

Why the Journal, **Health in abundance**

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI), the third largest Bishop's Conference in the world is the apex body of the Catholic Church in India. The CBCI has 13 Commissions dealing with different sectors like education, women, youth, justice, peace and so on. Health Commission is one of them. Health Commission is composed of 3 Bishops (Chairman – Archbishop Dr. Bernard Moras; Most Rev. Dr. Thumma Bala, Most Rev Dr. Francis Kallarakal) and Fr. Dr. Mathew Abraham, C.Ss.R, who is the Executive Secretary.

Providing care and healing, especially to the marginalized is a mandate given by Jesus to the Church. In keeping this mandate, the Catholic Church in India has established 5524 healthcare institutions comprising of the following: medical colleges (8), big hospitals (788), small community health centres/dispensaries (2683), rehabilitation centres (115), mental health centres (191), non-formal health initiatives (234) and medical training centres (202); all over the country. 80% of these institutions serve the marginalized population in the rural areas. These institutions are functioning with the support of thousands of dedicated healthcare personnel belonging to different Religious Congregations and Dioceses. What makes these people dedicate their lives for those living in desolate areas, is their encounter with the master healer, Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

There are many commercial publications on healthcare in the market today. There are also other publications like HEALTH ACTION by the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI), HEALTH FOR THE MILLIONS by Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) and the journal, CMJI by Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI) to name a few. These magazines contribute in bringing out the emerging issues that are relevant at the grass roots level. But since Healthcare involves coming in touch with suffering and death, there is also the need for the theological, philosophical, moral and spiritual base for healing and health care.

To address this issue, The Health Commission of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India decided to bring out a quarterly journal - Health in Abundance. This is mainly to disseminate the teachings, values and views of the Catholic Church on healing, healthcare and issues connected with dignity and protection of life.

Health in Abundance, a quarterly publication, was launched in the year 2003. and got an overwhelming response from the readers. Each issue of the Health in Abundance deals with a central theme and also has other regular columns of interest for the readers.

Over the last five years the CBCI Health Commission is in the process of putting together a long term plan to continue generating high quality articles for subsequent issues. Towards this, the Health Commission looks forward to receive more articles from people like you. Articles can be related to philosophy, morality, theology, spirituality of health, healing in general and also on specific issues related to health e.g. infectious diseases, women's health, life style diseases, human sexuality, family health, HIV/AIDS, Mission, Hospitals, Nurses and Doctors, Health and Development and other health related concerns of the society.

We welcome you to choose your area of interest and send us your articles which we will be glad to publish in the Health in Abundance on a regular basis. On behalf of the CBCI Health Commission, I express my sincere gratitude to you for voluntarily contributing articles to this magazine and your continuing support as we move ahead.

In faith of goodwill,

Fr. Dr. Mathew Abraham C.Ss.R
Executive Secretary
Commission for Health
Catholic Bishops' Conference of India