



SPOTLIGHT

THE BARODA DIOCESE NEWSLETTER

For Private Circulation only

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2025
www.dioceseofbaroda.org



Pilgrims of Hope
2025



SAINT OF THE MONTH
ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO
AUGUST 28, 2025



The earliest known depiction of St. Augustine, a 6th-century fresco, Lateran, Rome

"Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee."

— Augustine of Hippo, Confessions

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE POPE

AUGUST

FOR MUTUAL COEXISTENCE

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons

SEPTEMBER

FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL OF CREATION

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

+Seby

...the Church has always had the duty of **Reading** the signs of the times and of **Interpreting** them in the light of the Gospel. (Gaudium et Spes 4)

I have been invited by the CRI Unit of Ahmedabad Diocese to speak on the Pastoral Constitution of the Church, Gaudium et Spes.

Many have criticised Vatican II documents with the simple argument that it has compromised Church doctrine and diluted the teachings of the Church. Pope Francis was particularly caught in the crossfire of the reading of the signs of the times



and the demand to go back to the traditional 'eternal truths' of the Church. Gaudium et Spes is one of the criticised documents.

One of the key impulses towards this struggle within the Church is the phrase: **Reading the signs of the times**. However the second part of this iconic statement of GS, - **and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel** is not quoted in the same breath! Arguably, an "eigesis" instead of genuine "exegesis" is the accusation. The context was used to interpret the text, rather than the text for the context? Inculturation, Dialogue and Option for the Poor, the fruits of reading the sign of the times, seem to have lost their dynamism today.

Vatican II strongly stressed the dynamic and living union of the human and the divine (Mystery) with the divine transforming (Christifying) the human. Unfortunately the traditionalists, who rely on rituals and traditions, feel that worldly strategies have taken over the Gospel values and deep spirituality.

Every issue has two sides or perhaps even eight or more. It is a challenge for us to reflect on in the current Church-World situation, both *ad intra* and *ad extra*.



PRIEST COUNCIL MEET

THE MAGISTERIUM

Mission Sunday 2025 “Missionaries of Hope Among all Peoples”..

“not a static Church, but a missionary Church that walks with her Lord through the streets of the world”

A Must Read Reflection for All

The message for Mission Sunday was written and sent already by Late Pope Francis. While Mission Sunday is close by, we are producing extracts of the same in Spotlight. It commends us who are basically working in missio ad gentes areas.

2. Christians, bearers and builders of hope among all peoples: In following Christ the Lord, Christians are called to hand on the Good News by sharing the concrete life situations of those whom they meet, and thus to be bearers and builders of hope. Indeed, “the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well. Nothing that is genuinely human fails to find an echo in their hearts” (Gaudium et Spes 1).

This celebrated statement of the Second Vatican Council, which expresses the sentiment and style of Christian communities in every age, continues to inspire

word” pronounced on human existence (cf. Catechesis, 23 August 2017). From the paschal mysteries, made present in liturgical celebrations and in the sacraments, we constantly draw upon the power of the Holy Spirit in order to work with zeal, determination and patience in the vast field of global evangelization. **“Christ, risen and glorified, is the wellspring of our hope, and he will not deprive us of the help we need to carry out the mission which he has entrusted to us”** (Evangelii Gaudium, 275). In him, we live and bear witness to that sacred hope which is “a gift from God and a task for Christians” (Hope is a Light in the Night, Vatican City 2024, 7).

Missionaries of hope are men and women of

WESTERN REGION BISHOP COUNCIL MEET CHANDA, JULY 7-9, 2025



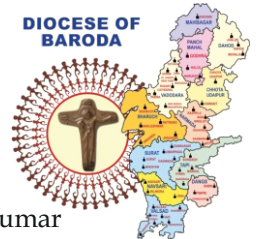
their members and helps them to walk with their brothers and sisters in the world. Here I think especially of those of you who are **missionaries ad gentes**. Following the Lord's call, you have gone forth to other nations to make known the love of God in Christ. For this, I thank you most heartily! Your lives are a clear response to the command of the risen Christ, who sent his disciples to evangelize all peoples (cf. Mt 28:18-20). In this way, you are signs of the universal vocation of the baptized to become, by the power of the Spirit and daily effort, missionaries among all peoples and witnesses to the great hope given us by the Lord Jesus.

