

FR

September 2022

AGNEL

SHRAM NEWS



*The Nativity
of the Blessed
Virgin Mary*

FR. AGNEL
ASHRAM

NEWS

September 2022

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Birthday Of Mother Mary Bandra Feast

Dear Friends and Well-Wishers,

As we are approaching the month of September, most of us are filled with joy to celebrate the birthday of Mother Mary. Our Balbhavan children are anxiously looking forward to this special day.

Our children at all the Balbhavan Centres of Agnel Region are God's gift to us. Our mission is to transform these into beautiful gifts for our Nation and for God.

We appreciate your contribution in assisting us to make this dream for our children a reality. Your financial assistance will be very special, on the occasion of Mother Mary's Birthday.

We wish you a Happy Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary and we assure you of our daily prayers for your special intention by our children.

With a grateful heart

Fr. Superior

Fr. Agnel Ashram

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Virgin Birth, Snow-White Heart

Our Lady was so important that her birthday marks a new era in the Old Covenant. The history of the Old Covenant was a long wait for the coming of the Messiah. After the original sin of our first parents, mankind had to wait 3,000 years, perhaps more, for the Messiah. But at a certain blessed moment, Divine Providence decreed that a woman would be born who would give birth to the Messiah. Her nativity represents the entrance into the world, of the 'perfect creature' who found grace before God, and had impeccable merit to end that extensive waiting period.

All the prayers, sufferings, and faithfulness of the just men, living and dead, reached their apex with 'her' arrival. There had been Patriarchs, Prophets, just men among the Chosen People, and certainly some righteous men and women among the Gentiles who had prayed, suffered, and waited; none of this was sufficient to attract the coming of the Redeemer. But when God so willed it, He made the perfect creature, Mary, be born "immaculately," that is, without sin, to be the Mother of the Saviour. The relationship between God and man began to change, and the gates of Heaven that had been tightly locked, were semi-opened, permitting the light of hope to pass through.

The feast day of the 'Nativity' of Our Lady induces us to ask: What advantage did her birth bring for mankind? And why should mankind celebrate her birth in a special way?

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Nativity of Mary, or the Birth of the Virgin Mary, refers to a Christian feast day celebrating the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 8th September.

Her birth represents the entrance into the world of a new grace, a new blessing, a new presence that, was an incomparable fore-telling of the presence, blessing and grace that would come with the Saviour. Grace is "God's life, power and blessedness given to us by unmerited favour."

Our Lady was conceived without original sin, giving her a singular and peerless value. She was a lily of incomparable purity and beauty that, appeared in the 'dark night' of humanity. She also had all the natural psychological gifts that, a woman can have. God gave her the richest personality imaginable. To this, He added gifts of a supernatural order, the treasures of spiritual magnificence that were hers. She received the most precious poise and charm God ever gave to any human person.

The Story of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century A.D. A September birth was chosen because the Eastern Church begins its Church year in September. The September 8th date helped determine the date for the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8 (nine months). Saint Augustine connects Mary's childbirth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the tainted nature, "original sin," inherited from our first parents is changed to 'original benediction,' 'pristine blessing,' 'paradisiacal wonderland.'" The opening prayer at Mass speaks of the birth of Mary's Son as the dawn of our salvation, and asks for an increase of love, joy and peace.

We can see every human birth as a call for new hope in the world. The love of two human beings is joined with God in his creative work. The loving parents have shown hope in a world filled with travail. The new child has the potential to be a channel of God's love and peace to the world.

This is all true in a magnificent way in Mary. If Jesus is the perfect expression of God's love, Mary is the foreshadowing of that love. If Jesus has brought the fullness of salvation, Mary is its dawning.

Mary Always Points to Jesus

In his apostolic exhortation *“Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary,”* Pope Paul VI speaks of the singular dignity of Mary as being “Mother of the Son of God, and, therefore, the beloved daughter of the Father and Temple of the Holy Spirit” (p. 46). In this, she is “far greater than any other human being on earth or in heaven.” And, yet, Mary herself claims her own nothingness at the Annunciation: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (Lk.1:38).

Mary’s greatness lies in her willingness to continue to bring Jesus to the world. She doesn’t draw attention to herself, but points to him. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* notes, “What the Catholic faith believes about Mary, is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines, in turn, its faith in Christ.”

Nine months after the celebration of her Immaculate Conception, the Church honours our Lady’s Immaculate Birth. In fact, the Nativity of Mary is historically prior in the Church to her Immaculate Conception. Long before there was consensus among theologians, regarding whether Mary was conceived without sin - nearly all agreed that she was born without sin. The Feast of our Lady’s Nativity is more ancient than that of her Conception, and this later feast’s date was determined by the date of her birth – much like the feast of the Annunciation was set according to the feast of Christmas.

How pleasing it is to consider the order of revelation and the order of history: Though Mary had been preserved from sin from the moment of her Conception, the Church first recognized the holiness of Anne’s daughter in birth, and only later came to understand that, her sanctification came at the first moment of her existence. It was God’s grand design and master-plan for His Son to be born of Mary! It confirms that she, truly, is the Blessed Virgin Mary – Mother Immaculate!

Conclusion

Our Lady’s Holy Nativity has a special significance, since it marked a new era in the

history of the ‘Chosen People.’ Her birth was the arrival of that perfect “Word made flesh” (John 1:14), God’s only begotten Son (Jn.3:16). Without her, the prayers and sufferings of all humanity would have failed to bring about the Incarnation. However, with her, the trajectory of history was forever changed. All prayers became more effective, and a new manner of blessings and graces began producing sanctity like never before.

Our Lady served as the “Doorway to Heaven” that, the hope of the Messiah’s coming passed through. Her presence on earth was the fountainhead of grace, and still is. The height of her contemplation gave her a force of presence. It made her a shower of endless blessings, so that, her very existence was a pronouncement of Our Lord’s coming.

Birthday celebrations bring happiness to the celebrant, as well as to family and friends. Next to the birth of Jesus, Mary’s birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world. Each time we celebrate her birth, we can confidently hope for an increase of love, joy and peace.

Prayer

Heavenly Child, lovable Mary, the Eternal Father delights in your birth, for He beholds in your coming into this world, one of His creatures who was so perfect that, she was destined to become the worthy Mother of His divine Son.

