

We have entered the new Financial Year, starting 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018, and we must begin our report for the first quarter, by providing information about quite momentous events which have occurred in the Diocese of Karachi . These events affect Fr. Ejaz, and all of the Christians in Pakistan.

Pope Francis has raised the rank of the Very Reverend Joseph Couttes - (Arch-Bishop of Karachi) - to that of Cardinal. The new "Cardinal Couttes" received his Red Hat in Rome at a ceremony on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018. This elevation is cause for great celebration in the Diocese of Karachi and in the whole country of Pakistan.

Fr. Ejaz has been very much involved in the arrangements made to welcome the new Cardinal back to the Diocese. Apparently, the celebratory events lasted for four days and culminated in a Holy Mass, which was held in a Sports Stadium, to accommodate the huge congregation.

Also, the Cardinal is embarking on a tour of all of the Parishes. - He will be staying in Fr. Ejaz's parish of St. Thomas, and celebrating Holy Mass there, on 13<sup>th</sup> August. The people in this and other Parishes are expected to attend in their thousands !!, as they see this whole event as a mark of recognition of their struggle to preserve Christianity in a hostile country.

However, we should also mention in this report, that Father has told us that for some weeks now - and probably into the near future - the country of Pakistan is in a very volatile state. This arises because of a pending General Election. Apparently, there is considerable unrest, with different factions striving for power. In this situation, minorities , in particular the Christians, are at even more risk than normal. Also, living and working conditions are deteriorating with, in some cases wages being withheld. This has a catastrophic effect on families who live from hand to mouth !!. - Father asks for prayers for his people , especially over the next few weeks.

In the midst of all of this turmoil, Father has still been able to visit Faisalabad and to spend some time with the children in the Orphanage ie - Nazareth House. The orphanage is comparatively safe as it is situated in a compound, surrounded by high walls. with a guard on the gate. It is the end of the school year, and therefore a time when some of the older children must move on to jobs, higher education, and independent living. - Finding safe lodgings (especially for the girls ), is an ongoing cause of great concern for Sohail & Sharma - (the day by day managers of the Orphanage), and for the Governors who assist them.

Also at this time, some of the young children on the ever growing waiting list, are brought in to the safety and care of Nazareth House. - Fr. Ejaz tells us of the appalling conditions in which such children exist, and he often states a wish that he could provide for "10 times" the number of children that he is able to rescue. - However he has enormous faith in what he calls "God's Cause" , and he remains cheerful and confident in the face of almost insurmountable problems.

(Just a little further mention, to say that this quarter's intake, has for the first time included an abandoned baby, and a little toddler, - The older children help to feed and care for these little ones who are now, at least safe ! )

So, thanks to the ongoing help of our good people. We continue to try to help Fr. Ejaz in his efforts. We thank everyone, especially those people who have joined us & those who have supported "God's Cause", from the beginning . - We give below a summary of our Current Finances and we will endeavour to provide ongoing information for our contributors and supporters. - Please pray for Fr. Ejaz, for his mission, and for the children.

Thank you Always. = C.M.H. July 2018.

### **Statement of Receipts & Payments for the Quarter-1<sup>st</sup> April -- 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

#### **RECEIPTS**

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| <u>Monthly</u> - Standing Orders & Cash Envelopes, received<br>From <b>five</b> parishes in Qtr. 1 <sup>st</sup> April - 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2018. | 1458.00 |
| <u>Individual Donations</u>  |         |
| Anonymous - 2 x £1000.   | 2000.00 |
| Private Cash & Cheques fr Parishioners & Supporters  | 182.00  |
| Barclays Bank  | 35.00   |
| <u>Special Efforts.</u>  |         |
| Sale of Crosses etc.   | 98.26   |
| Easy Funding.  | 31.93   |
|  | <hr/>   |
| <b><u>Total Income.</u></b>  | 3805.19 |

#### **Payments.**

|                                     |                |                |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Transfers to Pakistan.              | 2000-00        |                |
| Balance 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2018. |                | 1419.10        |
| ~ 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2018.       | <u>3224.29</u> |                |
|                                     | 5224.29        | <u>5224.29</u> |