ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES - INDIA
Know Lord Jesus
NEWSLETTER
A C E C - I
@divyadeep01 @divine-scroll
OCTOBER 2026 | ISSUE#01-10

EDITORIAL

A JOURNEY OF PEACE, UNITY AND HOPE



Fr. Norbert Herman SVD
President, ACEC-I

As we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary and remember St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, we are invited to rediscover the power of prayer, simplicity and love. At a time when our nation faces many social challenges, the call to "Pray for India" assumes a special significance. Prayer can become a bridge that brings people together, strengthens hope and inspires us to work for peace.

St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, known for her "little way" of trust and love, reminds us that great changes can begin with small acts performed with sincerity. Her spirituality teaches us that prayer, compassion and selfless service are not insignificant. They can transform hearts and communities. Her example is particularly relevant as we seek a more peaceful and harmonious India.

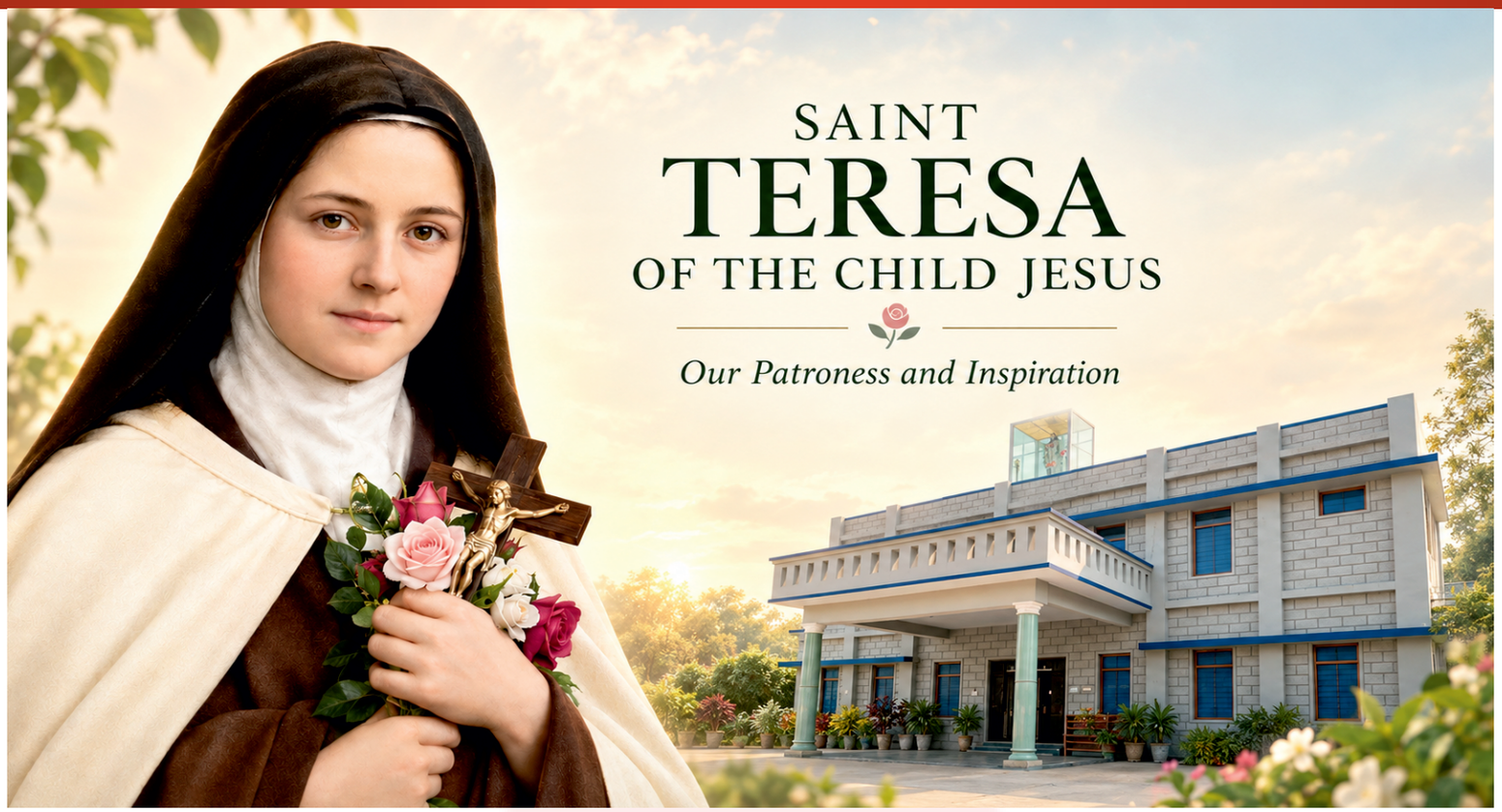
The ecumenical gathering organised under the theme "Pray for India" offers an important opportunity for Christians of different traditions to come together in faith and fellowship. Such gatherings go beyond denominational boundaries and affirm our shared responsibility towards society. When people pray together, listen to one another and work together, they bear witness to the possibility of unity amid diversity.

