church for the celebration of the Lord's Day on the feast of the Holy Family. This is the sign of the journey of hope of the pilgrim people behind the Cross of Christ, as shown in the Jubilee logo: In a world in which progress and regression are intertwined, the Cross of Christ remains the anchor of salvation; a sign of hope that does not disappoint because it is founded on the love of God, merciful and faithful" (Pope Francis). It is the journey of the Holy Family of God that in the Church of today advances towards the heavenly Jerusalem. As we march forward in procession we remember the pilgrimages of Israelites. There are many psalms of pilgrimage and of entrance to the temple that describe the joy of the Israelites. Psalm 122/121 is a hymn filled with enthusiasm and happiness of a pilgrim upon arriving at the Temple of Jerusalem. The Temple of Jerusalem was the heart of the people of Israel, for God's presence throbbed there. Similar sentiments of devotion should be ours when we walk in procession to the Cathedral.

As we begin the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025, we recall to mind what Pope Francis said in "Spes Non Confundit" "Hope does not Disappoint", and follow the instructions proposed by the Holy Father. "We are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardship of any kind".

a) Pope Francis called on believers to care for prisoners and appealed to governments to restore hope to prisoners by forms of amnesty or pardon. The faithful and pastors should be demanding dignified conditions for those in prison and abolition of the death penalty.

b) Pope Francis appealed to Christ's faithful to care for the sick at home or in hospital through closeness and affection and care for the elderly who so often feel lonely and abandoned.

c) The Holy Father said that it is very important to offer signs of hope to the young people. "It is sad to see young people who are without hope" because they lack employment, job security and grow discouraged. The Jubilee year should inspire the Church to make greater efforts to draw close to them.

d) He called on believers to offer signs of hope to migrants who leave their homeland in search of better future for themselves and their families. He insisted that "exiles, displaced persons and refuges... ought to be guaranteed security and employment and education, and the means to find their place in a new social context."

In a heartbreaking and powerful plea, Pope Francis appealed, "I ask with all my heart that hope be granted to the millions of the poor, who often lack the essentials of life." "It is scandalous, he said, "that in a world possessed of immense resources, destined largely to producing weapons, the poor continue to be the majority of the planet's population." Pope Francis said the Jubilee Year reminds us that "the goods of the earth are not destined for a privileged few, but for everyone, and the rich must be generous and not avert their eyes from the faces of their brothers and sisters in need." He appealed to the governments to divert money away from military spending towards a global fund for the purpose of ending hunger and helping the development of poor countries. He called on more affluent nations "to forgive the debts of countries that will never be able to repay them."

Thus we begin the Ordinary Jubilee 2025 with great enthusiasm and gratitude to God who has provided us an opportunity to celebrate. I wish you all A Very Prosperous New Year.

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF AGRA



CATHEDRAL HOUSE
WAZIRPURA ROAD,
AGRA - U.P. (INDIA)

Most Rev. Dr. Raphy Manjaly
Archbishop of Agra

It gives me much pleasure to write a message for the golden jubilee issue of "Rajasthan Calling", the monthly magazine of the Diocese of Ajmer. First of all, I offer my heartiest congratulations to Fr. Santosh Francis and to the members of the Editorial Board. Fifty years of community building, fostering faith and engagement in constructive dialogue are worth celebrating.

A jubilee is an occasion to look into the past with gratitude. The persons who took the initiative to bring this Diocesan magazine to life and those who enhanced its quality and fame deserve a grateful remembrance. Thanks to all who wrote for, edited, published and distributed the magazine, Ajmer Diocesan family remained connected with one another, committed to Christ and his Church, and gave witness to the Gospel.

As you enthusiastically celebrate in the present your achievements of the past, you need to brace yourselves to face the challenges that the coming years will throw at you.

If you are united, if you have faith in the loving guidance of God and if you are prepared to work hard, you will have greater achievements and a glorious future.

As I invoke God's blessing on the diocese of Ajmer, I pray that Rajasthan Calling may go from strength to strength.

+ Raphy Manjaly
Archbishop of Agra

Catholic Diocese of Ajmer

Bishop's House, Kaiser Ganj, Ajmer - RAJ.



† Most Rev. Oswald J. Lewis
Apostolic Administrator

MESSAGE

It gives me immense joy to learn that "Rajasthan Calling" is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of its existence and dedicated service to the faithful of Rajputana and especially of Ajmer diocese. This momentous occasion of the Golden Jubilee truly calls for splendid celebrations and jubilations. Above all it is the most treasured day to thank and praise God for His benevolence, guidance, inspirations, directions and His choicest blessings.

At the outset, my heart goes out to the first visionary Patron Most Rev. Leo D'Mello, who had the foresight to start "Rajasthan Calling" as the diocesan bulletin to peculate news of views of Ajmer diocese to the faithful, Religious and Priests of entire Rajputana. This noble dream was further enhanced by Most Rev. Ignatius Menezes who watered and nurtured the plant for a record period of 34 years as it blossomed and bore fruits a hundred fold. Another decade was the turn of Bp. Pius Thomas D'Souza who left no stone unturned for the growth of Rajasthan Calling. The former editors with their team have equally contributed with their novel ideas and purposeful imagination, at times with colourful new clothing, as the monthly bulletin has grown by leaps and bounds. The present editor Rev. Fr. Santhosh Francis and his team have kept up the bulletin ever green and fresh.

Print Media was and still is the most powerful wing of mass media. It provides current information, enhances knowledge, ignites minds, records historical events, sets fire on burning issues reporting on current events, and keeps everyone well informed. Print Media is a blessing for tiny tots who enjoy the cartoons and enrich themselves with humorous short stories. Innumerable volumes of books, magazines, news papers and bulletins down the centuries are a proof of this print media.

"Rajasthan Calling" is one of those most significant outstanding monthly bulletins fulfilling its vision and mission for the past five decades. It keeps united all faithful, clergy and religious, young and old as members of one family; it knits the parishes, villages and cities into one unit providing the necessary information, news and views of all parishes and mission stations. The faithful of Ajmer Diocese become aware of the events and activities taking place in different parts of the diocese.

Rajasthan Calling is the most important instrument of the Proclamation of the Gospel and works of Evangelization through the articles, messages, and various writings published in it that reaches out to people of all walks of life. It is a source of wisdom and knowledge as it provides serious reading to one and all. It enriches our knowledge of the Biblical teachings, Church history, Catechism of the Catholic Church, moral values. It also acquaints us with the knowledge of parishes and mission stations.

Celebration of the Golden Jubilee is an occasion to look at the past — Be grateful to God, praise and thank Him; appreciate the work done in the past and the people who contributed a great deal and worked with utmost dedication. It is a moment of evaluating the present and see where we are, what is being done and how do we fare. Golden Jubilee is an opportunity to plan the future. A short — term plan and a long — term plan has to be drawn up. The future needs and challenges are kept in mind. Thus the present Editor and his Editorial team will have a daunting task before them.

Once again I congratulate the Bishops, past editors and all those contributed for the progress of Rajasthan Calling. I convey my warm felicitations to the present editor and his team.

May the light of Christ shine brightly in and through Rajasthan Calling.

MOST REV. OSWALD J. LEWIS ★ APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR ★

† Most Rev. Oswald J. Lewis
Apostolic Administrator

Rajasthan Calling

The Monthly Bulletin of the Diocese of Ajmer



If anyone opens the Diocesan Directory of the Diocese of Ajmer, on the first page itself, it mentions the Vision of the diocese, namely: "The Church in the Diocese of Ajmer is envisaged as a communion of small communities where the laity, clergy, and religious live and collaborate with each other as brothers and sisters. Rooted in the Word of God and enlightened by the teaching of the Church, they pray, share, and discuss the plan of God for them and reach out in service for the total transformation of their lives, their neighbourhood, and society."

To achieve this vision, I who was consecrated on February 2, 1979, wanted to publish a monthly bulletin, so that I could communicate with my flock and others, and share the ideas, plans, and activities of every Parish and Mission Centre with each one, so as to form a think tank group in the diocese. The Bulletin would have a space for an Editorial, a space for the Shepherd's Voice, a space for official documents of the Church (Pope's Encyclicals, Congregational messages), a space for news from the Parishes, spiritual articles, and important trends in the diocese and country. It was also my desire that a copy of this Bulletin should reach every home in the diocese, all benefactors and friends. Thus this bulletin would become a catalyst of witnessing and evangelical communities, who would know the different events and build up a relationship which ultimately would transform their lives and ignorance of each other would disappear. Communication of news, events, and incidents of families and communities is a source of knowledge and growth in any country, society, and diocese. Since in 1979, the diocese of Ajmer-Jaipur consisted of 33 districts and also part of Madhya Pradesh, I thought and decided that a Diocesan Bulletin was absolutely necessary and essential. Such an attempt would cost the Diocese quite a bit, yet it was needed to grow in knowledge of the events in the diocese. Secondly, such an attempt would help many of our students, religious sisters, and members of the laity to become budding future writers who could take part in journalism in the future.

I was aware of the “Rajasthan Calling” which Fr. George D'Souza started on his own in 1974 or 1975. He was the Editor, Publisher, and Writer. He did not bring it up as a monthly, rather as a journal in order to share the news and views of the diocese. But from July 1979, it became an official diocesan bulletin and has been regularly printed and published until now. From the beginning, with the help of some subscriptions, the diocese bore the brunt of collecting the articles and news from the diocese and published them. But later, when many schools developed in the diocese, they were asked to help the diocese financially.

It is my ardent desire that every Catholic family should subscribe to this “Rajasthan Calling” and update their knowledge on the message of the Shepherd of the diocese, his plans and programmes, update their knowledge of the documents of the diocese, Parish News and programmes, and activities and articles by freelancers. It can bring about a lot of good. The subscription is just Rs. 100/- per year, which is reasonable as a mode of communication in the diocese. I would encourage each family and home to subscribe to the same. I wish the Editor the best cooperation.

May God Bless You

† Ignatius Menezes
Bishop Emeritus-Ajmer

Catholic Diocese of Udaipur

"Khristanjali", Bishop's House, 1-Alipura, Udaipur (Rajasthan) 313 001 INDIA



Rt. Rev. Devprasad Ganawa SVD
Bishop of Udaipur

Date:10/01/2025

Greetings of joy and peace in Christ!

It is with immense happiness that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Diocese of Ajmer on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of your beloved diocesan bulletin, ***Rajasthan Calling***. This remarkable milestone is a testimony to the enduring commitment of our 'Mother diocese' to fostering faith, unity, and dialogue over the past 50 years.

Rajasthan Calling has undoubtedly been a beacon of communication and evangelization, bringing the Good News to countless readers. Through its pages, it has nurtured spirituality, strengthened bonds within the community, and been a vital platform for sharing the life and mission of the Church in Rajasthan.

This Golden Jubilee is not merely a celebration of years but a celebration of the countless lives touched, hearts uplifted, and faith deepened through this initiative. I commend all those who have contributed to its journey — editors, writers, and contributors, both past and present. Your dedication has been instrumental in sustaining the vision of this noble mission.

As you celebrate this momentous occasion, I pray that ***Rajasthan Calling*** continues to be a channel of God's love and truth, guiding and inspiring the faithful in the years to come. May it remain a powerful voice in proclaiming the Gospel and fostering unity among the people of Rajasthan.

May Our Lord Jesus Christ bless this endeavor abundantly, and may Mother Mary continue to intercede for the fruitful mission of your diocese.

With prayers and blessings,

Yours in the Divine Word,

BISHOP OF UDAIPUR

+ DEVPRASAD GANAWA SVD
Bishop of Udaipur



Diocese of Jaipur

Bishop's House Ghat Gate, Jaipur

Rt. Rev. Joseph Kallarackal
Bishop of Jaipur

Prayerful wishes and warm greetings!

My heart is filled with gratitude and joy as we celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Rajasthan Calling, our beloved diocesan magazine. This milestone is a testament to fifty years of unwavering commitment to fostering faith, building unity, and sharing the main events occurring in the diocese.

For half a century, Rajasthan Calling has been more than a publication; it has been a voice of hope, a beacon of inspiration, and a witness to God's grace at work in our lives. Through its pages, it has faithfully chronicled our journey as a community, shared the Good News, and provided spiritual nourishment to countless readers, especially to the diocesan community. The success of this magazine is not merely an achievement but a collective endeavour. It stands as a tribute to the visionary leaders, dedicated editors, committed contributors, and loyal readers who have nurtured it with their faith and efforts over the years. To each of you, I extend my heartfelt gratitude.

This Golden Jubilee is an invitation for us to reflect on the rich legacy we have inherited from the French Capuchin Fathers and to recommit ourselves to the mission of spreading the Gospel and fostering a culture of dialogue and unity. In a world often divided by strife and misunderstanding, let Rajasthan Calling continue to be a channel of peace, hope, and love—a voice that resonates with the timeless message of Christ.

As we celebrate this joyous occasion, let us draw inspiration from Scripture: “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). May this magazine continue to be a light shining in the darkness, guiding hearts toward God and building bridges of understanding in our community.

With great joy, I extend my blessings and congratulations to the entire Rajasthan Calling team and to all who have contributed to this extraordinary journey. May the Immaculate Conception, the patroness of the diocese, continue to intercede for us.

Yours in Our Lord,

+Joseph Kallarackal
Bishop of Jaipur



MISSION SISTERS OF AJMER



Happy Golden Jubilee!

Fifty years of reporting the news of the Diocese of Ajmer, insightful features, thought-provoking articles, and spiritual reflections have made Rajasthan Calling a staple in our Diocesan circles.

Over the past five decades, the dedication of various editors and their teams have made it a cherished magazine for the Catholics of Ajmer and those connected with the Diocese. As RC celebrates this remarkable milestone, we salute your contributions to the world of the Catholic fraternity of North India.

As the Superior General of the Mission Sisters of Ajmer, I am indebted to RC. We have been fortunate to work in the Diocese, in Ajmer where our Mother House and Provincialate are situated. All our significant events celebrated in our Mission Sisters Houses have been well covered, generously published, and circulated around the country.

We are grateful to the Patrons, editors, and their teams of this magazine for not just the news articles, but also for providing a firsthand report of all the activities and ministries of the Diocese. This has been an inspiration for our younger sisters and formees. Most of our elderly sisters eagerly wait to hear about the happenings in the Diocese, where they have worked selflessly and with utmost dedication.

Wishing you, dear Fr. Santosh, and your team an illustrious journey ahead.

Warm regards,

Sr. Goretti MSA
Superior General, MSA



Prabhudasi Sisters of Ajmer



"The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoice."
– Psalm 126:3

Warmest congratulations on the Golden Jubilee of Rajasthan Calling!

For 50 remarkable years, Rajasthan Calling has been a beacon of faith, a vital channel of communication, and a wellspring of inspiration for countless faithful. Through its insightful articles, pastoral reflections, and valuable news, the magazine has united hearts, enriched minds, and nurtured spiritual growth. It has provided a platform for youth and religious alike to share their thoughts, contribute articles, and report news, fostering a sense of community and encouraging talents to blossom.

As a congregation deeply rooted in the soil of Rajasthan, we, the Prabhudasi Sisters, rejoice with you on this momentous occasion. We join in thanking God for the countless blessings bestowed through this cherished publication, which has strengthened the faith of many across Rajasthan and beyond. On this golden occasion, the PSA family extends heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Rev. Fr. Santosh Francis, the Chief Editor of Rajasthan Calling, and the esteemed Editorial Team. Your tireless efforts and vision have brought this legacy to life. May Rajasthan Calling continue to shine as a ray of hope and a voice of truth, drawing all closer to Christ.

Assuring you of our prayers and support, we look forward to seeing this legacy flourish in the years to come.

With warm regards and prayers,

Sr. Joicy PSA
Superior General
Prabhudasi Sisters of Ajmer



Rajasthan Calling is completing 50 years of its journey in Rajasthan as a news diary of the diocese. It is a great occasion to reflect on its initial stages. The beginning is always humble, and so was the inception of Rajasthan Calling. It was initiated by the late Fr. George D'Souza and served the Rajputana mission in Rajasthan, encompassing the entire region. From the very beginning until today, many hands have nurtured it. It has undergone changes according to the visions of various directors. All have strived to enhance its appearance both externally and internally, making it more presentable to the readers.

