

PROPHETIC PRIESTHOOD TOWARDS A NEW WORLD

Catholic Priests' Conference of India CPCI

A voluntary association of diocesan priests as
contemplated in canon Law CIC. 218 & CCEO 391

Since 1987



Beginnings

The seed for CPCI was sown when 25 priests of 15 dioceses from seven states in India gathered in Hyderabad on 24th of January 1987, to respond to a long felt need among the diocesan clergy in India to come together in solidarity to search for deeper meanings of their commitment and for mutual support. The formal launching of the Conference took place at the first National Convention of Diocesan Priests held in Bangalore on 27, 28, & 29 October 1987. CPCI is a registered body (Reg. No. 1320/87)

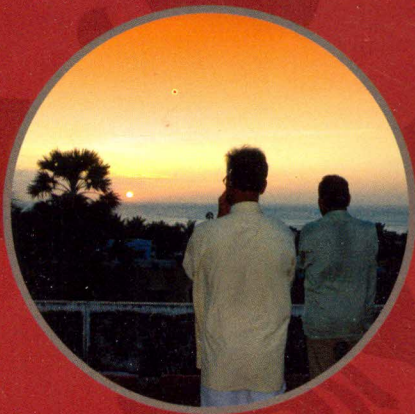
Aims and Objectives

To come together in solidarity and fellowship to inspire and strengthen each other

To motivate the diocesan clergy to fulfil their prophetic role in a relevant and effective pastoral ministry

To engage in a collective, ongoing search for relevant Indian Theology and Spirituality towards peoples' liberation and national integration

To enable the Church in India to respond to the signs of the times in the emerging socio-political situation of our country



To give witness to Christ by working for the emancipation of the poor, taking a clear and definite stand on the side of the poor and exploited in the society and involving in people's movements struggling for the transformation of the society in accordance with gospel values

To network with like minded groups and movements working at the grassroots level and to collaborate with forces which strive for a just social order

To promote a genuine and relevant spirituality for the diocesan clergy through prayer, retreats, study circles etc.

To initiate dialogue with other religions and to promote ecumenical movements

To facilitate reconciliation and assist resolving conflicts arising in priestly life and ministry by providing forums for consultation between its members and the hierarchy and the religious and the laity in a spirit of openness and trust for the common good of the Church

To help priests who are sick, afflicted, over burdened with work, isolated or lonely, exiled, suffering persecution etc.

To appreciate and encourage diocesan priests who pioneer and continue creative and

To recognize the active participation and leadership qualities of the laity within the Church and in society at large so as to enable them to live a committed life for the well-being of society.

One of the resolutions of XIV National Convention

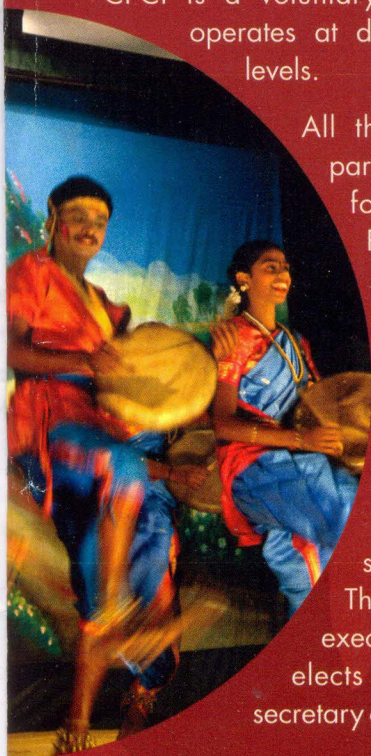


alternative ministries for the transformation of the society in accordance with the Gospel values with awards and other trophies.

To associate with and promote Conferences of diocesan clergy in our country or in other countries, especially of the third world, for building mutual solidarity

Structure

CPCI is a voluntary membership association and operates at diocesan, regional and national levels.



All the members that belong to a particular ecclesiastical region will form the Regional Conference. Regional Conferences will have their own Executive committee consisting of five members, including the president, secretary and treasurer.

