



GUJARAT JESUIT SAMACHAR

Premal Jyoti, PB 4002, Ahmedabad - 380 009



72/923 GJS DECEMBER 2020

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

- 01 – 08 : Retreat
- 11 – 12 : Meeting JESAE, Sneh Jyoti, Sevasi
- 15 – 18 : Visitation, Pimpri
- 19 – 22 : Visitation, Zankhvav
- 27 – 28 : Consult, XTI, Sevasi
- 28 : Ordination of Dn Pratik Christi at St Joseph's Parish, Vadodara

APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **GENERAL has appointed**
 - Fr Shajumon Chakkalakkal (DAR): Socius to the POSA
 - Fr Roland Coelho SJ (Provincial of Goa): Consultor to JCSA/POSA
- ◆ **PROVINCIAL has appointed**
 - **Fr. Anil Parmar:** Principal, St Xavier's High School, Kalol
 - **Fr. George Kodithottam:** Sadhana Sadan, Sughad



THE PROVINCIAL AND THE CURIA
WISHES EVERY ONE
A SAFE AND JOYOUS CHRISTMAS AND A
HOPE-FILLED NEW YEAR!

PROVINCE HIGHLIGHTS

» Ignatian Leadership

The Superiors' Forum was held from 18-21 November at the Centre for Culture & Development [CCD], Sevasi. Despite the difficulties caused by COVID-19 pandemic Fr. Provincial, the Consultors and all (with the exception of one) the Superiors actively participated in the Forum.

The meeting began with a session by **Fr. Fernando Franco** about the role of the local superiors in the implementation of the province apostolic plan. Then **Fr. George Kodithottam** spoke on the new Church legislations on the procedures to follow in cases of allegations of Sexual Abuse against clerics and religious and our Province Protocol in such cases. He also enlightened us on the two Church documents on the topic namely *Vos estis lux mundi* and *Vademecum* and our primary duty for safeguarding the children and vulnerable persons from abuse and the need to play a proactive role for their safety and wellbeing.

Fr. Provincial in his address shared with the superiors what he had gathered from the canonical visitations to the communities: his observations and concerns of the province. Vocation promotion, collaboration and commitment to our religious vows





were some of the concerns he expressed. He added, that promoting vocations to the Society of Jesus is the responsibility of every Jesuit and therefore we must foster vocations by the way we live our Jesuit life

The next couple of days were dedicated to the symposium on Ignatian leadership. Fr. Tony J D'Souza of the Bombay Province was the resource person; he led us through various aspects psycho-spiritual framework in order to develop a deeper spirituality and acquire skills to cope with many of the emotional problems of everyday life. Growing in awareness of one's self is the ability to see ourselves as God sees us. Our vocation as Jesuits and the role we are called to play as leaders of the local communities is an invitation to become Christ like; it's a call to a life of mindful and choiceful living.

The Superiors' Forum concluded with few moments of prayerful silence thanking God for His blessings and a sense of sense of gratitude and appreciation to the resource person Fr Tony J D'Souza SJ, the Community of Xavier Residence, Sevasi and the Sneh Jyoti Parivar were thanked for their generous and to all the participants for their valuable and responsible contribution to the meet. (Anthony Pitchai Vedam SJ)

» Junior Jottings

On 7 & 8 Oct, 2020 we had a very enriching course by Advocate Sr. Sagaya. Among the topics she dealt with were gender inclusiveness, POCSO, human trafficking and paedophilia and related issues. Sr. Sagaya, she shared her own experiences and the painful stories of the victims which touched our heart and left us asking, "what can I do for them?"

Our First semester exams were held from 26 -29 October on the phonology of English, Jesuit History and Spirituality, Grammar and Composition, Second Language (Hindi & Marathi). The exams went well. We then spent five days (1 -5 Nov) in an enjoyable holiday with nature at Khandala. **Fr. Aubrey**



Fernandes planned the days meticulously for us We enjoyed going for trekking to the Dukes nose, Sausage Mountains, and Deer Forest.

On 9 Nov, we began our Second semester with regular classes and some new subjects. From 11-14 Nov we had a drama course and its importance in our ministry. We learnt how to mime, act to perform street plays. We also prepared a small programme for our community members; where we performed a drama 'Thirteen Angry Pigs' and some other short skits. This course was very elevating and useful. We have also started our weekly ministries with all the mandatory precautions. Every Wednesday and Saturday we go to the different houses of Snehasadan. We teach the basic about the Computer and about the different programmes, to the children. (Sch. Pradip Gamit SJ)

» Novitiate Notes

The months of October and November were special for us. On 23 October we had a recollection given by Fr. Novice master on how God led the Israelites in the Bible, the Jesuits in India in the past and how He leads us today. The beauty of this recollection was that it was divided into two parts: we pondered and reflected on the points, followed by the Eucharist; we then had a seven-hours chain adoration for the release of Fr. Stan Swamy and for other intentions. On 25 October we had an outing to Xavier farm at Shantibusward. Fr. Joe Chenekala shared with us about the mission



and the difficulties faced. We were greatly inspired by the work there.