The vision of the Peace Foundation, associated with the late Archbishop Angelo Fernandes, also reminds us of the vital role of dialogue, reconciliation and peacebuilding. His commitment to creating spaces where people could encounter one another with respect remains an inspiration. Peace is not merely the absence of conflict; it is built through justice, understanding, forgiveness and a genuine concern for the dignity of every person.

The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary further deepens this reflection. The Rosary is a prayer of contemplation, inviting us to meditate on the life of Christ through the eyes of Mary. As we pray for our country, we can place before God the aspirations, struggles and hopes of millions of Indians, asking for wisdom among leaders, harmony among communities and compassion in our society.

"Pray for India" should therefore become more than a theme for a single gathering. It can become a continuing commitment—to pray, to listen, to serve and to build bridges.

May St. Thérèse inspire us to do little things with great love. May Our Lady of the Rosary intercede for India. And may our shared prayers and actions contribute to a nation marked by peace, fraternity, justice and hope.



SAINT THERESA OF THE CHILD OF CHILD JESUS: OUR PATRONESS AND INSPIRATION

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, lovingly known as the Little Flower, holds a special place in the heart and mission of PSA St. Teresa Province and St. Theresa Hospital, Udaipur.

Born on 2nd January 1873 in Alencon, France, Theresa had a deep love for Jesus from her childhood. At just fifteen, she entered the Carmelite monastery at Lisieux. Though her life was short, hidden and simple, her spirituality touched the whole world.

Her spirituality, known as 'The Little Way', teaches us that holiness can be found in ordinary daily life. We do not always need to do great things. Rather, we are called to do small things with great love, trusting completely in God. This spirituality is deeply reflected in the mission of our Province and our Hospital.

Our health care ministry gives us countless opportunities to live the Little Way. A welcoming smile, a kind word, a listening ear, a gentle touch, a patient response, or a small act of service can bring comfort and hope to those who are suffering.

St. Theresa understood suffering and illness herself. Even in times of pain she remained rooted in God's love. Her life reminds us that true service is not only about professional excellence but also about compassion, dignity, tenderness and respect for every person.

As members and collaborators of PSA St. Theresa Province and Hospital, may we continue to follow the example of our patroness. May her prayer accompany our Province, our hospital, our patients, our families, our doctors, nurses, staff and all who serve in our ministry.

St. Theresa, our Little Flower and Patroness, teach us to trust in God's love and to do even the smallest things with great love. May our service become a living expression of God's healing, mercy and compassion.

– Sr. Lisset PSA | St. Teresa Hospital | Udaipur



WORLD FOOD DAY

World Food Day is celebrated every year on October 16th. It is a day to remind us about the importance of food and the need to make sure that everyone in the world has enough nutritious food to eat.

Food is one of the basic needs of every human being. We are fortunate to have food on our plates every day, but there are millions of people around the world who go to bed hungry. Children especially suffer when they do not get enough healthy food. Hunger can affect their health, education, and future.

