

**ARCHDIOCESE
OF
GOA AND DAMAN**

PATRIARCHATE OF THE EAST INDIES

Archbishop's House,
P.O. Box No. 216
Panjim - 403 001
GOA - INDIA
Tel: (0832) 2223353, 2225291
Fax No: 91-832-2224139
E-mail: archbpgoa@gmail.com

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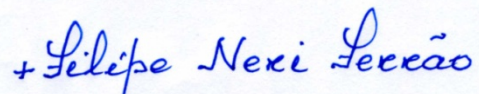
M E S S A G E

I am very pleased to know that His Excellency the Bishop of Oakland, Most Rev. Michael Barber, S.J., will be presiding over a Eucharistic Celebration in his Cathedral on March 15, 2015, to thank our Triune God for the Canonization of the first Sri Lankan and Goan Saint, Joseph Vaz. I am told that this Mass, being organized by the Joseph Naik Vaz Institute, Berkeley, will be largely attended by the Goan and the Sri Lankan communities living in the Diocese of Oakland.

While presenting my fraternal greetings to my Brother in the Episcopate and warm regards to all those gathered with him at the Eucharistic Table, I formulate most sincere wishes that Saint Joseph Vaz may be increasingly known and venerated the world over for his outstanding contribution to the Gospel. In his homily at the Canonization Mass, our Holy Father Francis referred to our Saint as “a great missionary of the Gospel ... who teaches us how to go out to the peripheries, to make Jesus Christ known and loved everywhere.”

May Joseph Vaz inspire us all, particularly in this Lenten Season, to turn ourselves fully to God and to the service of His people on earth, so that, with hearts and minds renewed, we may contribute effectively to the spread of the Gospel and of World Peace, by giving a courageous witness to our faith in the midst of the challenges of today's life.

Archbishop's House, Panjim, Goa, India, March 14, 2015.



(+ Filipe Neri Ferrão)
Archbishop of Goa and Daman