On 30th October, two resource persons as well as benefactors of our house by name Dr. Niranjana and Prof. Padhmini took a session for us on COVID-19 -19 and taught us how to fight against it. The second session was on the existence of God. Prof. Padhmini shared her personal experience of God which was inspiring and touching. On 14 November, the 2nd year novices conducted a youth programme at St. John the Baptist Church Ganeshpur on the theme 'Youth for Christ' On 17 November, we went to Belgaum for a peaceful protest arranged by the Goa Jesuits. This rally was to show our solidarity with Fr. Stan and the other activists in prison. Many priests, nuns and lay people participated in it; Bishop Derek Fernandes of Belgaum also joined the rally.

On the 18 November we were glad to welcome Fr. Roland Coelho, the Provincial of Goa to our community. His visit lasted for two days. We were greatly inspired, motivated, encouraged and challenged by his homilies. He asked us to be men of God who look through the eyes of God and feel with His heart and finally open the closed doors to be for all. The novices also visited three Kannada missions run by the Goa Jesuits on the 21 November. All these experiences and encounters have meant much to in deepening our vocation. (Novice Vinay Khaniya)

» Sneh Jyoti Snippets

After six months of continuous classes the Sneh Jyoti community ventured for a one-day picnic. So, on 14 November we first went to Rajpipla where we had a chance to interact and know more about the Rajpipla mission. Thanks to **Fr. Stany Pinto** and the community for their magnanimity. Thereafter to Nanisingloti where we had a full day which included the Eucharist, a swim in the nearby river, a delicious



meal and interactions to know more about the mission. Thanks to **Fr. MG Raj** and **Jobin** for their hospitality and care. A day truly well- spent. Sneh Jyoti community continues to reverberate with Jesuit companionship. (Sch. Allwin Macwan SJ)

» Mission Tour:

After two months of hectic online classes, CIA 2exams, assignments and university examinations, we scholastics had a welcome Diwali break from 9 -21 November during which we also had an exposure to the North Gujarat Missions.

On 14 November, we began with a visit to St. Xavier's School, Himmatnagar. We then went to Kadvath and visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. There we had spiritual nourishment and were provided with information about the mission and the surroundings. We then proceeded to Modasa where we celebrated the Festival of Lights at the Eucharist and prayed for the grace to become that lights which can dispel darkness from within and around us. Our last halt was Bhiloda where we spent the night. The next morning, we celebrated the Eucharist with some of the locals. Our last stop was the Vijayanagar mission after a brief halt in the beauty of the Polo Forest. We returned to Premal Jyoti at night after dinner at the apostolic school in Sughad.





It was indeed a wonderful exposure for all of us. We were impressed by the zeal of the missionaries: both sisters and fathers. We were touched by the hospitality, generosity and universality of all. We are enriched with the experience. (Sch. Bipin Bara SJ (Nep))

» Mission Experience

From Piyush Gamit: I had meaningful and inspiring experience in Bhiloda staying in the Jesuit community. I accompanied the fathers to different villages for Mass, to visit the people and to distribute kits to the poor. I experienced their simple life style; there are some villages where people are not even aware of modern technology. As I reflected on this, I realised that God has given them a contented life with fresh air to breath and fresh food to eat. I saw them satisfied with what they have. I learnt that I must be satisfied with what I have and not to worry about what I don't have. I also experienced the spirit of Ignatian 'Mission of Christ' in fathers, as they work with the poor people and help them in their needs.

From Saurabh Parmar: While visiting the villages I felt pain for the poor and uneducated, and underprivileged. Visiting the people in different villages daily, I felt the suffering of Christ in them – suffering for their rights, land, water, education, and so many other things. People over there don't have enough food to eat and or to feed their children. Though the environment was good and healthy, the oppressors have made their life miserable. 'Sangath' with Sunnybhai and his team have been trying to help each village to fight for their own rights, to seek for justice with knowledge and to arrive at an amicable solution

We are grateful to Fr. James Savarimuthu, who gave us the opportunity to be in the missions. We thank all the Jesuits who help us have a meaningful experience. They have given good example of spirit

of St. Ignatius' 'Contemplation in Action.' (Schs. Piyush Gamit and Saurabh Parmar)

» Shraddha Diary:

It has been an eventful month for us at Shraddha. As the weather changed, the focus of Juniors changed and we began studying more ardently. Then came the awaited tour to Radhanpur which had elements of relaxation and enjoyment. The exposure to the historical place helped us to strengthen the bonds of community and companionship. We thank **Frs. Michael Raj, Vijayanand Shidonkar** and **Sch. Ashish Pandor** for their hospitality.



