



EVENT REPORT

Date of event:	8th October and 9th October 2020	Contact Person and Details:	Rev. Fr. Eusebio Fernandes Chief Functionary-BDSSS Dr. Da. Ra. Bendre Road, Sadankeri Dharwad – 580 008 Tel: + 91-(836) 2777774/75 Mobile Phone +91-9538911099 Email: bdsssd@gmail.com
Name and Type of Event	Inauguration of the houses of the flood affected beneficiaries of Khanapur, Sangargalli and Lingamath villages of Khanapur taluka and Ankali village of Chikodi taluka, supported by the Archdiocese of Bengaluru in co-ordination with Caritas India.		
No. of participants	150 +		

Background

Unremitting rains in Karnataka and Maharashtra from the first week of August 2019 glutted the reservoirs, severely affecting the villages in the catchment area of the rivers - Krishna, Malaprabha, Ghataprabha, Hiryankeshi and Bellary Nala. At Khanapur, cloudburst devastated families as they lost their homes and valuables. The first phase of the relief action of BDSSS, that is, immediate relief, reached out to 8500 families in 61 villages of 3 districts of the Diocese of Belgaum. 1700 volunteers worked tenaciously for a month to amass, stack, pack and deliver relief materials in the districts of Belgaum, Bagalkot and Dharwad.

The second phase was to restore shelters and livelihoods of select beneficiaries. An appeal was forwarded to the esteemed Archdiocese of Bangalore for support. His Grace, the Archbishop of Bangalore, Most Rev. Dr. Peter Machado and the donors from the Archdiocese were cordial in supporting the construction of 9 houses at Rs.4 Lakh each. A total grant of Rs.36 Lakh was conferred to BDSSS through Caritas India, following which BDSSS began the refurbishment in Khanapur and Ankali. 4 houses were constructed in Khanapur, whereas 5 in Ankali.

The Inauguration in Khanapur – 8th October 2020

After slogging hard for months, the BDSSS team in co-ordination with the Archdiocese and Caritas India, inaugurated 4 houses on 8th October 2020 in Khanapur. Blessing the occasion was His Grace, the Archbishop of Bangalore, Most Rev. Dr. Peter Machado, Most Rev. Dr. Derek Fernandes, Bishop of the Diocese of Belgaum and President of BDSSS, Msgr. Philipkutty Joseph, Vicar General, Rev. Fr. Naveen Kumar, Director, Bangalore Multipurpose Social Service Society (BMSSS) and the representatives of donors from the Archdiocese of Bangalore, i.e. St. Anne's Convent, Bangalore, St. Mary's Basilica Shrine,

Shivajinagar, Bangalore, Holy Ghost Church, Richard's Town, Bangalore, Mr Santhosh VTT Travels, Mrs Clara Fernandes, BDSSS Governing Body member, Mr Louis Rodrigues, PRO Diocese of Belgaum, Mr. Vijay Moogi, the Architect In-charge of the Project, the two Engineers/Contractors, Mr Augustine Pais and Mr Gerald PK and the supervisors, Mrs Neelam Pawar and Mr Silvester Lobo.

Joining also were the other dignitaries and the well-wishers from the Diocese of Belgaum, Fr Clement, Fr Kustas Lima, Fr Albert D'Souza, Fr Felix Monteiro, Fr Mariadas, Fr Colman D'Souza, Fr Mathew Bardeskar and the Sisters of Kripa Niwas Convent. The keys of the houses were presented to the beneficiaries at a programme held at St. Milagris Church Hall. Speaking from the podium, His Grace, the Archbishop, Dr. Peter Machado was all praises for the efforts of BDSSS and Caritas India team in constructing the houses within the allotted budget and within the timeframe. He cited the scriptures and encouraged everyone with his words of harmony, peace and prosperity. The BDSSS President, Bishop Derek Fernandes thanked the Archdiocese for granting the project and congratulated BDSSS team for its defined field implementation.

Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, Miss Alpha Fernandes, recalled the appalling experience and the ache of losing her shelter. She thanked the teams of Archdiocese of Bangalore, Caritas India and BDSSS for extending a helping hand when she needed the most. The Governing Body member of BDSSS, Mrs. Clara Fernandes, conveyed the vote of thanks. The dignitaries were felicitated with flowers and shawls as a token of BDSSS' love and appreciation. Refreshments were made available for the participants.

The Beneficiaries

1. Mr. Inas Borges from Khanapur
2. Mr. Benjamin Godad from Sangargalli village
3. Mrs. Rozin Mascarenhas from Sangaragalli village
4. Mrs. Santha Fernandes from Lingamath village

The Donors

1. St. Anne's Convent, Bangalore
2. Religious Congregations, Archdiocese of Bangalore
3. Religious Congregations, Archdiocese of Bangalore
4. Donors, Archdiocese of Bangalore

The Inaugurations in Ankali – 9th October 2020

The following day, i.e., 9th October 2020, the teams visited Ankali village of Chikodi taluka to inaugurate the 5 houses. Ankali is on the banks of Krishna River and is a flood-prone region. The villagers organized a traditional welcome ceremony, a stage programme with felicitations for the guests followed by house visits for blessing. The Archbishop introduced the donors to the villagers and called for unity in diversity. He also addressed the media alongside the BDSSS President Bishop Derek Fernandes, updating the media about the works undertaken by the BMSSS of the Archdiocese and BDSSS of the Diocese of Belgaum in co-ordination with Caritas India.

Bishop Derek Fernandes called for the children of the village to study well and bridge the gap of aspirations and aptitude. *“Everyone must dream of becoming top-notch officials one day and not just limit to menial chores”* said Bishop Derek. The villagers reciprocated with thunderous applause. He also requested the Archbishop to carry the people’s gratitude to every donor who supported the cause.

Mrs. Rajeshwari Metre, one of the beneficiaries and BDSSS SHG woman spoke her heart out thanking BDSSS for giving her a voice. So much was her aura that the Archbishop took a moment and asked the villagers to support valiantly vocal women like Rajeshwari in the panchayat elections. She thanked BDSSS for helping them regain their lost paradise, their house and their home. She also admired and appreciated the efforts of Sr Arogyamary and her team for the regular visits and supervision in order to complete their dwelling. Similarly, other beneficiaries too expressed their gratitude. Rev Fr Peter Ashirwad, Asst Director BDSSS co-ordinated the programme.

The dignitaries were later felicitated with flowers and shawls as a token of BDSSS’ love and appreciation. The guests and the villagers were later served with refreshments.

The Beneficiaries

1. Mrs. Nagavva Dagadu Metre
2. Mrs. Renuka Akkathai Sanadi
3. Mrs. Mahadevi Raju Haibhate
4. Mrs. Rajeshri Kalappa Jagadale
5. Mrs. Gourabai Dondiba Sanadi

The Benefactors

1. St. Mary’s Basilica, Shivajinagar, Bangalore
2. Holy Ghost Church, Richard’s Town, Bangalore
3. Logos Retreat Centre, Babusahibpalya, Bangalore
4. Sophia School and Sisters of Notre Dame, Bangalore
5. Sisters of St. Joseph of Tarbes, Frazer Town, Bangalore

BDSSS conveys a big ‘Thank You’ to His Grace the Archbishop, BDSSS President Bishop Derek Fernandes, the donors and the visiting dignitaries for their attendance. We appreciate the efforts of all the beneficiaries and community members and commend them for putting up a great event!

Rev. Fr. Eusebio Fernandes
Director- BDSSS

Rev. Fr. Peter Ashirwad
Asst. Director - BDSSS