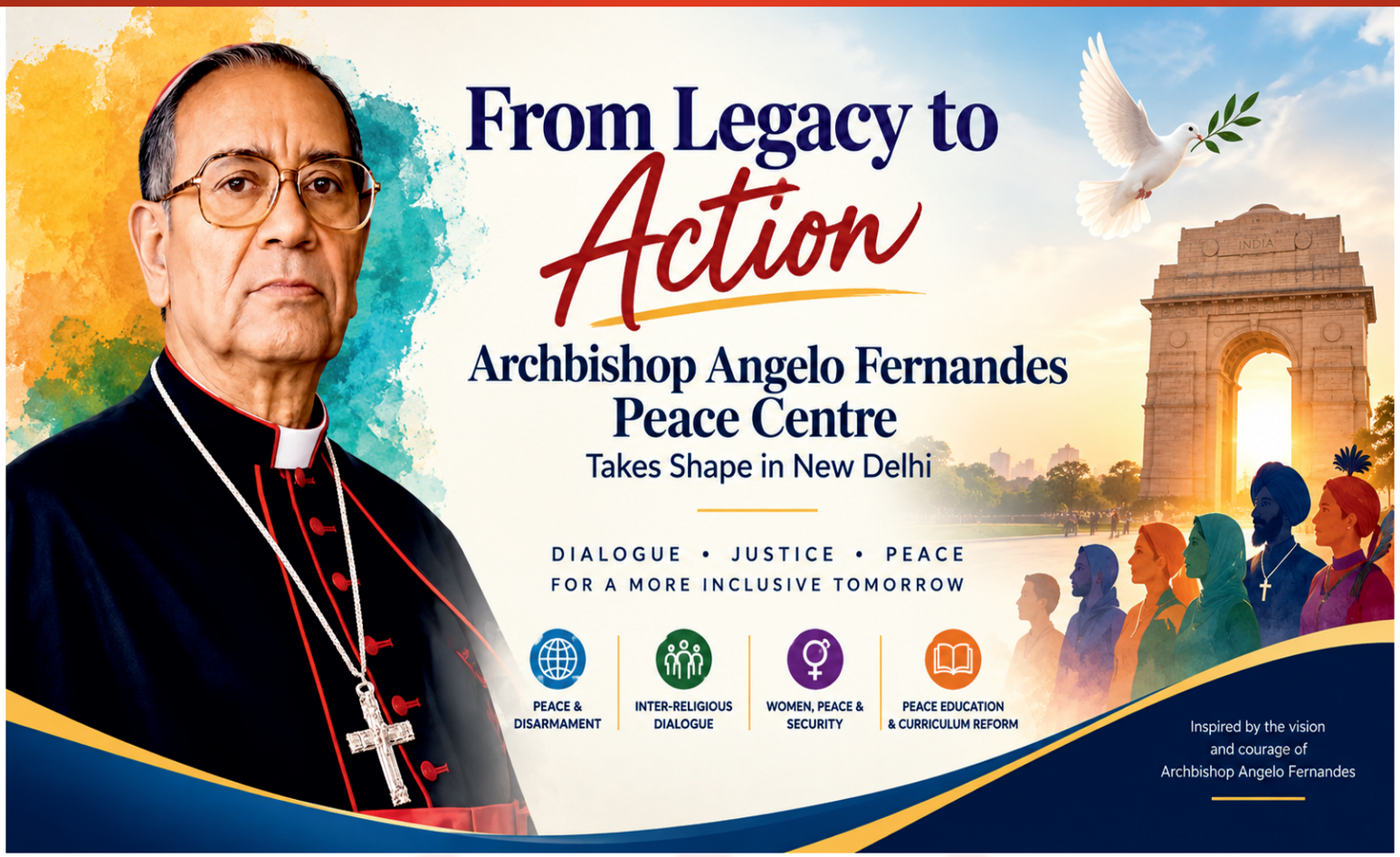
World Food Day also reminds us not to waste food. Many times, we take more food than we can eat and throw away what is left. We should learn to take only as much as we need and respect the effort that goes into producing our food. Farmers work very hard to grow the fruits, vegetables, grains, and other foods that reach our tables.

We can all do our part in small ways. We can avoid wasting food, share extra food with someone in need, support local farmers, and choose healthy and nutritious foods. Even small actions can make a difference when many people do them together.

Food is not just about filling our stomachs. It gives us energy, keeps us healthy, and brings families and communities together. A meal shared with loved ones is one of the simple joys of life.

On this World Food Day, let us be thankful for the food we have and remember those who do not have enough. Let us promise to respect food, avoid wastage, and do whatever we can to help create a world where no one goes hungry.

