

they did not develop into parish churches and are still in use, deserve more than a passing mention here.

SACRED HEART, Culvem (1859)

The village of Culvem lies very close to Gorai on the northwest coast of the island of Salsette. In the previous section, we have seen that the church and parish of the Holy Magi at Gorai came to be founded sometime between 1595-1602 and was under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Goa (Padroado). Sometime just after the middle of the 19th century, there began a movement in Gorai to pass over to the jurisdiction of Propaganda. The precise origins of this movement are obscure (cf. Hull, II: 344-346), but it is somehow connected with the name of a certain Fr. Mariano Bautista Mascarenhas (Humbert, II:119).

Fr. Mascarenhas, a Goan priest, had been Vicar of Gorai from 1837 to 1853, when he refused at first to surrender the parish to his newly-appointed successor. The new Vicar was able to finally take possession of the parish of Gorai in December 1853. The frustrated priest then threatened to pass over to Propaganda with the neighbouring village of Culvem, where he had some landed property. He seems to have given his allegiance to the Vicar-Apostolic early in 1856, but it was only on December 5th of the same year that he received faculties from Bombay. By that time he had managed to get some 300 parishioners on his side. In 1859 he built a chapel, dedicated to the Sacred Heart, on a piece of land of his own in Culvem. Fr. Mascarenhas was appointed Vicar of this new parish "on the understanding that I (Fr. Mascarenhas) engage myself to give the whole property and church to the Vicar-Apostolic for the time being of Bombay." Thus were established two jurisdictions in this corner of the island of Salsette.

The church, house and land passed into the possession of the Vicar-Apostolic before 1870. In 1871 it was enlarged or re-built. According to the Concordat of 1887, Culvem remained under Propaganda as an exempted church. But when the Double Jurisdiction came to an end in 1928, Culvem ceased to be a parish, and the church became filial to the older Church of Gorai and has remained so to this day.

The chapel was renovated seven or eight years ago.

ST. JOSEPH, Bandra (About 1910)

The history of the building that now functions as a chapel on Bazaar Road, Bandra, makes interesting reading. Its origins are connected with St. Stanislaus' School. Finding the fees charged by the School far beyond their means, the parishioners of this section of St. Peter's Church, decided to establish a school where education would be comparatively cheap. The collection of funds was slow, and Government was approached for help. In about 1870, the building was finally erected and the school began functioning under the name of "St. Thomas Aquinas English School."

When the Jesuits found that they were losing students to the new school, they were forced to reduce their fees to eight annas a month and thus were able to retrieve most of their students. Then Government began to create difficulties for St. Thomas School and it had to be closed down, but it had succeeded at least in getting St. Stanislaus to lower its fees. The building was converted into a Music school; then hired out to be used for a flour-grinding mill and then for an aerated water factory; then it became a private residence; and finally a shop. In about 1909, Government wished to take possession of the building on the grounds that it had contributed towards its construction. The dispute was settled by paying to Government the amount it had contributed from the funds of Mt. Mary's Church. Thus it became the property of the Diocese of Damaun.

The Vicar General of Damaun, Msgr. L. C. Pera, then had the building converted into a chapel for the convenience of the people inhabiting the Bazaar locality. It was affiliated to St. Andrew's, a Padroado parish. When the Double Jurisdiction ended in 1928, the chapel of St. Joseph was affiliated to Mt. Carmel's Church within whose parish territory the chapel fell. Today the chapel functions as a sub-centre of the parish of Mt. Carmel.

III PARISHES FOUNDED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF BOMBAY—(1928-1981)

TWENTY parishes came into existence on the island of Salsette during Portuguese times (1534-1794). Actually, they were

founded in the space of, not two centuries, but only a single century, for the last parishes to be born in this period were around 1642. If one were to attempt to single out the principal factor of growth during this period, that factor would be seen to be **conversion**: the Church was planted in Salsette through the evangelizing activities of the Portuguese missionaries.

Nine parishes were founded in Salsette during the period of the Double Jurisdiction in Bombay (1794-1928), of which five were caught up, in one way or another, in the Padroado-Propaganda struggle. Growth of parishes in this period was predominantly due not to conversion but to **intra-Church tension and conflict**, as parishes were created through fission.

