

Gomes, appointed to St. Theresa's, took up his residence in the home of Mr. Jerome D'Souza near Turner Road on June 9, 1946. He celebrated Mass for the people of Pali village in St. Anthony's School and for the people of Khar village in Fr. Whitely's chapel. Before he died prematurely in 1948, Fr. Gomes had bought, during 1947-48, six plots of land in view of the future church and school.

With the appointment of Fr. George Proksch SVD in December 1948, Auxiliary Bishop Gracias entrusted the parish to the Society of the Divine Word, "till such time as things could be finalized" (which took place in October 1949). For the next three years arrangements for Mass remained as before. Fr. Peter Braun SVD, who took over in 1951, had the main ground floor of the school building built in 1955, and bought for the school and the church six more plots of land adjacent to those bought earlier by Fr. Gomes. The foundation stone of the church building was laid on October 3, 1959 by Auxiliary Bishop Longinus Pereira, a son of Pali. The building was completed within three years through the vigorous efforts of Fr. Leo Krzeminski, SVD and consecrated by Cardinal Gracias on October 2, 1962.

The parish celebrated its Silver Jubilee on October 8, 1972. In 1975, the Theresian Community Centre was set up as a memorial of the Centenary of the world-wide Divine Word Society. In 1976-77 the community of Gujarati Catholics, residing on 24th Road, was re-settled by the TPS III Bandra Slum Rehabilitation Society at the foot of Mt. Mary's steps. In 1979, the church building underwent renovations and was blessed once again by Arch-



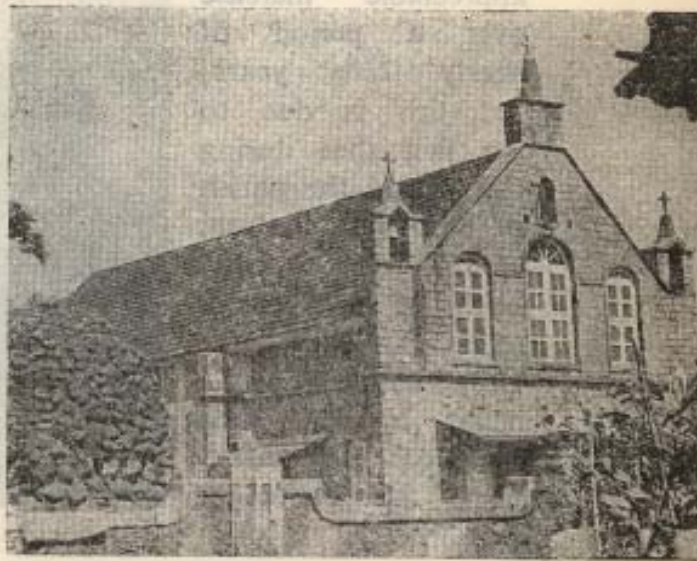
bishop Pimenta on October 7, 1979.

### **OUR LADY OF LOURDES, Palli-Utan (1951)**

When the Jesuits bought the village of Dongri about the year 1613 and set up their Hermitage there, Dongri comprised the three smaller village units of Dongri proper, Tarouri and Palli. The Catholics of Palli remained part of the parish of Dongri until the middle of this century.

In the 1898 Edition of the Catholic Directory of India, Palli is not mentioned in the list of Bombay parishes, but it appears as a chapel in the 1901 Edition. This chapel was extended twice, the first time in 1925 and then again in 1974; in the latter year, the chapel

was also renovated during the Vicarship of Fr. Servulus Vaz.



The Catholics of Palli were served by the Vicar of Dongri until 1951 when OL of Lourdes Church was raised to the status of an independent parish, comprising of the villages of Palli proper and Chowk. Fr. T. A. Gonsalves was its first Parish Priest. His successor, Fr. Macario Pereira in 1952 built the edifice called "Donum Dei" which serves as a parish house as well as an Oratory; in front of the church he erected the stature of Christ the King with a base designed in the shape of five altars.

### **OUR LADY OF FATIMA, Kirol (1953)**

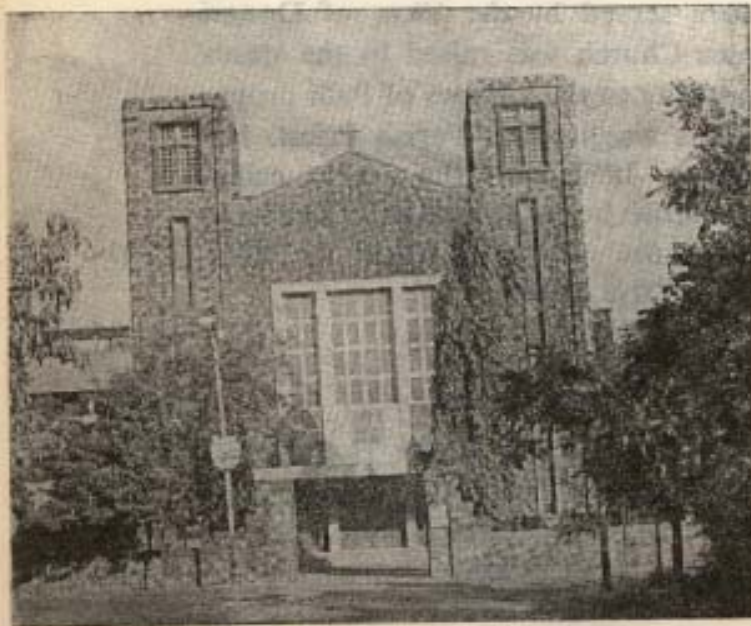
On September 10, 1953, the large parish of the Holy Cross, Kurla, now swollen with the influx of new parishioners, underwent its first division when the parish of OL of Fatima was created towards its northern end. The new parish whose centre is in the village of Kirol on the east of the Ghatkopar Station was entrusted to the care of the Capuchin Fathers, their first parish in the Arch-