Your Nativity, O Virgin Mother of God, was the herald of joy to the whole world; since from you arose the “Son” of Justice, Christ our God, who, destroyed the curse, bestowed blessing, confounded death, and rewarded us with life everlasting.

We celebrate with joy the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary that, she may intercede for us with Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mother most pure! Virgin Birth! Snow-White Heart, Sinless Life! Mother of God! AMEN.

-Leon Bent

Victory in Time of Suffering

-Fr. Fio Mascarenhas SJ

*In September we celebrate the most important **Feast of the Triumph of Jesus' Cross (14th)**, and also remember Mother Mary's sharing in that Cross (15th).*

Suffering is a great mystery which casts a very long shadow, and touches all aspects of human life. Pope St John Paul II declared in an encyclical, "*Suffering seems to be particularly essential to the nature of human persons.*" And the famous psychologist Viktor Frankl taught, "*Without suffering, human life cannot be complete.*"

Its pain is felt not only in the body, but also goes deep into the subconscious (the *psyche*). Perhaps the greatest impact of suffering is felt in the sense of meaninglessness that it creates. Nevertheless, people do invest suffering with meaning, and resolutely refuse to be defeated by it. An important way in which every Christian can find strength in times of suffering is through recourse to the word of God.

The Second Vatican Council teaches dogmatically: ***Such is the force and power of the word of God that it can serve the children of the Church as strength for their faith, food for the soul, and a pure and lasting fount of spiritual life... a new impulse of spiritual life may be expected from increased devotion to the word of God*** (*Dei Verbum*, 21, 26).

This is because there is a *special* power in the word of God not found in other inspiring human literature. *God's word effects what it proclaims!* The more the word of God is used by the faithful in an authentic (not fundamentalist) way, the more it will provide each Christian with a *positive viewpoint of faith* for the whole of life, and impart real strength for times of suffering.

Here is a true story which illustrates this: I was once called to pray with a man suffering from a brain tumor. He was very angry with God who, he claimed, was "torturing" him with pain. I asked him, "Who told you *God* gave you this torture?" Taken by surprise, he burst out, "*Who else?*" So taking out my

pocket New Testament, I read to him the parable about the Master who gave good seed to his servants to sow; but at night the enemy came and sowed bad seed. When both grew up together, the servants were surprised and said: "Sir, did you not give us good seed? Then from where is this cockle and darnel?" The Master straightaway replied, "***Some enemy has done this*** (*not I!*)" (Mt.13:28).

Thus I tried to explain to him *Jesus'* viewpoint, that we should never blame our Father God for our sicknesses and sorrows, but rather recognize that the evil afflicting the world and our own lives is the result of the activity of an "Enemy of humanity" and also of "reaping what we have sowed!" I shared more with this man about the "mystery" of suffering, and how God's response to the needs of his children is never indifference but a warm love, mediated through his Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

I tried to explain that times of sickness and trial can be privileged opportunities for an *apostolic partnership* with Jesus, our "*co-heir*" (Rom.8:15-17), a partnership in which, by the power of the Holy Spirit indwelling us, we can, in faith, "***fill up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ, for the sake of his Body the Church***" (Col.1:24). I tried to show him that, far from "torturing him," God was actually showing him special love, "*conforming him to the image of his Son*" (Rom.8:28f) by letting him now share personally in the (sorrowful) mysteries of Jesus' life on earth.

He began to weep gently – they were tears of relief! For the first time in his long suffering, the liberating truth was dawning on him that God had neither abandoned nor punished him but, in love, was giving him the practical privilege of being a partner with Jesus. We then prayed together a prayer of "abandonment to Divine Providence," and

this brought him a beautiful “baptism in the Spirit,” of *“the love of God poured into his heart, by the Holy Spirit”* (Rom.5:5). His sister told me later that from that day until his holy death the following week, he experienced intensely *“the fruit of the Spirit”* (Gal.5:22) and kept saying over and over again, with evident love, peace and joy, “Thank you, Father God! Praise you, Jesus, my Lord and Savior! Thank you, Holy Spirit!”

This man’s initial misunderstanding is, unfortunately, a rather common human experience. When suffering comes our way and things don’t go well, almost all of us, unthinkingly, spontaneously, suspect God, and question, “Why is *God doing this to me?*” It is urgently necessary, therefore, that every Christian makes herself or himself more familiar with the teachings of the New Testament, in order to develop a mindset that is more Christ-like (see Rom.12:2), and to experience new strength and joy in the Cross from the *“living and active word of God”* (Heb 4:12). Jesus himself has assured us about it: ***“My words are spirit and life”*** (Jn.6:63).

Here is St Augustine’s explanation of Col 1:24: *“I fill up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ, for the sake of his Body the Church.”*

“Jesus Christ is one man, head and body; the saviour of the body and the members of the body are two in one flesh and in one voice and in one suffering; and when this sinful world will have passed away, in one rest. So the sufferings of Christ are not in Christ alone... So if you are among the members

of Christ, whatever you suffer was lacking in the sufferings of Christ. It is being added, because it was lacking; you are filling up the measure, not causing it to overflow. You are suffering as much as was to be contributed from your sufferings to the whole suffering of Christ, who suffered as our head, and suffers in his members, that is, in ourselves. To this common republic of ours, so to say, each of us according to his measure pays what he owes, and we contribute as it were a quota of suffering according to the strength that we possess.”

In this context, I would like to end with a personal memory of Pope St John Paul II. Once when Cardinal Suenens and I were lunching at the Pope’s table, we shared with him this parable: *“Holy Father, the Church is like an airplane. The engine is the Holy Spirit, the wings are Peter and Mary (the sacramental and charismatic dimensions of the Church), and you are the pilot.”* After a few moments he asked, *“And the petrol?”* We were stumped, because we had not planned this. Then he said, *“I will tell you. The suffering of the People of God is the petrol! The Church cannot make progress without it.”* What a profound insight! Obviously, he had deeply interiorized Col 1:24.

Let us, then, pray for our own victory in times of suffering: ***“Dear Father-God, give us courage when we are tested – strengthen us with faith in you, with hope in your promises, and with love of your will. Let no trials quench the flame of faith your Spirit has enkindled within us! And dear mother Mary, you who shared heroically in Jesus’ Cross, pray for us that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ, Amen.”***

“As Pope John Paul I said, if you want to kiss Jesus crucified, “you cannot help bending over the cross and letting yourself be pricked by a few thorns of the crown on the Lord’s head.” A love that perseveres to the end, thorns and all: no leaving things half done, no cutting corners, no fleeing difficulties.”