Rajasthan Calling is colorful today, covering the various activities of the diocese. It is very informative, allowing everyone to know what is happening in every nook and corner of the diocese. The people come to know about the activities of other parishes. In the beginning, it was only for the priests and the religious. Today, the laypeople of the diocese also have access to Rajasthan Calling. This is another great achievement as the people benefit and are encouraged to write articles and update with the facts and information about the parishes and the diocese.

The people get to know the program of the bishop and his messages to his flock. Today, people wait and ask for Rajasthan Calling and are eager to learn about the functioning of the other parishes and the diocese. As Rajasthan Calling completes its 50 years of journey, it is a proud moment for all of us—bishops, priests, religious, and the people of God. We salute all the directors, writers, editors, and everyone connected with compiling Rajasthan Calling. I wish all the best to Father Santosh, the present director, and his team.

Thank you,

Rev. Fr. Cosmos Shekhawat



JOURNEY OF Rajasthan Calling

Call it Rajasthan, Call it Rajputana: It shows a relationship that is as unique as natural. Raja = King/Royal and Sthan/Putana = Land/Son. Never have Father and Son come together as in the names Rajputana/Rajasthan.

The Holy See established the Rajasthan Mission in 1890 as a separate unit, from the Archdiocese of Agra. The Capuchin Fathers of the Paris Province were put in charge of this mission. Over the years many changes to its name and territory took place.

In 1949, Ajmer, as a Diocese was handed over to the diocesan clergy and in 1955 renamed as Diocese of Ajmer-Jaipur. In 2005 the diocese was split into the Diocese of Ajmer and the Diocese of Jaipur. On 20th July 2005 it was renamed as the Diocese of Ajmer. The diocese's patrons are Our Lady of Immaculate Conception and St Francis of Assisi.

Around the year 1960, senior seminarians of St Theresa's Minor Seminary at Mirshali in Ajmer, began to prepare to go to Major Seminary to continue their studies post school Matric (as it was then called). They realized that they would now be separated in smaller units and would be out of Ajmer, admitted to other Major Seminaries in Mangalore, Allahabad, Ranchi, Nagpur, Mumbai and Pune and elsewhere. With this, it would be difficult to get news about one another while they pursued their studies. It was then decided to have an "INTER NOS" among themselves. This gave birth to a monthly magazine for correspondence, and "FRATERNAL BOND" came into being. It was a unique concept initiated to unite the major seminarians scattered over 7 seminaries. Initially it was of four pages. The Fraternal Bond was a single typed copy going around 7 seminaries, each seminary adding comments news and titbits. Later, Fr George D'souza who was ordained on Dec 3, 1963 was given charge as Assistant at Minor Seminary and took further interest in Major Seminarians. He was a very good writer and had flair for languages. This increased the flow of news and also news from other parishes mainly of Ajmer city, started coming in. In late 60s and early 70s the need to have a Diocesan Magazine increased. With the help and guidance of late Bp Leo D'mello, Fr George D'souza began the journey and led our just born "Fraternal Bond" to grow into becoming our Ajmer's "RAJASTHAN CALLING''. He was the founder and the first editor of the magazine. Fr George D'souza would write the editorial, articles, information received from other parishes; all in English. Hats off to Bp Ignatius Menezes, for exploiting the linguistic talents of Fr George D'souza for English communication. Write-ups in Hindi followed much later when PSA Sisters Dominica and Clarissa contributed for Hindi version. Also, would like to mention that Fr R H Lesser contributed many articles to the magazine. Fr Cyriac Vally, took up the responsibility of printing from Fr Sebastian Carvalho, which was then done in B/W at St Anselm Press, located near Bishop's House at Kaisarganj, Ajmer. Sometime later, the printing press was renewed to accommodate colour printing.

By the continued support and encouragement of Bp Emeritus Ignatius Menezes, Bp Emeritus Pius Thomas D'souza and the present Most Rev Oswald Lewis, Apostolic Administrator and Patron, Rajasthan Calling thus became official monthly magazine of Ajmer Diocese. Previously, the news were mainly school oriented. Today, fifty years later, news from Churches and schools where the diocesan priests and religious are working has taken prominence. Each issue now is full of vibrant colour photos and news from Parishes of the Ajmer Diocese in English and Hindi and Deanery news from Ajmer, Mt Abu, Jodhpur and Kota.

Ever since our Rajasthan Calling came into this New Life, it has been providing news and information, even when we are away from Ajmer. May it continue to be CALLING us in the years to come.

And today Rajasthan still keeps calling and will always be, a noble call which is known to be- RAJASTHAN CALLING.

Rev. Fr. William Barrocas

(With inputs from to Fr Hyacinth Pinto)



Lest we forget...

Dear Readers,

It is a matter of great joy to know that The Rajasthan Calling, the official magazine cum newsletter of Ajmer Diocese, has seen fifty years of its existence—that is half a century. No mean feat. As we celebrate the 50 years of the existence of Rajasthan Calling, it is good for us to have a look at its origin and the phases it has gone through.

Rajasthan Calling had its genesis with the newsletter called Fraternal Bond, a newsletter that was circulated among the major seminarians of the Diocese. Our seminarians then studied in various seminaries across the country like Mangalore, Allahabad, Ponammalle (Tamil Nadu), Ranchi, Nagpur, and even out of the country in Kandy, Sri Lanka (later shifted to the present Papal Seminary in Pune). To keep in touch with the seminarians studying in these various seminaries, letters sharing news were compiled into the newsletter, Fraternal Bond, which was then a few cyclostyled sheets. Later, this newsletter was circulated among the priests in the Diocese and came to be named Inter Nos (a Latin phrase meaning "Between us"). The present Rajasthan Calling was the individual effort of the great, versatile priest of the Diocese, Fr. George D'Souza, who was himself a trained journalist and a prolific writer. He conceived the idea to start a newsletter for the Diocese, calling it Rajasthan Calling, similar to St. Anselm's Calling, the school monthly bulletin of St. Anselm's School.

In 1974, a few like-minded priests (Fr. Joseph Pathallil, later Bishop of Udaipur, Fr. Subhash Anand, Fr. Bruno D'Souza, Fr. Raymond Coelho, Fr. Clarence Dias, Fr. Cyril Pereira, and Fr. Cyril Lobo) came together under the leadership of Fr. George D'Souza to start Rajasthan Calling, with Fr. George D'Souza as its first editor. He single-handedly managed it from 1974 to 1989, regardless of his postings (Parbatpura and Minor Seminary). The mantle of the editorship was then passed to Fr. Cyril Lobo when, in 1989, Fr. George D'Souza went to Manila for a year to do a course in Pastoral Theology. Since then, many have handled the post of the Editor, and the responsibility eventually came to the Director of the Pastoral Centre, with the current incumbent shouldering the responsibility at present.

Rajasthan Calling started as a monthly newsletter with some articles and a very interesting column well-written by Fr. George, titled "News of Men, Matters and Things." This column was eagerly awaited month after month (sadly, the earliest copies of Rajasthan Calling are not to be found anywhere). Rajasthan Calling, in its span of fifty years of circulation, has seen three Bishops: Bishop Leo D'Mello (1974-1979), Bishop Ignatius Menezes (1979-2013), and Bishop Pius D'Souza (2013-2024), and now the Apostolic Administrator. From 1974 till 1979, it was an enterprise managed by the few priests named above. But in 1979, after Bishop Ignatius took up the reins of the Ajmer Diocese, Rajasthan Calling was elevated to the official status of the Diocesan Magazine (an official organ of the Diocese), a status it enjoys even today, carrying all the official announcements of the Diocese.

Over the years, things change and so has Rajasthan Calling, right from its shape and size to the contents it carries today. Rajasthan Calling has provided a platform for the priests, religious, and laity of the Diocese to share news, events, and stories from across the Diocese, showcasing the vibrant life of the Catholic community in the Diocese of Ajmer. As we thank God for sustaining this official bulletin cum newsletter of the Diocese for the last 50 years, let us not forget to thank Fr. George D'Souza and his companions who brought it to birth and nurtured it for so many years, and also offer a wee prayer for them. All of them, except Fr. Bruno D'Souza and Fr. Raymond Coelho, are enjoying their eternal reward. Our thanks are due to the editors who, after Frs. George D'Souza and Cyril Lobo, handled this responsibility. Thanks and appreciation to the many writers who have contributed through articles, news of events in the Diocese and parishes, their personal testimonies, and more, not forgetting the many benefactors and subscribers who have helped sustain it for half a century. God bless them all.

May Rajasthan Calling live long, bringing together the priests, the religious, and the laity on this common platform of sharing their faith through news of Men, Matters and Things.

Rev. Fr. Jose Mathias



A Labour of Love in the Journey of
RAJASTHAN CALLING

When Rev. Fr. Santhosh, the editor, asked me to pen a few lines as the printer and proofreader of Rajasthan Calling, I was overwhelmed with gratitude, nostalgia, and joy. For 6 years, from 2003 to 2008, I had the privilege of serving as a proofreader and printer of this magazine that inspired and informed the readers. Today, looking back, all I want to say is, "What an incredible journey it has been!"

It was a source of pride for all in the Ajmer diocese that the magazine was printed in the first press of Ajmer, St. Anselm's Press, which had 97 years of legacy in 2008. Rev. Fr. Aubert Carvalho was the editor then, and it was an uphill task for him (could be the headache of the subsequent editors too) to get the articles before the deadline. Invariably, he would come apologising for being late, with an added request to print it within two days. Running against the clock, I still remember nervously scanning every page, every article, and every caption to ensure accuracy and clarity in each issue. Little did I know that this would be the start of a labour of love, a journey that would not only hone my skills as a proofreader but also deepen my faith and connection with the diocesan community.

Over the years, I had the opportunity to work with Emeritus Bishop Ignatius, Fr. Aubert Carvalho, the editor, the late Rev. Fr. Clarence Dias, the late Rev. Fr. Cyriac Vally, the late Mr. Michael Sir, the late Mr. Paul Michael, the late Sr. Dominica PSA, Sr. Clarissa PSA, Sr. Dionysia PSA, and scores of talented writers from various parishes who shared a common passion—to spread the Good News and inspire our readers with articles, stories, poems, and news. Together, we poured our hearts and souls into every issue, striving for excellence and precision.

As a proofreader, I was often the last line of defence before an issue went to print. It was a responsibility I took seriously, knowing that even a small error could detract from the message. (History says that there were occasions when a message from the Bishop turned into a massage due to a lack of proper proofreading.) But it was also a privilege, as I got to see the magazine come together, page by page, article by article. We witnessed the impact of the magazine on our readers, who were touched, inspired, or challenged by an article, story, news, or views, in their subtle appreciation. It was a reminder that our work was not just about printing words on paper but about spreading hope, love, and light.

As a proofreader, I am filled with gratitude for the experience. It taught me attention to detail, patience, and perseverance. But more importantly, it deepened my faith and connection with the diocesan community. As history speaks, Fraternal Bond turned Rajasthan Calling celebrates its Golden Jubilee, I offer my warmest congratulations to the editorial team, past and present. May this milestone mark the beginning of a new chapter in the magazine's journey, one filled with continued growth, inspiration, and faith.

I wish many more years of inspiration and information to all the stakeholders of the magazine.

With Blessings

Rev. Fr. Varghese Peter Palappallil

From the Former Chief Editor



Rajasthan has had an interesting journey over the years. After its foundation, there were no formal appointments or elections for the editors. It just happened! One moved out, and the next moved in. The earlier volumes served as the guide for the new editor. I took over the magazine as a newsletter for the Diocese. It was printed on ordinary paper, and the only color it had was the color of the cover page. One year light blue, the next year light green, followed by light yellow, then light pink, and back to light blue. Only on some very special occasions was there a page with some colored photos. Later, the cover featured colored photos, mostly inside the front cover and inside the back cover.

As time progressed, some articles and poems became a part of the magazine. However, as more news articles came in with new institutions and various liturgical celebrations in Parishes and Missions, the number of articles had to be restricted in favor of news items. The offset printing machine at St. Anselm's Press made a big difference to the print quality, as different fonts and font sizes changed the whole layout, making the magazine more appealing. We were able to print photographs of important celebrations in the Diocese in color.

Many people in the Diocese wish to know what is happening, and the most important and reliable means of information is the Rajasthan Calling. I hope that Rajasthan Calling becomes a more popular and sought-after magazine in the Diocese.

May God continue to guide and bless the present editor, all the previous editors, and the Rajasthan Calling.

Rev. Fr. Aubert Carvalho
July 2000 - June 2013



Dear Readers,

From the Former Chief Editor

As we celebrate the legacy of Rajasthan Calling, it is only fitting to take a moment to honor the remarkable individuals who have held the pen and shaped the voice of our beloved publication. The previous editors, with their unique styles and unwavering dedication, have woven a tapestry of words that continues to resonate with our readers.

Each editor brought a distinct flair to the pages of Rajasthan Calling, infusing their writing with a blend of insight, creativity, and passion. Fr. George D'Souza, our pioneering founder and first editor, set the gold standard with his eloquent prose and journalistic prowess. His column, "News of Men, Matters, and Things," was more than just a collection of words; it was a window into the soul of our community. Fr. George's ability to capture the essence of everyday life with wit and wisdom left an indelible mark on our publication.

The torch was then passed to a lineage of editors who each added their unique brushstrokes to the canvas. Each brought a fresh perspective and a renewed sense of purpose to the publication. Their contributions ranged from thought-provoking articles to heartfelt reflections, all crafted with a commitment to truth and integrity.

In honoring our editors and writers, we celebrate their craft, their dedication, and their unwavering commitment to the mission of Rajasthan Calling. Let us continue to be inspired by their words and strive to uphold the values they championed.

Rev. Fr. Joseph Olickal
July 2013- June 2014

Dear readers of Rajasthan Calling,

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

It is with immense joy that I thank God Almighty for 50 glorious years of our beloved Diocesan magazine. It has kept each one of us attuned to the progress and needs of the Diocese, Catholic communities, and the faithful at large.



These golden 50 years also call upon us to extend our gratitude to those early fathers, i.e., Frs. Francis Andrade and Fr. Sebastian Carvalho, and others, who took so much pain and hard work to bring up this magazine and strengthen it to continue till our time. Marvellous have been their efforts. I recall some 33 years ago when Fr. Sebastian Carvalho used to sit very late at night in the old letter press at St. Anselm's campus and the great old Fr. Francis Andrade doing the proofreading alone by himself. May God grant them eternal rest and reward. As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, we pay tribute to the visionaries who founded Rajasthan Calling and to the countless individuals who have contributed to its growth and success over the years. We also express our deepest gratitude to our readers, who have remained faithful to the magazine through thick and thin.

Rajasthan Calling has been a good source of information about the progress and activities in the Diocese, and even now it has been doing well in this mission. In the recent past, the innovative presentation has made it more readable and appreciated by the faithful. Let us always keep in mind that our thoughts and writing abilities would further contribute to and enhance its monthly edition. As we enter into a new era of our beloved Diocesan magazine, we pray more to the Holy Spirit to grant more knowledge and understanding of its presence with us, to acknowledge what we obtain from it, and to strengthen our faith and life.

As the year draws to a close, let's reflect on the incredible blessings in our lives. Strong faith and good health are the precious gifts that deserve our gratitude to God. The love and unity in Christ Jesus that we share with our authorities and parishioners, family, friends, and those who show us various angles of approach to life of faith and love are powerful sources of joy, strength, and direction to make our lives better every day.

"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." (Psalm 126:3)

THANK YOU, dear readers, for being a part of the Rajasthan Calling family. I wish each one a very Happy, Holy, and Prosperous New Year 2025.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Mukesh Rawat
July 2014 - June 2015

From the Former Chief Editor



It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest felicitations on the 50th Anniversary of the publication of Rajasthan Calling magazine. This venerable publication has been a shining beacon of inspiration, providing a wealth of information and showcasing the talents of individuals across various age groups. Through its engaging articles, poignant poems, and insightful features, the magazine has not only acknowledged the accomplishments of deserving individuals but also nurtured the creative potential of young and old alike, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose.