diocese since their departure from Bombay in 1858 (cf Milestones).

At the time of its separation from the parish of Kurla, the Kirol parish counted some 940 Catholics. Today, it has about 2,100 Catholics. This may not seem an appreciable increase over a period of nearly thirty years; but this is due to the fact that during this period the parish of Kirol has, in turn, contributed to the birth of two parish units—that of the Holy Family at Tilaknagar in 1971 and that of the Infant Jesus at Pantnagar also in 1971.



### OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR, Chembur, (1954)



The Christian colony at Chembur was established on June 13, 1927. In 1951, Fr. G. Pinto, SFX was appointed resident Priest-in-charge at Chembur. On August 2, 1953 Chembur was separated from the parish of Marouli and entrusted to the Redemptorist Fathers. Fr. J. Mangan C. Ss. R. was appointed Priest-in-charge. The Catholic population was then about 300 in number, and

religious services were conducted in St. Anthony's pavilion. The Church of OL of Perpetual Succour was formally erected as an independent parish on March 25, 1954. The new church of OL of Perpetual Succour was blessed and opened for public worship by Cardinal Gracias on May 31, 1959.

#### ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, Kanjur (1956)

The people of the village of Kanjur which lies at the eastern foot of the Ghatkopar hills have remote connections with the people who migrated there from Powai after the Maratha invasion of 1739 (see Note on the Holy Trinity Church, Powai). Life went on tranquilly in Kanjur village till 1932 when it began to be caught up in the general development of the Archdiocese that had been set into motion by Archbishop Lima from 1928.



In "The Examiner" of December 3, 1932 we read: "Instructions have been given by His Grace to the parish priest of Vikhroli to undertake the building of a chapel for the residents of Bhandup, the cost of it to be defrayed by the Archdiocese." The first stone was laid on December 12 of the same year. The chapel of St. Francis Xavier at Kanjur was, therefore, built and completed in 1933. It was filial to St. Joseph's Church, Vikhroli till 1956, when on July 24 it was raised to the status of an independent parish church. Until 1968, the Vicar of this parish also administered the church of the Most Holy Trinity at Powai.

#### HOLY CROSS, Tara (1959)

The village of Tara is situated at the most southern point of the former island of Juhu opposite Bandra to the south. Christian life in Tara seems to have begun with the arrival of some immigrants from Goa. In 1867 or 1868 a small chapel was built and

was served by priests from St. Joseph's Church at the northern end of the island. This arrangement continued until the appointment of Fr. Thos C. N. Fernandes as the priest-in-charge of Tara. The chapel remained filial to St. Joseph's until February 2, 1959 when Holy Cross was separated from St. Joseph's parish and established as an autonomous parish. Its first parish priest was Fr. T. C. N. Fernandes (Fr. Janmanand Aldonkar).

The parish remained in the care of secular priests (Fr. Aldonkar and after him Fr. Peter Gomes) until June 24, 1979 when it was entrusted to the Fathers of Missionaries of St. Francis Xavier of Pilar, Goa. On August 18, 1979 this little church took on the character of a shrine when Archbishop Simon Pimenta declared that, instead of the Agnel Ashram in Bandra, "the church of the Holy Cross, Juhu Tara, is to be regarded as the *only* recognised place in the Archdiocese to promote the Cause of Father Agnel"

("The Examiner", 1979:533). On September 14, 1979 the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, Archbishop Pimenta blessed and laid the foundation stone of a new church-shrine. This church is in the process of being constructed. A new parish church has also been necessitated by the increase of the Catholic population in this developing residential area of Greater Bombay. When completed the church-cum-school will look like the above picture.



#### **ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER, Bandra East (1960)**

The development of the parish of St. Joseph the Worker is connected with the planned development of Bandra on the eastern side of the Western Express Highway on the part of Government. In October 1957, the first five buildings of the then Bombay Housing Board in Khernagar were ready for occupation. On April 1, 1958, sixty Catholic families, residents in the Housing Board Colony, approached the Cardinal with the request that their religious needs be looked after more adequately. At that time, they fell within the parish of St. Peter, Bandra, whose church lay at a considerable