-- Veena Chandran | Bangalore



FROM LEGACY TO ACTION
ARCHBISHOP ANGELO FERNANDES PEACE CENTRE TAKES SHAPE IN DELHI

The Archbishop Angelo Fernandes Peace Centre is to be established soon in the national capital by the Catholic Archdiocese of Delhi

The proposal to establish the Archbishop Angelo Fernandes Peace Centre in New Delhi is fast taking shape.

Conceived by Archbishop Anil J.T., Couto, the Centre will be a working institution rather than a passive memorial, taking up the questions Archbishop Fernandes pressed during his ministry, and at a time when bonds between communities are under sustained strain.

It will stand on the constitutional promise of fraternity and equal citizenship, and its thematic range is deliberately wide. Internationally, it will engage with peace and disarmament, including abolition of nuclear arsenals and of the death penalty, alongside questions of bioethics and artificial intelligence. At home, its focus will be inter-religious dialogue, countering hate, and the misuse of anti-conversion laws against minority communities. Women, peace and security will form a distinct strand, as will peace education and reform of curricula.

Under its aegis, religious leaders will be able to speak candidly about issues and anxieties over caste, conversion, food practices and the lived experience of hate speech and violence. Dialogue will not end with talk; it will be tied to joint action on relief after violence, schooling, housing and livelihoods.

The Centre intends to identify community figures, scholars and creative artists whose record shows sustained work for friendship across communities. It will seek out women, Dalit and Adivasi voices, people from the North East and Kashmir, the smaller religious communities, and those working in districts far from metropolitan cities.

The Bhakti and Sufi traditions, folk theatre and regional literature will be treated as allies, since they carry the idea of common belonging to audiences that no seminar reaches.

Its research will ask why peace holds in many places where conflict might have been expected, and not only why violence breaks out. The Centre will extend that through fieldwork on peace committees, shared shrines, cooperatives and mixed markets, while examining what wears friendship down, from residential segregation and online hate to economic boycotts and discriminatory legislation.

An annual Archbishop Angelo Fernandes Memorial Lecture will anchor symposia and seminars, held in hybrid form in state capitals and district towns as well as in Delhi.

Tiered awards are also proposed including an International Peace Prize, a National Harmony Fellowship and grants for young peace innovators.

Governance will rest with a trust under a patron, with a core committee, a small permanent staff and associate members.

It will also build a full archive of the Archbishop's life and thought, beginning with his interventions at the Second Vatican Council. It will gather his pastoral letters, homilies, lectures and statements as Archbishop of Delhi and as Secretary General of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, and set them against the events of his time, including the Emergency and the anti-Sikh violence of 1984 in the city he served.

Oral history interviews with those who knew him will begin while they are still living, leading in time to a collected edition of his writings and a scholarly biography.

-- John Dayal Delhi





ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX

The youngest of nine children, St Therese, "The Little Flower" was born to Louis and Zelie Martin, in France on 2, January 1873.

While four of her siblings died at an early age, the remaining five entered religious life. At the age of four, Therese faced an emotional setback when her mother died of breast cancer. She then chose her older sister Pauline as her second mother but her happy disposition changed completely. She became very timid and extremely sensitive. Her father was very affectionate and so she received his most delicate tenderness.

At the age of nine, inspired by her older sisters, Therese deeply desired to become a Carmelite nun but was refused entry into the convent. Finally she joined the Cloistered Carmelite community at the age of fifteen and served for nine years doing small ordinary tasks with great love which she called, 'The Little Way.' She believed that the Little Way to Holiness did not require grand deeds. She proved this when she was declared co-patroness of the missions together with St Francis Xavier although she lived the life of a Cloistered sister and never traveled but only prayed for priests and Missionaries from inside the convent. Therese's Mission was "To love God more than anything." Her Spiritual zeal was, "To bring Souls to Christ in heaven." Her simplicity, trust and total surrender to God was a path of her Spiritual Childhood.

Pope John Paul II recognized her as the Doctor of the Church in 1997 because of her deep spiritual insights.

She said that she would spend her time in Heaven doing good on earth, sending a shower of roses or answered prayers to those who ask her for help.

At twenty- four, Therese died of Tuberculosis on 30 September, 1897 and was buried in Lisieux on 4 October 1897.

We are called to imitate The Little Way of St Therese through prayer, sacrifice and love for God in this materialistic world. By doing simple tasks with great love we too can grow in holiness. We can learn to trust in Providence instead of being self - reliant. We can accept our weaknesses which she described as the Key to inner peace.