-Pope Francis

Archangels: Perfect Doers of God's Word

-Fr. Antony Jerald

The twenty-first century is known for multifaceted development in different fields of human life and it is vivid from the progress achieved in the field of Nano-technology and artificial intelligence, however; we cannot deny the issues caused by individualism, self-glory and selfish motives of individuals and groups in the society today. All the more, it is infectious that materialistic approach to life erodes values of human relationship and interdependence of humanity and nature. However, it is not new to human society, we notice this struggle between God and individual from the very beginning of creation which Adam and Eve themselves underwent. Even today, humanity is facing the struggle of choosing God's word and longings of the self (Rom 5:16, 22; Gal 5:16, 19). On the contrary, archangels are perfect doers of God's word. They are incorporeal beings who are spiritual, perfect and created by God at the dawn of time for the purpose of being His servants and messengers. They have always and forever contemplated the face of God, ready to rush to His every command as attentive listeners and executors of His word (CCC 329). There are seven archangels in ancient tradition of Judaic origin but the Catholic Church recognizes only three because the 1992 decree *Litteris Diei* forbade what is not directly mentioned in the scriptures. Here is a reflection of the aspect of doing God's will as a learning from the archangels.

Archangels: Witness of Scripture

Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 329 explains borrowing the words of St. Augustine that angel is the name of their office, not of their nature. If you seek the name of their nature, it is 'spirit'; if you seek the name of their office, it is

'angel'. So, from what they are, 'spirit' and from what they do, 'angel'. Hence, we become angel only by what we do. Let us highlight the witness of scripture for the role and responsibilities of archangels. Archangel Michael (who is like God?) is the celestial warrior who fights against Satan and defender or protector of the people of God (Zech 13:1-2; Dan 10; 13:21; 12:1). Archangel Gabriel (God's power) is God's messenger who reveals the secret of God's plan (Dan 8; 16:9; 21-22). He announces the message of God and helps humanity to listen with pure heart and accept the will of God (Lk 1: 11-20; 26-38).

He is close to God and before his heavenly throne (Lk 1:19). He is the protector of those who work in communications, post office, ambassadors, couriers and journalists. Archangel Raphael (God's doctor) is a healer who stands before the throne of God (Tob 12:15; Rev 8:2). He is patron of conjugal love, of young people, engaged couples, spouses, pharmacists, educators, travellers and refugees. God gives archangels the most important responsibilities and they travel back and forth between the heavenly and earthly dimensions as they work on missions from God to help human beings.

Life Lessons

- Archangels remind us that we are created by God to do His will (Gen 1:26-28; Gen 3:3)
- We are formed to give importance to God's word and put His word into action
- Archangels remind us that we have a mission to fulfil in life and so choose to live by the spirit (Rom 8:7)

We all called to be perfect doers of God's word like the archangels so that we earn place in the presence of God.



"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first."
-Thessalonians 4:16

Teacher's Day Celebration

-Ibonio D'Souza

From giving us a purpose to setting us up as successful citizens of the world, teachers inspire in us a drive to do well and succeed in life and to recognise this hard work of our mentors and gurus. Teacher's Day or Shikshak Divas is celebrated in India with great pomp and show.

World Teacher's Day is celebrated on October 5, but every country celebrates the day on different dates. In India, Teacher's Day is celebrated annually on September 5 to mark the birthday of the country's former President, scholar, philosopher and Bharat Ratna awardee, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who was born on this day in 1888.

Dr. Radhakrishnan was a man of many good qualities and a favourite teacher among students. One day his students and friends requested him to allow them to celebrate his birthday in a lavish way. In return he said that it would be his pride and honour if they celebrated his birthday to honour all teachers. And since then, this day, 5th September is celebrated as Teacher's Day.

On Teacher's Day, students in schools and colleges organise various activities in order to entertain the teachers. These activities include dancing competitions, singing competitions, mimicry of teachers, games and recitation of poems. Some students even plan picnics, shower teachers with gifts, flowers and handmade cards. All of this is a way to express their love and respect for their teachers.

A teacher is a friend, philosopher, and a guide who holds our hand, opens our mind, and touches our heart. A teacher not merely teaches the students about lessons in the text books, but

moulds a child into a socially responsible person. "True teachers are those who help us think for ourselves," said Dr. Radhakrishnan. They are role models for many and are respected by society as a whole. Without them, no society can walk in the path of progression.

In his book titled, "Political Thinkers of Modern India", Dr. Radhakrishnan signified the importance of teachers and education in a country like democratic India which was still in its early years of development. According to him, there is a huge role of teachers in nation building and for that sake, teachers should be respected more. In his book on Bhagavad Gita he defined a teacher as, "the one who emphasises on presentation to converge different currents of thoughts to the same end."

This writer gratefully recalls Dr. Radhakrishnan's enlightening words, though not verbatim, heard in his teenage days and helped him shape his life immensely: "Just as in autumn the withered leaves of a tree fall off to make way for new ones to sprout so that the tree may continue its cycle of producing flowers and fruits, so also humans must shed their unhelpful and outdated ideas in order to be in step with the changing times."

Dr. Radhakrishnan was equally recognised as one of the most influential Indian philosophers of the twentieth century. He reflected the rich philosophical tradition of the East and was its leading spokesman for bridging the gap between Eastern and Western spirituality. The philosophy of religion, Dr. Radhakrishnan had opined, can be scientific only if it becomes empirical and is based on religious experience.



*During the Last Supper, Lord Jesus said,
"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord' and rightly so, for that is what I am."
-John 13:13*

BANDRA

Fr. CRCE-IIC, Bandra in IIC WRO Regional Meet

The Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) had organised 15 Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) regional meets in different cities across the country, to bring existing and prospective IIC institutions together and to make the IIC network more vibrant, proactive, collaborative and productive. It also provides a platform for sharing I&E knowledge and best practices in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), to celebrate the achievements and impact created by IIC Institutions and to witness successful emergence of innovators and startup founders from HEIs.

In this regard, Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering Institute Innovation Council

participated in the IIC WRO Regional Meet held at Smybiosis International University, Pune on 1st August 2022.

