



INDIAN AMERICAN CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION

Annual Newsletter

WASHINGTON DC, VOLUME 21 - 1

President's Message

August 12, 2018

Dear Faithful in Christ,

On behalf of the Indian American Catholic Association (IACA), I invite you to join us at the 21st Annual Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni. This year, our Pilgrimage will be held on Saturday, September 8, 2018 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. We have the privilege of having the Most Reverend Roy E. Campbell, Jr. Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. as the main celebrant and homilist.

Every year since 1997, we the devotees from South Asia flock to the National Shrine to honor Mother Mary and celebrate her nativity. The congregation also includes devotees from other Asian countries, representing a common bond of love for our heavenly Mother. This is evidence of our Mother's intercession and emboldens us to be the witnesses of our faith in the U.S.A.

The Pilgrimage starts with recitation of the rosary, litany, procession, and culminates with Holy Mass and blessing of the children. Priests will be available for confession before the rosary, for those interested. The event at the Shrine is followed by a reception at the Pryzbyla Center at the Catholic University campus next door. A light dinner will be served.

I thank you for your support in making IACA a special family of faith and sincerely request you to make this year's Annual Pilgrimage a memorable one by your participation, along with your family members. I also encourage you to join us in our activities throughout the year. Even if you volunteer a little of your time and talent, you will be richly rewarded by our heavenly Mother.

An Appeal

IACA is a charitable, non-profit organization, made up of Catholics from the Indian Subcontinent (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka) and run by volunteers for the last twenty-five years. The success of our activities is because of the support we have received from IACA members and well-wishers. The pilgrimage is our biggest annual event, the total cost of which exceeds \$10,000. Besides the costs of travel and stipends to be paid to the celebrants, the concelebrants, and the Basilica staff, we provide a catered dinner reception for the pilgrims on the premises rented from the Catholic University. In addition to all these expenses, there are several incidental expenses like stipends to the priests for the monthly Mass, etc.

We are blessed to have a large number of Catholics of South Asian origin from all over the United States participate in the Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni. We rely upon and appreciate the generous support from the volunteers and the donors to carry out the mission of IACA. You can donate to IACA using a credit card on our website (<http://www.iacausa.org/donate>) or by providing cash or check during the reception at the Pryzbyla Center after Mass. All contributions will be gratefully acknowledged and are tax deductible, as allowed by law.

If you prefer to mail your donation, please indicate that the donation is for "Indian American Catholic Association (IACA)" on the memo line of the check.

Please mail your check to:

Indian American Catholic Association (IACA)

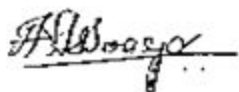
ATTN: IACA Treasurer - Anil D'Souza

4602 Somerset Lane

Ellicott City, MD 21042

Important Note: All offerings and collections made at the Oratory, the Crypt Church, and the Great Upper Church go to the Basilica, and not to IACA.

God bless you for your generosity,



Harold Naveen D'Souza

PRESIDENT, IACA

harold.dsouza@iacausa.org

Major Activities

IACA is a non-profit charitable organization registered in the Nation's capital supporting religious and charitable causes important to our communities. IACA plays an active role in organizing scheduled annual events as well as those based on community needs. The key activities of this year are listed below:

FIRST SATURDAY NOVENA

IACA hosts the Holy Mass and Novena to Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni at the National Shrine every first Saturday of the month at 5:00PM. IACA member communities are encouraged to participate by sponsoring the main celebrant priest, liturgical ministers, and choir. The monthly novena services are well attended by community members and has helped in spreading the devotion to Our Lady.

DIVINE MERCY LENTEN RETREAT

IACA helped organize and promote the Divine Mercy Retreat by Bro. Mathew Joseph March 2-4, 2018 in Fairfax, VA. Bro. Mathew is a charismatic preacher based in Houston, TX and the founder of REACH OUT TO ALL (ROTA), a catholic charismatic ministry. Bro. Mathew grew up in Calcutta, India and was influenced by Saint Mother Teresa, who was very close to the Joseph family from the beginning of her mission. Saint Mother Teresa started one of her first schools for slum children in the compound of the Joseph home in Calcutta and was the main inspiration for Bro. Mathew to start this ministry to reach out to souls for Jesus.

ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLAND PILGRIMAGE

IACA participated in and helped organize the 16th Annual Asian and Pacific Islander Pilgrimage on May 6, 2018 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This large, multi-cultural religious celebration had representatives from over 17 Asian and Pacific Island countries. The principal celebrant and homilist was the Most Rev. Oscar Solis, Bishop of Salt Lake City, Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops/Sub-Committee of Asian and Pacific Island Affairs. IACA was also part of the multi-cultural choir.

MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

IACA organized the Annual Mother's Day Celebration on May 20, 2018 at St. Mary's Chapel, at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in Emmitsburg, MD. The Holy Mass, celebrated by Rev. Fr. Anil Gonsalves in honor of our mothers, was followed by the rosary in the Grotto, and a luncheon. More than sixty people including children attended the event. All the mothers present were offered roses to mark the occasion.

STATUE OF OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH, VAILANKANNI AT THE LOURDES GROTTA

IACA is planning to erect a statue of Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni at the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in Emmitsburg, MD. At the December 2014 IACA Annual General Body meeting, a resolution was passed to approve the installation of the Vailankanni statue at the Shrine Grotto. The IACA Executive Committee has been in communication with the Grotto Director and a spot close to the main entrance has been designated for the statue. The Executive Committee is currently working on the feasibility and the costs of this project.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR

- Youth Retreat
- Meals for residents of "Gift of Peace" – a home for the sick and destitute run by the Missionaries of Charity, in Washington, DC
- Hindu-Catholic Dialogue in coordination with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Christmas Celebration
- Providing support for those in dire need

2018 IACA Membership Form

Thanks to your memberships and donations, we are able to plan and support many events each year. Please renew your membership so that we may continue to serve the community. Your contributions truly make a difference!

ALL ADDITIONAL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE, AS ALLOWED BY LAW

MEMBER INFORMATION

*FIRST NAME _____ *LAST NAME _____

(REQUIRED)

(REQUIRED)

*EMAIL ADDRESS _____

(REQUIRED)

SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITY

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bangladesh | <input type="checkbox"/> India - Bengali | <input type="checkbox"/> India - Punjabi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nepal | <input type="checkbox"/> India - Goan | <input type="checkbox"/> India - Tamil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pakistan | <input type="checkbox"/> India - Mangalorean | <input type="checkbox"/> Anglo-Indian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sri Lanka | <input type="checkbox"/> India - Malayali | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

STREET ADDRESS - LINE 1 _____

STREET ADDRESS - LINE 2 _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE & DONATIONS

- \$10 (Individual) \$20 (Family) Additional Donation: \$ _____

Make a check payable to "Indian American Catholic Association (IACA)".
On the memo line of the check, please also indicate that the amount is
for "Indian American Catholic Association (IACA)"

Please mail your check to:

Indian American Catholic Association (IACA)

ATTN: IACA Treasurer - Anil D'Souza

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Ellicott City, MD 21042



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