3. Renewing the mission of hope Faced with the urgency of the mission of hope today, **Christ's disciples are called first to discover how to become “artisans” of hope and restorers of an often distracted and unhappy humanity.** To this end, **we need to be renewed in the Easter spirituality experienced at every Eucharistic celebration** and especially during the Easter Triduum, the centre and culmination of the liturgical year. We have been baptized into the redemptive death and resurrection of Christ, into the -Passover of the Lord that marks the eternal springtime of history. Consequently, we are a “springtime people”, brimming with hope to be shared with all, since in Christ **“we believe and know that death and hate are not the final**

prayer, for “the person who hopes is a person who prays”, in the words of Venerable Cardinal François-Xavier Van Thuan, who was himself sustained in hope throughout his lengthy imprisonment thanks to the strength he received from faithful prayer and the Eucharist (cf. The Road of Hope, Boston, 2001, 963). **Let us not forget that prayer is the primary missionary activity and at the same time “the first strength of hope”** (Catechesis, 20 May 2020). By praying, we keep alive the spark of hope lit by God within us, so that it can become a great fire, which enlightens and warms everyone around us, also by those concrete actions and gestures that prayer itself inspires.

To conclude, evangelization is always a communitarian process, like Christian hope itself (cf. Benedict XVI, Spe Salvi, 14). *Here I would emphasize once more the importance of this missionary synodality of the Church, as well as the service rendered by the Pontifical Mission Societies in promoting the missionary responsibility of the baptized and supporting new Particular Churches.* I urge all of you, children, young people, adults and the elderly, to participate actively in the common evangelizing mission of the Church by your witness of life and prayer, by your sacrifices and by your generosity. Thank you for this!

OFFICIAL AUG-SEPT 2025



COMMITMENTS OF THE BISHOP AUGUST -SEPTEMBER 2025

Aug 02-03 Visitation - Chota Udaipur
 Aug 03 Pastors Day - In each Parish
 Aug 09 Day of Indigenous Peoples
 Ahmedabad Diocese CRI Meeting, Nadiad
 Aug 9-10 Visitation at Rosary Cathedral, Baroda
 Aug 12 Meeting with FSAG General Superior
 Aug 15 Silver Jubilee of CMs Relva
 Aug 17 Installation of PP - Shamgahan
 Aug 17-23 Annual Retreat 1 for Diocesan Priests, Saputara
 Sessions on Safeguarding Norms (Aug 17)
Aug 27 ANNUAL MISSIONARY MEETING
(GANESH-holiday)
 Aug 28 - Oct 04-- Mission Preaching
 Sept 14 COLLECTION -- Society of St Peter for
 Seminaries
 Sept 18 Deanery Pastoral Council in Each Deanery
 Sept 21-27 Diocesan Retreat II - Saputara
 Sessions on Safeguarding Norms (Sept 21)

FR. VINCENT MACWAN (FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR)
 Mob: 70163 48788 Email: procuratorbaroda@gmail.com
FR. VINCENT LOBO (SECRETARY)
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PLEASE PRAY

BIRTHDAYS

03-09-1986 Fr. Antony SushilKumar
 04-09-1960 Fr. Pais Joel R.
 21-09-1989 Fr. Anish Devasia
 28-09-1988 Fr. Kadam Sachin

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

20-08-2012 Fr. John D' Mello
 07-09-2024 Fr. John Vales
 26-09-2024 Fr. Alex Britto

ORDINATIONS

22-08-2020 Fr. Kadam Sachin
 22-08-2020 Fr. Karketta Raymond
 24-08-2020 Fr. Nakre Akash

COLLECTION September 14, 2025

St Peter Collection (Rome)

Please send your collections (Cheques) in favour

"Dakshin Gujarat Seva Kendra",

Bank: Indian Overseas Bank,

A/C no: 019501000011894,

IFSC: IOBA0000195, Branch: Alkapuri, Baroda.

DIOCESAN SYNOD IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

On the recommendation of the Deans (who are to consult their Deanery members), the following are appointed members of the Diocesan Synod Implementation Committee. The names have been uploaded to the Synod Secretariat, Rome as per their instructions.

