

MISSION | SOLIDARITY | PRAYER

DECEMBER 2021



A CCBI  
Initiative to  
assist the  
Church in  
rural India.



# PRESIDENT SPEAKS...

## MOST REV. FILIPE NERI FERRÃO

President, Conference of Catholic Bishops of India  
Archbishop of Goa and Daman



### Communio

#### for Prayer, Solidarity and Evangelization

The Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) had been dreaming and discussing for a long time about the possibility of assisting those of our own dioceses which are facing financial difficulties in their pastoral and evangelical work. After extensive discussions and deliberations and many meetings later, the CCBI established Communio in 2017, with the aim of reaching out to dioceses in need and religious congregations working in socio-economically backward areas.

Communio is a concrete expression of our solidarity with one another in following the example of the early Church, which was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and “held everything in common” (Acts 4: 32). The purposes of Communio are (1) to build a culture of sharing in order to express solidarity with our needy brothers and sisters throughout our country; (2) to encourage our faithful to pray for and help church personnel working in backward areas and to promote vocations for such heroic work; (3) to inspire our lay faithful to volunteer to work in such areas.

There are local Churches in our country struggling to live their Christian faith amidst serious socio-economic constraints. A good number of Catholics in India do not have a proper place to worship and to celebrate the Holy Eucharist in a fitting manner. Many of our priests and religious personnel in rural and remote areas are working with very limited facilities. They need financial assistance to set up places of worship and other basic amenities for their communities.

It is our responsibility to help them and to promote Communio as our own effort in evangelization. We should encourage such work and workers, not only through prayer, but also through our generous contributions.



**Communio**  
The journey so far



An idea is like a tiny seed with huge potential! Communio was born as a **humble idea** in the minds of our clergy



Communio India was **inaugurated** during the 29th Plenary Assembly held in Bhopal from 31 January to 8 February, 2017



Communio **starts accepting project proposals** from November 6, 2021! This is a huge milestone!



Communio is growing and we could not have come this far without your support! Contact us if you feel led to **serve Communio** in a deeper way!

# PRESIDENT SPEAKS...



**Communio**  
The journey so far

Those among us whom God has blessed with sufficient material means to meet our needs have the responsibility to reach out to our poor brothers and sisters and provide them with pastoral assistance, both spiritual and material. All our contributions, big and small, would be of great help for the evangelization work of the Church in India.

The Communio E-Newsletter, an electronic quarterly seeing the light of day today, is meant to give greater visibility to the work of evangelization in present-day rural India; it will publish stories to inspire all to live Communio through prayer and solidarity and to imbibe the spirit of evangelization. The Newsletter will circulate through email and WhatsApp and it will also be available on the Communio website.

I greatly appreciate this wonderful initiative taken by the Communio Team and pray for its genuine fruitfulness.



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## Latest News



### COMMUNIO WEBSITE LAUNCH

Thursday, 16 December, 2021



Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrão, the President of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) and the Metropolitan Archbishop of Goa and Daman, officially launched the Communio website ([www.communio.in](http://www.communio.in)) on Thursday, 16 December, 2021, in a simple function held at Archbishop's House, Panjim.



[www.communio.in](http://www.communio.in)



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# Communio Ongoing Projects

## Construction of a Chapel, Dhekidol village, Tezpur Diocese, Assam

- Fulfil a 41 year old dream of the families in Dhekidol!
- The existing bamboo structure was built by the villagers.
- It is prone to damage and heavy leaks during monsoon.
- Their faith is not dampened by this! A small chapel will make a huge difference for them!



## Construction of a village Church at Duraliang, Tezu Parish, Diocese of Miao, Arunachal Pradesh.

- The villagers wish to gather everyday for prayer
- The present bamboo structure is very weak and about to give way
- The priests currently travel once in 4 days to reach the faithful.

## TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THESE PROJECTS:

Account Name: Conference of Catholic Bishops of India, Communio India  
Bank Account Number: 0231053000025877  
IFSC/NEFT Code: SIBL0000231  
Name of the Bank: The South India Bank Ltd,  
M. S. Nagar Branch, Bangalore



# TESTIMONY

## JEREMAI KRONG

Youth Lay Missionary,  
Arunachal Pradesh



### Important Dates

I am from Arunachal Pradesh. I came to a big city like Bangalore to do my higher studies and also get a job. Like so many other youth, I had many dreams and visions when I came to Bangalore. I am from an animist background where we believe that if we offer animal sacrifices we get healing, deliverance, prosperity and everything that we want. With such a background, how I came to be a believer in Christ is a story in itself.

I had a good set of friends around me. Everything seemed so perfect in my life but I started to have many problems. These were basically health issues, because of which I started to seek answers. My customs and traditions were not helping me.

My neck had become completely frozen. I could not turn to the right or to the left. I was slipping into depression and also had other sicknesses like insomnia. I was wondering what was going wrong in my life. Everything was so perfect and now suddenly there are so many other infections and I was constantly falling sick because of which I had become so bitter and negative and my attitude and outlook about everything changed.

Around 2016 December, my Godmother now suggested that I go to a retreat center in Kerala. With much hope and many aspirations and expectations, I went. I didn't receive my healing, but I had an encounter and was introduced to Christ. I simply knew the truth that Jesus is the living God. He is the true God.

After I came back, I stopped going for therapies and medical treatment because it was not helping me. Instead, I focused my time on prayer. I learnt to pray. I learnt the Rosary. I started to read the Bible beginning with the New Testament. I devoted my entire time to prayer. I went after God wholeheartedly. But I just wanted my healing. I was healed of my backpain and spondylitis completely. I can turn my neck to the right and the left without any problem. I was healed of insomnia through praying the Rosary. I kept asking God, "What next?" I received my healing and then I was baptized and received my First Holy Communion.

Jesus has given a purpose to my life. I realized there is more to life, I cannot be living just for me, I should make an impact in someone's life, I should see to it that others' lives are also transformed through Christ encounter and that they should come to light just like how I came to light. This continues to drive everything that I do here.