Fr. CRCE-IIC also participated in the IIC Poster Gallery round held during the regional meet. This was a demonstration platform for participating IIC institutions to showcase their innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem



IIC Regional Meet 2022, with Dr. Abhay Jere, Chief Innovation Officer, Ministry of Education, Government of India (second from right).

preparedness, models/ best practices, contributions, recent achievements and impacts made in the

last two academic years (2020-21, 2021-22). Prof. Swati Ringe (Assistant Professor, AI &DS Department) was invited to present the Fr. CRCE Innovation and Startup (NISP) Policy and was also felicitated for the same.

ASSAGAON, GOA

A.I.T.D. Student wins Eight Gold Medals at All India Swimming Competition

Mithika Karapurkar, an Engineering student at Agnel Institute of Technology & Design, Assagao, won eight gold medals in the All India Finswimming Federation Cup held at Indore (Madhya Pradesh). The competition was held from 5th to 7th August. Mithika was mentored by coach Jerry.

Having won eight gold medals, after putting in hours and hours of practice, Mithika has become an inspiration to many.



Not one, not two, but winning eight gold medals. Congratulations, Mithika, on a stupendous achievement.

A Bountiful May Harvest of 19 New Priests for the 'Society of Pilar'

Nineteen new priests ordained from across the country have been added to Goa's indigenous religious order, the Society of the Missionaries of St Francis Xavier, which is also known as the Society of Pilar. With these ordinations, the Society of Pilar now has 383 priests.

Of the 19 new priests, eight were ordained in Goa while the rest were ordained in Karnataka, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu.

The Society of Pilar, an indigenous congregation, headquartered in Porvorim, Goa, 5 kms from the capital Panaji, was founded by Jose Mariano

These leaders responded to the clarion call given by Pope Leo XIII in the nineteenth century, "Your own sons O India will be the messengers of your salvation", the Society of Pilar – as they are popularly known – continue to practice their charism to "make Christ known to those who do not yet know him and to those who are become indifferent to Him" in India and in other parts of the World."

From the 19 newly ordained, Jackson Lawrence, Inacio D'Souza, Clinton Fernandes, Leonray De Mello, Venito Colaco, Nevil Fernandes, Eric Mascarenhas and Mcsteein Oliveira, were ordained in Goa. Eric and Mcsteein are the only sons of their parents.



The Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier (SFX) ordains 19 new priests.

Clemete Bento Martins on September 26, 1887. As years went by this, the Society which was on the verge of extinction was re-organised and revitalised on 2nd July 1939. The charismatic leaders of the re-organization are called the Second Founders of the Society of Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier. Pilar priests serve in over 120 communities, spread in 41 dioceses across India and abroad.

On 8th May 2022, far away on the Islands of Andaman and Nicobar, Xavier Soreng, another only son of his parents, was ordained by Most Rev. Visuvasan Selvaraj, Bishop of Port Blair.

In Goa's neighbouring state of Karnataka, five ordinations were held. Nelson Rebeiro, Maflin Lobo and Parel Philip Fernandes were ordained on 4th May 2022 in Byndoor, Udupi, Karnataka by Most Rev. Isaac Gerald Lobo, Bishop of

Udupi. On the 10th of May 2022, Nelson Rodrigues was ordained in Joida, Karnataka by Most Rev. Derek Fernandes, Bishop of Karwar. While Jaison D'Souza was ordained on 12th May 2022 by Most Rev. Peter Paul Saldanha, Bishop of Mangalore.

In Jharkhand, Suman Indwar from Gumla was ordained on 8th May 2022 by Most Rev. Vinay Khandulna, Bishop of Khunti. While Vijay Linda from Hulhundu, Jharkhand was ordained on 15th May 2022 by Most Rev. Felix Toppo, Archbishop of Ranchi.

Tamil Nadu also witnessed three ordinations. M. A. Peter Raja and R. Maria Selvan from

Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu were ordained on 7th May 2022 by Most Rev. Anthonysamy, Bishop of Palayamkottai, on 10th May 2022, Stalin A. from Hosur, Tamil Nadu was ordained by Most Rev. Lawrence Pius, Bishop of Dharmapuri.

Chosen from among men, weak and humble, these young men have committed themselves to Christ to preach the Good News of salvation and eternal life. These new priests will venture into the missions as ambassadors of Christ to serve and bless the lives of others, as His instruments of peace.

- *INDIAN CATHOLIC MATTERS*

Pope makes Archbishops Filipe Neri, Anthony Poola cardinals

On 27th August, Pope Francis made 20 prelates, including Indian Archbishops Filipe Neri Ferrão of Goa and Daman and Anthony Poola of Hyderabad, cardinals, in a consistory held at St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City.

Vijayawada, and Archbishop Emeritus Bernard Moras of Bangalore.

The 20 new cardinals represent the Church worldwide and reflect a wide variety of cultures, contexts and pastoral ministries.



The ceremony was attended by thousands of faithful from around the world, including India. Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, attended the ceremony along with Cardinals George Cardinal Alencherry, head of the Syro-Malabar Church, and Baselios Cleemis, head of the Syro-Malankara Church.

Other participants were Archbishop Peter Machado of Bangalore, Bishop Jaya Rao Polimera of Eluru, Joseph Raja Rao of

Seven of the new cardinals are from Europe, six from Asia, two from Africa, one from North America and four from Central and Latin America. Of the 20, 16 are cardinal electors under 80 years of age and thus eligible to participate in a conclave. The College of Cardinals currently consists of 229 cardinals, of which 131 are electors and 98 non-electors.

Cardinal Telesphore Toppo, Archbishop of Ranchi and Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, were made cardinals

during their tenure as presidents of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI), in 2003 and 2007, respectively. Cardinal Ferrao

is the third CCBI president to be elevated to the cardinalate.

-MATTERS INDIA

‘Called To Serve’: Global Edition of Cardinal Oswald Gracias’s Autobiography Released in Vatican

‘Called to Serve,’ the international edition of the autobiography of the Cardinal Oswald Gracias, was released on 30th August, 2022 at Maria Bambina Hall, Vatican City by His Eminence Oscar Maradiaga, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa,

Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao replying on behalf of the new Cardinals thanked Cardinal Gracias and said they would work with commitment in the service of the Church according to the vision of Pope Francis.



Honduras and Coordinator the Council of Cardinals.

Speaking on the occasion Cardinal Arthur Roche, Prefect Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, complimented Cardinal Gracias for his immense contribution to the Universal Church especially as a respected confidante of the Pope Francis on Council of Cardinals.