1. Fr. Malcolm Fernandes - Vicar General - Baroda Deanery -
COORDINATOR (Nominated by the Bishop)
2. Sr. Pushpa Parmar SA - Bharuch Deanery
3. Mr. Oliver Rodrigues - Surat Deanery
4. Fr. Joseph Parmar SJ - Dangs Deanery
5. Sr. Asha D'MonteCCV - Tapi Deanery
6. Ms Jermaben Vesava - Narmada Deanery
7. Fr. Carlos George SDB - Panchmahals Deanery

The Pathways for Implementation of the Synod published by the Synod Secretariat will be our guidelines

MISSIONARY MEETING 2025

DATE

AUG 27 (GANESH HOLIDAY)

PLACE:

BISHOP HOUSE, BARODA

10. A.M

WELCOME & PRAYER BY THE
BISHOP

10.15 A.M

LITURGY: THE DIVINE AND/IN THE
HUMAN

FR. TONY FERNANDES
LITURGY PROFESSOR

12.00 - SOUSNACK

1215

PRACTICAL MATTERS ON
CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE
MOD: FR. GEORGE K SJ

1300

NOTES BY THE BISHOP

1330

LUNCH
DEPART

CRI: LOCAL UNIT OF THE DIOCESE OF BARODA

NAME	DESIGNATION	DEANERY
Fr. Raja. M SVD	President	Panchmahal
Fr. Melwin Dsa SJ	Treasurer	Surat
Sr. Shiny Thomas CM	Secretary	Narmada
Sr. Edwina CCR		Bharuch
Sr. Nirmala Parmar MSCJ		Tapi
SR. Asha D'Monte CCV		Tapi
Sr. Lavinia D.Mascarenhas CCR		Surat
Sr. Celine Paul CCV		Dangs
Fr. Jayanti Bhadagi SJ		Dangs
Sr. Renuka FC		Narmada
Sr. Babli Vasava RMI		Vadodara
Sr. Mary Joseph SCHSA		Vadodara
Sr. Maggie DHM		Bharuch
Fr. Daresh Rathwa SDB		Panchmahal

DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

Learning to Listen to the Spirit at ALL LEVELS

Fr. William Carvalho

The Laity Commission took upon itself the main task of the Syondal Implementation in the Jubilee Year – Spiritual Conversations at all levels. The Spiritual Conversation Training was held in four groups at Deanery levels. A priest, a nun, a man and a woman and a youth from each parish were invited. A total of 196 persons attended the sessions held in four places: Vadodara and Panchmahal Deanery (66 persons), Narmada and Bharuch Deanery (60 persons), Tapi and Dangs Deanery (36 persons) and Surat Dearnery (34 persons). 48 of the 50 pa hes participated in the exercises.

The purpose of Training of Trainers is to see that this method is brought down to every group at the parish level and does not remain an elite method for priests and religious. However the method needs discipline and practice in order that it become a real spiritual attitude. Using it superficially will not be effective. The sessions were conducted to provide this training to the people.

The resource persons were Fr. Simon Thomas, Fr. Francis D'Sa and Fr. William Carvalho

The participants were warmly welcomed following a brief prayer, after which Fr. William provided an introduction to the Training of Trainers (TOT) program. He emphasized the significance of active listening and how this Spiritual Conversation would enable us to listen deeply, communicate intentionally, and discern the will of God in every decision we make.

Fr. Francis then shared a compelling story about a mission parish that encompassed 45 villages. In this parish, a church was constructed by the parish priest, who secured funding from abroad, with approximately 10% of the costs contributed by the local community. Over the years, the number of parishioners grew significantly, leading to a situation where the existing church could no longer accommodate the congregation. Many attendees found themselves standing outside during Mass.

In response to this challenge, the parish priest and the parish council made the decision to build a larger church. The estimated cost for this new construction was around 4 crores. The parish priest drafted a project proposal, which was approved, resulting in a grant of 3.5 crores. The remaining 50 lakhs were to be raised through contributions from the parishioners, who rose to the



DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN

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occasion.