Communio Sunday  
1st Sunday of Advent  
**November 28**



Start date - St. Andrew's  
Christmas Novena -  
**November 30**



Feast of St. Francis  
Xavier - **December 3**



Feast of the Holy Family -  
**December 26**

# ACTIVITY CORNER



## Book recommendations



ESV CE Bible  
Approved by the CCBI



Synod Handbook -  
Vademecum

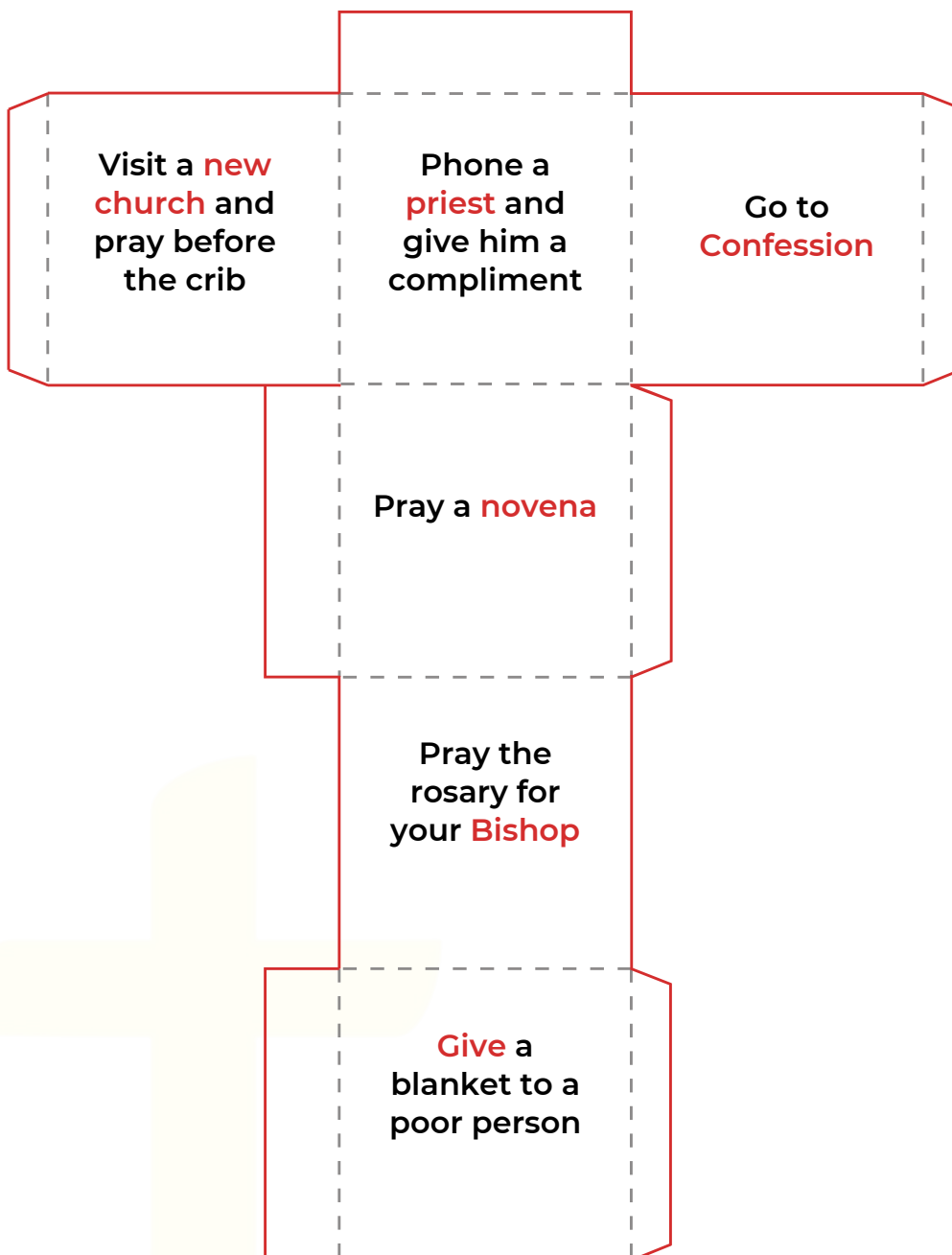


33 days to Merciful Love-  
Self Retreat



Jesus of Nazareth the Infancy  
Narratives - Pope Benedict XVI

Cut the cube along the **solid red line** and fold along dotted lines. Roll the dice during advent and do the activity which comes to you. The idea is to do this activity **as a family (or as a community if you are consecrated)**







## WHAT IS A GOD-INCIDENT?

Amy Carmichael was an Irish girl born with brown eyes. Her entire family and ancestors were known for their deep blue eyes and Amy felt betrayed by God because she felt it was unfair to have brown eyes. Years later she was called to be a missionary in a remote village in India and she was known for rescuing young girls and running a home for them. She covered her skin with coffee powder to look like an Indian but the real reason she blended in was because of the color of her eyes. Most Indians have deep brown eyes! Her eyes protected her and helped her blend in and fulfil her mission by avoiding attention. What is something God did in your life that you understood only later?



**FLORINE, BANGALORE**

We were travelling by car and by mistake we skipped to take the turn to connect to the Highway which Google Maps suggested. While we were still regretting that, an auto man stopped us saying the car tyre was punctured. Thank God we were on the service road and we got help. This would not have been possible on a highway.

**"It is a safe thing to trust Him to fulfill the desire that He creates."**

**Amy Carmichael**



**MANISHA SHARON THOMPSON, HYDERABAD**

Three years ago, I got admission in a prestigious foreign University in my favorite course. It went upto me booking my tickets to leave and in the last minute the university cancelled it and I had to cancel my plan just one week before I could join and that disappointed me so much that I lost hope. Today after three years I'm thankful that I didn't go because only when I stayed back I got the biggest transformation of my life and started my youth ministry here itself. If I would have gone I may not have this intimacy with Jesus which I got through youth ministry in India.