New Asian Cardinals were felicitated on the occasion by Cardinal Gracias by presenting the copy of the Book of the Gospels.

The officials of the Vatican Curia, the Indian Generals of the Religious Congregations in Rome, the close relatives of the new Cardinals, the officials of the Indian Priests in Rome attended the programme.

Cardinal Oswald Gracias celebrates both the golden jubilee of his priesthood and the silver jubilee of his episcopal ordination.

-INDIAN CATHOLIC MATTERS

Pope Francis beatifies John Paul I: May he obtain for us the ‘smile of the soul’

Pope Francis presided over the beatification Mass of the “smiling pope,” Pope John Paul I, in Saint Peter’s Square on Sunday, 4th September 2022. Recalling how his smile communicated the goodness of the Lord, the Holy Father encouraged everyone to learn how

to love without limits and be a Church with a happy, serene and smiling face, that never closes doors.

The Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, with 25000 faithful in attendance.

In his homily, Pope Francis recalled how in today's Gospel we hear of large crowds following Jesus who gives them a challenging message: to become His disciple means to put aside earthly attachments, to love Him more than his or her own family, to carry the cross we bear in our lives.

Crowds seek hope

The Pope observed that this admonition of the Lord contrasts with what we often see in our world, where the crowds are taken by the charisma of a teacher or leader, attaching their hopes for the future based on emotions, but they become more susceptible to those who instead shrewdly take advantage of them, telling them what they want to hear for their own profit, glory or power, profiting on society's fears and needs.

God's style is different

The Pope explained that God's way is different, as he does not exploit our needs or vulnerabilities, or offer easy promises and favours. The Lord is not interested in huge crowds, or seeking approval, the Pope went on to say, pointing out that the Lord appears more worried about those who follow with easy enthusiasm but without a more profound understanding of what is needed.

"Instead of yielding to the allure of popularity, (Jesus) asks each person to discern carefully their reason for following him and the consequences that it will entail."

Many in the crowds recounted in the Gospel reading were hoping Jesus would become their leader and free them from their enemies, the Pope observed, someone who could easily fix all their problems. This worldly focus on only one's needs, of gaining prestige and status, power and privilege, needs to be challenged he pointed out,

as "this is not the style of Jesus...and cannot be the style of his disciples and of his Church."



Beatification of John Paul I in St. Peter's Square

Carrying one's cross

The Lord asks a different attitude of us, the Pope said, he wants his disciples to prefer nothing other than this love, even over their deepest affections and greatest treasures.

"To follow him does not mean to become part of a court or a triumphal procession, or even to receive a lifetime insurance policy. On the contrary, it means "carrying one's cross" (Lk 14:27): shouldering, like him, one's own burdens and those of others, making one's life a gift, spending it in imitation of his own generous and merciful love for us. These are decisions that engage the totality of our lives."

Love without measure

To commit as a disciple of Jesus means to look to the Lord more than ourselves, to learn how to love from the Crucified One, "the love that bestows itself to the very end, without measure and without limits."

"In the words of Pope John Paul, "we are the objects of undying love on the part of God." An undying love: it never sinks beneath the horizon of our lives; it constantly shines upon us and illumines even our darkest nights."

When we look upon the Crucified Lord, the Pope continued, we are called to overcome the focus on ourselves, to love God and others everywhere, even those who see things differently, even our enemies.



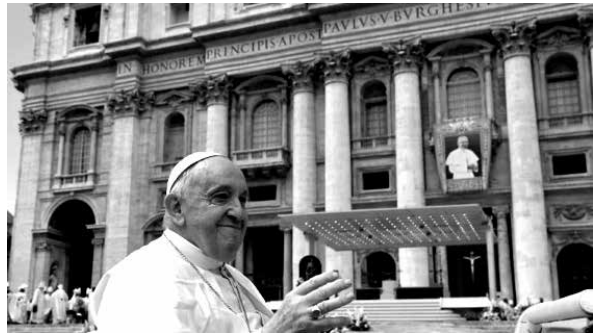
Pilgrims attending the beatification of Pope John Paul I

Love calls for sacrifice

To love can involve “sacrifice, silence, misunderstanding, solitude, resistance and persecution,” the Pope pointed out, and it calls on us to take risks, and never to settle for less or we can end up living life “halfway,” without taking the decisive steps needed to be the Lord’s disciples, truly committing ourselves to Him and helping others.

Love without compromise

Recalling the example of Blessed John Paul I, Pope Francis recalled how the new Blessed lived



Pope Francis greeting pilgrims attending the beatification of John Paul I in St. Peter’s Square

the joy of the Gospel, “without compromises, loving to the very end.” He did not seek his own glory, but lived as a “meek and humble pastor.”

“With a smile, Pope John Paul managed to communicate the goodness of the Lord. How beautiful is a Church with a happy, serene and smiling face, that never closes doors, never hardens hearts, never complains or harbours resentment, does not grow angry or impatient, does not look dour or suffer nostalgia for the past.”

In conclusion, the Pope encouraged us to ask Blessed John Paul I to help us obtain from the Lord “the smile of the soul” and to pray in his own words: “Lord take me as I am, with my defects, with my shortcomings, but make me become what you want me to be.”

-VATICAN NEWS

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International Peace Day

-Christine D'Sylva

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

- Mother Teresa

The International Peace Day is observed around the world on 21st September. The Peace Bell was donated by the United Nations Association of Japan in 1954. It has become a tradition to ring the bell twice a year on the first day of spring at the Vernal Equinox and on 21st September to celebrate the International Day for Peace. The 2022 theme this year is End Racism. Build Peace.

We as citizens should be conscious of the detrimental effects of racism and strive to work towards building a world free of racism and racial discrimination. By racism we mean a prejudice, discrimination or antagonism by an individual or community against a person or people on the basis of their membership to a particular racial or ethnic group. This faulty mind-set is caused because one group of people feel superior to another and treat it in a derogatory manner.

Mother Teresa was a pioneer in many ways to establish the need for peace amongst nations. This Albanian nun created many homes for the dying and the unwanted from Koltata to New York to Albania. She was one of the first to establish homes for AIDS victims.

