



Simla Chandigarh Diocese

Bishop's House, P.O. Box No: 709, Sector 19-A Chandigarh - 160 019, INDIA.

† Ignatius L. Mascarenhas

Bishop of Simla-Chandigarh

TEL: 0172-2775777, 2773777

FAX: 0172-2781630

EMAIL: bpignatius@gmail.com

Ref. DSC/Cir. 06/2023

21.04.2023

INFORMATION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

Greetings!

- A brief note on fire that took place on Wednesday 19th April 2023 night around 10.30pm in Saloghra, residence /farmhouse where Fr Naveen Rodrigues resides. I along with Father Ambrose on Thursday 20th April, 2023 reached St. Luke's School, Solan around 10:20 AM and had a quick look at some of the repair work and strengthening of the retaining walls etc. at St. Luke's School, being done in the school premises and then proceeded with Fr. Naveen, Fr. Sahayaraj, Fr. Anil, Fr. Edward and Fr. Ambrose along with Mr. Kartik, architect and contractor Mr. Verma to the farmhouse which is situated around 7 km from St. Luke's Solan. We were completely shocked as we went around looking at the devastating fire which brought down the whole building. Providentially, thanks be to God!! Fr. Naveen and the family staying adjoining to the Priest's residence family with their two small children were unhurt and safe.

Fr. Naveen shared with us, that around 10.30 pm at night, after he had come home from the Easter blessings of families, there was heavy thunder, lightning, hailstones rain etc. he then came out of his room to look at the building and he immediately saw fire, beginning to spread from the top of his residence and was moving down swiftly engulfing the whole house and the adjacent house of the family residing there. He woke up the family and asked them to rush out, as the raging inferno was spreading fast. The fire and the dense smoke and the crumbling wooden roofs and supporting roof iron angles and tin sheets came crashing down in a short time. Father and the family could hardly save anything in their residence, everything was burnt up. Father had the presence of mind to take out the two gas cylinders and just a few things.

This was an old building with a lot of wooden paneling, brick walls, and had stood the test of time till this lightning struck the residence at night. Fr. Naveen tried calling the Fire Brigade but the calls were not going through. Father Naveen and the family are now coming to terms with what happened and are adjusting and slowly moving forward. I have asked Fr. Sahayaraj and the Community of Bethany sisters to help in whatever way and the neighbors too are doing their part to comfort and help them.
- The list of the Annual Clergy Transfer 2023 is ready and is sent to you, in your emails and WhatsApp groups. I thank all the Fathers who are being transferred, for their commitment in their pastoral work. May God bless all of you. I wish all the Fathers who are taking up the new assignments God's manifold blessings and pray that you exercise your priestly ministry with fervor and zeal. Kindly keep all the parish records, account books and other related documents, updated and hand them over to the priest replacing you. Fr. Thartheus will inform you about the audit dates. The new transfer takes places either before or on 1st July. Kindly be in your new places by 1st July 2023.
- The Congregation of the Sisters of the Ursulines of Mary Immaculate have been serving in Simla Chandigarh Diocese especially in St. Anne's Parish and the School since 1977. They have been serving in this mission for all these years. The Sisters gave their total dedicated service in this Parish and the School. The Diocese is very grateful to all the Generals, provincials and their teams for assigning Sisters in the pastoral and educational apostolate of this parish. In the beginning of June 2023, with mutual agreement between the Congregation and Simla Chandigarh Diocese, the sisters will withdraw their services. We thank the present



Community of sisters, Sr. Jessy Augustine UMI, Principal and Superior, Sr. Agnella UMI and Sr. Rose Cheriyan UMI.

4. The Congregation of the Precious Blood Sisters [ASC], who are working in the Diocese since a year will replace the Ursulines [UMI] Sisters. There will be a community of four sisters, Sr. Leena ASC, Superior, Sr. Siji ASC, Principal, Sr. Bincy ASC, Sr. Regina ASC, who will be taking care of the pastoral, educational ministry in St. Anne's parish and the social work of the Diocese. I thank the Ursuline sisters and wish God's manifold blessing for the Precious Blood Sisters [ASC] as they charge of this apostolate.
5. The Congregation of the Sisters of Handmaids of Mary [Jharsuguda in Odisha] to collaborate and help us in the pastoral, educational and social apostolate in St. Mother Teresa Parish and St. Luke's School, Baddi. We extend our prayerful support for the sisters and welcome the new community members, Sr. Leelamma HM, Superior and Principal, Sr. Preeti Gonsalves HM, Sr. Neel Lakra HM. They will serve from June 2023.
6. The Sisters of the Congregation of the Clarist Franciscan Missionaries of the Most Blessed Sacrament (CFMSS) working in Chandigarh, Patiala, Budhenpur and Ajrawar are celebrating their 125th Anniversary of their congregation this year. Holy Father Pope Francis has granted the privilege of obtaining Plenary Indulgence by the usual conditions (Sacramental Confession, Eucharistic Communion and Prayer for the intentions of the Pope) to anyone who is visiting their chapels from 01.05.2023 until 01.05.2024. A decree from the His Eminence Most Rev. Mauro Card. Piacenza, the Major Penitentiary is attached herewith. Kindly read and display this decree in every parish and explain to the faithful of this sacred practice of obtaining the Plenary indulgence before 01.05.2023. During the year if you are making a visit to any of these communities kindly Contact the following Superiors of the communities
Sr. Lucy CFMSS [Chandigarh]: 08283861812, Sr. Brigit CFMSS [Ajrawar]: 09457212122, Sr. Sophy CFMSS [Budhanpur]: 09452343649, Sr. Maria CFMSS [Patiala]: 07025702953
7. Sr. Bincy ASC, belonging to the Congregation of the Precious Blood [ASC] will be the new Social work Director in the Diocese. Her office will be in the Bishop's House campus. Kindly help and collaborate.
8. The Gilbert Rego Memorial Clinic, Sector 19, Chandigarh is rendering the services like Blood and Urinary tests and Radiology & Imaging at very nominal rates. The new timing for the Gilbert Rego Charitable Clinic is now from 09.00am to 12.00 noon and from 04.00pm to 07.00pm. Kindly inform your parishioners.
9. This to remind you, Holy Eucharist will be offered for the departed soul of Late Bishop Gilbert B. Rego on Wednesday, 21st June 2022 at 6.00 pm at Christ the King Cathedral, Sector 19 A, Chandigarh.
10. Clergy Recollection on May 09th -10th at the Pastoral Centre, Chandigarh.

Given on 21st April 2023, on the Feast of St. Anselm

Yours sincerely in Christ

+Ignatius Mascarenhas
Bishop of Simla Chandigarh