On 27 November, the quarterly magazine 'Pahel' (issue No. 10) of the Gujarati Juniorate was released by our Professor Dr. Jitendra Macwan at Shraddha. For us Juniors it was a proud moment that we were able to bring out the magazine under the guidance of Kavi Yoseph and the leadership of **Sch. Jipson Pereira**, the editor. To mark the day, we had a small celebration with the teachers and other invited guests. We sincerely thank all those who have been encouraging us and contributing towards our growth. (Sch. Aric Makwana SJ)



»» Coronavahi

Fr. Vinayak Jadav recently released book '*Coronavahi: Mahamari Kal Na Manano*' (Corona Diary: Reflections during the Pandemic) is the kernel of his long and prayerful reflections on the varied effects of COVID-19 on India's social fabric. Sitting for hours on end in front of his window during the first lockdown, Fr. Vinayak pondered over the pandemic's repercussions on individuals, families, and society as a whole. The ruminations, seamlessly interwoven with apt and epigrammatic verses and artfully drawn illustrations in each chapter, read more like prayerful meditations than chronicles. In a way, Coronavahi exemplifies what it means to re-examine life in light of the contemporary realities. The book delves into the history of major plagues to highlight the social, moral, and spiritual lessons the current pandemic can teach us, not the least of which is to rely on faith in God and human goodness to steer us safely out of these troubled times. I am sure such a timely meditation on the pandemic will enrich readers not only with a refreshing literary sensitivity, but also profound spiritual insights. (Sunil Macwan, SJ)



concelebrants blessed and inaugurated the chapel. In his homily he exhorted the large gathering to walk in the footsteps of Jesus through selfless service. He congratulated the villagers, sisters and fathers for putting up the beautiful structure and for organising a memorable event.

Many contributed generously: the family which donated the land, financial donors from different parts of India, the villagers, the volunteers, the Vedruna Sisters, and others. The chapel became a reality thanks to the efforts of **Fr Peter Kozhikkadan**.

On 8 November a grotto of Mother Mary was blessed in Haripura village with a Eucharist presided over by and with **Frs. Victor Davamani**, Peter K. and **Kishor Gavit** as concelebrants. Earlier on 5 November, Fr Durai blessed the newly renovated Farm House and other improvements on the Dholka Agricultural Land. (Andrew D' Abreo SJ)



»» Xavier's Marks

Dr. Sanjeev Gupta has again brought laurels to St. Xavier's College. He has been named among the top 2% global scientists in a report released by the prestigious Stanford University. The rankings are based on a database of over 1.50 lakh scientists, reported The Times of India (Nov 5). The college campus and the college residence garden now have a good facelift with a great variety of plants being planted in an aesthetic manner. (Johnson Mundupuzhakal SJ)

»» Bardipada Bytes

On 11 October, the inauguration and blessing ceremony of 'The Good Shepherd' Chapel was held in Pipalwada-Kevedi village, Bardipada Mission. **Provincial Fr. Durai Fernand**, who presided over the Eucharistic Celebration with seven other

»» JEPASA Meet

JEPASA national coordinator Fr. Arun Kumar organized a zoom meeting on the 9 November. The resource person was the first national coordinator of JEPASA, Fr. Jerry Rosario. His presentation had

two parts: post COVID-19 pastoral concerns and suggestions for the Ignatian year.

Fr Jerry highlighted five **Pastoral concerns**: i. Listening to the God of Covid ii. Living with Corona iii. Living a simple Life iv. becoming a family church v. Hope

There were five suggestions for the **Ignatian Year**: i. Cultivate Ignatian-ness ii. direct 19th annotation retreat in all our Jesuit Parishes iii. Organizing Pilgrimages iv. Popularize the in-depth meaning of Ignatian prayers v. A meeting and a recollection. (James Vas SJ)

» GJYM Office Inauguration

A new page was added in the history of Gujarat Jesuit Youth Ministry (GJYM) when its new office was blessed and inaugurated by **Fr Jimmy B Dabhi** on 16 November at Sneh Jyoti campus building at Sevasi. Sr Savita Vasava DHM and 26 youth from Ahmedabad, Adas, Anklaav and Vadodara were present to witness this special event. After the inauguration the youth came together and shared their experiences during the lockdown and also did some planning for future activities. (Nagin Macwan SJ)



» Fulwadi Parish Youth Meeting

One hundred and twenty youth from six villages of Fulwadi Parish met on 16 November, 2020 at Fulwadi to discuss future plans and to share their Covid-19 Pandemic experiences. The leaders from different villages shared their personal experiences on the consequences of Covid-19 and how it has been impacted on the young people especially employment, income, education, household living and also their future life.

They also chose their leaders from different villages and met their respective leaders in the group



to plan out their activities for the next six months. The Parish Priest **Fr Reji Madathikunnel** in his speech encouraged all youth to be responsible to be active and work for the people, society and Parish to make it spiritually more vibrant in the coming years. The Sisters of the Parish and the village leaders cooperated for the success of the meeting. **Dn Melwin D'sa**, the youth animator organized the meeting with all the necessary arrangements. (Melwin D'sa SJ)



» Advent Recollection

The North-South Gujarat Jesuit District had an Advent one-day recollection on 30 November, in Zankhvav on the theme 'St Ignatius and ecology'. **Fr Vincent Saldanha** who directed the recollection



helped the group to enter into the spirit of the advent season; he invited all to take inspiration from the life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the key persons of advent and Christmas and to learn how they responded positively to God's will; he exhorted the group to emulate the same in our life as religious especially in time of COVID-19 pandemic. Later, with references from the Spiritual Exercises, he challenged us to have an ecological conversion which is possible only with a change in perspective, that is, to look at the creation just as God does. The district members were grateful to **Fr M G Raj**, the district coordinator, for organizing the recollection and to the Zankhvav community, the hosts.