For more than 50 years, this courageous nun comforted the poor, the destitute and the unwanted members of society. She brought them light that illuminated the darkness of their lives. By her care and courage with her band of helpers, she showed such marginalised people that they were not unwanted. They too were children of God and deserved care and attention. Her efforts would be likened to a gardener who realises that even if a garden bears withered plants, with loving care he can bring them back to life by watering them, providing manure etc. This analogy is apt

for that is what Mother Teresa did. She served as a gardener for lost souls bringing them hope by her kindness, care and medical aid. To her every person was important and never to be disregarded. The Norwegian Nobel Committee has awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 1979 to Mother Teresa.



Mother Teresa thought that the greatest destroyer of peace was abortion. She felt that we would not be existing if our mothers had an abortion. Similarly nobody has the right to take a life for every person has a right to live. Today many countries, even India, have legalised abortion. This was against the teachings of Mother Teresa who thought abortion was a crime against the unborn child growing in the mother's womb.

Mother Teresa has many quotes that are popular. One of them is, *"What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family."* This shows us that charity begins at home. We must all strive for world peace. However, peace first begins in our homes. We begin peace in small ways, only then can it extend and grow to encompass not just communities but the entire world.

She also said, *"Peace begins with a smile."* A smile is a beautiful gesture of kindness and friendliness. It can bridge gaps that may be more powerful than mere words.

Another quote of Mother Teresa is all about love, *"Not of all us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."*

Peace is a reflection of love and unity. Where there is discord, there is no peace and no love. Mother Teresa wanted us to understand that to live in harmony we had to be accepting, kind and tolerant of others despite the differences that exist.

A mosaic is a pattern or image made of small regular or irregular pieces of coloured stone, glass or ceramic and covers a surface and held be a cohesive material. Our world is similar to a mosaic. It is made of different people, of different colours, religions, cultures, languages, dress and, food habits, yet all of us form a beautiful wondrous mosaic that is held together cohesively if we follow the principles of tolerance, peace and love towards each other. If the mosaic stones do not adhere well to the surface area and fall off, the mosaic looks strange and incomplete. We too form a beautiful mosaic and it is our unity, peace and brotherhood that serve as cohesive forces that hold us together in mutual love and brotherhood.

Let us not forget that there could be nothing better for man's advancement than a united, peaceful world. All the discoveries and technological advancements are not as important as our feeling of unity and brotherhood with each other.

Let's start small by being good to our family in our homes and then practising this good behaviour with the community around us and slowly this extends to other races and cultures like a chain reaction.

Finally, let's end with a beautiful quote from Mother Teresa, *"Let us not use bombs and guns to overcome the world. Let us use love and compassion. Peace begins with a smile. Smile five times a day at someone you don't really want to smile at, do it for peace."*



There is no Joy Greater than the Joy of **GIVING**

Sandra Colaco, Mumbai

I am happy to contribute Rs. 10,500 towards full annual sponsorship of a Balbhavan boy. The orphan boys are growing up in an environment of love, care, learning and fellowship.

Gulnar Kataki, Bandra

As full annual sponsorship of a Balbhavan boy, I have transferred Rs. 10,500 to Fr. Agnel Ashram, for education, meals and other necessities.

Tahera Sirguroh, Bandra

I have transferred Rs. 31,500 towards full annual sponsorship of three orphan boys at Balbhavan, for their care. It is good to see them getting the best education and also enhancing their all-round skills through proper guidance from mentors.

Anoop Karunaker, Canada

It gives me great pleasure to transfer Rs. 6034 towards the care of an orphan boy at Fr. Agnel

Ashram, Bandra. The orphan boys are on the right path to imbibing the right skill set to earn their own living in future and become respectable citizens of the nation.

Karin Saldanha, Bandra

I would like to sponsor meals for the needy, for which I have transferred Rs. 5000 to Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra.

Kayomarz Mistry, Fort

Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra is doing yeoman service towards orphans studying with them, for which I have transferred Rs. 10,000. Education is the foundation of success in life and the Ashram Fathers are ensuring just that.

Sharal D'Monte, Virar

I have transferred Rs. 1000 to Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra, for their various social service activities.



FR. AGNEL'S BLESSINGS

GIFT OF A CHILD

VASAI: After fervent prayers and through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, I have been blessed with a child. I have come to the Ashram and made an offering.

-M. Dabre

THANKSGIVING FOR MANY FAVOURS RECEIVED

BANDRA: Ven. Fr. Agnel always intercedes for me and I have received many favours. A thanksgiving offering has been given to the Ashram.

-P. Gourai

PASSED CPA EXAM

VASAI: As a firm devotee of Ven. Fr. Agnel, through his intercession, I have passed the CPA exam. With a grateful heart, I have come to the Ashram and made a love offering.

-S. D'Britto

SECURED COLLEGE ADMISSION

DADAR: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, my son has secured admission in college. A thanksgiving offering has been sent to the Ashram.

-V. O. D'Mello

SUCCESSFUL FISHING BUSINESS

VASAI: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, my dream of having my own fishing

business has come true. A love offering has been given at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra.

-N. Bathya

GIFT OF A SON

LONDON: We offer thanksgiving for the gift of a son, through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel. A love offering has been sent to the Ashram.

-B. & D. Dias

SUCCESS IN EXAMS

BHAYANDER: My children have successfully passed the 10th and 12th Std., exams, through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel. A thanksgiving offering has been sent to the Ashram.

-F. Fonseca

SECURED A HOUSE

VASAI: Our prayers have been answered. We have received the favours of our own house and a child. A thanksgiving offering has been sent to the Ashram.

-D. Almeida

SUCCESSFUL FISHING BUSINESS

ARNALA: Through the kind intercession of Ven. Fr. Agnel, we have been blessed with our own boat and a successful fishing business. A love offering has been given at Fr. Agnel Ashram, Bandra.