The magazine's scope is noteworthy, extending beyond the life and legacy of our Founder Rt. Rev. Fortunatus Henry Caumont to encompass the lives of saints, as chronicled in the book Santo ki Jivani. It also features the Bishop's messages, reports on ordination ceremonies, and birthday greetings, serving as a platform for obituaries, both national and international, and providing valuable insights into the views and news of bishops from around the world.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, I wish to acknowledge the magazine's profound impact in fostering a sense of connection and community among its subscribers, both within India and internationally. Please accept my best wishes on this joyous occasion, and I look forward to the magazine's continued success in the years to come, as it remains a vital source of information, inspiration, and guidance for its readers.

Rev. Fr. G. Francis
July 2015 - June 2020

From the Former Chief Editor



Dear Readers,

Hearty congratulations on the Golden Jubilee edition of Rajasthan Calling!

I am truly delighted to witness the Ajmer Diocesan News Bulletin, "Rajasthan Calling" reach the extraordinary milestone of 50 years. It has been a profound honor for me to serve as the Chief Editor from 2020 to 2023. During my tenure, we faced many challenges, particularly during the pandemic. Yet, with the unwavering guidance of our Emeritus Bishop, Rt. Rev. Pius Thomas D'Souza, we managed to persevere and continue publishing the bulletin against all odds.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our editorial board members, writers, and contributors. Their tireless efforts and unwavering commitment were instrumental in making each issue a success, allowing us to navigate through those difficult times with creativity and dedication. As we celebrate this Golden Jubilee, I wish the new team all the best in their endeavors. May their enthusiasm and commitment continue to make Rajasthan Calling a beacon of hope and inspiration for our diocesan community and all readers.

Once again, congratulations on this remarkable achievement!

Warm regards,

Rev. Fr. Raymond Fernandes
July 2020 - June 2023

From the Former Chief Editor



I would say that it is historical and ironic as our diocesan magazine, "Rajasthan Calling," completes its 50-year journey. I congratulate all the editors of the past 50 years. This type of Facebook invites readers to know more about the Diocese of Ajmer and the activities held every month. I really admire the various writers for giving us their valuable time by writing articles for "Rajasthan Calling." I also appreciate the efforts of various parishes for sharing their activities through this medium.

May God continue to bless our diocese and our diocesan magazine.

Rev. Fr. Alok Rathore
July 2023 - June 2024



"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Zechariah 9:9

United Carol Singing - Jodhpur Deanery



Christmas Get Together - Ajmer Deanery





Bird's Eye View of Dilexit Nos:

On the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ

by Pope Francis



Pope Francis asserts in his latest encyclical, "Dilexit Nos" ("He Loved Us"), "All of us need to rediscover the importance of the heart." "Dilexit Nos" was released on October 24, 2024. The title comes from Rom 8:37, where Saint Paul says, "Christ loved us." This letter carries a powerful message of compassion and love as the antidote to a world increasingly marred by violence and division. Pope Francis shows that, through the Sacred Heart, we are called to learn how to love one another and build a world rooted in justice and mercy.

1. The Importance of the Heart: One needs to guard the heart, seeking what is truly important in life rather than what is superficial (#3–8). In the opening chapter, Pope Francis reflects on the significance of the heart as a symbol of divine love, especially through devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. "Let us turn, then, to the heart of Christ, that core of his being, which is a blazing furnace of divine and human love and the most sublime fulfillment to which humanity can aspire. There, in that heart, we truly come at last to know ourselves and we learn how to love" (#30).

2. Actions and Words of Love: In the short second chapter, Francis reflects on the "concrete actions" and words of Christ that revealed the depth of his love for human beings. Jesus' encounters in the Gospels—whether comforting the sick or forgiving sinners—demonstrate the depth of God's love through personal and compassionate actions (#32-43).

3. This is the Heart that has Loved so Greatly: In this chapter, the Pope points out what devotion to the heart of Christ consists of. He says, "It is not the veneration of a single organ apart from the Person of Jesus." Instead, "what we contemplate and adore is the whole Jesus Christ." This devotion, deeply rooted in Trinitarian love, draws us into a relationship where divine love and human love meet in Christ (#48-54).

4. A Love that Gives Itself as Drink: The fourth chapter brings us into the rich biblical and theological imagery of water as a symbol of life, salvation, and love, all fulfilled in the pierced heart of Christ. "The pierced heart of Christ embodies all God's declarations of love present in the Scriptures. That love is no mere matter of words; rather, the open side of his Son is a source of life for those whom he loves, the fount that quenches the thirst of his people" (#101).

5. Love for Love: In the final chapter, Pope Francis reflects on the intense love Christ has for humanity, as seen through the revelations to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. Christ's Sacred Heart burns with love but often meets indifference. His cry, "I thirst," is a plea for love in return, especially through the Eucharist. Francis calls the faithful to respond to this divine love not out of obligation but out of a deep desire to console Christ's heart. Finally, Pope Francis emphasizes the theme of reparation—healing the wounds caused by sin and injustice. Acts of reparation go beyond personal piety to include concrete actions of social justice and mercy.

Pope Francis then offers a brief conclusion: "Christ's love can give a heart to our world and revive love wherever we think that the ability to love has been definitively lost." He says the Church itself needs this love, "lest the love of Christ be replaced with outdated structures and concerns, excessive attachment to our own ideas and opinions, and fanaticism in any number of forms."

Rev. Fr. S. Reegan

(Various sources used)





Granny's Stories

THE GIFT OF THE MAGI

"Granny... Would you like to have a bite from my slice of plum cake?" asked Amelia.

"No, thank you dear. I've had two pieces already," Granny smiled, sipping her coffee. "Your mummy makes delicious plum cakes. They're very tempting."

"Very delicious," agreed the little girl wiping the cake crumbs from her mouth. "Did Jesus eat plum cakes, Granny?"

"Amelia... What a funny question!" laughed the grandmother.

"But surely they must have been gifting each other plum cakes for Christmas, Granny. No?" little Mia queried curiously.

No, Mia. These are all modern concepts. In those days people didn't bake plum cakes nor did they gift each other what we do today. See... let me tell you the story of what Jesus was gifted when he was born. Would you like to listen to this story?"

"A story! Yes... Yes!" Amelia clapped happily.

"Great..." laughed Granny. "So, when Jesus was born the shepherds came to see him and gifted him kids and lambs."

"Kids and lambs? The babies of goats and sheep?" asked the small one in wonder.

"Yes... And then, there were the three kings. They were actually wise men who had read in ancient books that a great king was to be born. They were waiting and watching for a bright star in the east. And, when Jesus was born, they saw the star and they were overjoyed. They at once set out to meet Jesus and pay their respects," Granny said pushing her empty cup aside.

"They brought gifts for Jesus?" the little girl asked expectantly. "Toys? Teddy bears or cars?"

"Yes, they brought gifts but not toys, Mia dear. First and foremost, it took them many days to reach Jesus. They travelled on camel backs, followed the star and came to Bethlehem. Now, in those days there was a very cruel king who ruled there. His name was Herod. When the kings reached Herod's palace the star disappeared. They went in asked him about this new king who was just born," Granny said.

"Ohh... Did he know about Jesus, Granny?"

"No, Mia. He was surprised and at the same time very disturbed."

"Why Granny?"

"Well, if a new king is born then his power will be in danger. He told them to wait while he found about where this baby was; he then called all his advisors and asked them if they knew about this new king who was recently born. They studied their books and told Herod that a new king was indeed born but they were unable to tell him where he was. He was very angry; he decided to kill this new born baby so he told these three wise men that they should go and search for this king. Once they found him, they should worship him and when they're returning they should tell him where he is so that he too can go and pay his respects."

"Ohh... He was very cunning, Granny."

"Yes, so the three wise men went out once again and when they had gone a little a little far from the palace, they saw the star again. The star took them to where baby Jesus was. When the star reached the manger, it stopped and they got down from their camels and walked into the stables. There they saw little baby Jesus all wrapped up in swaddling cloths. They looked at the tiny face glowing with God's grace, and could feel God's love born on earth. They knelt down in devotion, bowed low and worshipped him. They also gave him the gifts they had brought," Granny said with a smile.





Granny's Stories

THE GIFT OF THE MAGI

"What gifts did they bring, Granny?" Amelia asked cupping her chin with one hand.

"Mia, the gifts these three kings brought were very unique. One of them called Gaspar brought frankincense because Jesus was God. Melchior brought gold because this baby was a King. And, Balthazar gifted the little baby myrrh because one day Jesus would have to suffer and die for the sins of all the people," Granny said solemnly.

"Ohh... these were very different kinds of gifts, Granny. But then what happened to King Herod? Did these wise men tell him about Jesus?" Mia asked with concern.

"That night an angel appeared in one of these king's dream and warned him not to return by the way they had come because King Herod had evil plans. So, they left by another way as they angel had guided them," Granny said.

"Thank God King Herod didn't find baby Jesus," Mia sighed with relief.

"But King Herod was waiting impatiently for their return. He had not forgotten about this new king. When many days had passed and they still didn't show up at his palace he decided to take matters in his own hand," Granny said in a hushed tone.

"What did he do, Granny?" the little girl asked in a scared voice.

"He ordered his soldiers to kill all the male babies in the kingdom, who were less than one year old," Granny said quietly.

"What?" Amelia exclaimed loudly. "And, what happened to baby Jesus?"

"An angel had appeared to St. Joseph earlier and told him that the baby was in danger so he should leave immediately and go away to Nazareth. So, St. Joseph left in the darkness of the night with Mother Mary and the tiny baby. Mother Mary sat on their donkey's back holding little baby Jesus carefully in her arms and they hurried away as soon as they could. Once they had left, the soldiers went from house to house and killed all the babies who were less than one year old. It was a horrific time for all the mothers and families in Bethlehem," Granny said.

"Ohh... How cruel, Granny. The poor babies, so many of them died. Herod was a very bad man," Amelia said her lips trembling and eyes filling with tears.

"Yes, he was a very bad man, indeed Mia. Now... Now... Don't cry. Come, let's go and place the statues of the three kings in the crib. They are also known as the Magi. Tomorrow's the feast of the epiphany, you know. Come..." Granny said standing up from her chair.

"Magi... Feast of the epiphany, Granny?" Amelia queried, wiping her eyes.

"Yes, dear. The feast of the three kings! Do you know it's celebrated every year on 6th January?"

"The feast of the three kings! Wow! We'll go for mass and then Mummy will make chicken biryani to celebrate the day?" Amelia asked walking out of the dining room with her grandmother.

Granny laughed, "Well, that we'll have to ask your mummy."



- Miss Elvira Fernandez



Diocesan Bible Festival 2024



The Bible Festival 2025 was successfully organized on 12th January, at St. Anselm's School Auditorium bringing together participants from across the diocese for a vibrant and spiritually enriching celebration of God's Word. The festival began with the enthronement of the Holy Bible and the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Rt. Rev. Bishop Oswald Lewis, accompanied by Fr. Cosmos, Fr. Nelson, Fr. John Carvalho, Fr. Raymond, Sr. Sabina MSA & Mrs. Sherry Fernandez. A graceful prayer dance by Miss Himanshi and team further set the tone for the day. Thereafter Fr. Santosh Francis beautifully introduced the theme, "The Ichthus" (ΙΧΘΥΣ), a symbol used by early Christians as sign language to communicate their faith in Jesus, Christ, God, Son and Savior. The theme was woven into every aspect of the day's events. More than 200 participants from all over the diocese took part in it.

The day's events commenced with a vibrant Group Dance performance, followed by a Solo Singing competition that filled the auditorium with melodious hymns based on the Gospel of St. John. A creative Fancy Dress event brought Catholic saints to life, showcasing the talent and enthusiasm of young participants. The Holy Eucharist, celebrated by Rt. Rev. Bishop Oswald Lewis and concelebrated by priests, was the spiritual highlight, with the Bishop's homily emphasizing the importance of the Word of God in daily life.

After the lunch break, a spectacular Ramp Walk displayed participants in Scripture-inspired costumes, while multiple events took place simultaneously in the classrooms, including Biblical Poster Painting, Declamation, and Pencil Drawing competitions. The Bible Quiz on the Gospel of John was conducted by Rev. Fr Sahaya Reegan, Rev. Fr. Amit Roshan and Rev. Fr. Jeevan which deepened participants' knowledge of the Scripture. The Mono Act competition beautifully brought alive Biblical characters, and the Mime competition conveyed profound biblical messages through powerful, wordless performances.

The festival concluded with a heartfelt ceremony where Bishop Oswald appreciated the efforts of all participants and encouraged everyone to give the word of God a central place in their lives and to share the message of the Gospel through creative ways. Prizes and certificates were awarded to the winners, with St. Mother Teresa's Church, Kudi, earning the Best Parish Trophy. Awards were also distributed for the Crib Making and Bible Logos competitions. More than 200 participants from all over the diocese took part in it.

Rev. Fr. Santosh Francis proposed a gracious vote of thanks, expressing deep gratitude to his team members, volunteers, and participants for their collective efforts. He extended special thanks to Rt. Rev. Bishop Oswald Lewis for his guidance, encouragement, and constant availability. Rev. Fr. Amit Roshan concluded by thanking Rev. Fr. Santosh Francis for his vision, initiative, and hard work in making the event a remarkable success.

The Bible Festival 2025 was a memorable celebration of the Joy of the Gospel. As the festival concluded, participants departed with joyful hearts, a deeper connection to Scripture, and a renewed commitment to living by God's Word.

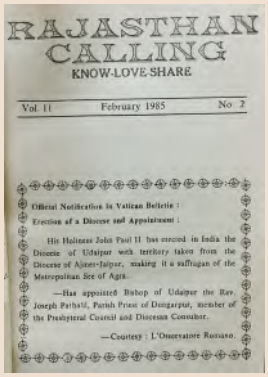


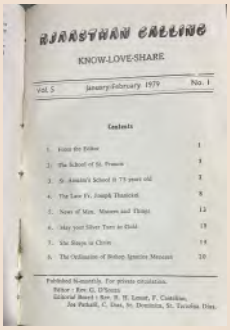
Sr. Preetam MSA

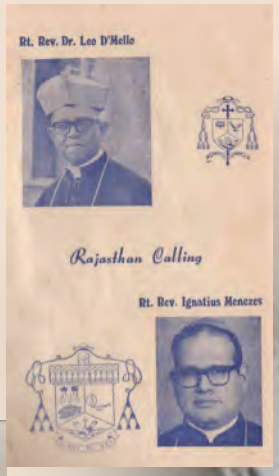


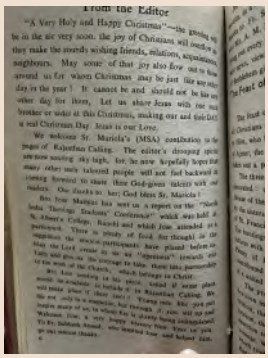
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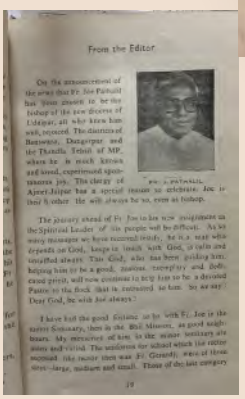
A Legacy of Faith

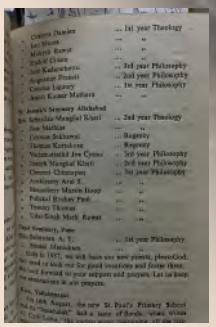

RAJASTHAN CALLING
KNOW-LOVE-SHARE
Vol. 11 February 1985 No. 2
Official Notification in Vatican Bulletin :
Erection of a Diocese and Appointment :
His Holiness John Paul II has erected in India the Diocese of Udaipur with territory taken from the Diocese of Ajmer-Jaipur, making it a suffragan of the Metropolitan See of Agra.
—Has appointed Bishop of Udaipur the Rev. Joseph Pathalil, Parish Priest of Dungarpur, member of the Presbyteral Council and Diocesan Consultor.
—Courtesy : L'Osservatore Romano.


