



# NEWS

## Visitation of the Province of VADODARA

from 5th to 30th March 2021

---

### INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT – COVID 19 Pandemic

The Visitation of the Province of Vadodara was convoked in the midst of the COVID 19 crisis. After a year of watching and waiting, the General Council decided to commence with the Canonical Visitations. The only country that we could easily travel, was to your country of origin. With the above criteria, our choice fell on India and within the country to the Province of Vadodara for the following reasons:

- The proximity of the communities to each other, which greatly facilitated travel in these trying times.
- All the houses barring one (which is in Rajasthan) were within the confines of the state of Gujarat.

This enabled us to complete the entire visitation without any hindrance or inter-state protocol.

Gujarat, initially, though hit by the virus was not adversely affected as compared to other states within India, but towards the end of the Visitation we heard of a surge in casualties. A few of our sisters were affected by COVID 19, but have recovered. Some relatives of the Religious, staff and friends were also affected.

It is only recently, that Schools, boarding's and dispensaries were partially opened.

This has adversely affected the apostolates. Another aspect that needs to be taken into account was the ban by the Government, to hold meetings or gatherings in large numbers. Hence, we restricted the Visitation to individual interviews with sisters and conducting community meetings. The customary encounters with the AFJM, students, staff and others were postponed for a later occasion.

In the midst of this distress, there was a silver lining, the sisters felt that this COVID lockdown experience, was a blessing in disguise vis a vis growth in prayer and community life.

### Context of the Province of Vadodara:

As part of the global reconfiguration process of the congregation, India and its missions in the Philippines and East Timor were reorganized to facilitate easier mobility and growth. After much prayer and discernment, the General Govt. decided on the following structures: 3 Provinces – Delhi, Pune and Vadodara, with the Vice Province of Kolkata.

In this process of reconfiguration, Vadodara ceded the following communities: Siolim (Goa), Sastan (Mangalore) and Silchar (Assam).

Currently the Province comprises of 7 houses in Gujarat and 1 house in Rajasthan. This brings with it diversity in languages (Gujarati, Hindi, English) as well as culture and mind-sets.

## Statistics of the Province:

There are 8 Communities

Number of Sisters – 51 Perpetual Vows, 5 Temporary Vows, 5 Novices, 1 Postulant and 3 candidates.

The Provincial Council members are as follows:

Sr Felicia Pereira RJM	Provincial Superior
Sr. Flavia D'Silva RJM	Councillor – Replace of the Provincial
Sr. Nirmala P. Macwan RJM	Councillor – Apostolic Mission
Sr. Nayna Parmar RJM	Councillor – Econome
Sr. Manjula Rathod RJM	Councillor – Formation.

The Provincial Superior and her Council began their mandate on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020, for a period of 4 years. We had two meetings with the Provincial Council and two community meetings with the communities.

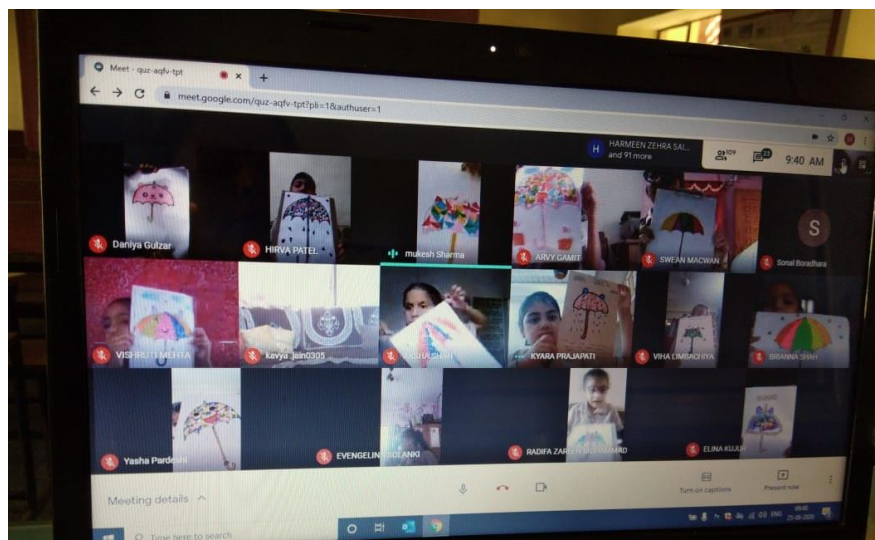
## Apostolic life:

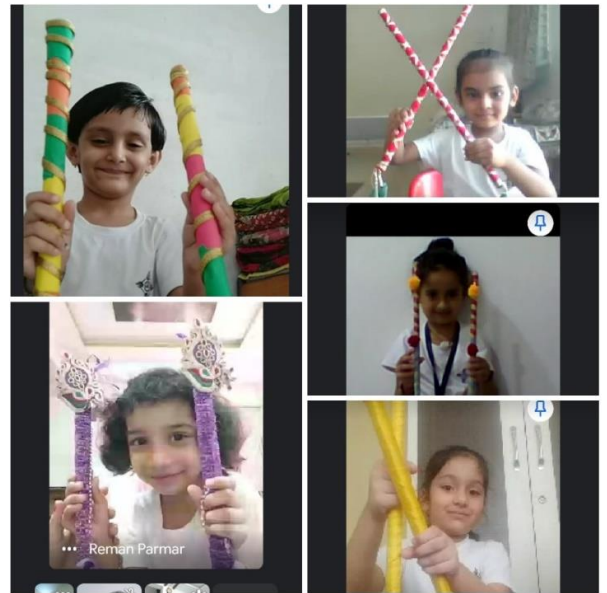
- There is a diversity of apostolates: schools, boarding's, dispensaries, vocation promotion, evangelization, parish and youth pastoral work, Eucharistic ministers, family visits, Balwadis, self-help groups and prison ministry.
- In all these ministries, the emphasis is on human formation, and faith/value education.
- Women empowerment programmes in Gothada and Palanpur, as well as care for Street children in Claudine Niwas Halol, are missions dear to the heart of St. Claudine.
- Scholarships for needy students are provided in all our schools.

There are 3 schools KG – XII, one Primary school, one secondary School V-XII.

Due to the pandemic, classes were conducted online, but this has unfortunately increased the disparity between the rich and the poor. Many of our students from the remote villages, were unable to follow the online classes for want of internet or computers.

## Online classes





## Class room before COVID



## Claudine Niwas, Home for children

The boarding's were also closed, and only opened in February and March 2021, however there is a decline in the number of students coming to the boarding's. Social distancing also calls for fewer boarders.



## Tree plantation



This lockdown for about a year has had its repercussions and financial implications.

## The province assembly

The Provincial Conference was held on 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021 in Provincial House, Vadodara and 41 sisters were present.





The mission is vibrant and there is much hope for the future. Today, we reap a harvest, thanks to the seeds sown by the pioneers in Gujarat.

The greatest blessing was to conclude the Visitation with Claudine on her birthday, an indication she is very much present with the Province.

We thank Sr. Felicia and Council for their help and support during the time of visitation.

**PRAISED FOREVER BE JESUS AND MARY!**