-T. Prem

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

-Philippians 4:19

Out of Their Bounty

S. Rao	Mumbai	1,00,000	M. Albert	Daman & Diu	2,000	R. Johnson	Kerala	1,000
B. Dalal	Mumbai	16,000	M. Dabre	Palghar	2,000	S. D'Souza	Mumbai	1,000
G. Chavan	Mumbai	10,500	M. Dias	Mumbai	2,000	S. Fernandes	Mumbai	1,000
S. Colaco	Mumbai	10,500	M. Sheth	Mumbai	2,000	S. Fernandes	Vasai	1,000
M. D'Souza	Mumbai	10,000	M. Varghese	Gujarat	2,000	S. Thomas	Mumbai	1,000
P. Bhalla	New Delhi	10,000	P. Hendricks	Tamil Nadu	2,000	Sanjay/Rozy	Palghar	1,000
P. Lopes	Vasai	10,000	R. Sebastian	Kerala	2,000	T. Antony	Kerala	1,000
S. Unnikrishnan	Mumbai	10,000	S. Sequeira	Mumbai	2,000	T. Gonsalves	Vasai	1,000
Y. Patil	Rajasthan	10,000	S. Tribhuvan	Pune	2,000	U. Angre	Navi Mumbai	1,000
Jose K. P.	Kerala	8,000	Sparkling Stone	Mumbai	2,000	U. Pereira	Vasai	1,000
R. Macwan	Vasai	8,000	Supriya	Mumbai	2,000	V. James	Thane	1,000
Warren/Philomena	Mumbai	6,000	V. Pijwala	Gujarat	2,000	V. Karani	Mumbai	1,000
G. Varghese	Mumbai	5,600	V. Varghese	Mumbai	2,000	V. Lobo	Mumbai	1,000
R. Albuquerque	Mumbai	5,500	H. Dubash	Mumbai	1,600	W. Fernandes	Mumbai	1,000
B. D'Silva	Mumbai	5,000	J. Kurian	Kerala	1,600	A. D'Souza	Chennai	1,000
C. Alvares	Mumbai	5,000	A. Jambusaria	Mumbai	1,500	M. Mathai	Kerala	1,000
C. Rodrigues	Mumbai	5,000	M. Gaikwad	Mumbai	1,500	M. Arputharaj	Tamil Nadu	1,000
C. Vinjor	Ahmednagar	5,000	S. Mathias	Mumbai	1,500	A. Christian	Gujarat	1,000
D. Andrades	Palghar	5,000	A. Kuttikadan	Thane	1,250	J. Thomas	Kerala	900
F. Adhav	Mumbai	5,000	B. Vadiyar	Palghar	1,200	J. Dubash	Mumbai	800
G. Naik	Mumbai	5,000	C. Joshi	Mumbai	1,100	Virginia/Violet	Gujarat	800
G. Sartape	Mumbai	5,000	Sunder Agrawal Co	Mumbai	1,100	R. Pachickara	Kerala	800
J. Goveas	Mumbai	5,000	K. Kadam	Mumbai	1,001	J. Almeida	Karnataka	600
J. Kungumath	Thane	5,000	P. Kadam	Mumbai	1,001	D. Kumar	U.A.E.	501
J. Puthur	Kerala	5,000	R. Parikh	Mumbai	1,001	J. Desai	Mumbai	501
J. Thomas	Navi Mumbai	5,000	A. Andavan	Mumbai	1,000	M. Patel	Mumbai	501
M. Dias	Mumbai	5,000	A. D'Mello	Vasai	1,000	A. Attara	Mumbai	500
N. Gandhi	Mumbai	5,000	A. D'Silva	Palghar	1,000	A. Kolhe	Ahmednagar	500
S. Gandhi	UK	5,000	Allen	Vasai	1,000	A. Mathew	Kerala	500
Subramaniam R.	Mumbai	5,000	A. Gonsalves	Vasai	1,000	A. Nadar	Mumbai	500
T. Devsi	Thane	5,000	A. Jadhav	Kerala	1,000	A. Panchal	Mumbai	500
P. Pinto	Karnataka	5,000	A. Santhappan	Tamil Nadu	1,000	A. Pandit	U.A.E.	500
M. Alangaram	Tamil Nadu	4,200	A. Sequeira	Mumbai	1,000	B. Shingala	Mumbai	500
J. Basumatary	Mumbai	4,000	A. Singh	Mumbai	1,000	D. Jadhav	Mumbai	500
J. Simon	Kerala	4,000	A. Stephen	Tamil Nadu	1,000	G. Kuruvila	Kerala	500
R. Napolaon	Mumbai	4,000	A. Taple	Pune	1,000	G. Yosannan	Kerala	500
S. Brass	Vasai	4,000	B. Dutt	Kolkata	1,000	I. Menon	Kerala	500
S. Sudarshan	Mumbai	4,000	C. Coutinho	Goa	1,000	J. Baptist	Tamil Nadu	500
A. Mahyaranshi	U.S.A.	3,000	D. Alphonso	Mumbai	1,000	J. Bhavsar	Mumbai	500
F. Lobo	Mumbai	3,000	Darragh Smail Co.	Kerala	1,000	J. Paul	Kerala	500
G. Xavier	Kerala	3,000	E. David	Karnataka	1,000	J. Roy	Mumbai	500
Jayalekshmi M.	Kerala	3,000	Elvina/Philomena	Mumbai	1,000	K. Bhatt	Mumbai	500
R. Rodrigues	Vasai	3,000	F. Thekketh	Kerala	1,000	L. Jose	Delhi	500
Ryan/Jayden	Mumbai	3,000	G. Fernandes	Vasai	1,000	L. Lopes	Vasai	500
S. Inigo	Tamil Nadu	3,000	G. Pandrik	Palghar	1,000	L. Thomas	Gujarat	500
S. Parmar	Mumbai	3,000	G. Rajesh	Ahmednagar	1,000	M. James	Kerala	500
C. Xavier	Telangana	2,500	H. Gutka	Navi Mumbai	1,000	M. Parmar	Gujarat	500
G. Mehta	Mumbai	2,500	Irudayaraj M.	Tamil Nadu	1,000	M. Rayan	Mumbai	500
R. Pandya	Mumbai	2,500	J. D'Cunha	Mumbai	1,000	Machado & Sons	Tamil Nadu	500
Techno Products	Chennai	3,000	J. Gonsalves	Karnataka	1,000	N. Barnes	Mumbai	500
A. Elavia	Mumbai	2,200	J. Jamble	Mumbai	1,000	N. Tribhuvan	Pune	500
D. Gandhi	Gujarat	2,200	J. Lobo	Thane	1,000	R. Araujo	Goa	500
Jeevan/Jyoti	Mumbai	2,111	L. D'Abreo	Palghar	1,000	R. D'Mello	Palghar	500
Mini/Lakshmi	Kerala	2,050	L. Pereira	Vasai	1,000	R. Louis	Thane	500
A. Antony	Thane	2,000	L. Xavier	Hyderabad	1,000	R. Victor	Tamil Nadu	500
A. Deepak	Mumbai	2,000	M. Antony	Kerala	1,000	S. Noronha	Mumbai	500
A. Dias	Vasai	2,000	M. D'Souza	U.A.E.	1,000	S. Pereira	Vasai	500
A. Fernandes	Vasai	2,000	M. D'Souza	Pune	1,000	T. Monteiro	Mumbai	500
C. Engles	Punjab	2,000	M. D'Souza	Mumbai	1,000	V. Sophia	Tamil Nadu	500
C. Varghese	Bahrain	2,000	M. Furtado	Vasai	1,000	Y. Aranha	Mumbai	500
G. Dey	Mumbai	2,000	M. Gonsalves	Vasai	1,000	A. Raj	Bangalore	500
H. Fernandes	Mumbai	2,000	N. Andrades	Vasai	1,000	R. Commissariat	Mumbai	500
H. Kenny	Mumbai	2,000	N. Cusher	Vasai	1,000	S. Fernandes	Vasai	500
J. Saldanha	Mumbai	2,000	P. Ferrao	Mumbai	1,000	A. Shaju	Kerala	500
L. Gomes & Fly	Mumbai	2,000	R. Fernando	Tamil Nadu	1,000	Jouhar	Kerala	500