RAJASTHAN CALLING
KNOW-LOVE-SHARE
Vol. 5 January-February 1979 No. 1
Contents

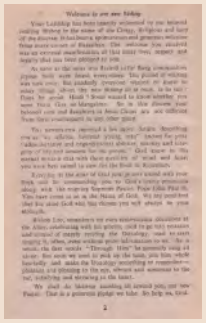

Rt. Rev. Dr. Leo D'Mello
Rajasthan Calling
Rt. Rev. Ignatius Menezes

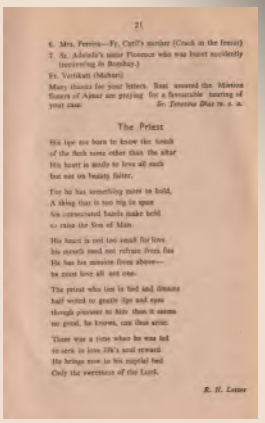

From the Editor
"A Very Holy and Happy Christmas"—

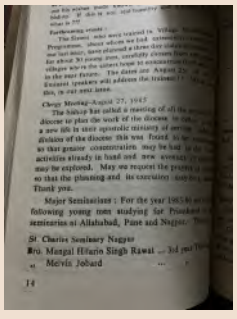

From the Editor



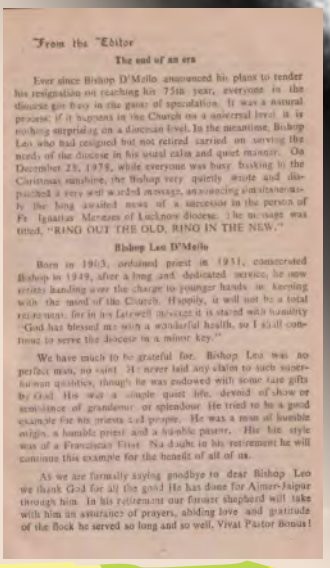



Welcome to our new Bishop


The Priest


Ordination of Bishop Ignatius Menezes


A Commemoration
GREETINGS


From the Editor
The end of an era
Bishop Leo D'Mello

.... A Tradition of Sharing God's Word

NOW

Rajasthan Calling



since 50 Years

Jubilee Celebration 2025



Pilgrims Of Hope

A BRIEF REPORT

On December 28, 2024, the Diocese of Ajmer inaugurated the Jubilee Year 2025, commemorating 2025 years since the birth of Christ. This momentous celebration aligns with the theme, "Hope Does Not Disappoint Us" (Romans 5:5). The diocesan celebration began at St. Anselm's Ground, where people gathered in front of the prepared stage for the Jubilee inauguration. The Apostolic Administrator, Bishop Oswald, along with vested priests, processed to the well-arranged and decorated stage. The faithful were already gathered in front of the stage. Mrs. Dennis introduced the celebration, emphasizing the purpose and importance of the day. She requested everyone to devoutly join in this meaningful and joyous celebration.

The Apostolic Administrator, Rt. Rev. Bishop Oswald Lewis, led a solemn prayer and introduced the Jubilee 2025 theme, "Pilgrims of Hope." Sr. Swapna read two paragraphs, the 1st and 3rd, of the Bull of Indiction in Hindi. Thereafter, a grand procession started to the Cathedral, led by the thurifer, followed by the Jubilee Cross bearer, deacon with the Holy Scripture, Bishop, concelebrants, and the faithful.

At the Cathedral's principal gate, the procession stopped to venerate the cross. The bishop showed the cross to the congregation, and all venerated it. Then the procession continued towards the baptismal font. Once the bishop and concelebrants reached the baptismal font, the bishop led the rite of the commemoration of Baptism, blessed the water, and then sprinkled it on the faithful and concelebrants. Thereafter, the celebration culminated in the Mass of the Holy Family, with the choir, led by Mr. Cosmos, singing the Jubilee hymn. After the final prayer by the bishop, the contact person and in-charge of Jubilee 2025, Fr. Clement, thanked everyone. The whole liturgy was overseen by Fr. Raymond. The day ended with a shared meal, symbolizing unity. Let us journey together, anchored in hope, to make this Jubilee truly transformative.

Sr. Swapana John MSA



A Journey Ends, Another Begins. . .

Goa, a western Indian state with 1.5 million people, hosted more than 7 million people from all over the world who attended the 45-day exposition of the Sacred relics of St. Francis Xavier's incorruptible body, which is 473 years old. The relics of the Spanish saint were carried in a solemn procession. He only lived for 46 years on this earth. The 18th exposition took place from 21st November 2024 to 5th January 2025. The exposition was held at Se Cathedral in Old Goa.

The relics of the patron saint of Goa were put on display for veneration. The event is marked by religious ceremonies, including masses, prayer services, novenas, and processions. Pilgrims, tourists, and officials from all around the world visited to pay homage to the saint. Old Goa has witnessed a celebration of faith as thousands of pilgrims and faithful made their way. More than 2000 volunteers of various age groups offered their services at the venue.

The relics of his right arm are preserved in Rome at the Jesuit Society's Church, where the tomb of their founder St. Ignatius of Loyola is laid, and visited by Pope Francis on several occasions.

The exposition occurs once every 10 years, and the 17th exposition occurred from 22nd November 2014 to 4th January 2015. The Church was preparing for the Jubilee year 2025, and our present Pope Francis chose the theme “Pilgrims of Hope” for this spiritual event. My faith too has evolved with this experience. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that was offered to me, and I embraced it with open arms. As a Goan, I have a great love for our universal patron saint. He was canonized in 1622, at the same time as his Jesuit founder, St. Ignatius of Loyola. Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao, Archbishop of Goa and Daman, led the concluding ceremonial service on 5th January 2025 at Se Cathedral. He said, “Our journey of faith does not end here. We must continue this journey and keep this spirit alive in our life, in our families, in our communities, in our organizations, and in the diocese.”

The concluding mass was celebrated at the Bom Jesus Basilica complex after the sacred relics were returned to their regular place inside the Basilica. Present at the mass were Auxiliary Bishop Simiao Fernandes of Goa-Daman, Bishop Ignatius Loyola Mascarenhas of Shimla and Chandigarh, and Bishop Lumen Monteiro of Agartala, along with Bishop Emeritus Alex Dias of Port Blair. St. Francis Xavier passionately prayed that his mind might always remain pure. For him, devotion to God was not for enjoying a higher seat after death. He prayed because everyone's duty is to pray fervently.



Pope Francis writes in his apostolic exhortation "Evangelii Gaudium" (The Joy of the Gospel) that he prefers a church which is bruised, hurting, and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security. Like the Jesuit saint, Christians are called to be Pilgrims of Hope, in a world filled with hate and despair. Father Henry Falcao, the convener of the exposition, said, “This beautiful journey of the exposition comes to an end, but our human journey of faith does not end here. We begin the Jubilee journey here.”



Sr. Elizabeth Fernandes, MSA

Christmas Get-Together of Priests and Religious of Jodhpur Deanery



The Christmas spirit of joy, fellowship, and gratitude was beautifully celebrated at the annual get-together of the priests and religious of the Jodhpur Deanery, hosted with exceptional generosity by Rev. Fr. Ronald Lobo at his place in Balotra on a bright and festive morning. The gathering, a much-anticipated event, brought together the vibrant clergy and religious community in a spirit of unity and celebration. The program commenced promptly at 10:30 a.m. with a soulful rendition of Christmas carols in the serene atmosphere of the church. The harmonious melodies and a short prayer, rich with the joyful message of Christ's birth, filled the hearts of all present with reverence and festive cheer. Following the carol singing, a brief but profoundly uplifting prayer was offered, invoking God's blessings of peace, love, and unity for the season and beyond.

Fr. Ronald, the gracious host, spared no effort in ensuring that every aspect of the day reflected warmth and hospitality. His meticulous attention to detail and generous spirit were evident in the seamless organization and festive ambiance that set the perfect tone for the occasion. His commitment to making the day memorable for everyone was deeply appreciated by all attendees. A highlight of the gathering was the distribution of gifts, generously sponsored by Fr. David John. Each gift was a thoughtful token of love and appreciation, symbolizing the spirit of giving that defines the Christmas season. His benevolent gesture added a special touch of joy and gratitude, bringing smiles to the faces of all.

The gathering was further enlivened by engaging and entertaining games masterfully conducted by Fr. Ronald Lobo and Fr. Vipin. Their enthusiasm and creative energy brought the participants together in laughter and camaraderie, strengthening bonds of friendship and shared mission. The games, filled with fun and fellowship, were a true reflection of the joy and unity that Christmas inspires. The celebration concluded with the playing of Tambola, playfully conducted by the eldest of this deanery family, Fr. Aubert Carvalho, and some playful moments managed by Fr. Cantius and Fr. Lourdes Joseph. Thereafter, a sumptuous festive lunch was enjoyed, where the delicious array of dishes was a feast for both the palate and the soul. The meal was a fitting finale to a day filled with joy, togetherness, and the generous spirit of Christmas. The Christmas get-together at Balotra was a resounding success, thanks to the collaborative efforts and heartfelt generosity of all involved. It was a beautiful reminder of the shared vocation to serve in unity and love, inspired by the light and hope of Christ's birth. As the priests and religious departed with hearts full of joy, the day's memories became a cherished testament to the power of community and the enduring spirit of Christmas.

Fr. Elias Niranjan



Jodhpur Deanery

LEVEL REPORT ON THE INPUT SESSION FOR

The Jubilee Year 2025

Praise the Lord



A meeting to discuss the celebration of the Jubilee Year 2025 at the Jodhpur deanery level began on 28th November 2024 at St. Anthony's Convent School, Kuri, Jodhpur, at 4 o'clock in the evening. Following a brief introduction, the resource persons, Rev. Fr. Clement Cutino and Rev. Sr. Swapna, were warmly welcomed with bouquets by Rev. Fr. Elias Niranjan and Rev. Sr. Jessy Paul FCC, respectively. Rev. Sr. Swapna beautifully explained the true meaning of Jubilee: rest, review, restore, and reconcile. The three types of Jubilee, along with the motto and logo of the Jubilee, the purpose of the celebration, the opening and closing dates, and the indulgences connected with it, were thoroughly discussed. The dissemination and various ways of celebrating, synodality, and Kerygma (proclamation) were addressed, citing the problems faced after the pandemic and the threat of wars.

The apex of God's love, manifested in the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross, was highlighted. The reason why God created us—to love and serve humankind—should be the vision of every baptized person in this distressed world.Tea and snacks were served to all after the first session, and nearly 55 people attended the meeting. Rev. Fr. Shubham Peter proposed the vote of thanks. The meeting concluded at 6:45 pm with a photograph session.

Mrs. Asha Nazareth



CHRISTMAS Mela 2024

Ajmer Deanery





CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF INDIA

36TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY

28 JANUARY TO 4 FEBRUARY 2025, BHUBANESWAR

Prayer

O God, Our Father, You have revealed Your infinite love through Jesus Christ, our Saviour, and continue to call Your Church to share in His mission through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We thank You for the clergy, religious, and laity who have generously responded to Your call, faithfully proclaiming the message of salvation in our land.

Bless the 36th Plenary Assembly of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India. As our Bishops reflect on the theme "Discerning Synodal Pathways for Mission," pour out afresh Your Holy Spirit upon them. Grant them the grace to discern Your will and lead Your Church with wisdom and courage.

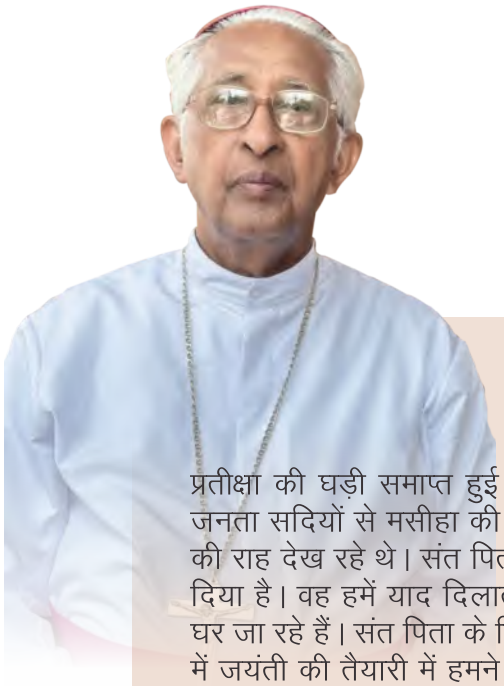
Give them, as true shepherds, the grace and wisdom to inspire the faithful to bear witness to Christ amid the joys and challenges of our times. May every moment of the Plenary Assembly be inspired by Your Spirit, so that, through prayerful listening, mutual sharing, and collective discernment, new pathways may emerge to carry the Gospel of Christ into the heart of the world.

Through the ministry of our bishops, make us Your instruments of love and peace, bringing hope and light to every corner of our nation.

Through the intercession of Mary, Queen of Apostles, St. Thomas, and St. Francis Xavier, may Your Church in India flourish and bear abundant fruit for Your glory.

We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.





Bishop Oswald Lewis
Apostolic Administrator of Ajmer Diocese
Bishop's House, Kaiser Ganj, Ajmer

बिशप स्वामी का संदेश

प्रतीक्षा की घड़ी समाप्त हुई। समय पूरा हुआ। यह आनंद का समय है। जिस प्रकार इस्राएली जनता सदियों से मसीहा की प्रतीक्षा कर रही थी, उसी प्रकार हम भी गत दो वर्षों से इस जयंती की राह देख रहे थे। संत पिता फ्रांसिस ने इस जयंती वर्ष 2025 को ''आशा के तीर्थयात्री'' नाम दिया है। वह हमें याद दिलाता है कि पृथ्वी पर हम सब यात्री हैं। हम यात्रियों की भाँति अपने घर जा रहे हैं। संत पिता के निर्देशन में हमने इन दो वर्षों में भली भांति तैयारी की है। सन् 2023 में जयंती की तैयारी में हमने ईश्वर के शब्द समझने, बाइबिल पढ़ने, द्वितीय वेटिकन दस्तावेज़ के धर्म सिद्धांत, कलीसिया, दिव्य प्रकाशन, आधुनिक संसार पर विधान पत्र और पूजन पद्धति के विधान इत्यादि का गहन अध्ययन किया है। सन् 2024 प्रार्थना का समय था, तथापि अध्ययन करते समय भी हमने बड़े जोश से प्रभु के आने के लिए प्रार्थना की। कुछ ही समय बाद 4 मई 2024 को प्रभु के स्वर्गारोहण समारोह पर संत पिता फ्रांसिस ने 'आशा कभी निराश नहीं करती' पर जाना पहचाना आदेश जारी किया। उसने यह वर्ष आध्यात्मिक तैयारी जैसे त्याग, तपस्या और प्रार्थना में व्यतीत करने का आदेश दिया। प्रभु येसु के जन्म की जयंती 2025 का शुभारंभ ख्रीस्त जयन्ती 2024 को वैटिकन के संत पीटर महामंदिर का पवित्र द्वार खुलने के साथ किया गया। संत पिता रोम के मुख्य मंदिरों क्रमशः योहन का महामंदिर, संत मेरी मेजर का महामंदिर और संत पॉल का महामंदिर के द्वारों को भी खोला गया। दिनांक 29 दिसंबर 2024 को येसु, मरियम और यूसुफ के पवित्र परिवार के समय विश्वव्यापी कल एशिया के धर्मप्रांतों में जयंती की शुरुआत हुई। स्थानीय धर्माध्यक्ष ने धर्मप्रांत की माता निष्कलंक गर्भागमन महामंदिर में जयंती वर्ष की शुरूआत की। अन्य गिरजाघरों में यह शुभारंभ समारोह नहीं होता। जयंती का मुख्य ध्येय आशा की तीर्थयात्री होने के नाते विश्वासी गण तीर्थयात्रियों की भाँति महामंदिर में जाते हुए जयंती समारोह के शुभारंभ को चिह्नित करते हैं। समारोह के लिए निर्धारित किये गये स्थान पर विश्वासीगण क्रूस की आशीष हेतु एकत्रित होते हैं। पवित्र परिवार के पर्व दिवस पर क्रूस की अगुवाई में जुलूस में सब महामंदिर की ओर अग्रसर होते हैं। जयंती लोगों में दर्शाए हुए क्रूस के पीछे चलते हुए तीर्थ यात्री एक चिन्ह है। इस संसार में उन्नति और अवनति दोनों आपस में गुथे हुए हैं। वहाँ ख्रीस्त का क्रूस मुक्ति का आधार है। आशा कभी निराश नहीं करतीं, क्योंकि यह प्रभु के प्रेम, करुणा और निष्ठा पर स्थापित है। – संत पिता फ्रांसिस।