» Nanisingloti Events

Realizing the need to teach the younger generation the time-tested tribal bhajans catechist Chandu master from Zankhvav was invited to Nanisingloti. Around 40 people from the fourteen villages of Nanisingloti spent the whole day learning and practicing the 'new' bhajans in Vasavi and Chaudhari. The participants now will teach the bhajans that they learnt in their villages and thus pass them on to future generations.

Nanisingloti also had a two-day workshop on Ignatian pedagogy for the school staff. **Fr Vincent Saldanha** facilitated the workshop and led the group of about 30 teachers to a deeper knowledge of the Society. The teachers benefitted from the workshop and felt 'recharged' to serve in a more Ignatian way the students entrusted to their care. They also expressed gratitude for the organizing of such events which are beneficial to them. (Jobin Kaniyarakathu SJ)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

» ORDINATION:

The Gujarat Province ordination will be held at 05.00 PM on 28 December, 2020 at St. Joseph's Church, Vadodara. **Archbishop Emeritus Stanislaus Fernandes SJ** will ordain **Deacon Pratik Christi**.

The Ordination will take place with limited number of people, keeping in mind the prevailing situation of Covid19 around us. Relatives of Deacon Pratik Christi, Priests who are communicated by Parish Priest will participate in the Ordination ceremony. Gurjarvani will live stream the Ordination ceremony.

Pratik will celebrate his first thanksgiving mass in his native place Karamsad on 29 December at 10.30 AM.

» Change in Phone Numbers

Kindly note the change of number of CCD – CCD Director: 2962001 and CCD Office: 2961354



POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK



FOR A LIFE OF PRAYER

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

PAP IMPLEMENTATION

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING!



“Money makes the world go round” is a of Charlie Chaplain's movies. It applies to the of the PAP too! We are aware of the steps taken so far to implement the Province Apostolic Plan process has begun at the community, districts and levels, we do feel the need of financial resources the various actions plans of the missions of the take care of this aspect of the PAP, Fr. Provincial a committee of three members consisting of **Jimmy C. Dabhi**, and **Ambrose Vedam**. They financial resources by way of writing a project, submitting to Alboan and later on coordinating and monitoring the financial aspect of the project activities. This committee will be coordinated by John Kennedy. The provincial also has recommended that the Committee takes the help of **Fernando Franco**, as and when required, because he has been involved with the PAP right from its inception and is well aware of the financial needs of PAP.



dialogue in one Implementation by the Province (PAP). As the commissions to carry out PAP. In order to has appointed **John Kennedy**, will mobilise

“Don’t tell me where your priorities are. Show me where you spend your money and I’ll tell you what they are” said James W. Fricka. We know that the PAP is our priority. Let us pray that the Lord sends Santa Claus with required financial support.

- Ambrose Vedam SJ

For the APCT

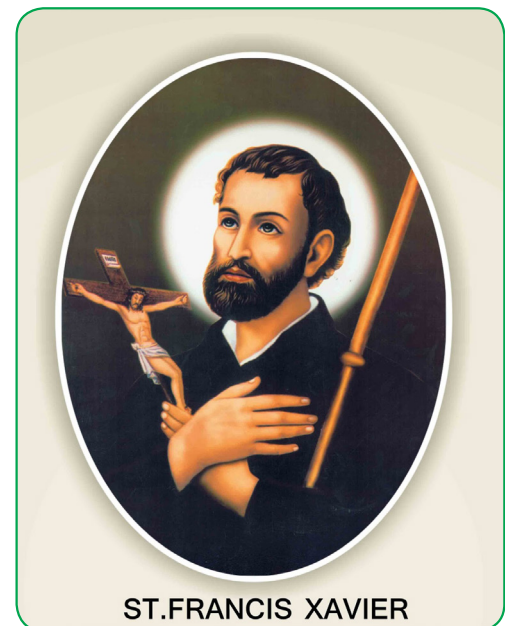
JESUIT SAINTS OF THE MONTH



St. Edmund Campion



St. Robert Southwell



ST.FRANCIS XAVIER

**St Francis Xavier
pray for us!**



CARLOS GONZALEZ VALLES, SJ (1925-2020)

A LEGEND IN THE CLASSICAL TRADITION

The Society of Jesus has a whole galaxy of men who have left an indelible mark on human history, be this in history, geography, the natural sciences, literature or language. In so many fields, the contribution of Jesuit geniuses has been indeed immeasurable. Cities and towns, plants and monuments are named after these scholars and scientists perhaps to remind the coming generations of Jesuits of what the Society was, much as Einstein exclaimed of Gandhi: “Generations to come, it may well be, will scarcely believe that such a man as this, in flesh and blood, walked upon the earth.”

Among such legendary Jesuits, was one whose life spanned continents, and who lived to see the twenty-first century: Father Carlos Gonzalez Valles (in Gujarat until 1992), who passed away in the wee hours of 9th of November 2020 in Madrid, Spain. He had turned 95 just five days before.

