

TNBC Commission for Social Communications Annual Report 2017 – 2018

1. Significant Activities:

1.1 World Communications Day.

The Holy Father invites our Catholic Church to celebrate World Communications Day in every parish to encourage communication and media activities in evangelization mission. With the consent of the TNBC, Tamilnadu Catholic Church celebrates the World Communications Day on the second Sunday of July every year. In 2017 it was celebrated on 9th July.

On 16th March 2017, during the Diocesan Secretaries meeting at Santhome Communications Centre presided by our Chairman Most Rev. Dr. S. Singaroyan a detailed discussion was made for an effective celebration of the World Communications Day. During the meeting it was decided that the Regional Centre would produce an audiovisual documentation on the Message given by the Holy Father for World Communication Day and Poster and Liturgical materials will be printed and send to the Diocesan Centers.

Moreover, it was discussed to conduct a Statewide Choir Competition in view of the World Communications Day to encourage our Parish Choir groups, who actively participate in the Liturgical celebrations. This competition was name as **Angelic Choir**.

The above information was send to all the parish priests directly from the Regional Communications Centre, through the Diocesan Directors and Diocesan News Letters. 81 Choir Groups from all over Tamilnadu and Karnataka participated in this competition.

In the First level the Choir groups were selected from every diocese basing on their entries and the best groups were invited for the Zonal level competition. In the Zonal level the best two Choir groups were selected for the Finals.

The Top 10 Choir groups were invited for the finals that held on the 2017 at St. Bete's Auditorium in the august presence of Our Archbishops & Bishops, the great Music Directors Thenisai Thendral Deva and D. Imman and thousands of viewers from different parts of Tamilnadu.

In the Finals Santhome Cathedral Choir of Madras-Mylapore Archdiocese won the Angelic Choir title, Alanthur Parish Choir of Madras-Mylapore Archdiocese won the Second place and the Assumption Cathedral Choir of Vellore diocese won the third place. The Regional Commission has planned to produce a Training programme on Liturgical Music and Singing and it will be telecasted in Madha TV.

1.2 Christmas, Lenten and Easter Programmes from Dioceses.

All the Diocesan Secretaries were coordinated through the Zonal Coordinators of Madha to ensure the equal representation of programmes during the Christmas, Lent, Easter and Common Seasons. Almost 3500 faithful were given the opportunity to take part in the television programmes during this season through carol singing and other colourful programmes.

1.3 New Programme Shooting Studio and Priests Residence.

On the Fourth floor in west wing of the St. Thomas Building, the Regional Communications Centre has constructed a New Programme Shooting Studio with the great support of the Italian Bishops Conference. The Programme Shooting Studio measures Sqf.2400 with a Master Control Room, separate makeup rooms for gents and ladies, dinning room and restroom facilities.

Additional guest rooms have been constructed for the priests and religious who come for shooting, Priests Staff residence has been totally repaired and repainted, a new kitchen with latest facilities and a dinning cum drawing hall was also constructed.

The Secretary & Treasurer of the TNBC Commission for Social Communications along with the Chairman Most Rev. Dr. S. Singaroyan sincerely thank the President of TNBC Most Rev. Dr. Antony Pappusamy and all our beloved Archbishops and Bishops for their encouraging visit to the Regional Center on the 25th January 2018 and for Opening and Blessing the new constructions and dedicating them for the media mission.

1.4 Radio Veritas – Tamil Service:

Santhome Communications Centre has reassumed its traditional Radio Service inside its premises in St. Thomas Building, 150 Luz Church Road, Mylapore, Chennai – 4 from the middle of April 2017. There are one full time staff and two part time staff working to produce programme for Radio Veritas Tamil Service. Fr. Prakash Philemen Raj from the religious congregation of Servants of Charity has been appointed for a period of three years to serve as programme producer for RVA and he will be send to Manila for a 40 days training programme with the support of RVA.

1.5 Courses on Communication Theology and Pastoral Communications:

The priests staff from the Regional Communications Centre and Media Professionals from the Main Stream Media have provided two credits and one credit courses on Communications Theology and Pastoral Communications in the Major Seminaries

like: Sacred Heart Seminary, Poonamallee, Good Shepherd Seminary, Coimbatore and Gurukul Lutheran Theological College & Research Institute, Chennai.

1.6 Professional Training to the Diocesan Communications Centre Staff:

The Diocesan Communication Secretaries and their technical Staff were invited to the Regional Communications Centre in two batches (May 11,12,13 and May 25,26,27) and they were given a three days in house training programme on Video Editing, Camera, lighting and Sound.

1.7 Technical Assistance and Consultancies on Audio Designing and Acoustics:

Rev. Fr. Jackson Louis, the Technical Head, was invited to render consultancies on audio designing and acoustics for the new churches built in Christ the King Church, Sengol Nagar, Madurai and St. Luke's Church, Anna Nagar, Chennai. He was also invited to render technical assistance at Sacred Heart Church, Hosur and St. Antony's Hr. Sec. School's Auditorium, Mandaiveli, Chennai.

1.8 A short Report on Diocesan Communication Activities.

During the Annual Meeting of the Diocesan Secretaries, every one reported about their diocesan communication commission activities. Almost all the dioceses are taking active part in the production of programmes for Madha TV. Most of the dioceses organize fine arts training programmes during summer for children and youth. Some of the dioceses have conducted seminar and media training for special groups during this year. Pondicherry diocese conducts communication skills training programme for teachers every second Saturday. The diocese of Kumbakonam has produced 20 episodes of tele-serial on the life Fr. Lourdu Xavier and Poondi Puthumai Madha. Coimbatore diocese has put up a full-fledged shooting floor for video production and separate office for Communication Commission and Madha TV activities.

2. Challenges Faced

The Regional Centre makes a kind appeal to the TNBC that we can motivate our faithful to contribute generously on the World Communication Sunday, as we encourage for the Mission Sunday collection, and try to save this collection in the Corpus Fund for the future of the Media Mission.

The TNBC Commission for Social Communications makes a humble request to the Archbishops and Bishops to set apart trained priests in the field of media as full-timers for the Communication Commission. Because besides, the works of the Communication Commission they have a lot of production and promotional activities.

3. Plan for the Forthcoming Year.

3.1 Renovation of the Ground Floor of St. Thomas Building

We are planning to renovate the entire ground floor of the Santhome Communications Centre. Since the building was constructed in 1980 the ground level has gone below the road level. Therefore whenever there are heavy rains the rainwater enters into the building has causes lot of damage. The ground floor was flooded during December 2015 floods and on the 2nd of November 2017. Therefore we hope to complete this project by 2019 with the support of the funding agencies.

3.2 Professional Training on Audio, Video and Computer Graphics

We are planning to start an institute to provide Professional Diploma course with training on Audio, Video and Computer Graphics.

We place in record our sincere gratitude and prayers to our Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Religious and Faithful for your constant support, encouragement and prayers for the success of our Media Mission.

Most Rev. Dr. S. Singaroyan
Chairman

Rev. Fr. David Arockiam
Secretary & Treasure

Place : Chennai

Date : 3rd May 2018