The General Body of all the members of the CPCI is called the National Conference. This is the supreme decision making body. This general body elects the national executive committee, which in turn elects the president, vice president, secretary and Treasurer.

All religions possess message of transformation. When those messages become the message for the poor and religions speak on behalf of the periphery, for the periphery, a movement for a new society can emerge.

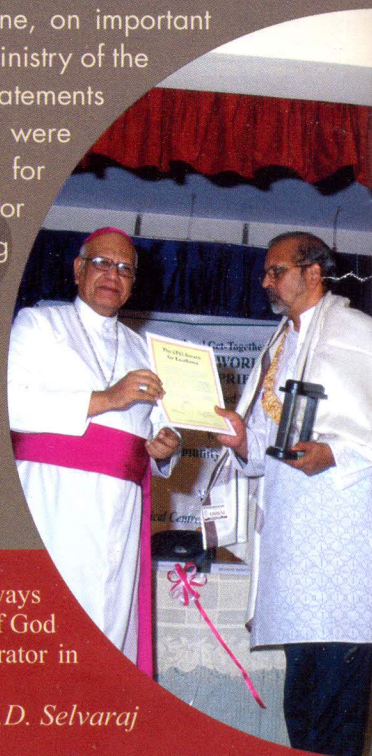
Fr. Ambrose Pinto, sj.

Activities

CPCI is a member of the International Assembly of Priests Since 1988, and served as a member in the international Steering committee between 1988-90. It is again elected into the five-member steering committee of the Assembly in August 2000 for a period of three years.

During the last 25 years of its chequered history, the Conference has kept itself sensitive to the burning issues affecting the poor at the local, regional and national levels. CPCI has organized national conventions of diocesan priests every year, with appropriate themes relevant to priestly ministry and life of the poor.

National level consultations and workshops were organized by CPCI on several occasions in collaboration with other organisations, or alone, on important themes relevant for the life and ministry of the Church in India today. The statements brought out by the consultations were widely circulated in vernaculars for public debate and discussion for mass sensitization. A few among them are: Charter for the ministry and life of the diocesan priests in India, Alternative ministry, Towards authentic Indian Churches (on the question of rites) and Voices form the future.



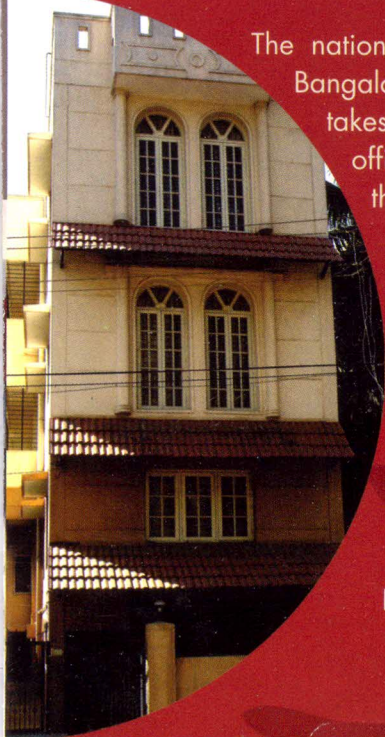
In both the testaments God's action was always on behalf of the poor. Hence a follower of God has to become God's partner and co-operator in favour of the poor in India.

Fr. X.D. Selvaraj

The regional and diocesan units had undertaken manifold activities in collaboration with Forum of Religious for Justice and Peace, NGOs and secular movements in different parts of the country.

CPCI publishes a monthly Newsletter: Prophetic Voice, which focuses on diocesan priests, their pastoral ministry and spirituality.

Office



The national office of CPCI is situated in Bangalore where a part-time administrator takes care of the routine work. The office bearers of CPCI function from their respective places of ministry.

Contact:

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I've been watching with satisfaction your various efforts at clarifying the notions of pastoral spirituality and finding out strategies for more effective and concerted ministerial action.

*Bishop Leon Tharmaraj
former member of CPCI at the III National Convention*

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