

INDIAN CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION (ICPA)

(An Overview of its History and Activities)

1 History

The Indian Catholic Press Association (ICPA) is an association of Catholic newspapers and periodicals, news agencies and publishing houses, journalists and teachers of journalism. The ICPA is one of the oldest and most active Catholic press organisations in Asia.

Founded in 1963 by the editors of three dailies (*Deepika*, *Kerala Times*, and *Thozhilali*) and of five weeklies (*The Examiner*, *The New Leader*, *The Herald*, *Sanjivan* and *Raknno*), ICPA now has over 160 members, including some of the leading Catholic periodicals and publishing houses of India and several Catholic journalists and teachers of journalism. It was Patna Jesuit Fr. John Barrett, the founder-editor of the Hindi Catholic weekly, *Sanjivan*, who brought together the editors of these Catholic periodicals in Delhi, to found the Association.

Fr. Eric D'Souza, the then editor of the Catholic weekly, *The New Leader*, was elected the first President and Fr. Barrett was elected the first Secretary. Since membership of the association was limited to editors only, there was a membership crisis till the mid-1970s. However, when the membership in ICPA was opened, in 1975, to Catholic journalists and publishers, there was a dramatic increase in membership. It peaked to 200 at one time.

The Association grew in strength thanks to the efforts made by Fr. McFarland SJ, the then Secretary, and Archbishop Alphonse Mathias the then Chairman, CBCI Commission for Social Communications. In a way, 1975 saw the re-birth of ICPA.

Since 1975 Annual General Body Meetings (AGMs) have been regularly held, except in 1982, when the meeting, scheduled to be held in Goa, was called off at the last minute as the envisaged funds had not come.

From 1995 onwards AGMs have been preceded by a National Convention of Christian Journalists (NCCJ). In 2002 ICPA decided to invite delegates from other South Asian countries to attend the National Convention.

The Association functioned for two decades under a Constitution modeled on the Companies Act of India. In 1985 it was modified on the pattern of the Societies Act of India and was registered at Kochi, on October 30, 1985 as ER 466/85 under, Xiterary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Act 1955 of ^Travancore and Cochin State, with its Registered Office in Emakulam.

The present office address of ICPA is:

Barrett Bhavan

2/5,4th Cross, Vivekananda Nagar MS

Nagar P O,

BANGLORE-560033

Website: www.indiancatholicpress.org

The Indian Catholic Press Association (ICPA) is a member of the International Catholic Union of the Press (UCIP) based in Geneva, Switzerland, the address of which is **UCIP, CP 197,**

Rue de Vermont 37-39,

1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Website:

www.ucip.ch

2 ICPA Office Bearers

The Office-bearers of the Association is the President, Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary and Treasurer. There are four Executive Committee (EC) members who represent the four ICPA Regions and are responsible for coordinating ICPA activities in these four regions: North, West, South and East. The Institutional members of ICPA are also represented by a member in the EC. The Office-bearers and EC members are elected by the AGM for a term of three years.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) nominates an Ecclesiastical Advisor to ICPA for a period of three years. Currently Archbishop Oswald Gracias, Chairman, CBCI Commission for Social Communications, is the Ecclesiastical Advisor to the ICPA.

3 Milestones

Among the many milestones of ICPA, is playing host to the World Congress of the Catholic Press in October 1986, in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. More than 300 participants from 64 countries participated in this event. In November-December 1991, the ICPA, in collaboration with the South Asian Catholic Press Association (SACPA), hosted the UCIP Winter University in India and Pakistan in which 24 young journalists from 23 countries participated.

4 Annual Convention of Christian Journalists

The ICPA has regularly organized, since 1995, what has become an activity of ICPA, the National Convention of Christian Journalists (NCCJ), to bring together Christian journalists from

all over the country, to interact with each other and discuss important issues of concern. The Conventions have served as a forum to forge closer friendship, professional relationships, deepen awareness of issues that affect the lives of the people, the Church and society at large. Let me list below the year, place and theme of the Conventions since 1995:

