

# Blessing and Dedication of Holy Spirit Church, Palda

It was a historic day of the Holy Spirit Church, Palda when the newly constructed Church was dedicated and blessed on November 17, 2013 by Archbishop of Bhopal, Most Rev. Leo Cornelio SVD and Bishop of Indore, Most Rev. Chacko Thottumarickal SVD, in the presence of, Provincial Superior, Fr. Nicholas Martis SVD, large number of priests, religious and laity.

The exquisite church stands tall among the greenery of Palda. The architecture and design are done beautifully and the sanctuary is aesthetically constructed. The function began at 5 pm with the entrance dance. Fr. Michael Cherian SVD, the master of ceremony introduced the proceedings after which the procession began from the presbytery to the entrance of the church.

The archbishop, Most Rev. Leo Cornelio SVD inaugurated the church by cutting the ribbon. The keys of the church were handed over by the architect, Mr. Johny Sacria and Mr. Biju, KP Constructions to the local ordinary, Most Rev. Chacko Thottumarickal SVD and then the local ordinary handed over to Fr. Joemon James Alackal SVD, the parish priest. Then the elaborate ceremony of blessing and dedication began, sprinkling of the holy water, incensing the church, anointing the altar with chrism oil, litany of saints and other prayers. The choir was conducted by Fr. Anuranjan Dungdung SVD and it added devotion to the ceremony. In his homily, Most Rev. Bishop Chacko Thottumarickal SVD said that the temple built by bricks, iron, cement, wood etc can be destroyed but the temple at the Holy Spirit cannot be destroyed. Therefore, parish should be built around the Holy Spirit to whom the church is dedicated. The elaborate ceremony lasted for 3 hours.

A short felicitation programme was held. In his speech, Fr. Provincial Superior, Nicholas Martis SVD recalled the history of parish-how it has grown from a mass centre at the Jubilee Hall of Catholic Ashram Palda to a quasi parish and to full-fledged parish. He also said that how he had knocked at several doors raising funds for building the church. He thanked all those who contributed towards the construction of the church and funded for this great venture. On this occasion, Fr. Roy Chirappurath SVD released the cover page of the Souvenir of the Holy Spirit Parish, Palda and Fr. John Wakhla SVD released an audio CD namely, *Bhataanjali*.

Concluding the facilitation programme, Fr. Joemon James Alackal SVD thanked all who contributed to the building of the church and gave taken of gifts to architect, contractors, engineers, electricians, painters and other workers. After that meal was given to all who came for the function.



Report by Fr. I. M. John SVD, Photos by Fr. Mohan Francis SVD & Prepared by Br. Raju Soosai SVD

