

TNBC Commission for Social Communications

Annual Report 2018 – 2019

1. Significant Activities

1.1 World Communications Day: The Holy Father invites the Universal Catholic Church to celebrate World Communications Day in every parish and institution to encourage media evangelization mission through mass media and Social media platforms. The Tamilnadu Catholic Church celebrates the World Communications Day on the second Sunday of July every year. In 2018 it was celebrated on 8th July. The Regional Communications Centre convened the Diocesan Secretaries meet at Santhome Communications Centre on the 6th March and 20th June 2018 presided by its Chairman Most Rev. Dr. S. Singaroyan to discuss in detail for an effective celebration of the World Communications Day. During the meeting it was decided that the Regional Centre would produce World Communication Day Posters and Liturgical materials and this will be distributed to the Diocesan Centers. Because, a good number of gathered members shared that almost 75% of the parishes use these materials in their Diocese during the WCD celebrations. Some of the Parish Priests take extra effort and bring out creative programmes in order to make a meaningful celebration. Of course, some also reported that there are always a small number of parishes where no activity takes place.

The following were the points were discussed by the members to be implemented for a meaningful celebration of Word Communications Day 2018:

One-day Programme in every diocese for students and youth. Morning session could be an input session while Post Lunch session could be organized as cultural events. In this regard, all the members agreed to produce one programme each to be shared by others members. Everyone agreed that these programmes would be ready before 1st week of May so that it can be shared with all our members. The following members agreed to produce programmes based on the message of the Holy Father to be shared by every diocese for a meaningful celebration of WCD 2018.

The Santhome Communications Center organized a Special Talk Show to be televised on the World Communications Day in Madha TV on the topic “Fake News and Journalism for Peace”. The Media Personalities Mr. Rabi Bernard, Mr. Peter Alphonse and Prof. Bernard D’Samy were invited to share their valuable views basing on the World Communications Day Message by our Holy Father and the present scenario. The Talk Show was highly appreciated by a big number of Madha TV viewers.

1.2 Christmas, Lenten and Easter Programmes from Dioceses: The Regional Communications Centre coordinated all the Diocesan Centers to ensure their equal representation of programmes during the Christmas, Lent, Easter and Common Festivals like Pongal, January 1st and Children’s Day. Almost 4000 faithful were given the opportunity to take part in the television programmes during these seasons through carol singing and other colourful programmes.

1.3 New Green Matte Shooting Studios and Refectory for Staff: On the Ground Floor of the St. Thomas Building, the Regional Communications Centre has constructed a New Green Matte Shooting Studios by demolishing the old audio studios and other used areas inside the old studios. To complete this project financial support was requested from Propagation of Faith, Rome, and Church in Need, Germany, and savings from the Regional Centre. On the 2018, Most Rev. Dr. S. Singaroyan, the Chairman of the Commission blessed the studios and dedicated it for the service of the Tamilnadu Catholic Church. This Studio was totally designed and Rev. Fr. Jackson Luis, the Technical Head of Madha TV, executed the project.

Santhome Communications Centre was having a small room of 200 sqft. as refectory for its staff on the Ground floor. Since the total number of staff has risen up to 70, they were having their lunch in three batches. To solve this problem a new Refectory measuring 1300 sqft. with decent facilities was constructed on the South wing of the First Floor. The financial support to complete this project was taken from the savings of the Regional Communications Center's rental income. Fr. David Arockiam designed this new construction.

1.4 Radio Veritas – Tamil Service: The traditional Radio Veritas Tamil Service of the Regional Communications has taken a new method of media mission. The entire Radio Service is now based on the Social media network. Radio Veritas Asia in Manila with the support of the Missio trains the full-time producers. Therefore, Rev. Fr. Prakash of Servants of Charity Congregation and Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Maria of Sivagangai were sent from Tamilnadu for two months training in 2018.

Now from January 2019, 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 Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Marian of Sivagangai diocese has also joined this team as full time producer from June 2019, for a period of three years. There are one full time staff and two part time staff, who are involved in the technical support of RVA Tamil Service Social Media Network. The above activities are now taking place from the Servants of Charity House, Poonamallee.

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, St. Paul's Seminary, Trichy and St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore.