However, during this period, a new bishop was appointed, and he restructured the parish by creating three additional parishes to facilitate smoother operations. Consequently, the number of parishioners in the original parish decreased significantly, with some members relocating abroad for education and employment opportunities.

This situation raised a critical question: Should the new church still be built, given the changes in the parish demographics?

Four groups were formed and tasked with discussing the proposal for the construction of a new church.

Following the group discussion, Father Simon delivered an insightful presentation on the topic of Spiritual



Surat

Conversation explaining the Steps of Spiritual Conversation

Step 1: Prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament

- **Pray over the matter proposed** (personal prayer).

Step 2: First round of sharing: Intentional speaking and active listening (Mandatory for all)

Sit in a circle

Pause for a moment in prayer before the sharing begins

Moderator invites each one to share for maximum 3 minutes.

Anybody can start. Continue either on the person's right or left from where the sharing begins. Remember the helpful starters: I feel..... I am moved by / to..... I am touched by..... I experienced..... I am inspired by / to.....

Pause for a moment after every sharing.

The secretary keeps note of the sharing, especially the priorities mentioned.

Step 3: Second round of sharing: Reflective sharing (Mandatory for all)

In the beginning, Pause for a moment in prayer before the sharing begins

- Moderator invites each one to share for maximum 3 minutes.

Anybody can start. Continue either on the person's right or left from where the sharing begins.

- Did anything touch you or inspire you while others were sharing? What was it? How did you feel when the person was sharing? No arguments.

- Pause for a moment after every sharing. The secretary keeps note of the sharing, especially the priorities mentioned.

Step 4: Third round of sharing: Open discussion

In the beginning, Pause for a moment in prayer before the sharing begins

- Moderator invites the group if they would like to clarify anything from anyone regarding a particular sharing. Only clarification, no arguments.

- The secretary keeps a note of the sharing, especially the priorities mentioned. With the help of the group, the secretary now makes a list of the top 5 priorities of the group, which will be presented in the Plenary Session.

Step 5: Thanksgiving prayer

- End with prayers of thanksgiving for the consolations, confirmations, moments of inner disturbance and desolation and for the recognition of the movement of the Spirit through the process. He made a detailed presentation of the method, technique and attitudes needed

for the Spiritual Conversation. Later the participants were divided into small groups and they practiced the five steps of this technique. They were monitored and mentored by the resource persons as the technique needs concentration and discipline.

Following the discussion, Fr. William conducted an evaluation of the session. Participants expressed a strong appreciation for the method of Spiritual Conversation, describing it as enriching, enlightening, and highly beneficial. Many indicated their intention to implement this approach within their families, parishes, and communities.

A notable aspect that resonated with attendees was the emphasis on prayer and seeking God's will prior to making any decisions. Several participants shared that they now recognize the importance of consulting their family members before arriving at significant decisions.

As a result, they were encouraged to apply this method in various settings, including meetings of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), Mahila Mandal, Youth groups, and



Narmada Bharuch

MFC, in families, communities as well as in any other discussions or gatherings that may arise.

For a Real Transformation in our Parishes it would be imperative that we introduce this method at every level. However it must be done with proper training and depth or we shall be presuming things without really discerning.

DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN

MEETING OF LAY ORGANISATIONS OF THE DIOCESE OF BARODA

*What specifically characterizes **THE LAITY IS THEIR SECULAR NATURE**...they live in the world, that is, in each and in all of the secular professions and occupations. They live in the ordinary circumstances of family and social life, from which the very web of their existence is woven. They are called there by God that by exercising their proper function and led by the spirit of the Gospel they may **WORK FOR THE SANCTIFICATION OF THE WORLD** from within as a leaven. In this way **THEY MAY MAKE CHRIST KNOWN TO OTHERS, ESPECIALLY BY THE TESTIMONY OF A LIFE** resplendent in faith, hope and charity. (Lumen Gentium 31)*



This was a meeting that is perhaps a first in any diocese. On the 27th of July 2025, about 90 members of Lay Groups in the Diocese gathered together in Synod Hall of the Diocese of Baroda to reflect on their role and their commitment as lay persons.

