

TNBC Commission for Social Communications

Annual Report 2020 – 2021

1. Significant Activities

The Regional Communications Center of the Tamilnadu Bishops' Council has taken all kinds of measures in implementing its mission statement *“to proclaim the message of God’s love through media”*, especially in this pandemic period. We are pleased to present some of the significant activities in this annual report for the year June 2020 to April 2021-04-29

1.1 World Communications Day

The Holy Father invites the universal Catholic Church to celebrate World Communications Day (WCD) in every parish, diocese and institution to encourage media evangelization mission through mass media and social media platforms (Inter Mirifica No 18). Our Tamilnadu Catholic Church celebrates the WCD on the second Sunday of July every year. Since the pandemic was in its peak during these months of May, June and July we decided along with the diocesan secretaries to celebrate WCD in the middle of August 2021.

This year, the TNBC Commission for Social Communications decided to celebrate WCD in an elaborate manner by producing Eight different episodes of 30 minutes each. 5 episodes by 5 Zones and 2 episodes by the Santhome Communications Centre and one by Zion Retreat Center and Dharmapuri Communications Center on 2020 WCD theme *“That you may tell your children and grandchildren”* Life Becomes History (Ex. 10:2).

1.2 The following are the themes that were produced and telecast on Madha TV.

1. An Introduction to World Communication Day. 25 minutes historical documentary on Church and Communications. **‘cyf᳚ bjhl@ò ehŸ X@ m;Kf«’** by Santhome Communications Center, telecast on August 2020.
2. **fij beŒjš** by Central Zone, telecast on August 2020.
3. **f&L (f&oa) fij** by North Zone, telecast on August 2020.

4. **fijfĒ< fij** by East Zone, telecast on August 2020
5. **fijfS« Éijfns** by South Zone, telecast on August 2020
6. **òJYã;F« fij** by West Zone, telecast on August 2020
7. **bg©fYĦ brhšY« fij** by Zion – Dharmapuri on August 2020
8. **cšfYĦ thœÉ< fij brhšYšfYĦ** by Santhome Communications Center, telecast on August 2020.

1.3 fh᳚jho Telefilm

The Regional Communications Centre has also produced a **Telefilm** of 90 minutes of the same story “**fh᳚jho**”. Mr. Ramesh a well-known Christian film director and scriptwriter was invited to re-write the drama script written by Fr. Paul Jeyakumar of Kumbakonam Diocese, as visual script and to direct the Telefilm. This telefilm has been dubbed into Hindi, Malayalam and Telugu and was telecast on 25 December 2020 by Prathna Bhavam TV in Hindi, Shalom TV in Malayalam, Divyavani TV in Telugu and Madha TV in Tamil. The WCD’s message of Holy Father was propagated not only all over India but also all over the world. This is the first of its kind that took place in India and in the mainstream Television platform and we are proud to say that the Tamilnadu Bishops’ Council Commission for Social Communications and Madha TV have taken the maiden initiative.

1.4 Christmas, Lenten and Easter Programme from Diocesan Centers

The Regional Centre two months before every special season like Christmas and Lent invites the Diocesan Secretaries and Zonal Coordinators to discuss about the sharing of the programme and scheduling of the same. Usually, all the dioceses are recommended to shoot an episode of Christmas carols and each Zone is given a special programme on the day of Christmas, New Year, Holy Week and Easter Day. In these special seasons all the diocesan centers are given chance to shoot special Rosary, Adoration and Holy Mass. But during the Holy Week for the past 7 years the Regional Centre has been telecasting LIVE all the Holy Week Liturgical celebrations LIVE from Our Lady of Luz Church, Chennai, with a note that all the faithful are strictly recommended to participate in the liturgical celebrations in their respective parishes and the LIVE in Madha TV is only for the sick, elderly and those who don’t

have the possibility to go to church. Past 7 years the Regional Centre also brought LIVE the liturgical celebrations from Vatican during these special days.

1.5 The Media Evangelization Mission During the Lockdown

The Regional Centre has taken an immediate action after the announcement from the Government and stopped around 90 of its Administrative staff, Technical staff and housekeeping staff from 21st March till the middle of October 2020.

The Regional Communications Centre retained just 12 of its technical Staff and the 5 staff priests and worked around 14 to 16 hours every day to keep the production of programme for telecast to quench the spiritual thirst of Tamil faithful all over the world. We also appreciate and render our gratitude to our President Most Rev. Dr. Antony Pappusamy and Chairman, Most Rev. Dr. S. Singaroyan and Board of Director Most Rev. Dr. George Antonysamy for their practical guidance and support in taking forward this media evangelization mission.