It was said that every Gujarati family had two fathers, the one biological, and the other ‘*Fadhar*’ Valles. Though popularly known in the homes of Gujarat as *Fadhar* Valles for being the author of nearly 90 books in Gujarati under that popular name, Fr. Valles was fondly known as ‘Carlos’ among his Jesuit and friendly circles. For years, the door of his room in the St. Xavier’s College, Ahmedabad residence carried the banner, “Call me Carlos.”

Born on 4th November 1925, Carlos joined the Jesuit Novitiate of Loyola at the tender age of 15.

After the initial stages of formation and having acquired a graduation in Greek he was sent to India in 1949 as a missionary with, according to him, little idea of knowing where Gujarat stood on the map of India. He was sent for the usual year of local language study in Anand but “*Chalshe*” (“will do”) was not what he learnt from his engineer father who was a perfectionist and built dams that still bear his name in Spain. Carlos sought permission from superiors to do an additional year of Gujarati language, which he chose to do it by staying with college students in a hostel of Vallabh Vidyanagar near Anand. This was perhaps his “tryst with destiny”, leading him later to become the topmost literary writer in Gujarat, bagging the Ranjitram Suvarna Chandrak of 1978, the highest literary honour in Gujarati Literature. This coveted foreigner earned the title of “*Savaya Gujarati*” (one-and-a-quarter times more Gujarati)!

A Mathematical Genius

The Gujarat Province by then was preparing to start a college in Ahmedabad for which Fr. Valles was sent to get a Master’s degree in Mathematics from Madras university, Chennai in 1953. Under the brilliant tutorship of Fr. Charles Racine of Loyola College, he acquired a first class in Mathematics. After completing Theology studies in Pune, he arrived in Ahmedabad on 1st May 1960 which was interestingly the day Gujarat was born separating from Maharashtra. On hindsight, it was more than a coincidence!

Perfectionist that Carlos was, he plunged into teaching Mathematics in the English medium. Dr. Abhijit Sen, a renowned scientist now and once a matrix algebra student of Fr. Valles recalled that to train students in academic rigour, he would write on the blackboard with his right hand, while the duster in the left hand kept erasing what he wrote simultaneously. Impressed by his brilliance in Mathematics and also aware of his versatility with Gujarati, the Gujarat University requested Carlos to be on the panel of mathematicians appointed to prepare resource books on the New Mathematics in Gujarati. With his incredible grasp over Gujarati culture too, he coined mathematical terms for calculus in Gujarati.

His erudite contribution as a Mathematics scholar led to his being chosen thrice as the delegate of India to the World Mathematical Congress in Moscow, Exeter (UK) and Nice (France). He co-authored the volume on mathematics in the Gujarati encyclopaedia "*Gnanganga*" and conducted seminars and summer courses for mathematics teachers all over Gujarat. 'Fadhar' Valles, together with others, became now the pioneer of the new Mathematics in Gujarat.

Students of Std 12th Science who wished to score practiced the tough sums from Fadhar Valles's books on New Mathematics (Algebra) because they knew that the board exam selected sums from the *Adhyatan Ganit Parichay* (Math books) of Fr. Valles. One only needs to see the volumes of mathematics in Gujarati and the terminology therein for terms like set, ring, matrix, integration, derivation, etc to believe in the prodigy of a brain that had trained only in Spanish as his mother tongue, but now was equally fluent in Gujarati. He played a key role in founding the classical journal of Mathematics known as *Suganitam* still popular among the academia of Mathematics. His popularity in the world of Mathematics never waned. The Mathematical Association invited him as the Chief Guest of their convention in 2015. It was recalled there that the school teachers who were initially averse to teaching new mathematics then were converted by an innovative article of Fr. Valles that culturally compared the effects of new Mathematics to a new bride. Dr. Sen recalls Carlos's brilliance explaining to him the synthesis between Mathematics and Music. Incidentally, Carlos was an excellent Pianist.

A Prolific Gujarati Writer

Fr. Valles, however, believed that Mathematics would only take him to the minds of the students and

not the hearts. The mother tongue was the pathway to the heart and he wrote his first book in Gujarati called "Sadachar" which did not receive any enthusiasm from publishers (but later made 20 editions in 3 languages!). The publication costs were borne by his mother – and so began the journey of Carlos as 'Fadhar' Valles, the most beloved Gujarati writer.

Invitations by prestigious Gujarati magazines like *Kumar*, *Jankalyan* soon followed. The most widely read daily, *Gujarat Samachar*, invited Fr. Valles to write a column in their Sunday supplement. The column 'Navi Pedhine' (To the new generation) became the most popular column that lasted for 30 years forming two generations of Gujarati youth. It became so popular among the youth that a denim businessman insisted that his advertisement for jeans be published only besides the column of Fr. Valles. Prolific writing in newspaper and magazines gave birth to a caravan of collection by 'Fadhar' Valles in Gujarati.