1.6 Internship Students from various institutions: Students of various schools of studies from various institutions have come to do their internship at Santhome Communications Centre studios.

Sl. No	College Name	Students	Department	Days
1	Loyola College, Chennai	1	MSc – Viscom	50
2	Loyola College, Chennai	1	BSc – Viscom	55
3	Loyola College, Chennai	3	BA – English	21
4	Annai Vailankanni Arts & Science College, Thanjavur	3	BSc – Viscom	27
5	Sathiyabama Institute of Science & Tech. Chennai	1	BSc – Viscom	65

6	Holy Cross College, Trichy	2	MSc – Maths	7
7	Loyola College, Chennai	1	Dip. In Film Editing	28
8	Loyola College, Chennai	1	B – Voc	22
9	St. Joseph’s College, Trichy	2	BSc – Viscom	65

1.7 Technical Assistance and Consultancies on Audio Designing and Acoustics: Rev. Fr. Jackson Louis, the Technical Head of Madha TV, was invited to render consultancies on audio designing and acoustics for St. Luke’s Church, Anna Nagar, Chennai; Our Lady of Luz Shrine, Chennai; Holy Trinity Church, Golden George Nagar, Chennai. He was also invited to render technical assistance at Stella Maris College Auditorium, Chennai and for construction of New Studios at Our Lady of Good Health Basilica, Vellankanni.

1.8 Short Report on Diocesan Communication Activities in TN Dioceses: 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 regular and special programmes for Madha TV. Most of the dioceses organize fine arts training programmes throughout the year and especially during summer for children and youth. Some of the dioceses have conducted seminar and media training for special groups during this year.

- **The Beschi Communications Center of the diocese of Kumbakonam** has established its branches at Lalkudi vicariate and Jeyankondam vicariate to develop communication activities in the diocese.
- The diocesan **Communications department of Chingleput** has coordinated the Press and Media activities during the CCBI Annual Meet, which took place in their diocese in Jan 2019.
- **Nanjil Natham the diocesan Communications Centre of Kottar** has produced Christmas Album called “Margazhi Poove” and released it on Nov. 24th 2018 at St. Xavier’s Cathedral, Kottar.
- Nanjil Natham Communications Centre in collaboration with Counseling Ministry Centre have produced a short film “Pothai – Ippadikku Ozhukkam”.
- **Sathangai Communications Centre of the Archdiocese of Madurai** has conducted special courses on Folk arts like: Parai, Silambam, Voil Aattam and Yoga.
- Sathangai Communications Centre has conducted certificate courses on classical music and classical dance in recognition with Madurai Kamarajar University.
- **Epiphany Communications Centre of the Diocese of Salem** has conducted several cultural programmes with its Cultural Team in different parishes inside and outside the diocese.
- **Ananda Communications Centre of the Diocese of Sivagangai** has taken lot of special measures to develop the communications activities in the diocese.

2. Challenges Faced

The Regional Centre makes a kind appeal to the TNBC that we can encourage our faithful to contribute generous on Communications Sunday as we encourage for the Mission Sunday collection. Madha TV is very popular among our Tamil Catholics and only few are contributing regularly. In Tamilnadu MADHA TV being our major media evangelization platform can we call **Communication Sunday as Madha TV Sunday** and encourage our Tamil Catholics at least to make one time contribution to this media evangelization mission, who are not

contributing regularly. This collection can be saved 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 send selected young priests for media courses, who are really interested in the field of media. We also request our Archbishops and Bishops to appoint Diocesan Secretaries as full timers for the Commission for Social Communications. Because they have to concentrate on Commission activities, Madha TV productions and promotional activities in their respective dioceses.

3. Plan for the Forthcoming Year

3.1 New Audio Recording Studio: Santhome Communications Centre is well known for its contribution in field of audio recordings and productions. We have planned to put up new Audio Recording Studios with latest facilities. This will also attract the film industry for film audio recordings, dubbing and re-recordings. This will help us to build bridge between the mainstream media industry and the Regional Communications Centre.

3.2 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 2020 with the support of the funding agencies.

3.3 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 on record our sincere gratitude and prayers to our Chairman Most Rev. Dr. S. Singaroyan, Board of Directors, 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 : 14th June 2019