यह ईश्वर के पवित्र परिवार की यात्रा है। जो आज की कलीसिया स्वर्गीय येरुसलेम की ओर अग्रसर हो रही है। जब हम जुलूस में इस ओर बढ़ते हैं तो इस्राएली तीर्थयात्रियों का स्मरण करते हैं। वहाँ तीर्थयात्री और मंदिर में प्रवेश के अनेक स्तोत्र है। जो इस्राएलियों की खुशी का वर्णन करते हैं (स्तोत्र 122/121)। येरुसलेम के मंदिर में यात्रियों के आगमन पर उमंग और खुशी से पूरा भरा पड़ा है। येरुसलेम मंदिर इस्राएली हृदय का केंद्र था क्योंकि ईश्वर की उपस्थिति वहाँ धड़कती थी। ठीक उसी प्रकार विश्वास की भावना हमारी भी होनी चाहिए। जब हम महामंदिर में जुलूस में प्रस्थान करते हैं।

जब हम सामान्य जयंती वर्ष 2025 शुरू कर रहे हैं, तो संत पिता फ्रांसिस ने 'स्पेस नॉन कॉन्फिडेंट' (आशा कभी निराश नहीं करती), में कहा और उसके द्वारा दिए गए निर्देशों का अनुसरण करें – 'हम उन परिश्रमी भाई–बहिनों के लिए जो विपति सह रहे हैं ''आशा का ठोस मूर्त रूप होने के लिए बुलाये गये हैं।'' इसके लिए कुछ निश्चित स्वरूप उन्होंने प्रस्तुत किया है :

बिशप स्वामी का संदेश

उन्होंने विश्वासियों का आहवान किया और सरकारों से अनुरोध किया है, कि क्षमा–दान के रूप में बंदियों को पुर्नस्थापन की आशा प्रदान करें। विश्वासीगण और धर्मगुरू बंदियों के लिए महिमामय वातावरण और प्राणदण्ड के उन्मूलन की मांग करें। संत पिता फ्रांसिस ख्रीस्तीयों से घरों व अस्पतालों में बीमारों के साथ अपनत्व व मनोभावों से पेश आने का आग्रह करते है, विशेषकर बुजुर्गों से, जो अधिकतर अपने आप को एकाकी और तिरस्कृत महसूस करते हैं।

संत पिता कहतें है कि आजकल के युव जनों को आशा के संकेत की बडी जरूरत है। यह चिंता जनक है कि युवक–युवतियाँ निराश हैं, क्योंकि वे बेरोजगार, असुरक्षित व हताश हैं। जयन्ती–वर्ष कलीसिया को प्रेरणा दे कि कलीसिया उन्हें अपनी और आकर्षित करने की भरपूर कोशिश करें।

जो अपने व परिवार के बेहतर भविष्य हेतु दूर चले गये हुए और हाशिये पर हैं, उन्हें आशा का चिह्न दिलाने के लिए संत पिता ने विश्वासियों का आहवान किया। उन्होंने जोर दिया, कि ''निर्वासितों, विस्थापितों और अनाश्रितों को सुरक्षा, व्यवसाय, शिक्षा व आशियानों की जमानत मिले।''

अत्यधिक दुःख व पुरजोर दलील के साथ संत पिता ने आग्रह किया ''मैं अपने हृदय से आग्रह करता हूँ कि करोड़ों गरीबों को, जो जीवन की मूलभूत आवश्यकताओं के मोहताज हैं, उन्हें कुछ आशा मिले।'' उन्होंने कहा, यह अशोभनीय है कि संसार के पास अस्त्र–शस्त्र, अतूल्य साधन व सम्पत्ति है, तब भी गरीबों की जनसंख्या निरन्तर बनी रहती है। संत पिता फ्रांसिस कहते है कि जयन्ती–वर्ष हमें स्मरण दिलाता हैं ''धरती के संसाधन सिर्फ कुछ ही सौभाग्यशालियों के लिए नहीं है, पर सर्व–साधारण के लिए भी हैं। अमीरों को अधिक उदार होना है, न कि अपने जरूरत मंद भाई – बहिनों से आँखें फेरनी है।'' उन्होंने सरकारों से आग्रह किया है कि धन–सम्पति सेना से हटाकर सार्वभौम कोष (निधी) में जमा कर गरीबी के उन्मूलन और पिछडे राष्ट्रों के उत्थान हेतु लगाएं। उन्होंन अति विकसित राष्ट्रों का आहवान किया कि ''जो राष्ट्र अपना कर्ज कभी नहीं चुका सकते, उन्हें माफ किया जाए''।

अतः हम यह सामान्य जयंती वर्ष 2025 हर्ष उमंग से मनाए। और ईश्वर के शुक्रगुजार रहें जिसने हमें यह समारोह मनाने का अवसर प्रदान किया है।

मैं आप सबको एक सफल व समृद्ध नववर्ष की शुभकामना देता हूँ।

– बिशप ओसवाल्ड लुईस
प्रेरितिक प्रशासक

संत मिखायल पल्ली – सुकेत

संत मिखायल पल्ली में 15 दिसंबर से 18 दिसंबर कैरोल सिंगिंग किया गया पल्ली के यूथ, बच्चों बड़े सभी वर्ग के लोगों ने इसमें भाग लिया व घर घर जा कर क्रिसमस की खुशियां बांटी। क्रिसमस के उपलक्ष में पल्ली में कई प्रतियोगिता रखी गई जैसे क्रिसमस ट्री बनाना , स्टार बनाना, पकवान केक बनाना, गोशाला बनाना पल्ली के लोगो ने इसमें बढ़ चढ़कर भाग लिया । नए साल में सभी विजेताओं को उपहार दिए गए साथ ही साथ लकी फैमिली आफ दी ईयर की चिट भी उठाई गई ओर उन्हें भी उपहार दिया गया।

19 से 22 दिसंबर पेरिश में फादर थामस एंड टिम द्वारा रिट्रीट व मार्गदर्शन दिया गया फादर द्वारा घरों का भ्रमण किया गया व अंतिम दिन पाप स्वीकार के साथ अध्यात्मिक चंगाई प्रार्थना की गई है।

दिनांक 24 दिसंबर 2021 क्रिसमस मिस्सा बलिदान रात्रि 11:00 बजे व 25 दिसंबर सुबह के मिस्सा 8:00 बजे पल्ली के पुरोहितों द्वारा अर्पित की गई। मिस्सा के पश्चात बालक येशु के जन्म की खुशी में सभी को केक वितरण कर क्रिसमस की बधाइयां दी गई।

25 को गांव में क्रिसमस मेला लगाया गया जिसमें काफी झूले दुकानें आदि थे गांव के बाहर के दूसरे धर्म आदि सभी लोगों ने इस मेले का आनंद उठाया।

29 दिसंबर पेरिश में परिवार दिवस मनाया गया गांव वालो के लिए खेल कूद नाश्ता आदि का बंदोबस्त किया गया सभी ने इसमें खूब आनंद लिया।

30 दिसंबर पल्ली के बच्चों के लिए प्रथम परम प्रसाद व दढ़ीकरण संस्कार आदरणीय बिशप ओसवाल लुईस द्वारा संस्कार दिया गया साथ ही साथ शताब्दी वर्ष के समारोह की शुरुआत भी गई।

31 तारीख रात 10 से 11 बीते वर्ष के लिए धन्यवाद हेतु पवित्र आराधना रखी गई रात 11 बजे मिस्सा की गई उसके बाद चाय नाश्ता का बंदोबस्त किया गया व बीते वर्ष की बुराइयों के रूप में बुड्ढा बाबा भी जलाया गया।

प्रभु
प्रकाश का पर्व

धन्य वचन

4 जनवरी, 2025

*(*पहला पाठ*:* इसायाह ***60:1-6,*** दूसरा पाठ*:* एफेसियों ***3:2-3,5-6,*** सुसमाचार*:* मत्ती ***2:1-12)***

आज हम प्रभु प्रकाश पर्व का उत्सव मनाते हैं। इस दिन हम याद करते हैं कि प्रभु यीशु केवल इस्राएल के लिए ही नहीं, बल्कि सभी जातियों और राष्ट्रों के लिए ज्योति हैं। इस पर्व में तीन ज्योतिषियों की कहानी महत्वपूर्ण है, जो पूर्व से चलकर यीशु के दर्शन करने आए थे। यह यात्रा विश्वास, खोज, और समर्पण की प्रतीक है।

पहला पाठ हमें एक महान आशा का संदेश देता है। "उठ, ज्योतिर्मानहो, क्योंकि तेरा प्रकाश आ गया है।" यह भविष्यवाणी यीशु के आगमन को दर्शाती है, जो अंधकार में बसे हुए विश्व को प्रकाश प्रदान करते हैं। जब हम यीशु को अपने जीवन का केंद्र बनाते हैं, तब उनका प्रकाश हमें भी आलोकित करता है। दूसरा पाठ बताता है कि यह रहस्य अब सब पर प्रकट हो गया है—सभी लोग, चाहे यहूदी हों या गैर-यहूदी, मसीह में एक ही शरीर के अंग बनते हैं और सुसमाचार के माध्यम से उत्तराधिकार प्राप्त करते हैं। यह सुसमाचार की सार्वभौमिकता को दिखाता है कि मसीह का प्रेम और उद्धार सभी के लिए है। सुसमाचार में हम देखते हैं कि ज्योतिषियों ने एक तारे का अनुसरण किया और बालक यीशु की आराधना करने पहुंचे। उनकी खोज हमें यह सिखाती है कि हमें भी अपने जीवन की यात्रा में सच्चे राजा को ढूंढना है। वे अपने साथ सोना, लोबान और गंधरस लाए, जो यीशु की पहचान के प्रतीक हैं—राजा, देवता, और बलिदान।

इस पर्व पर हमारा ध्यान इस ओर जाता है कि क्या हम भी यीशु की ज्योति को अपने जीवन में आने देते हैं? क्या हम दूसरों के लिए प्रकाश का स्रोत बनते हैं? हमें ज्योतिषियों की तरह अपने स्वार्थ, अहंकार, और सांसारिक चीजों को छोड़कर मसीह के सामने विनम्रता से झुकना चाहिए। जब हम मसीह को सच्चे दिल से ढूंढते हैं, तो वह हमें अपनी ज्योति से भर देते हैं और हमारी यात्रा को अर्थपूर्ण बना देते हैं। आज हम यह प्रार्थना करें की, हे प्रभु यीशु, आप सच्चे प्रकाश हैं। हमें अपने मार्गदर्शन में ले चलें ताकि हम आपके प्रेम और सत्य के प्रकाश में जीवन व्यतीत करें और संसार में आपकी ज्योति का प्रसार करें। आमेन।

प्रभु
का
बपतिस्मा का पर्व

धन्य वचन

वर्ष का पहला रविवार **12 जनवरी, 2025**

*(*पहला पाठ*:* इसायाह ***40:1-5, 9-11;*** दूसरा पाठ*:* तीतुस ***2:11-14; 3:4-7;*** सुसमाचार*:* लूका ***3:4-7)***

आज के पाठों में प्रभु के प्रेम, करुणा, और उद्धार के संदेश पर चिंतन करने का निमंत्रण मिलता है। यीशु का बपतिस्मा एक महत्वपूर्ण घटना है, जो हमें अपने जीवन में परिवर्तन और नवीकरण के लिए प्रेरित करती है।

पहला पाठ में प्रभु अपने लोगों को सांत्वना देने और उन्हें आशा प्रदान करने का आह्वान करते हैं: "अपने परमेश्वर का मार्ग तैयार करो।" यह पाठ हमें याद दिलाता है कि प्रभु हमारी कठिनाइयों में भी हमारे साथ हैं और हमें अपने जीवन के ऊबड़-खाबड़ मार्गों को सीधा करना है ताकि प्रभु हमारे हृदय में निवास करें। दूसरा पाठ उद्धार के अनमोल वरदान को प्रकट करता है। "परमेश्वर की कृपा सब मनुष्यों के लिए प्रकट हुई है।" यह हमें सिखाता है कि हमें सांसारिक इच्छाओं को त्यागकर धर्मपरायण जीवन जीना चाहिए। बपतिस्मा के माध्यम से हमें नया जीवन और आत्मा में नया जन्म मिलता है, जो हमें पवित्रता की ओर ले जाता है। सुसमाचार में योहन बपतिस्ता की आवाज गूंजती है: "पश्चात्ताप करो और बपतिस्मा ग्रहण करो।" योहन का संदेश आज भी उतना ही प्रासंगिक है। हमें अपने पापों का पश्चात्ताप करना चाहिए और अपने हृदय को मसीह के लिए तैयार करना चाहिए। बपतिस्मा के जल में प्रवेश करते हुए हम अपने पुराने जीवन से मुक्ति पाते हैं और नए जीवन में प्रवेश करते हैं।

इस पर्व के माध्यम से हमें यह जानने का अवसर मिलता है कि बपतिस्मा केवल एक धार्मिक विधि नहीं है, बल्कि यह एक नई यात्रा की शुरुआत है। यह हमें ईश्वर के परिवार का हिस्सा बनाता है और हमें मसीह की ज्योति को अपने जीवन में जलाए रखने का आह्वान करता है। आज हम यह प्रार्थना करें की, हे प्रभु, आपने हमें बपतिस्मा के माध्यम से नया जीवन दिया। हमें अपने प्रेम और सत्य में जीने के लिए शक्ति दें ताकि हम अपने जीवन से आपके राज्य का मार्ग प्रशस्त कर सकें। आमेन।

वर्ष का दूसरा रविवार

धन्य वचन

19 जनवरी, 2025

*(*पहला पाठ*:* इसायाह ***62:1-5,*** दूसरा पाठ*: 1* कुरिंथियों ***12:4-11,*** सुसमाचार*:* यूहन्ना ***2:1-11)***

आज के पाठ हमें ईश्वर के प्रेम, हमारी बुलाहट, और मसीह में विश्वास की शक्ति पर चिंतन करने के लिए प्रेरित करते हैं। पहला पाठ में यरूशलेम को ईश्वर की दुल्हन और आशीर्वाद से परिपूर्ण नगर के रूप में वर्णित किया गया है। ईश्वर अपने लोगों से कभी नहीं थकते और उनके उद्धार के लिए सदा कार्यरत रहते हैं। ठीक वैसे ही जैसे एक पति अपनी पत्नी से अटूट प्रेम करता है, ईश्वर का प्रेम भी हमारे लिए अमिट और अनंत है। यह हमें अपने जीवन में ईश्वर के प्रति विश्वास और समर्पण की याद दिलाता है। दूसरा पाठ, हमें सिखाता है कि प्रत्येक व्यक्ति को ईश्वर की ओर से अलग-अलग वरदान प्राप्त हुए हैं। ये वरदान व्यक्तिगत लाभ के लिए नहीं, बल्कि पूरे समुदाय की भलाई के लिए हैं। जब हम अपने वरदानों का उपयोग दूसरों की सेवा में करते हैं, तब हम ईश्वर की योजना को पूरा करते हैं। हमें यह समझना चाहिए कि हर वरदान समान रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है और हमें अपने वरदानों को साझा करने में उदार होना चाहिए। सुसमाचार में काना के विवाह भोज में यीशु का पहला चमत्कार हमें यह सिखाता है कि जब हम मसीह को अपने जीवन की समस्याओं में आमंत्रित करते हैं, तो वह साधारण चीजों को भी अद्भुत में बदल देते हैं। पानी को दाखरस में बदलने का यह चमत्कार हमें विश्वास और आज्ञाकारिता की शक्ति दिखाता है। मरियम का यह कहना, "जो वह कहें, वह करो," हमें हर परिस्थिति में ईश्वर की इच्छा के प्रति समर्पित रहने की प्रेरणा देता है। क्या हम अपने वरदानों को ईश्वर के राज्य की सेवा में उपयोग कर रहे हैं? क्या हम मसीह को अपने जीवन में आमंत्रित करते हैं और उनकी इच्छा को पूरी तरह स्वीकार करते हैं?