Missionary Families for Christ, Jesus Youth, Society of Vincent de Paul, Legion of Mary were joined by Lay Groups of Jesus and Mary (RJM), Hospitallers (FHIC), Dominicans (OP), Carmelite Missionaries (CM), Salesians (SDB), St. Ann (SChSA), St Ann (SA), Missionaries of Sacred Heart (MSCJ) and Daughters of the Cross (DC).

Every group briefly presented their charism and their works. Later the Bishop invited every parish representative to come forward and express how they serve the parish and the community. *It was noted that synergising with parish works and parish structures was essential in the spirit of synodality.* This was happening generally. *Some even gave their annual planner and integrated it in the Parish planner.* Parish Priests were invited for meetings. In some parishes, the parish priests themselves were motivating the groups. *It was pointed out that the groups should involve in all parish activities and could have their own, besides that.* They could not be exclusive and inward looking. The groups get the whole parish involved, not just their members, in activities.

The Bishop stressed that the Lay Persons were the key to evangelisation of the World. He pointed out that the vocation of every christian is the same: To be Holy (be drawn or let be drawn into the Divine) and witness the Holiness to the World through the goodness of our lives and thereby draw the world to God (Mission).

He pointed out the differences between the Ordained and the Non Ordained and then between the Committed (Priests and Religious) and the Laity. While the vocation is the same, one is called to move away from the world and while the others live in the world. The role of the Ordained is to lead the others into Holiness (personal/communitarian and missionary) wherever they are. The real active evangelisation would actually be the lives of the 99% of the Church – the laity. Unfortunately the Church has still remained focussed on the 1%

Bp. Seby pointed out that we are all worrying about vocations to sustain our congregations rather than enabling all of us to be Holy. If the laity realises its vocation to be Holy and Missionary, vocations would follow.

The enthusiasm of the lay person was stunning. A group came from Dharmapur and Parasapada. They left at 3 in the morning and reached at 11 am here. I was touched by their zeal. If only we the laity and religious could enable more lay people. The promise of Vatican II is left unfulfilled.



MEETINGS

CRI WESTERN REGION AGM

“Healing minds and building a nation”

5th and 6th July 2025

Sr. Shiny Thomas cm

It was indeed an excellent opportunity to be part of the western region CRI annual general meet held at Montfort Sadan, Pune. There was an enthusiastic participation from a large number of religious from Maharashtra, Goa, and Gujarat, around 64 religious including generals, provincials, presidents and secretary of the various units of the 3 states.

The theme of this meet was “Healing minds and building a nation. The session began with the inaugural mass offered by Fr. Roque Alphonso, Administrator of the Diocese of Pune; concelebrated by 14 other priests.



CRI West AGM, Pune, July 25

The inaugural keynote address was delivered by Sr. Nirmalini A.C., National President of CRI. She was joined by dignitaries including Sr. Bromadine Palokaran, Regional President of CRI Western Region; Fr. Roque Alphonso and Br. Sajan, Provincial of the Montfort Brothers. Sr. Nirmalini, stressed on the point of 'religious working together as a network, its high time we give up living in silos, living only for my community, my province and my congregation. Let us break our barriers and join hands together and work together for our common goal. --- says Sr. Nirmalini.

A key highlight of the programme was the session led by Fr. Shinto Mathew, O.C.D., National President of the Catholic Mental Health Ministry (CMHM) India. In his address, Fr. Shinto underscored the urgency of early identification of mental health concerns, the need for professionally trained personnel in the field, and the importance of making mental health services accessible at all levels. He emphasised that mental health issues often affect families as a whole, calling for increased family education to promote compassion and acceptance. Fr. Shinto introduced various tools developed by CMHM to support religious in integrating life experiences, enhancing resilience, developing coping strategies, and discovering deeper meaning and purpose in their vocations.

The Pune workshop offered valuable insights into the integration of wellness within religious life and raised greater awareness about the services provided by the St. Dymphna Institute. (patron saint of the mentally challenged). The CRI Western Region also announced its plans for future collaborations with CMHM, aiming to extend wellness programmes to those in formation and congregation members, thereby reinforcing its commitment to the holistic well-being of religious.



