

Blessing and Inauguration of New School Building (INC), St. Arnold's School, Ambadocher, Madhya Pradesh, India

On October 31, 2013, Most Rev. Alangaram Arockia Sebastin Durairaj SVD, Bishop of Khandwa, in the presence of Fr. Provincial Superior, Nicholas Martis SVD, the Vicar General of Khandwa Diocese, Fr. Kuriakose, Confreres, Sisters, Parents and students of St. Arnold's School, Ambadocher blessed the new building of St. Arnold's School, Ambadocher at 11 am, in the Diocese of Khandwa. Fr. Nicholas Martis SVD, the Provincial Superior INC, inaugurated the building by cutting the ribbon. This is the first school of SVDs in the Diocese of Khandwa. The dignitaries were welcomed from the entrance of the school gate by welcome dance. Nearly 500 people attended this simple ceremony. After the blessing and inauguration, a felicitation programme was presented by the students for more than one and half hours. Fr. Pancratius Xalxo SVD, the Parish Priest and the In-charge of the School, conducted the programme.

In the year 2003, when Most Rev. Bp. Leo Cornelio SVD was the Bishop of Khandwa, he had bought eight acres of land in the village of Ambadocher in view of starting a new Parish. At that time, this mission area was under Bhikangaon Parish, a sub-station of Yesu Senehashram, Bhikangaon Parish. The then Bishop gave this sub-station to the Society of the Divine Word to develop and to look after the socio-pastoral needs of the people. Ambadocher is a village and is surrounded by many other tribal villages. These are the main mission stations, namely, Tigiria, Saka, Chainpur, Kamarda and Jhirnia. People of the place are very poor, illiterate, and belong to the poor section of the society. This new parish is situated in the tribal area. The place is very much rural and remote. Now this has been given status of a parish. People have many expectations from the Church. There was an



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urgent need to have a Presbytery, which would enable the people in the spiritual and holistic development. The Parish Priest, Fr. Pancratius Xalxo SVD, was staying in an old house which was built by late Fr. Simon Mannara SVD, 30 years ago. The newly constructed Parish House was blessed on August 06, 2010. Most Rev. Devprasad Ganawa, the Bishop of Jhabua Diocese, was present on this occasion and many Priests, Religious and faithful of Ambadochar Mission were also present. Sant. Joseph Sevika Sanstha Sisters Nandanagar, have come forward to collaborate in the Mission work. Three sisters are already appointed to the mission. They have already begun Balwadi. We wish them all the best for their mission endeavours among the Bhilalas and Bhalais.

This is the recent development from the land of Nimar, Khandwa, and now we have Presbytery, School building and Convent.

Photos by Fr. Herman Bandod SVD
Prepared by Br. Raju Soosai SVD