आज हम यह प्रार्थना करें की, हे प्रभु यीशु, हमें अपने वरदानों को पहचानने और उनका सही उपयोग करने की समझ दें। हमारे विश्वास को मजबूत करें ताकि हम आपकी उपस्थिति से अपने जीवन को धन्य कर सकें। आमेन।

वर्ष का तीसरा रविवार

धन्य वचन

26 जनवरी, 2025

*(*पहला पाठ*:* नेहेम्याह ***8:2-6, 8-10;*** दूसरा पाठ*: 1* कुरिंथियों ***12:12-30;*** सुसमाचार*:* लूका ***1:1-4; 4:14-21)***

आज के पाठों में ईश्वर के वचन की शक्ति और हमारे जीवन में समुदाय के महत्व को उजागर किया गया है। ये हमें प्रेरित करते हैं कि हम ईश्वर के वचन को सुनें, समझें, और उसे अपने जीवन में कार्यान्वित करें। पहला पाठ जब एज्रा ने ईश्वर का विधान पढ़ा, तो लोग ध्यान से सुनते हुए भाव-विभोर हो गए। उन्होंने वचन के अर्थ को समझा और ईश्वर के प्रति आदरभाव से झुके। नेहेम्याह ने उन्हें दुखी होने के बजाय प्रभु में आनंदित होने की प्रेरणा दी, क्योंकि "प्रभु में आनंद करना ही तुम्हारी शक्ति है।" यह हमें याद दिलाता है कि ईश्वर का वचन हमें न केवल शिक्षित करता है, बल्कि आनंद और शक्ति भी प्रदान करता है। दूसरा पाठ में प्रेरित पौलुस ने चर्च को एक शरीर के रूप में चित्रित किया, जिसमें हर अंग महत्वपूर्ण है। जैसे शरीर के सभी अंग मिलकर एक कार्य करते हैं, वैसे ही हर व्यक्ति को अपने वरदानों के अनुसार सेवा करनी चाहिए। एकता और विविधता का यह संदेश हमें सिखाता है कि हम समुदाय में एक-दूसरे के सहयोग से मसीह के शरीर को जीवित और सक्रिय बनाते हैं। सुसमाचार में यीशु ने नासरत के आराधनालय में इसायाह की पुस्तक से पढ़ते हुए घोषणा की कि यह वचन आज उनके माध्यम से पूरा हो गया है। उन्होंने अपनी मिशनरी सेवा का उद्घाटन गरीबों को शुभ समाचार देने, बंदियों को मुक्ति, और अंधों को दृष्टि देने के लिए किया। यह हमें याद दिलाता है कि ईश्वर का वचन जीवन में परिवर्तन लाता है, और हमें भी मसीह के इस मिशन में भाग लेना है। क्या हम ईश्वर के वचन को ध्यानपूर्वक सुनते हैं और उसे अपने जीवन में लागू करते हैं? क्या हम अपने समुदाय में एकता और प्रेम को बढ़ावा देते हैं, अपने वरदानों का उपयोग दूसरों की भलाई के लिए करते हैं?

आज हम यह प्रार्थना करें की,हे प्रभु, हमें आपके वचन को सुनने, समझने और उस पर चलने की कृपा दें। हमें एकता और सेवा के माध्यम से आपके प्रेम का वाहक बनने दें। आमेन।



Rev. Fr. Elias Niranjan



संत मत्ती

गतांक (दिसंबर 2024) से आगे...

ईसा एक विशाल जनसमूह देखकर पहाड़ी पर चढ़े और बैठ गए। उनके शिष्य उनके पास आए। यह सु:शिक्षा देने लगे।

पहला आशीर्वचनः पुराने विधान के आधार पर प्राचीन गलीलिया की मान्यता थी कि गरीबों की देखभाल करना ही ईश्वर की पहली प्राथमिकता है। गरीब ईश्वर पर श्रद्धा रखते हैं और धार्मिक आचरण को अच्छी तरह निभाते हैं क्योंकि उन्हें ईश्वर पर भरोसा रखने के अलावा और कोई सहारा नहीं है। ईश्वर में ही पूरी तरह शरण लेते हैं।

दूसरा आशीर्वचनः जो ईश्वर पर भरोसा रखते हैं, नबियों के द्वारा पहले ही कहा गया है। मसीह से प्राप्त की जाने वाली कृपा और आशीर्वाद आने से अब सबको मिलता है।

तीसरा आशीर्वचनः अपने देश वापस आने से पहले निर्वाचित इस्राएली अपने खोए हुए देश को पुनः प्राप्त करने की चिंता करते थे। स्तोत्रकार उन्हें यह आशा देते हैं कि वे ईश्वर पर श्रद्धा रखें और ईश्वर उनकी खोई हुई संपत्ति पुनः प्रदान करेगा। यहाँ नम्रता का तात्पर्य यह है, यह नहीं है कि जो आज्ञाकारी और नम्र स्वभाव के हैं, किंतु जो अन्याय के बोझ को सहते हुए विनीत भाव से ईश्वर पर भरोसा रखते हैं।

चौथा आशीर्वचन वचनः यहाँ पर धार्मिकता शब्द व्यक्तिगत धार्मिकता की ओर इंगित नहीं करता, बल्कि गरीबों के प्रति न्यायबद्ध व्यवहार को प्रदर्शित करता है।

पांचवां आशीर्वचनः दयालु का अर्थ कोमलता, अटल प्रेम, कृपा इत्यादि है। मत्ती के सुसमाचार में दयालुता महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है। वह दो बार होशेआ नबी के वचनों का उदाहरण देता हैः "मैं बलिदान नहीं, बल्कि दया चाहता हूँ।" ईसा दया और प्रेम करने वालों को आध्यात्मिक, शारीरिक और भौतिक रूप से असक्त रहने के लिए कहता है। जो दूसरों के प्रति दया दिखाता है, उसे ईश्वर एक मन से भी ज़्यादा प्यार करता है।

छठवां आशीर्वचनः इस आशीर्वाद में ईश्वर की आज्ञा के प्रति वफादारी और ईश्वर के न्याय के बारे में भी कहा गया है। निष्कपट हृदय और एकनिष्ठ मन से ईश्वर की उपासना करना ही शुद्धता है। कोई भी ईश्वर को देखने के बाद जीवित नहीं रह सकता, फिर भी जिनका हृदय निष्कपट है, निश्चित रूप से वे अपनी मृत्यु के बाद ईश्वर का दर्शन करेंगे।

सातवां आशीर्वचनः गरीबों को शांति का उपदेश देने के संदर्भ में आशीर्वचनों का तात्पर्य न केवल मेल–मिलाप, लेकिन समाज में रहने वाले सभी लोगों के सर्वांगिक कल्याण की चर्चा करता है।

आठवां और नवां आशीर्वचनः इसमें सताए जाने वाले लोगों को आश्वासन दिया जा रहा है कि वे ईसा के शिष्य हैं और धार्मिकता के लिए काम करने के लिए तैयार हैं। पहले और आठवें आशीर्वचन में स्वर्ग राज्य पाने का वचन दिया गया है। गरीब और अत्याचार सहने वाले केवल ईश्वर पर भरोसा रखते हैं। अत्याचार की ओर संकेत हो रहा है जिसे मत्ती के समुदाय, के सदस्यों ने अनुभव किया था। मत्ती के समुदाय यहूदियों और गैर–यहूदियों दोनों से सताए गए थे, जिसके बारे में ईसा ने पहले ही भविष्यवाणी की थी।



- सि. दियोन्सिया पीएसए



संत फ्रांसिस ज़ेवियर

गतांक से आगे

आकस्मिक प्रयाण :

"पुर्तगाली व्यापार के सिलसिले में आए अचानक प्रयाण ने यह निश्चित कर दिया था कि देर–सवेर चीनी लोग फादर फ्रांसिस को खोज निकालेंगे। उन्हें डर था कि चीनी अधिकारी निश्चित रूप से उन पर भी बदले की कार्रवाई करेंगे, अतः वे फ्रांसिस की योजना भंग करने का प्रयास कर रहे थे। जलयान में फ्रांसिस का स्वास्थ्य बिगड़ने लगा। 20 नवंबर को तेज बुखार ने फ्रांसिस को जकड़ लिया। बुखार से वे पहले ही कमजोर हो चुके थे, इस पर जलयान के हिलने–डुलने से उन्हें और भी असंतुलन और गंभीर सिरदर्द हो रहा था। अगले दिन उन्होंने जलयान को किनारे लगाने का आग्रह किया। तुरंत ही रेत पर एक छोटा सा झोपड़ा बनाया गया और उन्हें उसमें ले जाया गया।

उनकी बीमारी अब बेरोक वमन में बदल गई थी। यहाँ तक कि वे कुछ भी आहार लेने में असमर्थ थे, लेकिन फिर भी उनका मुखमंडल शुभ्र व शांत था और आत्मा नित्य शांति का अनुभव कर रही थी। वे कभी आँखें स्वर्ग की ओर लगा लेते थे और कभी क्रूस पर टिका लेते। वे ईश्वर से वार्तालाप में लगातार व्यस्त रहते थे और अविरल आंसू की धारा उनकी आँखों से बह रही थी।

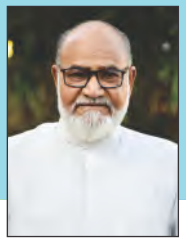
यद्यपि वे मात्र 46 वर्ष के थे और उसमें से 10–15 साल इंडीज में बिताए, लगातार श्रम से उनके बाल समय से पहले ही पक गए थे, और विशेषकर गत एक वर्ष में करीब सफ़ेद हो गए थे। वह सन 1552 के दिसंबर महीने की 3 तारीख, शुक्रवार था। फादर फ्रांसिस आँखों में आँसू लिए लगातार क्रूस को निहारते हुए यह कहते हुए थे, "हे प्रभु, तुझ पर ही भरोसा है, मैं सदा के लिए निराश नहीं होऊंगा।" और अपनी सुदृढ़ आत्मा प्रभु को सौंप दी। उसी दिन फ्रांसिस का शरीर दफना दिया गया। सैंटाक्रूज के कर्मचारी दल को उनकी मृत्यु की खबर लगी और वे किनारे आए।

नाविकों ने मृतक के दुबले हाथों को चूमा और यह विश्वास करते हुए कि वह ईश्वर के साथ होंगे, उनसे प्रार्थना की। उस दिन कड़ाके की ठंड थी और बिना दफन की धर्मक्रिया के एक छोटी प्रार्थना बोली गई। उनके कॉफिन में पूजा परिधान में शव, और दो बोरी अनबुझा चूना डाला गया। जलयान के कप्तान मिस्टर एंटोनियो ने यह सोचकर चूना डलवाया था ताकि बाद में सुविधा अनुसार उनकी अस्थियाँ भारत लाई जा सकें। यह विश्वास था कि अनबुझा चूना वस्त्र और मांस गला देगा और सिर्फ अस्थियाँ अक्षत रहेंगी। फ्रांसिस का शव एक चीनी ताबूत में रखा गया और संचयन की एक नगर ने पहाड़ी की चोटी पर आनन–फानन में खोदी गई कब्र में रखा गया। फादर फ्रांसिस को अलौकिक और धार्मिक इतिहासकार आज भी 16वीं शताब्दी का असाधारण गुणों से संपन्न व्यक्ति मानते हैं। लकड़ी का एक मामूली क्रूस उनकी कब्र के पीछे लगा और दोनों सिरों पर छोटे उभरे हुए पत्थर आरोहित किए गए। सन 1553 मध्य फरवरी में मलाका से लौटते समय सैंटाक्रूज के कप्तान एंटोनियो और जहाज के कर्मचारी दल ने उनके शरीर को खोजने की तैयारी की। फ्रांसिस का ताबूत खोद कर बाहर निकाला गया, खोला गया और उन पर आच्छादित चूना हटाया गया। उनका शरीर चूने में भी अक्षत पाया गया। वह तरोताजा और लाल रंग सुरखीमय में था। मानो फ्रांसिस मरे नहीं हैं, सोए हुए हों। शरीर नरम और रगों में अब भी लहू था। बाएँ घुटने के पास चीरा लगाया गया और लहू रिसने लगा। यहाँ तक कि वस्त्र भी अनबुझे चूने से अछूते पाए गए। शरीर के साथ ताबूत सावधानी से सैंटाक्रूज पर रखा गया। जलयान मालाका के लिए चल पड़ा। जलयान पर यात्रा करने वाले इस बात से सचेत थे कि उनके साथ एक अमूल्य निधि है। जब यह द्रुत यात्रा अचानक सिंगापुर में रेत के कारण अवरूद्ध हुई, तब कर्मचारी दल ने फ्रांसिस से सहयोग की प्रार्थना की। कहते हैं कि जलयान अविलंब गहरे पानी में तैरने लगा।

दिनांक 22 मार्च 1553 को जलयान मलाका पहुँचा जहाँ बड़े सम्मान से इसका स्वागत किया गया। कुछ महीनों से फ्रांसिस की मृत्यु की खबर से पूरा शहर घातक अनिष्ट और शोक से घिरा था। मानो अचानक सब खत्म हुआ। शरीर सीलन भरे कब्रिस्तान में दफनाया गया। गोवा स्थानांतरण के लिए अगस्त महीने में ताबूत पुनः निकाला गया। शरीर अब भी सम्पूर्ण और ताजा पाया गया। शरीर सम्मानपूर्वक जहाज से गोवा लाया गया जहाँ 15 मार्च 1554 में सेंट पॉल कॉलेज के गिरजाघर में रखा गया। इनकी मध्यस्थता द्वारा इंडीज और यूरोप के कई भागों में अनेक चमत्कारिक कार्य हुए।

फ्रांसिस ज़ेवियर सन 1554 में ही सन्त पिता पाल पांचवें द्वारा धन्य घोषित किए गए। सन्त का शरीर गोवा के बॉम जीसस चर्च में प्रतिष्ठापित किया गया। यह उस समय यीशु समाज के अधीन था। सन 1614 में यीशु समाज के अध्यक्ष के आदेश पर दाहिने हाथ की कोनी तक काट कर रोम ले जाया गया और वह आज तक वहीं है। सन 1662 की 22 मार्च के दिन सन्त पिता ग्रेगरी 15वें द्वारा सन्त घोषित किए गए।

सन 1744 में पुर्तगाली राजा जोहन पंचम के आदेश पर गोवा के बीच अपने सन्त फ्रांसिस जेवियर के मृत शरीर को निरीक्षण के लिए भेजा। निरीक्षण में मृत शरीर बिना किसी और विकार के पाया गया। उन दिनों तर्बरूख की बड़ी धूमधाम मची हुई थी। हर एक व्यक्ति तर्बरूख का टुकड़ा हथियाना चाहता था, क्योंकि यह आस्था थी कि यह लौकिक और अलौकिक के बीच एक माध्यम है जिसके द्वारा तर्बरूख धारक अनेक अलौकिक अनुग्रह और कृपाएं उपार्जित करता है।



सन्त के पहले पहल प्रदर्शन में ही किसी श्रद्धालु ने उनके दाहिने पैर की अंतिम अंगुली का एक अंश तर्बरूक के रूप में तोड़ लिया।

सन्त फ्रांसिस जेवियर का पर्व 3 दिसंबर में मनाया जाता है। यह विदेशी मिशन के संरक्षक हैं।

