

Dear brothers and sisters,

I am Fr. Amrit Raj, belongs to the Delhi Province of the Indian Missionary Society. Presently I am working as an associate Pastor for the TriParishes of St. Joseph Church at Grosse Tete, Immaculate Heart of Mary at Maringouin and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini at Livonia. This weekend that is on 14th and 15 of July I am assigned to make the mission appeal for our Province in your esteemed Parish of St. Aloysius Catholic Church at Baton Rouge.

The Indian missionary Society (IMS) is an indigenous missionary congregation of Priests and Evangelist brothers working in the various parts of India. Fr. Gaspar A. Pinto, in the Holy city of Varanasi, known as Hindu's Rome, in the state of Uttar Pradesh, founded this Congregation on Nov.3; 1941. The **charism** of the congregation is pioneering evangelization. IMS raised to Pontifical status on April 19, 1999.

At present we have 216 Priests, 09 evangelist brothers and 108 student seminarians under various stages of formation and 169 candidates. Its missionaries are working in 31 Dioceses in India and 12 Dioceses in abroad (Europe, Canada and America) Our Priests are doing a commendable job in all these Dioceses.

It is better to know the context of India before entering into our mission and ministries. The total population of India is 1.324 billion as per the census of 2016. Christianity is India's third most followed religion according to the census of 2011, with approximately 28 million followers, constituting **2.3 percent** of India's population.

Since there is a lot of inequality and disparity in terms of economic, social and political, we try to create awareness, educate, train and organize the marginalized and the vulnerable sections of the society and empower them to stand their own feet and fight for their rights. Thus they are able to overcome the oppression and exploitation. In this context IMS has the **mission** to build up Christ centered human communities through its various ministries. Apart from the pastoral care, we take up the following special ministries:

Empowerment of women and girl children through non-formal and formal education and skill training, Boarding and lodging for poor children, community based rehabilitation for mentally and physically challenged, special school for the speech and hearing impaired, HIV/AIDS centre, programs to care for the street children and railway platform children. Through Mary's meals project around 20,000 marginalized children are fed daily who are deprived of nutritious meals, Inter-Religious dialogue, Prison Ministry, relief and rehabilitation work for the victims of natural calamities.

Currently we have two Provinces and a Region under the Generalate. We have three minor Seminaries each for these 3 units and Novitiate, Philosophate and Theologate for the entire Order.

Today very specifically request your help for our boarding school where 45 children are educated who are very poor and for the formation of our seminarians.

We appreciate very much your generosity and my heartfelt thanks for all your support and prayers in sharing the universal mission of the Church. We assure you of our prayers.

Fr.Amrit Raj,IMS.