CRI West, GOA, Jan 25

On the second day we had a very informative session on 'Peace Education' given by Fr. Peter Gonsalves SDB, who presently resides in Rome. He has authored text books for different classes which were structured as lesson plans intended to nurture the intellectual and emotional growth of young people ranging from 5 to 17 yrs of age. a short glimpse into these study materials made us aware of techniques that could be used to overcome caste, creed and religion biases and prejudices that exist in society. Later in the day we had sessions on report reading and election of a new core administrative team for the forthcoming yrs.

Certain decisions and plans were brought forward by participants for the Way forward and presented to the newly elected Meet executive committee.

CELEBRATIONS

50 Years in Chota Udaipur

Golden Jubilee Inauguration at Don Bosco Chhotaudepur

Fr Selvin D'Mello Sdb.



On 19th July 2025, Don Bosco Chhotaudepur joyfully inaugurated the Golden Jubilee celebrations, marking fifty years of our impactful presence and dedicated service to the poor and the marginalized of Chhotaudepur District.

The event commenced with a traditional cultural ritual, during which heartfelt homage was paid to the pioneering diocesans Priests Frs. Oscar, Anthony and Fr Manuel and Fr Byron. These were the pioneers, who began the presence of the Catholic Church Trust with their social development works here. Their vision, sacrifice, and missionary zeal were talked about during various speeches

by veterans present at the occasion; they were described as the ones who laid the cornerstone for what Don Bosco Chhotaudepur is today.

The Salesians of Don Bosco took over from these stalwarts, through their development works, a Boarding for the Tribal Rathwas was begun, thanks to Fathers Maschio, Moja, for their generosity and hard work in financing the early years of development in the Chhota region.

Among the Salesians Fr Byron, is specially remembered for his contribution to the Missions of Chhotaudepur.



Following the cultural opening, a solemn thanksgiving Eucharist was presided over by Fr Ashley Miranda, the Provincial-elect of the Bombay Province. Fr Miranda reflected on the selfless missionary spirit of the founding Diocean Priests and Salesians. He reminded the congregation that just as they became living witnesses of God's love, we too are called to continue their legacy spreading compassion, hope, and God's love to all those we serve.

The Eucharistic celebration was meaningfully animated by the parishioners and boarders, adding a spiritual and communal depth to the occasion. After the Mass, a brief but heartfelt felicitation ceremony was held to honour all the Salesians and distinguished guests present. A

CELEBRATIONS

50 Years in Chota Udaipur

Golden Jubilee Inauguration at Don Bosco Chhotaudepur



commemorative video was screened, beautifully capturing the journey and contributions of the early missionaries especially Fr Oscar and Fr Byron who shaped the institution's legacy over the past five decades.

Fr George Carlos, the Rector of Don Bosco Chhotaudepur, expressed his profound gratitude in the concluding address. He sincerely thanked the provincial team, the Salesian communities, parishioners, and all those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring the celebration to life. He emphasized that this milestone was not just a celebration of the past, but a call to renew the mission with renewed zeal and commitment.

The spirit of gratitude, unity, and renewed commitment pervaded the entire gathering, making it a truly memorable beginning to the Jubilee year.

The inaugural program concluded with a reaffirmation of Don Bosco Chhotaudepur's mission to serve, educate, and uplift the lives of the young and the marginalized in the years to come. As Don Bosco Chhotaudepur embarks on its next chapter, the Golden Jubilee stands as a testament to God's providence, the tireless dedication of the Diocese and the Salesians in their enduring spirit and love for the community they serve. We thank Bishop Seby for his continuous support and Blessings.



PICSWORDS

ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

The Ease of Experiencing God

“Ignatius – Men and Women for others”.

The Keynote address at the Celebrations of the Feast of St. Ignatius was delivered by Bro. Praveen Falcao sj. He pointed out the difficult social and political situation at the time Ignatius founded the Society of Jesus. He explained the ethos and charism of the Society stressing the selfless reaching out to others that has been the hallmark of the Jesuits.

Catholic School Children and Teachers from Rosary School, Convent of Jesus of Mary, St. Joseph, Auxilium Convent, Don Bosco and Fatima school participated in the celebrations. Each of them presented various aspects of the Gospel values in song and dance.