- फा. जोसफ सुन्नी







संतों के चरण चिन्हों में
संत मग्दलीन (मैडलेन) मोरानो

ख्रीस्तीयों की सहायक माता पुत्री धन्य मैग्डलेन के जीवन को हम 30–30 वर्षों के दो भागों में बाँट सकते हैं। प्रथम भाग एक लोकधर्मी के रूप में तथा दूसरा एक धर्म बहन के रूप में। 15 नवंबर, सन 1847 में उनका जन्म ड्यूरिंग के एक गरीब परिवार में हुआ। क्योंकि उनका पिता जो एक धनी व्यक्ति था उन्होंने एक गरीब परिवार की कन्या कैथरीन जिला से विवाह किया था जिससे क्रुद्ध होकर उनके परिवारजनों ने उन्हें पैतृक संपत्ति से वंचित कर दिया। सन 1895 में उनके पिता का देहांत हो गया। अगले महीने में उनकी बड़ी बहन, दूसरे वर्ष उनका भाई भी गुजर गए। परिवार की हालत इतनी दयनीय हो गई कि उन्हें काम पर लगना पड़ा, जिससे परिवार का भरण–पोषण हो सके। परिवार में चार बच्चे और मां भी थी।

मैग्डलेन का मामा फादर फ्रांसिस पंजिला ने उसे वापस स्कूल भेजा और परिवार की मदद करते रहे। उन्होंने निश्चय किया कि मैं पढ़–लिखकर एक टीचर बनूंगी। जब वह 15 वर्ष की हुई तब उसका वह सपना साकार हुआ। वहाँ के पल्ली पुरोहित ने छोटे बच्चों के लिए एक किंडरगार्टन स्कूल प्रारंभ किया और उसका कार्यभार मैग्डलेन को सौंपा। सन 1864 में उसे शिक्षा का प्रमाणपत्र मिला और वह विद्यालय में शिक्षिका बन गई। शीघ्र ही बालिकाओं का दिल जीतने और अभिभावकों का विश्वास अर्जित करने में वह सफल रही। नगर के मेयर एवँ पल्ली पुरोहित ने भी उसके असाधारण गुणों एवं योग्यताओं को पहचान कर पल्ली के सब बच्चों को धर्मशिक्षा देने का काम भी उसे सौंपा जिसे उन्होंने अपनी मृत्यु के कुछ दिन पूर्व तक बड़ी तत्परता से निभाया।

उस गाँव का एक गरीब भिखारी अचानक बीमार हो गया। किसी ने भी उस पर ध्यान नहीं दिया। किंतु मैग्डलेन को जब ज्ञात हुआ कि उसकी हालत गंभीर है तो वह उसकी कुटिया में गई, उसकी सेवा–सुश्रुषा की और उसे भली मौत के लिए तैयार किया। जब भी अवसर मिलते, वह इस प्रकार दिन–दुःखियों की सहायता करती थी। क्योंकि काफी समय से उसके मन में यह तीव्र अभिलाषा थी कि वह स्वयं को पूर्ण रूप से प्रभु को अर्पित कर दे। किंतु परिवार की दयनीय स्थिति के कारण यह संभव नहीं हुआ। अब अपनी तनख्वाह से माँ के लिए एक घर और थोड़ी जमीन खरीदने में वह समर्थ हो गई, अतः उसने अपनी इच्छा माँ को बताई। माँ ने सजल नेत्रों से बेटी को अनुमति दी और पल्ली पुरोहित ने अपना आश्चर्य इन शब्दों से प्रकट किया, 'यदि बिशप ने मेरा स्थानांतरण किया होता तो मेरे पैरिश और लोगों को कम नुकसान हुआ होता।'

उनकी जिंदगी के प्रथम 30 वर्ष बीत चुके थे फिर भी ख्रीस्तीयों की सहायक माता मरियम की पुत्रियों ने उन्हें अपनाया और शीघ्र ही शिक्षण कार्य भी उन्हें सौंपा। 1880 में उन्होंने व्रत धारण किया और उनका स्थानांतरण हो गया। उन्हें सारे कार्य करने थेः सुपीरियर, आचार्य, धर्म शिक्षा, नर्स और भोजन बनाना। चार वर्षों तक उन्होंने उपरोक्त सभी कार्य किए। किंतु सर्वोपरि उनके जीवन की साक्षी ही दूसरों को इतनी प्रेरणा देती थी कि झुंड के झुंड युवतियां उनका अनुकरण करने को तैयार हो गईं।

बिशपों ने उनसे आग्रह किया कि मठ की शाखाएं खोलें, जिसका उन्होंने पालन किया। बिशप ही नहीं कार्डिनल भी उनके कार्यों से प्रसन्न होकर पूरे धर्मप्रांत में धर्मशिक्षा देने का कार्य उन्हें सौंपा। ईश्वरीय प्रेम से उनका चेहरा सदा चमकता रहता था और वही प्रेम उन्हें आगे बढ़ाने की प्रेरणा देता था। वह अत्यंत विनम्र थी और प्रार्थना एवं ईश्वर के साथ निरंतर संयुक्तता से उसे शक्ति मिलती थी। उन्होंने 19 मठ, 12 प्रार्थना गृह, 6 स्कूल, 5 कार्यालय, 4 बोर्डिंग स्कूल और 3 धार्मिक स्कूल खोले जिनके कारण लौकिक एवं धार्मिक अधिकारियों की प्रशंसा के पात्र बनी। 26 मार्च 1908 में उनका निधन कटानिया में हुआ। उसी शहर में संत पिता जॉन पॉल द्वितीय ने 5 नवंबर 1994 में उन्हें धन्य घोषित किया।

- सि. क्लारीसा, पी.एस.ए.

बहुविकल्पीय प्रश्न

न्यायाधीशों की पुस्तक

1.न्यायाधीशों की पुस्तक में वर्णित प्रथम न्यायाधीश कौन है?
A. अहाब
B. एहुद
C.ओत्नीएल
D. गिदोन

2.सैमसन के पतन में किसकी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका थी?
A. तामार
B. जरूब्बाबेल
C. ईजेबेल
D. दलीला

3. वह मोटा राजा कौन था जिसे एहूद ने मार डाला?
A. एक्रोन
B. एग्लोन
C. एला
D. एकर

4. याबीन का सेनापति कौन था?
A. सिप्पई
B. सीसमाई
C. सीसरा
D. सोतै

5. वह युद्ध कहाँ लड़ा गया जिसमें याबीन की सेना पराजित हुई?
A. कीशोन नदी
B. जब्बोर नदी
C. जॉर्डन नदी
D. आमोन नदी

6. इज़राइल के लिए विजय का गीत किसने गाया?
A. इसहाक और रिबका
B. मूसा और हारून
C. दबोरा और बराक
D. देवदूत

7. सैमसन की पत्नी कहाँ से थी?
A. गाजा
B. तिम्ना
C. शीलो
D. बेतलेहेम

8. यहोवा ने इस्राएल को उत्पीड़न के लिये क्यों बचाया?
A. उन्होंने निन्दा की
B. उन्होंने बुरा किया
C.वे अपनी आज़ादी चाहते थे
D. उनका कोई नेता नहीं था

9. गिदोन के विश्वास की पहली परीक्षा में ओस किस पर थी?
A. घास
B. आधार
C. कपड़े
D. ऊन

10. गिदोन को कैसे पता चला कि वह मिद्यानी सेना को हरा देगा?
A. सेना थक गयी थी
B. एक मिद्यानी स्वप्न
C. उसे विश्वास था
D. उसके पास बेहतर हथियार थे



SR. REENA MSA, ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL, AJMER

ANSWERS - 1. C.ओत्नीएल 2. D.दलीला 3. B.एग्लोन 4. C.सीसरा 5. A.कीशोन नदी
6. C.दबोरा और बराक 7. B.तिम्ना 8. B. उन्होंने बुरा किया 9. D. ऊन 10. B.एक मिद्यानी स्वप्न

मदार पल्ली के समाचार





बालक येसु के जन्म उत्सव कि तैयारी :
दिसम्बर माह प्रथम सप्ताह मे चर्चा में आगमन काल कि घोषना कि गई। इस दौरान चर्च में प्रतिदिन मिस्सा बलिदान चढाने के बारे मे भी बताया गया। इस मिस्सा बलिदान में प्रतिदिन भाग लेने वालों को अन्त मे प्रोत्साहीत करने कि बात भी कि गई। यह एक खुला निमन्त्रण था जिससे समस्त पल्ली वासी बालक येसु के आगमन पर अपने आप को तैयार कर सकें। आगमन काल से चर्च वह उससे जुडी सभी तैयारीयों को भी जोर शोर से शुरू किया गया। प्रत्येक शनिवार व रविवार को होने वाली मिस्सा बलिदान व दया की रोजरी को चर्च मे गठित महिला मण्डल, सिस्टर व यूथ के द्वारा चढाया गया।

क्रिब मेकिगं :
बालक येसु के जन्म उत्सव कि झांकि अर्थात क्रिब बनाने कि तैयारी को भी शुरू किया गया। इस के लिए युथ, पेरिश काउन्सल व चर्च के सदस्यों के प्रयासों से चर्च कम्पाउन्ड में क्रिब का निमार्ण किया गया। इस क्रिब के माध्यम से बालक येसु के जन्म उत्सव के पल को दर्शाने का सफलतम प्रयास किया गया। इसी के साथ सभी युनिट में भी सभी पल्ली वासियों ने अपने अपने घरों मे भी क्रिब का निमार्ण किया। इस मे से हर युनिट से प्रथम व द्वितीय पुरस्कार के लिए पेरिश काउन्सल व पल्ली पुरोहित द्वारा चुनाव किया गया तथा उन्हें 24 दिसम्बर को मिस्सा के बाद उपहार वितरण किया गया।

पल्ली मे केरौल सिंगिंग :
मदार पल्ली में यूनिट अनुसार केरोल सिंगिंग का आयोजन रखा गया। इसे और भक्तिमय बनाने के लिए हर यूनिटवार मिस्सा बिलिदान चढाने के बाद हि केरौल सिंगिग का आयोजन किया गया। सभी पल्ली वासी एक दूसरे के घर घर जा कर बालक येसु के आने का सन्देश सुनाने के लिए पहुँचे। सभी घरों में उन्का उत्साह व उल्लास के साथ स्वागत किया गया। पल्ली प्रोहित द्वारा सभी के घरों मे आशीष कि प्रार्थना पढी गई और साथ ही सभी को बालक येसु के जन्म उत्सव कि बधाईयां दी गईं।

क्रिसमस पर्व पर मिस्सा बलिदान चढाया गया :
क्रिस्मस पर्व पर मिस्सा बलिदान का आयोजन किया गया। इस दिन पूरे चर्च को रोशनी से सजाया गया। चर्च को अन्दर से भी डेकोरेट किया गया। बालक येसु के आगमन पर वेदी कोभी फुलो से सजाया गया। पल्ली पुरोहित फा.मेल्बिन व फा सन्तोष द्वारा मध्य रात्री मिस्सा बलिदान चढाया गया। जिसमे समस्त पल्ली ने पूर्ण भक्ति के साथ भाग लिया। फा.सन्तोष द्वारा अपने सुसमाचार सन्देश द्वारा सभी पल्ली वासियों को बालक येसु के जन्म उत्सव के वास्तविक अर्थ को समझाने का प्रयास किया गया। मिस्सा के उपरान्त सभी पल्ली वासियों ने एक दूसरे को बधाईया दी चर्च कि और से केक व कोफी की व्यवस्था की गई।

जुबली सेलीब्रेशन : यह गर्व कि बात है कि मदार पल्ली से एक परिवारो से अपने दो बच्चों को ईश्वर कि सेवा के लिए समर्पित किया है। यह परिवार है इमेन्वेल परिवार जिनहोने अपने बेटे फा.डोमनिक इमेन्वेल तथ अपनी बैटी सि.दीव्या इमेन्वेल को सर्म्पित किया है। सि. दिव्या ने ईश्वर कि सेवकाई में अपने 50 वर्ष पूर्ण किये। आप के भाई श्री बेन्जमिन ईमान्वेल व उन कि पत्नि ऐगनेस बेन्जमिन ने भी अपने विवाहिक जीवन के 50 वर्ष पूर्ण किये। इस दोहरी खुशी के लिए मदार पल्ली कि और से पूरे परिवार को बहुत बहुत शुभकामनाए। ईश्वर आप को आशिष प्रदान करें।

नव वर्ष का स्वागत : यह मदार पल्ली के लिए बहुत ही आनन्द का समय रहा जब हम सभी पल्ली वासियों ने मिल कर नववर्ष का स्वागत 31 दिसम्बर कि मध्य रात्री मे ईश्वर के अनुग्रह के साथ मिस्सा बलिदान के रूप मे किया। यह हमारा सोभाग्य रहा कि हमारे पूजनीय बीशप स्वामी जी ओसवाल लुईस व फा. अमित द्वारा इस मिस्सा बलिदान को चढाया गया। अपने सन्देश मे बीशप स्वामी जी द्वारा नव वर्ष मे अपने को प्रभु के आदर मे समर्पित करने का आहवान किया गया।

क्रिस्मस ट्री खेल गतिविधियों का आयोजन :
जनवरी के प्रथम दिन पल्ली में क्रिस्मस ट्री खेलो का आयोजन किया गया। इस में सभी पल्ली वासियों के लिए खेल गतिविधियों का आयोजन किया गया। इस मे बच्चों,जोडो,यूवाओं सभी के लिए विभिन्न प्रकार के खेलों का ओयोजन किया गया। सभी परिवारों ने मिल कर इस सेलीब्रेट में भाग लिया और खुशियां मनाई। खेल में जीतनेवालों के लिए पल्ली कि और से इनाम वितरित किया गया। साथ ही बेस्ट फेमली के लिए भी ईनाम निकाला गया। अन्त मे सभी के लिए भोजन कि व्यवस्था कि गई।



सर्व धर्म मैत्री संघ

दिनांक 5 दिसंबर को नशा मुक्ति अभियान का प्रारंभ जिलाधीश लोक बंधु पुलिस अधीक्षक वंदिता राणा के द्वारा किया गया सहयोगी संस्था ईश्वरीय ब्रह्माकुमारी विश्वविद्यालय व समाज कल्याण विभाग के संयुक्त निदेशक रहे दिन कार्ड दिसंबर को पल्स पोलियो अभियान के तहत सर्वधर्म मैत्री संघ के पदाधिकारी के द्वारा पल्स पोलियो की बूंद बच्चों को पिलाई गई।

12 दिसंबर को ईश्वरीय ब्रह्माकुमारी विश्वविद्यालय शास्त्री नगर शाखा में विशाल कार्यक्रम में नशा मुक्ति के तहत लोगों को जागरूक किया गया। समाज कल्याण विभाग के संयुक्त निदेशक अनिल व्यास के द्वारा सभी को शपथ दिलाई गई।

दिनांक 17 दिसंबर पेंशनर दिवस के रूप में मनाया जाता है। इसी क्रम में जनकपुरी गंज स्थित में हस्ताक्षर अभियान के तहत लगभग 500 व्यक्तियों के द्वारा हस्ताक्षर करवाए गए जिसमें मुख्य अतिथि भूपेश माथुर व पूर्व आर.ए.एस. अधिकारी सुरेश सिंधी, राकेश अन्य सामाजिक संगठनों के पदाधिकारी भी उपस्थित रहे

दिनांक 22 दिसंबर को मैत्री संघ के पदाधिकारी व सदस्यों ने सुविधा स्कूल के विमानित बच्चों के साथ क्रिसमस पर्व मनाया। बच्चों के साथ खेल खेला और बच्चों को मिठाई का वितरण किया गया।

दिनांक 25 दिसंबर को क्रिसमस के पर्व पर सेंट एंसलम्स स्कूल में आयोजित मेले में बिशप ओसवाल्ड लुइस को साफा एंव शॉल पहनाकर अभिनंदन किया गया।

दिनांक 27 दिसंबर को देश की राष्ट्रीय समरसता को बरकरार रखने हेतु राष्ट्रपति महोदय के नाम जिलाधीश के द्वारा एक ज्ञापन भेजा गया सभी कार्यक्रम अध्यक्ष प्रकाश जैन के नेतृत्व फादर कॉस्मोस शेखावत एवं सिस्टर अनुषा के सहयोग से प्रतिपादित किए गए जिसमें सभी सदस्य उपस्थित रहे।