A series of literary awards now followed -- the Kumar Chandrak in 1966, Shri Arvind Gold medal in 1968 by Gujarati Sahitya Parishad, and as late as in 2015, the prestigious SRK Foundation Humanitarian award, given together with Lord Bhikhu Parekh and Dr. Sudha Murthy. Appreciating the contribution of Fr. Valles in Mathematics and Gujarati Literature, the Government of India bestowed upon him the honour of Citizenship of India.

In the seventies, for 10 full years, he chose to live among the *pols* (streets) of middle-class Hindu families of Ahmedabad. This intimate contact with people, sharing their life and culture, endeared him to the masses. It also enriched his writings with anecdotes that touched the hearts of Gujarati families. The then Provincial and later Bishop, Francis Braganza said how he was touched to find Carlos sleeping on a mat on the floor in the corner of a house once when he paid him a surprise visit. A series of online *Smarananjalis* (memorial services) held after Carlos's demise bore witness to why Valles was intimately called *Vahalesh* (literally, 'divine beloved') in Gujarat. Carlos had made a niche of his own in the hearts of Gujaratis all over the world.

A Popular Orator

The oratory that young Carlos had mastered during his juniorate byhearting Cicero's speeches, he now put at the service of the local language and culture. For several years he was the sole speaker for the entire *Paryushan Vyakhyanmala* (lecture series) of

the Jains of Mumbai. They were so impressed by his intimate knowledge of Jainism, that they nicknamed him the “25th Tirthankara” (Lord Mahavir being the 24th one). The Yuva Katha (series of lectures) for the youth of Gujarat Vidyapith -- the university founded by Gandhi in Ahmedabad -- is still remembered by those who were young then. He was regular speaker on All India Radio, Ahmedabad.

Besides the ministry of writing and speaking, what made him a true messenger of the Good News among the middle-class and elite Hindu masses of Gujarat was his simple ministry of letter writing with utmost dedication and personal care. His personal style of writing encouraged many to flood him with letters by post – all of which he replied to in his own handwriting. Even after half a century, these handwritten letters are treasured as the precious, venerable memories of their ‘Fadhar’ Valles.

Spiritual Ministry in English

At the invitation of the then Superior-General, Fr. Pedro Arrupe, Carlos had engaged himself in giving long retreats to the Tertians, the experience of which inspired him to venture into putting down those experiences in English. His first ever book in English ‘Living Together’ was an outcome of one such retreat with fellow Jesuits of Andhra Province.

His near 30 books on spirituality, discernment and faith in English received a wide acceptance in India and Europe, translations of which were demanded for Spanish speaking countries. Instead of translating them, he thought it better to write them himself in Spanish, which initiated a new series of 42 books in Spanish, that shares his experience of Indian hospitality, and Ignatian as well as Eastern spirituality.

Return to Spain

In 1992, he migrated to Madrid to look after his ailing mother. This coincidentally became the opportunity to cater to his Spanish readership, by now spread into South and Latin America. He was no digital non-immigrant for his age or generation. He mastered the virtual world by switching his platform of communication from auditorium to a website of his own. He interacted actively with his readers on the website till recently when gradually age and memory began fading. Writing for Fr. Valles was in fact mentoring, and thus guiding citizens of the Spanish-speaking world on the path to meaning and the joy of life through interaction in the newfound cyber world of www.carlosvalles.com.

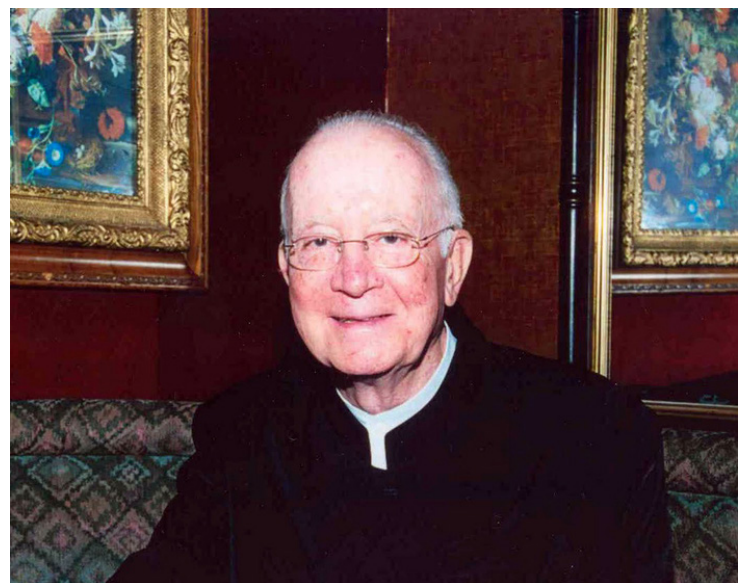
The people and the media of Gujarat thronged for the *darshan* of Fr. Valles upon his recent three visits in 2011, 2013 and 2015. They reciprocated the love which they received from one who was Gujarati at heart. Those present witnessed people of Gujarat not just admiring but literally adoring Fr. Valles with folded hands, bowing their heads or doing *panchang* or *sashtang pranams* (prostrations). The pin-drop silence upon his entry into the hall was something to be seen to be believed. Thirty years of absence from Gujarat had not lost an ounce of admiration from the hearts of the masses!