The third and last period in this Section on Salsette parishes begins with the abolition of the Double Jurisdiction and the inclusion of Salsette within the Archdiocese of Bombay in 1928 and extends to the present day—a period of 53 years. This period of little more than half a century has seen the greatest and most prolific development of parishes, and the single, most significant factor of growth is neither conversion nor organizational conflict, but **migration**. Practically all the **twenty parishes** and **six parish units** that have newly emerged in Salsette during this period have been the result of the migration of Catholics from other parts of the Archdiocese (intra-migration) or from other parts of India (in-migration).

If the two Railway lines—Western and Central—are taken as the two arteries that cut across Salsette, then the points of migrant concentration that have engendered parishes and parish units may be identified as:

- (1) Along the Western Railway: Bandra (East), Khar, Santa Cruz, Vile Parle, Andheri, Jogeshwari, Goregaon West, Malad.
- (2) Along the Central Railway: Kurla, Ghatkopar, Vikhroli, Kanjur Marg, Mulund.

SACRED HEART, Santa Cruz (1928)

The early origins of the present parish go back to the time when a chapel, dedicated to the Holy Cross (Santa Cruz), from which

the surrounding village took its name, was probably built by the Jesuits of Bandra in the second half of the 17th century. At that time the village of Santa Cruz fell within the parish of St. Andrew at Bandra. The chapel was destroyed by the Marathas in 1739 and remained in ruins until 1854 when it was repaired by the raising of a public subscription. This chapel was blessed by the Vicar General of the North, Fr. A. M. Soares, on May 4, 1854. For some reason unknown to us it was closed and again fell into disrepair. In 1889, the Vicar of St. Andrew's Church had it repaired and once more re-opened in May 1890. Then the village of Santa Cruz comprised some 400 people, a hundred of whom were sons of the soil while the rest had come from elsewhere.

At the time of the amalgamation of the two dioceses of Bombay and Damaun in 1928, Santa Cruz was separated from St. Andrew's and became an independent parish. Due to the growth

in the number of parishioners since the beginning of the century, the Vicar, Fr. J. H. Alvares, strenuously worked towards the construction of a new church. In 1931 the foundation stone was laid by Archbishop Lima and the completed church blessed by him five years later on May 31, 1936. The continuing, phenomenal growth of the Catholic population through migration (in 1964 it had crossed the 8,000 mark) necessitated an extension of the church which was accomplished in 1976 under the Vicarship of Msgr. Nereus Rodrigues.

ST. ANNE, Bandra (1943)

The present church of St. Anne, modest in dimension yet occupying a commanding location on the western slope of Pali Hill in Bandra, is not the original structure that was built almost a century and a quarter ago. The first beginnings of the parish of St. Anne are related to the chapel built by Fr. Diogo Gabriel da Silva in 1858. A son of the village of Sherly, Fr. da Silva realized the inconvenience to which his co-villagers were put to in attending



religious services at the parish church of St. Andrew about a mile away. The foundation stone of the chapel was laid on February 23, 1858 and the humble structure was blessed and opened for public worship on June 13 of the same year. A tablet on the left wall of the present church bears witness to the fact that the chapel, affiliated to the Church of St. Andrew, was set up "for the spiritual welfare of the people of the neighbouring villages" of Rajan, Sherly and Malla.

In 1890 it was found that the roof and the woodwork of the building had deteriorated to such an extent that the renovation of the whole structure was necessary. The Vicars of St. Andrew's Church launched a drive for



funds, but appreciable progress was not made until a generous benefactor appeared in the person of Mr. Manuel Gonsalves of Malla. The new chapel, slightly larger in size, was completed in 1896.

Hardly forty years later, owing to the growth of the villages of Rajan, Sherly and Malla, this second building was also found inadequate and plans were set afoot to enlarge it; but enlargement meant virtually rebuilding it. Thus, the chapel was completely re-built in 1939 and blessed on May 7, 1939 by Archbishop Roberts.

Since its beginning in 1858, St. Anne's chapel was filial to the Church of St. Andrew. It was erected into an autonomous parish on January 1, 1943, though prior to that date, many independent privileges had been granted to the chapel. The 1939 chapel, now a parish church, was enlarged by the addition of two wings during the Vicarship of Fr. Theophilus Lobo and his successor Fr. Malcolm Mendonca.