

CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF INDIA



CIRCULAR

Communio India Sunday

1 December, 2019 (First Sunday of Advent)

“Love one another as I have loved you” (John 13:34)

To All Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Deacons,
Religious, Catechists and Lay Faithful of the
Latin Catholic Church in India

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“Love one another as I have loved you” (John 13: 34)

To All Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Religious, Catechists and Lay Faithful of the Catholic Church in India (Latin Rite)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

1. Once again we are joyfully celebrating the Communio India Sunday. It is a Sunday to pray for the mission of the Church in India and gratefully remember all our missionaries, who work gladly in various parts of our country to proclaim the joy of the Gospel, whether the time is “favourable or unfavourable” (2 Tim 4: 1-2).
2. To proclaim the Good News is the fundamental responsibility of every baptized Christian. In the words of Pope Paul VI, we are called to “bring the Good News of Jesus into all areas of humanity and through its impact to transform society from within, making it new” (EvangeliiNuntiandi, 18).
3. Through all her ministries, the Church in India is trying her best to transmit the Joy of the Gospel everywhere, but there are many Dioceses/Religious Congregations/ Ecclesial Movements in our country struggling to fulfil

their mission due to various socio-economic factors. Those among us whom God has blessed with sufficient material means to meet our needs have the responsibility to reach out in solidarity to those who don't have the same means. Many of our missionaries in rural and remote areas work with limited facilities; so let's come forward to help them in the best way we can.

4. The CCBI launched Communio India in 2018 with the following purposes: (1) to establish a missionary organization (like Missio/Aid to the Church in Need in Germany) in order to build a culture of sharing and caring, in solidarity with our needy brothers and sisters in our country; (2) to encourage our faithful to pray and help the missions and the missionaries and, more importantly, to promote missionary vocations; (3) to encourage and inspire our faithful to be lay missionaries.
5. It is our earnest desire that Communio India Sunday should be observed faithfully and meaningfully in all the parishes and institutions in our country, with proper commentary at Holy Mass, special prayers of the faithful and conscientization regarding our baptismal call to become missionary disciples.
6. We appeal to all our faithful to be generous in sharing their resources to help our brothers and sisters in the remote regions of our country, so that they can experience the love of God through the generosity of Indian Catholics. All our contributions, big or small, would go a long way in supporting the missionary work of the Church in India.

7. Awareness regarding Communio India has picked up since its launch in 2018. We appreciate and acknowledge the generous contribution of the People of God to this noble cause. It shows their love for the Church and the Gospel. We earnestly request you not to cease praying continuously for the mission of the Church in India. May Jesus the Good Shepherd guide and help us to carry out His work of evangelization in all earnest.

Dated on 9 June, 2019
on the Solemnity of the Pentecost

† Filipe Neri Ferrão

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

† George Antonysamy

Vice President, CCBI and
Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore

† Anil Joseph Thomas Couto

Secretary General, CCBI and
Archbishop of Delhi

This Circular should be read and explained on “Communio India Sunday,” in all parishes, religious communities and institutions of the 132 dioceses of the Latin Catholic Church in India.