कुपोषण के खिलाफ एक अभियान



कुपोषण के खिलाफ लड़ाई के तहत भारत के राजस्थान राज्य के अजमेर और बाड़मेर जिले में कुपोषित बच्चों के लिए व्यापक पोषण देखभाल के रूप में एक परियोजना शुरू कि जा रही है। भारत में, कुपोषण पाँच वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों की मृत्यु के प्रमुख कारणों में से एक है। 2015 व 2016 के पारिवारिक स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण (NFHS-4) के अनुसार, 5 वर्ष से कम आयु के 21 प्रतिशत बच्चे मध्यम तीव्र कुपोषण Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) से पीडित थे और 7.5 प्रतिशत गंभीर तीव्र कुपोषण Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) से पीडित थे। जो बच्चें इन कठिन परिस्थितियों से बच जाते हैं, उनके जीवन में बाद में शारीरिक और संज्ञानात्मक क्षमता बहुत सीमित हो जाती है। देश में सबसे बड़ी समस्या पांच साल से कम उम्र के कम वजन वाले बच्चों की व्यापकता है, जो कम पोषण का परिणाम है। कोविड–19 की स्थिति ने भारत की कुपोषण के खिलाफ लडाई में आपूर्ति श्रृंखला को बाधित कर दिया है, हमें उन अति कमजोर लोगों की सहायता करनी चाहिए जो खुद को बचाने में सबसे कम सक्षम हैं। इन सभी मुद्दो के मध्य नजर आर.सी.डी. समाज सेवी संस्था द्वारा सेंट पीटर क्लेवर मिशनरी बहनों के सहयोग से कुंजी नामक सूक्ष्म परियोजना को 2023 में प्रथम चरण के रूप में लागू करवाया गया था। 150 बच्चों के साथ इस कार्यक्रम कि सफलतम शुरूआत कि गई थी जिसमें कुपोषित बच्चों की जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए भोजन वितरण कार्यक्रम चलाया गया। कार्यक्रम के तहत, कार्यान्वयन अवधि में सूखें मेवे मिश्रित पौष्टिक लड्डू, सोया स्टिक और अतिरिक्त पौष्टिक सहायता सहित पोषण किट वितरित किये गये। जिससे बच्चों के स्वास्थ्य स्थिति में सुधार आया पहले के मुकाबले इन बच्चों की शारीरिक फिटनेस और समग्र स्वास्थ्य और कल्याण में सुधार हुआ। परन्तु इन्हें पूर्ण रूप से लाभ पहुंचे इस के लिए नियमित व सत्त परियोजना की आवश्यकता को देखते हुए द्वितीय चरण को भी संस्था द्वारा लागू किया जा रहा है। संस्था आप लोगों से भी निवेदन करती है कि इस मुहीम में हमारा सहयोग प्रदान करें । आप के आस पास इस प्रकार से 6 वर्ष से कम आयु का कोई भी कुपोषित बच्चा दिखाई दे तो आप हम से सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं। हम आप को उस के लिए पोषिण सामग्री उपलब्ध करवायेंगे परन्तु उसे पोषित करने व उस कि समय समय पर निगरानी आप कि जिम्मेदारी होगी। इस से सम्बंधित सभी जानकारियों से हम आप को समय समय पर अवगत करवाते रहेगें। आप से निवेदन है कि इस अच्छे कार्य मे हमारा सहयोग प्रदान कर अपने क्षेत्र को कुपोषण मुक्त बनाये।

इस के लिए आप संस्था के हेल्प लाईन नम्बर 9358855883 पर सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं।

इस के लिए आप संस्था के हेल्प लाईन नम्बर 9358855883 पर सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं।

दिशा
SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY
आर.सी.डी. समाज सेवी संस्था

SCAN TO DONATE

Inauguration of Jubilee year- 2025 In Ajmer Diocese



Activities by Inter- Faith Dialogue Group AJMER



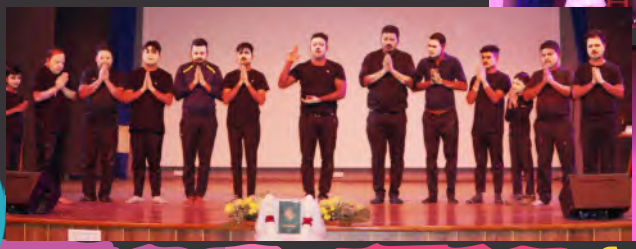


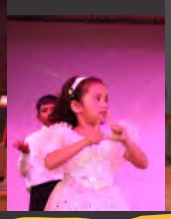
Diocesan Bible Festival 2024















Diocesan Bible Festival 2024 Results

1. Biblical Solo Song

Category A
1st -Saniha - St. Thomas the Apostle's Church, Balotra
2nd -Navomi - St. Thomas the Apostle's Church, Balotra
3rd Adelin - St John Paul II Church, Phalodi

Category D
1st Ms. Reshma - St. Thomas the Apostle's Church, Balotra
2nd Sr. Blossom MSA – Immaculate Conception Cathedral
3rd Dakarushwa Lyngdoh - MSA Mother House
3rd Sr. Claire SABS - Immaculate Conception Cathedral
3rd Francis Philips - St Mother Teresa's Church, Kudi

2. Biblical Mono Act

Category B
1st Blessy - St Mother Teresa's Church Kudi
2nd Ananya - St Mother Teresa's Church Kudi

Category C & D
1st Ajish - St John Paul II Church, Phalodi
2nd Dakarushwa Lyngdoh - MSA Mother House
3rd Angel - St Joseph Church, Mala Road

3. Saints Fancy Dress

1st Leo - St Mother Teresa's Church Kudi
2nd Ashwini - St Mother Teresa's Church Kudi
2rd Riddima Trishul - St. Teresa Church, Ladpura
3rd Vishal - St Mother Teresa's Church Kudi

4. Declamation

1st Surya - St John Paul II Church, Phalodi
2nd Leo - St Mother Teresa's Church Kudi
3rd Adelin - St John Paul II Church, Phalodi

5. Biblical King/Queen (Ramp Walk)

1st Dakarushwa Lyngdoh - MSA Mother House
2nd Sibahun Shabong - MSA Mother House
3rd Sumit - St Joseph Church, Mala Road

6. Biblical Poster Color Painting

1st Diya Rawat - St. Joseph's Church, Parbatpura
2nd Ashwin - St Joseph Church, Mala Road
3rd Michelle Lobo - Immaculate Conception Cathedral

Category B
1st Blessy - St Mother Teresa's Church, Kudi
2nd Ishika - St Michael's Church, Suket

Category C
1st Ashwin - St Joseph Church, Mala Road
2nd Wilson - St Mother Teresa's Church Kudi

Category D
1st Clifford Daniels - Immaculate Conception Cathedral
2nd Mr. David - St Mother Teresa's Church Kudi
3rd Balakyntiew Kharsati - MSA Mother House
3rd Sr. Hanna - Immaculate Conception Cathedral

7. Bible Writing

Category C
1st Judith - St Mother Teresa's Church, Kudi
2nd Gaurav M - Immaculate Conception Cathedral

Category D
1st Sr Dayana PHJC - St Joseph Church, Mala Road
2nd Sr Vimala PHJC - St Joseph Church, Mala Road
3rd Mrs. Manju - St. Thomas the Apostle's Church, Balotra

8. Biblical Group Dance

Category A & B
1st St Mother Teresa's Church, Kudi
2nd Immaculate Conception Cathedral
3rd St John Paul II Church, Phalodi

Category C & D
1st Our Lady of Seven Dolores Church Bhatta
2nd St Mother Teresa's Church, Kudi
3rd St Michael's Church, Suket

9. Biblical Mime

1st Immaculate Conception Cathedral
2nd St John Paul II Church, Phalodi
3rd St Mother Teresa's Church, Kudi

10. Biblical Quiz

1st Our Lady of Seven Dolores Church, Bhatta
2nd St Joseph Church, Mala Road
3rd St Mother Teresa's Church, Kudi

Best Parish award in Diocesan BibleFestival- St. Mother Teresa Church, Kudi

DIOCESAN CRIB MAKING COMPETITION RESULT

Parish / Mission Station

First prize – ₹ 5000/-
St. Paul's Church, Vallabhnagar, Kota

Second Prize – ₹ 3000/-
St. Joseph the worker Church, Kota

Third prize – ₹ 1500/- each
Our Lady of Rosary Church, Madar
Our Lady of Seven Dolours' Church, Bhatta

Runners – Up (₹ 1000/- each)
St. Sebastian Church, Pal Road
St. Joseph Church, Parbatpura
St. Mother Teresa Church, Kudi
St. Teresa Church, Jodhpur
St. Teresa Church, Ladpura
St. Martin church, Bhawanikhera

Institution/ Religious House

First prize –₹ 5000/-
MSA Mother House

Second Prize – ₹ 3000/-
St. Paul's School, Balotra

Third prize – ₹ 1500/- each
MSA Provincial House
St. Paul's School, Jhalamond

Runners – Up (₹1000/- each)
Sophia College
Karunalaya
St. Paul's School, Sumerpur
St. Paul's School, Phalodi
Ss. Peter & Paul School, Narbadkhera

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- Matthew 5:14-16



19th JANUARY
Episcopal Ordination Anniversary
Congratulations Dear
Bishop Pius D'Souza



3rd JANUARY
Happy Birthday Dear
Bishop Ignatius Menezes



4th JANUARY
Happy Birthday Dear
Rev. Fr. John Pais



27th JANUARY
Happy Birthday Dear
Rev. Fr. Gilbert Joseph

Oremus Pro Invicem
(Let us pray for each other)

Fr. Robert Lewis	01-01-2004
Fr. Alfred D'Silva	09-01-1991
Fr. Mark D'Souza	20-01-2001
Fr. Francis Noronha	26-01-1980
Fr. Joseph Thanickel	30-01-1979
Fr. Epiphanio Rodriques	31-01-1988

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Apostolic Administrator's Program

Catholic Diocese of Ajmer

Bishop House, Kaiser Ganj, Ajmer - RAJ.

	01.01.25	08:00 am 06:00 pm	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God – Holy Mass Cathedral of Immaculate Conception Christmas Get – together, St. Paul's School, Ajmer.
	04.01.25	03:30 pm	Sarva Dharma Maitri, Annual get - together
	05.01.25	03:00 am	Departure to Jhansi
	06.01.25	05:00 pm	Installation of Bp. Wilfred Moras as the Bishop of Jhansi – Holy Mass
	08.01.25	01:00 am	Arrival at Ajmer
	12.01.25	10:00 am	Diocesan Bible Festival
	13.01.25	06:00 pm	Executive Body Meeting, Catholic Educational Institutions in Rajasthan – Pastoral Centre, Madar.
	14.01.25	09:00 am	A.G.M. of Catholic Educational Institutions in Rajasthan – Pastoral Centre, Madar.
	16.01.25	05:30 am 05:00 pm	Departure to Khetri Nagar. Thanksgiving Holy Mass, Golden Jubilee of Sophia School.
	17.01.25	11:00 pm	Arrival at Ajmer.
	18.01.25	11:00 am	Thanksgiving Holy Mass, Golden Jubilee of St. Joseph's School, Dhola Bhata.
	19.01.25	08:30 am	Feast of Infant Jesus Church, Bewar.
	20.01.25	01:00 pm	Annual Sport's Day, St. Paul's School Falna.
	25.01.25	06:00 pm	Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, Holy Mass – St. Paul's Church, Vallabhnagar.
	26.01.25	08:00 am	Republic Day, Flag Hoisting Ceremony, St. Paul's School, Vallabhnagar.
	27.01.25	07:30 am	Departure to Bhubhneshwar
	28th Jan. to 4th Feb. 25		36th Plenary Assembly of Conference of the Catholic Bishop's India (CCBI), Bhubhneshwar.

† **Most Rev. Oswald J. Lewis**
Apostolic Administrator

MOST REV. OSWALD J. LEWIS ★ APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR ★



A Loving Tribute to our

Dear Sister Brenda

"Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life". (Rev. 2:10)

Our dear Sister Brenda, who certainly discovered the centrality of Jesus in her life, completed her race after serving the Master faithfully for 57 glorious years in religious life, in the Institute of the Mission Sisters of Ajmer.

Philomena Saldanha was gifted to Thomas and Natalia Saldanha on 24th August 1937 at Ucassaim, Goa. She did her schooling at Mary Immaculate School, Borivili, Bombay, and joined the Pre-novitiate of the Mission Sisters of Ajmer on 3rd March 1964. She made her first profession on 2nd July 1967, taking the name Sr. Brenda. She celebrated the golden jubilee of her religious profession on 2nd July 2017.

In her missionary career, Sr. Brenda served in the following institutions: Sophia School, Ajmer, Mount Abu, Mapuca, and Mary Immaculate School, Borivili. She taught the children art, needlework, and craft with great enthusiasm and love. Children loved to attend her class. They used to flock to the needlework room even during their free periods. She used innovative ways to make her class interesting for the students. Sister excelled in the art of flower making and imparted this knowledge to the junior sisters and candidates.

Sister has touched the lives of many students, staff members, co-workers, sisters of the community, visiting sisters, priests, and other guests with her welcoming smile and caring ways. It looks as though her motto was 'service with a smile.' Hospitality was her trademark. She served the rich and the poor alike. She would even give her pocket money to the poor when someone was in need.

Sister Brenda's life was not a bed of roses. She was a patient of blood cancer for the last 28 years but with the cross came the crown, pain brought gain, trials ended in triumph, and patience brought peace. Her life has been a living testimony of faith, courage, dedication, and commitment. Sister had a very compassionate heart for those who were sick or in any kind of distress. Sister Brenda lovingly cared for the sick sisters of the community.

Sister was a praying nun and an intercessor, always praying for others, and I am sure even today she is definitely interceding for us in heaven. Daily she used to spend long hours before the Blessed Sacrament, praying for the needs of the church, especially for the priests and for all those who asked for her prayers. She had a great devotion to Mary, our Mother, and recited a number of rosaries during the day. Her prayerful yearning all through the years must have been that her consecrated life may bear fruit in loving service. And indeed, as we all know, it really has!

Today, together with the family members – the Saldanha family, represented by Alphonse, her nephew, and the Fernandes family, represented by Sr. Arlene – we thank God for our dear Sr. Brenda and her loving services to our institute and the Church.

On the evening of 23rd November, Sister Brenda experienced excruciating pain in the chest and breathing difficulty and was admitted to St. Francis Hospital. The Sacrament of the Sick was administered to her by Rev. Fr. Raymond Fernandes, the parish priest. The doctor in attendance diagnosed her case as 'cardiac asthma.' Slowly, she developed pulmonary embolism and multiple organ failure, which advanced into renal failure, making breathing very difficult. On the morning of 7th December, at 3:30 a.m., Sister breathed her last.

We offer our deep sympathies to all family members of Sr. Brenda, both present and absent. On behalf of our Superior General, Rev. Sr. Goretti, and our Provincial Superior, Sr. Sushma, we take this opportunity to thank Rt. Rev. Bishop Oswald Lewis and Bishop Emeritus Ignatius Menezes for officiating at this funeral mass. Sincere thanks to all the priests present here for concelebrating at the Eucharist, sisters, friends, and well-wishers for your presence, prayers, and floral tributes.

We express our sincere gratitude to Sisters Lizy Abraham, Carmeline, and all the sisters, doctors, nursing, and caretaking staff of St. Francis Hospital for the tender loving care shown to our dear Sr. Brenda during her illness.

Thank you, dear Sister Brenda, for being a sister and friend to us. May God grant you peace and rest in His heavenly kingdom. We believe we shall meet again in heaven, where there will be no more pain and no more sorrow.

MSA Family – St. Francis Province

Tribute

TO THE FORMER CHIEF EDITORS & MEMBERS OF EDITORIAL BOARD

"Their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light."
1 Corinthians 3:13

"As we celebrate this milestone Golden Jubilee edition of Rajasthan Calling, we take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated team of editors and proofreaders who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Your meticulous attention to detail, commitment to excellence, and passion for storytelling have been instrumental in shaping this publication into what it is today. As the Bible says, 'Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men.' (Proverbs 22:29) Your skill and dedication have earned you a place of honor, and we salute you!"



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