Later the children participated in the Holy Eucharist presided over by Bishop Seby Mascarenhas. In his homily the Bishop said that the greatest gift St. Ignatius has given to us is Spiritual Discernment. In the spirit of Synodality, he exhorted the teachers to involve the children in practicing silence and the art of listening, that St. Ignatius taught us.

Fr. Iowan Sebastian was the man behind all the organisation and the Superior Fr. James Savarimuthu thanked all the guests.

In the evening all religious and priest communities joined in prayer and sumptuous meal together.



PICSWORDS

CATECHISM CHILDREN MEET IN BARODA DEANERY

Teach them to listen in the silence of their hearts..



Baroda Deanery has scheduled joint programs of their parishes hosted by each parish. Rosary parish hosted a meet of the Catechism Children. 412 children from class IV to XI and 67 teachers participated.

Rosary 148 children and 17 teachers, Don Bosco 116 children and 17 teachers, Sama 23 children and 7 teachers, Gothada 22 children and 3 teachers, St. Joseph 61 children and 3 teachers, and Gorwa 37 children.

Class IV - 61 children, V - 61, VI - 40, VII - 61, VIII - 66, IX - 52, X - 44, XI - 27. 20 Youth of Rosary parish accompanied the students during the Day.

The day long program involved prayer, instruction and fun and games. The Eucharist was celebrated for the higher classes by Fr. Aubrey Fernandes sj and Bishop Sebastiao Mascarenhas sfx celebrated for the younger children.

The entire program was organised under the leadership of Fr Jesuraj and Fr. Bhushan. St Joseph will host all PPC members of Baroda Deanery and August 31 and the Deanery Youth will meet at Don Bosco on September 14.



PICSWORDS PRAYING WITH THE BIBLE IN THE FAMILY

Women Commission and Bible Commission Synergise



Praying with the Bible', a Training program of the Women of the Narmada Deanery, Diocese of Baroda, commenced on 12th July 2025 with enthusiasm at Jagruti Kendra Netrang organized by the coordinator of women commission Sr. Anita parmar F.C. & the team. 146 Women, 3 Priests & 10 Religious sisters participated in the Training. Sr. Smita Macwan CM, Deanery Representative, extended a heartfelt welcome to all participants and the resource Person Fr Mayank SDB



The women were divided into 20 groups 6 to 7 women in each group. Then Fr Mayank began with Q& Answer session what is the Bible? He also dealt with the following topics

- Ø The Characteristic of the Bible
- Ø What is the most important in the Bible?
- Ø Why and how do we need to read the catholic Bible and nine methods of reading the Bible?

The training program was concluded by 4:30 p.m. with a note of gratitude by the deanery representative Minaxiben Vasava and the Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Fr. Mayank. It was a spiritually uplifting experience for all

FOOTBALL FUN - ROSARY CATHEDRAL

Twelve Teams participated in the Vianney Cup at Rosary Football Ground. The Tournament, enthusiastically supported by the Parish Priests, was won by St. Alphonsa Church, Maneja. Deanery Level Youth and PPC meets are also planned in the near future.



GRANDPARENTS DAY - UMARGAM

Grandparents and Elders day at Divine Mercy Shrine, Umargam was celebrated on July 27, Sunday. The whole Parish joined the Parish Pastoral Council with Divine Mercy youth and children who honored their elders.



PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Can anything ever separate us from the love of Christ? (Rom 8:38)

PARISH YOUTH LEADERS MEET AT DEANERY LEVEL

Each parish sends Youth President, Vice President, Secretary, 2 Mentors (man and woman), priest/sister
Discussing plans, Electing Deanery Youth President and Vice President

Proposed Dates		
30 August	(Saturday, 10 am to 2pm)	PANCHMAHAL DEANERY
31 August	(Sunday 3 pm to 7 pm)	Narmada-Bharuch Deanery
13 September	(Saturday, 10 am to 2pm)	VADODARA DEANERY
14 September	(Sunday 3 pm to 7 pm)	Surat Deanery
27 September	(Saturday, 10 am to 2pm)	DANGS -TAPI DEANERY

FR. KAUSHIK VASAVA, Diocesan Youth Coordinator