Let us like St Therese of the Child Jesus say, "I choose all"- that You Will.

Therese was declared a saint on 17th May, 1925. Her parents are also the first married couple to be canonized as saints.

-- Ms Juanita | St Teresa Church Bandra, Mumbai



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
An Ancient Spirituality for a Modern World

Introduction

St. Francis of Assisi remains one of the most inspiring figures in Christian spirituality. His life was a radical response to the Gospel and an invitation to follow Christ through simplicity, humility, poverty, fraternity, peace, and love for creation. In a modern era marked by environmental degradation, deep social polarization, and relentless consumerism, his 13th-century spiritual vision is not a relic of the past—it is a vital blueprint for the future.

At the heart of Franciscan spirituality is the radical embrace of poverty and simplicity. Francis willfully abandoned a life of wealth and status to find God among the marginalized. In today's hyper-connected,

material-driven culture—where worth is often measured by production, accumulation, and digital status—Francis offers a liberating counter-narrative. He demonstrates that true joy and interior peace do not come from owning things, but from detaching from them. His life invites modern society to practice a voluntary simplicity, shifting our focus from having more to being more.

Furthermore, Francis's deep mystical connection to creation makes him the ultimate spiritual guide for contemporary ecological crises. He did not view nature as a resource to be dominated or exploited, but as a sacred mirror of the divine. In his famous Canticle of the Creatures, he referred to "Brother Sun" and "Sister Mother Earth." This cosmic fraternity challenges the modern anthropocentric mindset that has driven climate change and environmental destruction. Franciscan spirituality demands an "ecological conversion," urging humanity to transition from masters of the earth to humble stewards who live in kinship with all living things.

Finally, Francis was a profound architect of peace and fraternity. Living during the violence of the Crusades, he chose dialogue over division, famously crossing enemy lines to meet with the Sultan of Egypt in a spirit of mutual respect. In a fractured world currently plagued by geopolitical warfare, ideological echo chambers, and systemic isolation, Francis's approach to universal brotherhood provides a powerful remedy. He calls for a culture of encounter, asking people to see the dignity of the divine in the stranger, the adversary, and the outcast.

Conclusion

Finally, Francis was a messenger of peace, joy, and reconciliation. His life teaches us that genuine spirituality must be expressed through loving relationships and concrete service. St. Francis of Assisi's spirituality is ultimately a call to action. It proves that ancient wisdom can solve modern crises by anchoring human progress in humility, relational peace, and a profound reverence for the planet. And thus the thirteenth century, his spirituality speaks powerfully to the challenges of our contemporary world.

-- Fr. Anthony | Ujjain





THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, celebrated annually on 7 October, honours the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title associated with the Holy Rosary and commemorates a pivotal moment in Christian history.

Historical Origins

The feast traces its origins to the Battle of Lepanto on 7 October 1571, when the combined fleet of the Holy League decisively defeated the Ottoman Navy in the Mediterranean. Pope Saint Pius V had called upon all Christians across Europe to pray the Rosary for victory, and upon receiving news of the triumph, he attributed the success to the intercession of the Virgin Mary. In thanksgiving, he instituted the Feast of Our Lady of Victory in 1572.