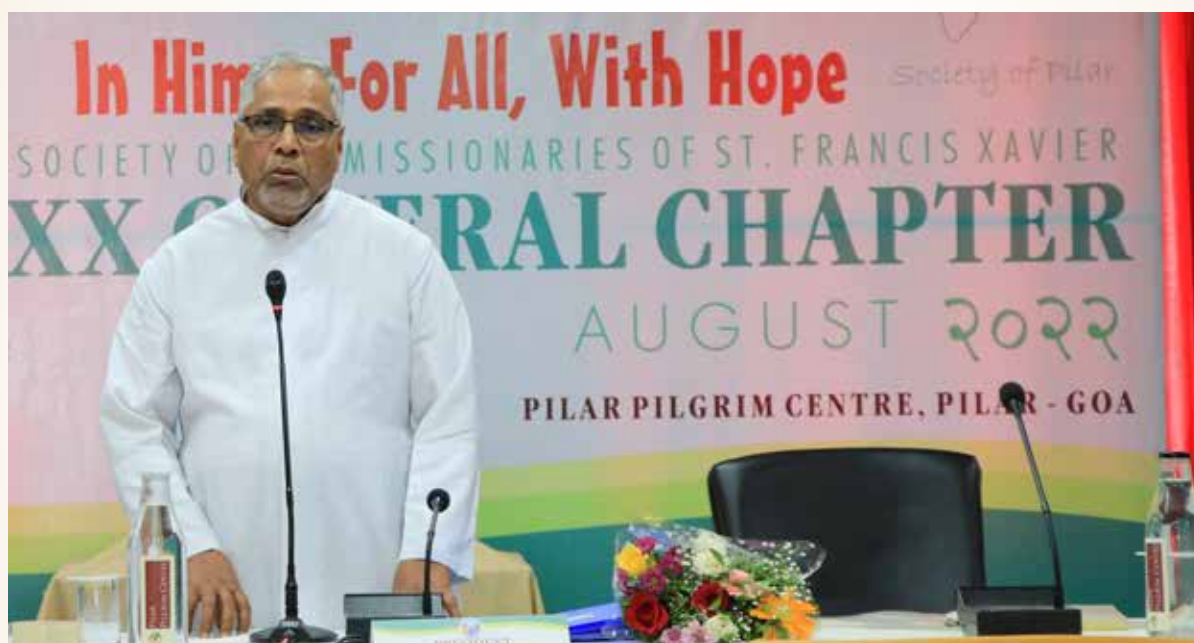
Rev. Fr. Nazareth Fernandes Elected 19th Superior General of Society of Pilar

Rev. Fr. Nazareth Rosario Fernandes from Loutolim, Goa, was elected the 19th Superior General of the Society of the Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier, commonly known as the Society of Pilar.

The election of the new Superior General was held on the morning of 6th of August, 2022 during the 20th General Chapter of the Society of Pilar, in picturesque Goa. Later in the afternoon, Rev. Fr. Steevan D'Souza from Udupi was elected as the Vicar General, Rev.

professor at the Pilar Theological Seminary. He served as Rector of Pilar Niketan, Nagpur, and also at the All India Mission Seminary, Pilar. He has laboured extensively in the missions of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and has served as Provincial Superior of the Kolkata Province. He also served in the General Council for two terms and was the Vicar General of the Society of Pilar during the last five years.

On the following day of the election (7th of August), a solemn Eucharistic celebration,



The newly elected Superior General of the Society of Pilar, Rev. Fr. Nazareth Fernandes, addressing the capitulars of the 20th General Chapter, held in Goa.

Fr. Anthony Joseph Fernandes from Raia as 2nd Councillor, Rev. Fr. Saturnino Almeida from Goa Velha as 3rd Councillor, Rev. Fr. Maria Michael from Tuticorin as 4th Councillor and Rev. Fr. Derick Rodrigues from Verna as General Treasurer.

In his first address to the capitulars of the General Chapter, Rev. Fr. Fernandes said, "I may not have too many abilities, but I am available to carry on the works of the Society". Rev. Fr. Fernandes is the son of Joaquim Manuel Fernandes and Maria Joaquina Fernandes and has four brothers and a sister. He has a licentiate in Church History from the Gregorian University, Rome and is a

presided by the Rev. Fr. General, was celebrated in the Pilar Monastery Church. During his homily, Rev. Fr. General said, "I will uphold the Constitutions and the traditions of the Society of Pilar and continue to witness and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus, especially to those who have not yet known him."

A felicitation programme followed in honour of the New General Administration. Speaking on the occasion, Rev. Fr. Nazareth expressed his gratitude to all the members and appreciated the outgoing administration for all their efforts in guiding the Society.

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20th General Chapter of the Society of Pilar



Standing from Left to Right: Rev. Fr. Derick Rodrigues (General Treasurer), Rev. Fr. Steevan D'Souza (Vicar General), Rev. Fr. Nazareth Rosario Fernandes (Superior General), Rev. Fr. Anthony Joseph Fernandes (2nd Councillor), Rev. Fr. Saturnino Almeida (3rd Councillor) and Rev. Fr. Maria Michael (4th Councillor).

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