No wonder then that the state was dumbstruck upon receiving the news of his sad demise. Vibes of sorrow reached New Delhi compelling the Prime Minister to tweet, followed by streams of messages from the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Rajya Sabha member, President of Gujarat Congress, Leader of the opposition and the likes. Media flooded reports of his demise in volumes. Gujarat had lost not its son but its ‘Fadhar’!

As the years had passed by, the seeker in Carlos had kept reaching for the Ultimate, even beyond establishments. A spirit of mysticism led him to a life larger than that of icons or institutions. May the Merciful God receive the life of this remarkable genius as a book of God’s Glory and Praise, which for many decades evangelized the land and people of Gujarat.

Avjo, Fadhar Valles!

Fr. Vinayak Jadav, SJ





CIPRIANO MENDIA, SJ (1931-2020)

A GREAT PIONEERING SPIRIT

My first personal encounter with Fr. Cipriano Mendía was actually in Pamplona, Spain, after he had decided to leave India and settle down in Loyola Province. I had invited Mendía (Cipriano only for a very few close friends) for a private lunch in a cosy restaurant, followed by a typically Spanish prolonged after dinner chat. I can never forget that conversation because in the course of it, and may be under the effect of the excellent wine, Mendía told me that the year he spent in Ankleshwar was the hardest and the most painful of his long missionary career.

I was surprised because I had just come from Ankleshwar where the well-known catechist Gambhir Vasava had often told me that Fr. Mendía had been the best parish priest with a great capacity to plan well, with clear goals and priorities, and the necessary will power to carry them out.

I knew that Mendía had a Master's degree in Chemistry from a prestigious US University, that he had been prepared to be a 'College Professor', that he was happier as a missionary and that he had worked very hard as a teacher in Rajkot and Jamnagar, as a missionary in Gomtipur, Vadtal, Bochasan, Ankleshwar, Vadodara, Anand, etc. I also knew that Mendía was very intelligent, hard-working, sincere priest-religious-missionary and... tenacious.

What Gambhirbhai noticed in Fr. Mendia was clearly seen when he went to Bochasan to be with Fr. Martinez, a great pioneer who had initiated different

methods of Evangelization among the people of other caste groups. Fr. Mendia saw the need for consolidation and systematization of the great pioneering work, and immediately started putting the house and the accounts in order to the great consternation of good old Fr. Martinez.

In his second stint in Bochasan, now with a diocesan assistant, Mendía was the undisputed leader and left as a legacy a very beautiful and well-built church, a standing proof of his intelligence and capabilities. With his tenacity he managed to convince the then parish priest of St. Joseph's, Vadodara, regarding the building of the new church there. The beautiful church there is the other legacy of his good, scientific, logical and practical sense.

Back in Spain, he was the faithful chaplain of a community of Sisters who were in charge of a hospital. He also contributed by helping in the local church, especially by sitting regularly in the confessional. By this time he had already some health issues, mostly cardiovascular. His unusual knowledge of medicine, his scientific mind and his thirst for knowledge about his health condition made him request for a clear diagnosis from his doctors and nurses. This led to exasperation among some of them who were unprepared to deal with such a knowledgeable person.

As his health deteriorated, he was shifted to the infirmary at Loyola where I visited him for the last time in November 2017. I felt sad as he welcomed me

with a wan smile - very different from the enthusiastic, determined and intelligent look of past years.

Rest in peace, good and faithful servant, Fr. Mendia.

- Fr. Joaquin Castiella SJ

A MISSIONARY WHO WAS DEEPLY SPIRITUAL.

Fr. Mendia, an indefatigable missionary, was a deeply spiritual man. He was one of those who joined the Prayer Group of Frs. Joseph Aizpun, Cueli, Valles, Garriz, etc. who met regularly in the Holy Spirit room in Premal Jyoti, above the office of the Socius to the Provincial.

He was quite imbued with the spirit of Vatican II and believed in his role as parish priest to care for all in his parish. This led him to play a leadership role during riots where the Muslims were at the receiving end.

Fr. Mendia, a man who left his country after ordination to become a missionary, must have been unfazed when asked to prepare himself to become a college professor. Being a good Jesuit, he accepted the will of the superiors and got himself trained for the job though he kept up his desire to be a missionary in a parish. He succeeded in getting his superiors to change their plans for him. The only thing that remained of his training in the US was his accent, especially his pronunciation of the place where he stayed - Kansas! His friend, Fr. Isudas, kept teasing him about it by imitating his accent.

- Fr. Francis Parmar SJ

REMEMBERING FR MENDIA

Fr. Mendia is remembered by the faithful in Bochasan as a holy man. He had a spirit of doing something new. He was concerned about the education of the children and he helped many poor students for

their studies. He reached out to the faithful giving them spiritual nourishment. He used to take teachers of the school to villages for Bhajan Mandli in the evenings. He was a man of discipline. He had a soft heart for the needy people. Fr. Mendia brought changes in the lives of many in Bochasan Parish. He will always be remembered for his valuable contribution to Bochasan. He worked hard for the New Church for Bochasan Parish, Dispensary for the sisters, Hostel for Boys, also chapel in Sundarana and Dehwan villages. He celebrated life with the people and for the people. A great missionary and pastor, who gave new shape to Bochasan Parish and people. Fr. Mendia Tamne Amara Koti Koti Vandan.