1.6 Courses on Communication Theology and Pastoral Communications

The priests staff from the Regional Communications Centre have provided two credits and one credit courses on Pastoral Communications in the Major Seminaries like: Sacred Heart Seminary, Poonamallee and Good Shepherd Seminary, Coimbatore. We have also offered an one credit course on Bible and Media to the MTh Students at St. Pontifical Institute of Theology, Bangalore. Since there were only 10 students from Good Shepherd Seminary, Coimbatore they were invited to the Regional Communication Centre and they were given an in house training on Pastoral Communications.

1.7 Internship Students from various institutions

The purpose of an internship is to develop professional skills in a hands-on environment. Due to pandemic we were able to accommodate only 3 Students from different colleges submitted their application to do their internship in Santhome Communications for a month. The training on various departments like Camera, Visual edit, Computer Graphics and Audio mixing were given to develop their professional skills under the guidance of GM - Programmes productions.

1. Agurchand Manuli Jain College, Chennai : 1 students
2. Madras Christian College, Chennai : 1 student

3. Loyola College, Chennai

: 1 student

1.8 Radio Veritas Tamil Service:

Radio Veritas Tamil Service is going good by the hard work of Fr. Prakash Philemen Raj, programme coordinator, from the congregation of Servants of Charity and Fr. Emmanuel Marian, full-time producer, from the diocese of Sivagangai and two more young producers Mr. Joseph Fredrick Arunald and Ms. Judit Arul Selvi and they were sponsored and invited by the Radio Veritas Asia in Manila in January 2020 and returned back in the end of February and now they are working as full time producers for Radio Veritas Tamil Service. Radio Veritas activities are now taking place from the Servants of Charity House, Poonamallee.

2. Challenges Faced

The Regional Communications Center takes sincere efforts to coordinate all the Diocesan Centers in media and communication activities and almost all the Diocesan Secretaries are rendering their best support in taking forward our Region's Media Evangelization Mission in the name of Tamilnadu Bishops' Council. But some times the Diocesan Secretaries are not able to give their best due to the following practical problems.

1. In some dioceses the Secretaries are also serving as Parish Priests or Pastoral Center Directors. We understand the practical problems in some of the respective dioceses. Our humble suggestion is instead of combining Communication Secretaries with the above diocesan ministries, they can be combined with youth or catechism commissions and it will be easy for them to coordinate the commissions and give their best in their commission activities.
2. Due to the lockdown situation from the month of March 2020 onwards the collection of "khj^anjhW« khjhîF" from the faithful through the collection agents has got totally affected and therefore almost 50% of the monthly collection has got affected. Therefore, we request our august body of TNBC to recommend the implementation of Standing Instruction forms at least in the city and town parishes where there are good number of monthly salary holders and regular pensioners.

3. As we have indicated in the past years, **this Media Evangelization Mission has to be safe guarded by a stable financial foundation.** Therefore, we place our humble and genuine request to Tamilnadu Bishops' Council to encourage the faithful to contribute generously on the **World Communication Sunday collection** as they do for **Mission Sunday**. This contribution can be saved in Corpus Fund for the future of our media evangelization mission. In every parish all over Tamilnadu there are 5% to 10% of the faithful who make regular contribution for our media evangelization mission and if we encourage the contribution on the World Communications Sunday collection it will be an occasion to the remaining 80% to 90% of the faithful to make their one time contribution for this media evangelization mission.

3. Renovation of St. Thomas Building and Future Plan

The major part of the St. Thomas Building construction was completed in 1980. Therefore, it needs constant care and renovation to keep the structure intact and strong since it is main breadwinner for Society's media activities. This financial year we have renovated the entire toilet areas of the commercial block. There are ground plus three floors and each floor has got 500sqf for toilet purpose. Due to the seepage of toilet water a major part of the concrete steel rods in the roofing, beams and pillar got corroded; therefore with the guidance of structural engineering professionals the entire structure was reconditioned and renovated.

1. We are planning to put up a new Audio Recording Studio with latest facilities. The existing Audio Recording Studio got damaged during the 2017 floods and flooring in the ground floor has to be renovated with proper water proofing to stop leaking of water during the rainy seasons.
2. We are also planning to renovate the entire ground floor of the St. Thomas Building and complete this work before the end of 2020 with the support of the funding agencies.

4. Sincere Thanks

The Regional Communications Centre places on record its gratitude and appreciation to the Archbishops and Bishops of the TNBC and Superior Generals, Provincials, Fathers, Sisters and Brothers of the TNPCRI. We acknowledge our appreciations and sentiments of gratitude to our beloved Chairman Most Rev. Dr. S. Singaroyan for his constant support and his valuable guidance in fulfilling our duties in proper accounting and updated execution of legalities in the field of FCRA and TDS. We also thank all our beloved Diocesan Communication Secretaries, Staffs both in the Regional Centre and Diocesan Centers serving for Media Evangelization Mission and all our generous contributors and well wishers.

Most Rev. Dr. S. Singaroyan
Chairman and Board of Director

Rev. Fr. David Arockiam
Director and CEO

Date: 15th May 2021

Place: Chennai