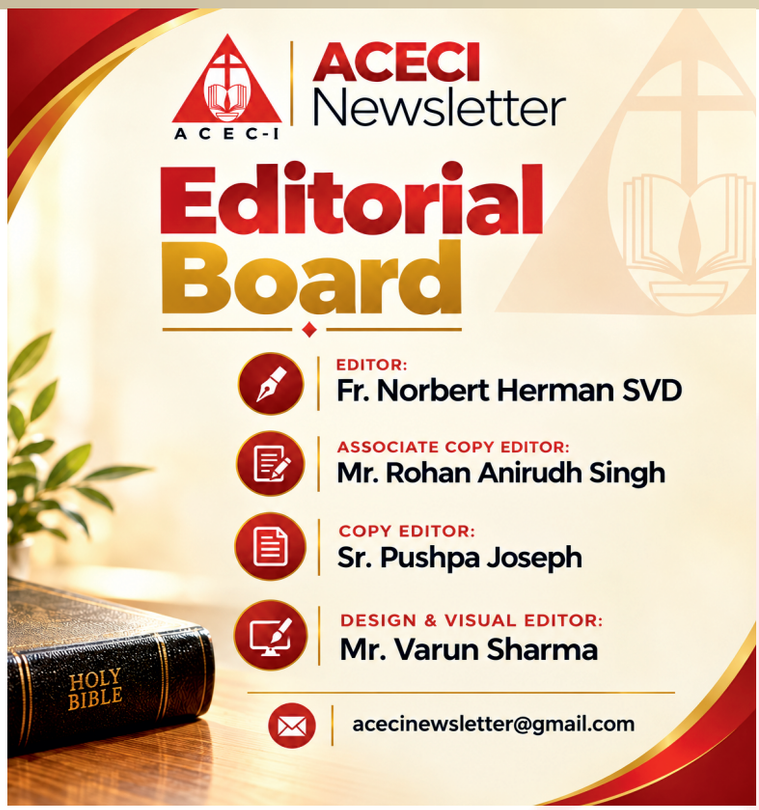
Development of the Feast

Pope Gregory XIII, successor to Saint Pius V, renamed the celebration to the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary in 1573. Originally observed on the first Sunday in October, the feast was extended to the Universal Church by Pope Clement XI in 1716. In 1913, Pope Saint Pius X fixed the date permanently to 7 October, the anniversary of Lepanto, where it remains in the General Roman Calendar.

Significance and Devotion

According to Catholic tradition, the Rosary itself originated in the 13th century when the Virgin Mary appeared to Saint Dominic, presenting him with this prayer as a spiritual weapon against heresy. The Rosary is regarded as a meditative prayer centred on the mysteries of the lives of Jesus Christ and Mary, often described as a "miniature catechism" of the faith. The entire month of October is dedicated to encouraging the praying of the Rosary, with believers viewing it as a powerful instrument for seeking Mary's intercession, peace, and spiritual protection. This October, Pope Leo XIV has urged Christians to pray the Holy Rosary for the intention of peace in the world and an end to conflict.

-- Rohan Anirudh Singh | Delhi



FEEDBACK

Dear Readers,

We value your feedback and would love to hear from you!

Share your comments, opinions, suggestions, and responses to our published articles. We welcome constructive criticism, appreciation, ideas for future topics, and letters to the editor.

Write to us at **acecinewsletter@gmail.com**

Your voice helps shape the ACECI Newsletter.

DISCLAIMER

The articles, news reports, reflections, and other materials published in this news magazine—excluding Editorial—are contributed by individual authors and reflect their personal views, opinions, and interpretations. These do not necessarily represent the official position or viewpoints of ACEC-I. While we value diverse voices and perspectives, ACEC-I does not assume responsibility or liability for the accuracy, opinions, or content expressed in these contributions.

SUPPORT & DONATIONS

Your support helps us form faith-filled individuals, strengthen Catholic enquiry centres, empower young leaders, and bring the light of the Gospel to seekers across India through education, media, and outreach initiatives.

With Gratitude

We sincerely thank all our benefactors, partners, and well-wishers whose prayers and generosity make this mission possible. Your support is not just a contribution—it is a shared commitment to building God's Kingdom.Your generous support enables us to continue faith formation, outreach, and evangelization across India.

Ways You Can Support

- Sponsor faith formation and enquiry programs
- Support youth leadership and evangelization initiatives
- Contribute towards media, publications, and digital outreach
- Help train volunteers and catechists for mission

A Prayer for Our Benefactors

Loving God, bless all those who support this mission with their prayers, resources, and goodwill. Grant them peace, joy, and abundance, and reward them for their generosity. Amen (Optional – if space allows)All donations are used solely for ministry, outreach, and faith formation purposes.

How to Support

Bank Name	South Indian Bank Limited
Account Name	Association of Catholic Enquiry Centres-India
Account Number	0153053000005927
IFSC Code	SIBL0000153
UPI ID	qr.aces@sib

UPI ID:qr.aces@sib

MEMBERSHIP PLANS

One Year Membership - Rs. 1,500/-
Three Years Membership - Rs. 5,000/-

You can also avail of an 80G receipt against your contributions made to ACEC-I.

ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES - INDIA
First Floor, Divya Deepti Sadan, Plot No.9-10, Bhai Vir Singh Marg, New Delhi, India
+91 9870 44 7970 | info@acecihq.com | www.acecihq.com