- Sch. Sandip Makwana SJ



BE A CORONA WARRIOR!

WEAR YOUR OWN MASK!

STAY SAFE, BE RESPONSIBLE AND SAVE LIVES!

R.I.P

- † Br. Jeyaraj Annaviar, (MDU), 78/57, at Dindigul on 03 November.
- † **Fr. Carlos Gonzalez Valles** (ESP), 95/79, at Madrid, Spain on 08 November.
- † Fr. A. Antony Pappuraj (MDU), 74/57, at Madurai, on 13 November.
- † Mr. Dashmabhai Varli, 74, father of **Sch. Viju Varli**, at Zaroli on 13 November.
- † Fr Lourdu Susai Irudayaraj, (DUM), 74/53, at Dumka, on 16 November.
- † Fr. Rudolph Fernandez (BOM), 86/69, at Nashik, 16 November.
- † **Fr. Cipriano Mendía Echániz**, (ESP), 89/71, at Loyola, Spain on 17 November.
- † Br. Lawrence Richard Saldanha, (HAZ), 83/58, at Sitagarha on 17 November.
- † Fr. S. Paul Lourdasamy, (PAT), 65/43, at Kolkata on 22 November.

REST IN
PEACE!



GREEN CORNER

ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS PROGRAMME

The 8-month long Covid-19 LOCKDOWN disrupted much of the normal life and work in India and the world. GJEM's Eco education activities declined. But our enthusiastic ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS PROGRAMME (EAP) animator-teachers Priyanka and Monica continued EAP creatively. They taught smaller groups of children about covid-19 and environment awareness. The Eco Education team gave a LEAF workshop to 65 students of the Vidyadeep Community college, Bharuch. The Sisters now want to collaborate with GJEM on a permanent basis to integrate environmental education and activities as part of their college program.

On 8th Nov. GJEM organized an Eco Spirituality Session at Kaneval Farm for 43 Youth of Varasda Parish. Sr.Geeta, Fr. Antonidoss, Fr. Moieson actively participated. An Earth prayer was conducted on the 'Five Fundamental Elements' by Fr. Moieson and Truptiben. Jothi conducted a Eco Rangoli session with natural elements to communicate the eco message; he presented "Laudato Si" and discussed it. An interesting Nature walk brought the youth closer to trees. Archana and Nikunj conducted the "Web of Life" exercise. Frs. Antonidoss and Moieson celebrated the Eucharist in 'God's own Cathedral' at Kanewal Farm with "Green and Carbon handprint".

- Mr. Jothi Xavier, member of GJEM

BIRTHDAYS & DEATH DAYS 2020

| | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| 01 Agnelo Vaz (Jr.) Fr Eugene Zurbitu – 1976+ | Irudayaraj M. Peter D'Souza | Br Francisco Gil – 1995+ |
| 02 Francis Parmar Xavier Manjooran Fr Dharmaraj P – 1996+ | 11 Sundar Vasava Fr Jose Oroz – 1958+ | 20 Devasia Muthuplackal |
| 03 Robert Raja Shekhar | Fr Charles Fonseca – 1983+ | 21 Bp Francis Braganza – 2011+ |
| 04 Ishwan Gamit John Paul Lobo Br D'Silva Stanislaus – 1993+ | Fr Joseph Braganza – 2010+ | 23 Br Dominguez Julio – 1983+ |
| Fr José L Lopetegui – 2011+ | Fr Mathew Kochupura – 2011+ | Fr Travesa James – 1991+ |
| 06 Jesuraj A. | 12 Br Michael Parmar – 1967+ | 24 Viju Varli |
| 07 Ramesh Macwan | Br Florencio Gomez Gracia – 2010+ | Fr Arancheril John – 1992+ |
| 08 Xavier Arockiam Fr Ignacio Ordoñez – 2012+ | 14 Lancy Lobo Fr Chacko Veliaparambil – 2000+ | Fr Jose Maria Ortega – 2004+ |
| Fr Felix Gonsalves – 2019+ | 15 Fr DeSouza Herbert – 1997+ | 25 Noel Parmar |
| 09 Henry D'Souza John Kennedy Br Thomas Fernandes - 2017+ | 16 Fr Robert D'Souza – 1957+ | Rajendran V. |
| 10 Anoop Puthussery | Fr D'souza Stephen – 1996+ | Br Macwan Paul – 2014+ |
| | 17 Caesar D'Cunha Melquides Guedes | 26 Johnson Mundupuzhakal |
| | 18 Packiam G. | 27 Maxim Crasta |
| | 19 Roby Alphanso | Fr Arellano Ferdinandus – 2002+ |
| | Vijay Shidonkar | Fr Joaquin Civiach – 2019+ |
| | | 28 Fr Lionel Mascarenhas – 2009+ |
| | | Fr Francis Mendonca – 2010+ |

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