**ANASTASIA PINTO, VASAI, MAHARASHTRA.**

16th Feb 2020 I left for Rome to pursue a 4 month course, within 2 weeks of my stay in Italy the country was under a strict lockdown, the COVID-19 pandemic had severely hit the country which left us all in fear and anguish, further given 2 options either to stay or be evacuated back to India. (Both included it's own risks & uncertainties). I decided to stay where I was and complete the course online, though disappointed with many doubts and fear, yet trust in God. And later He made all things work together for my good! Completing my course I not only returned back home safely but also the lockdown restrictions being eased in May I got to visit some nearby places, even the Shrine of St. Padre Pio which back then 3 years ago once seemed to be an impossible desire and 4 days before my travel back to India even that desire was fulfilled. I am thankful I stayed back, though uncertain at the beginning yet a blessing at the end!





## Inception

inaugurated during the 29 Plenary Assembly held in Bhopal from 31 January to 8 February, 2017.

## Communio Sunday

First Sunday of Advent is celebrated as Communio Sunday nationwide

## Social Media Network

Communio has been making waves on social media during the pandemic season feeding religious and lay people with deep truths about core concepts of the Catholic faith

## Project Applications Open

Project applications are accepted from 2021 onwards to assist the church in rural areas.

## Web portal 16 Dec 2021

An exciting web portal to bring Communio to you in a better way!

## Exciting Activities!

In person and remote activities are being planned for 2022. Stay tuned!

## Local Chapters

A network of priests are assisting us to spread the message of Communio. If you are willing to spare 1 hour a month to be a part of the Communio network please contact us! !

## National Network

*Our aim is to take Communio to the common man because when you give time, talent or treasure to the church you always end up receiving more than you give!*



## IN GIVING WE RECEIVE!

HELP THE RURAL CHURCH IN INDIA CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH YOUR HELP.

Account Name: Conference of Catholic Bishops of India, Communio India  
Bank Account Number: 0231053000025877, IFSC/NEFT Code: SIBL0000231  
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You are our strength to carry on  
Against the storms we stand secure  
Jesus the Rock that never fails  
Every hour You are the Way

#### PRE-CHORUS

For in our trials and weaknesses  
Your power Lord, is made perfect

#### CHORUS

Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough, Jesus

Washed by Your Blood  
We are healed by Your love  
Your grace is enough, Jesus

#### VERSE 2

Nailed to the Cross for mercy's sake  
You bore all our griefs and shame  
Subdued all things that condemned us  
And became our righteousness

#### BRIDGE

When we face the night  
Though we doubt sometimes  
You are in control  
You are in control

On the narrow road  
We are not alone  
You will lead us home  
You will lead us home

## Your Grace is enough

Album: Tuned to the key of  
Praise by Gangai Victor and  
Friends

Singer: Catherine Claret Harry



Scan to hear  
the song

This section will feature a worship song written by an Indian Catholic songwriter. If you wish to feature a song please write to [office@communio.in](mailto:office@communio.in)



## St. Andrew's Christmas Novena Begins November 30th!

Advent always begins on the Sunday closest to November 30th, the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle. Is this just a nice coincidence, or is there deeper significance? But the most popular St. Andrew's feast day tradition is for everyone. This tradition is a Christmas novena that begins on St. Andrew's feast day. It's called the St. Andrew Christmas Novena, or more simply, The Christmas Novena. It's a wonderful way to enter into the Advent season which is marked by a time of anticipation, penance, and prayer. While the origins of this prayer are unknown, it is over 100 years old (at least) and may have come from Ireland.

**It is piously believed that whoever recites the St. Andrew Christmas Novena Prayer FIFTEEN times each day from the feast of St. Andrew (November 30th) until Christmas Eve will obtain the favor requested.**

Prayer is an essential part of Advent. Reciting this special novena prayer each day is a simple yet beautiful way to celebrate the spiritual significance of the Advent season and to experience a deeper conversion to the heart of Jesus.

### THE NOVENA PRAYER

*Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.*



Novena Source: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/magazine/st-andrews-christmas-novena-november-30-5936>

**TO STAY TUNED WITH LATEST UPDATES SCAN CODE & FOLLOW OUR WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES!** <https://linktr.ee/communiolIndia>



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