- 1995 Indian Social Institute, New Delhi, *The Role of a Christian Journalist*
- 1996 NBCLC, Bangalore, *Indian Journalists and a Secular Democratic India*
- 1997 Socio-Religious Centre, Calicut, Kerala, *Journalist and the Child with Special Focus on the Girl Child*
- 1998 Nitika-Don Bosco, Kolkata, National Colloquium on *Christian Contribution to Nation Building* (to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence)
- 1999 DBICA-Don Bosco, Chennai, *The Press and the Marginalised*
- 2000 CHAI, Hyderabad, *Catholic Journalists: Strategy for Emerging Political Challenges* (Consultation of Catholic Editors)
- 2001 Atmadarshan, Mumbai, *Challenges in News Reporting*
- 2002 Navjyoti Niketan, Patna, Bihar, *Media and Concerns of the Poor*
- 2003 Ashirbhavan, Kochi, Kerala, *Communalisation of Politics and Role of the Press*
- 2004 NBCLC, Bangalore: *Press, Democracy, Secularism and Pluralism*, Ruby Jubilee of ICPA

5 ICPA Awards

Indian Catholic Press Association (ICPA) constituted various awards to honour and recognise the contribution of outstanding individuals and institutions to the promotion of print

media in India. The ICPA Awards were set up in 2000. Since 2001 the ICPA has been conferring the Awards at a special Award Function during the National Convention of Christian Journalists.

In 2002 ICPA constituted an award in memory of renowned Hindi journalist and writer, and former ICPA member, Swami Devanand Chakkungal. This award is sponsored by the Province of Indore, of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD).

In 2003, another award was established in memory of Fr. Joseph Carreno, Spanish Salesian in India and author of several scientific books and articles. The award is sponsored by the Mumbai Province of the Salesians of Don Bosco. This award is given to an individual or institution for outstanding contribution to the press in English or languages other than Hindi.

The ICPA Barrett Award, given annually to the best SAR News correspondent is constituted in memory of Fr. John Barrett SJ, a pioneer of the Indian Catholic Press, who inspired the founding of the ICPA. From 2003, this award is being sponsored by the Patna Jesuit Society, of which Fr. Barrett was a member.

In the years to come, ICPA plans to constitute other awards for deserving persons, publications, and institutions as part of its effort to promote the values and goals of the Indian Catholic Press Association.

6 ICPA Newsletter and Website

The ICPA publishes a quarterly newsletter called *ICPA News*. It is the official means of communication and sharing among the members of the Association. In 2003 ICPA launched its website: <www.indiancatholicpress.org>. The website provides information on the ICPA, its vision, history, etc., and details about other Catholic press organisations.

7 Edit aids

Edit aids is a registered organisation started under the auspices of the ICPA in 1984. As a sister-organisation, it collaborates with the ICPA in carrying out the various goals and objectives of the ICPA. Edit aids organises journalism courses, offers in-service training and assistance in editing services to religious and social institutions for publishing handouts, brochures, magazines, etc.

8 South Asian Catholic Press Association (SACPA)

The ICPA is a member of the South Asian Catholic Press Association (SACPA), which was founded during a meeting of Catholic press representatives from Asia held at Manila in November 1976. The SACPA meeting was attended by the then UCIP Secretary General Fr. Pierre Chevalier and the officials of the Commission for Social Communications of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference (FABC). Today SACPA comprises representatives of the national Catholic press associations of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The first meeting of the SACPA with all member-countries in attendance was held in Kathmandu, Nepal. The meeting gave the final approval to the SACPA Constitution.

The SACPA strives to help the Catholic press in these countries by conducting training programmes, holding seminars and consultations. News from the SACPA countries are covered by the ICPA-managed Catholic news agency, the South Asian Religious News (SAR News) (see below).

9 Catholic News Agencies

From the beginning itself ICPA was associated with two Catholic news agencies in India, namely, the Catholic News Service of India (CNI) and the News Bureau of India (NBI). Fr. Barrett,

the first Secretary of ICPA, took interest in CNI, the very first Catholic news agency of India, which was founded by Mr. Leo Panackal, a layman in Cochin, Kerala. The pioneering effort of Mr. Panackal in collecting and supplying Catholic news to Indian Catholic newspapers received enthusiastic support from Fr. Barrett, who persuaded CNI to shift its office to Delhi in March 1963.

The next ten years seems to have been the golden era of CNI: at one time CNI had 62 correspondents, three weekly dispatches and served 14 Catholic papers and 110 individual subscribers in India, and 16 subscribers overseas. But like many good things, the golden period ended when Mr. Panackal chose to go back to Kerala and Fr. Barrett, to the United States, leaving no competent successor to carry on the news agency. Indeed, Fr. Barrett had desperately appealed to the General Assembly of the CBCI in 1974 at Barrackpore, but in vain. Nor the ICPA was in a position to run CNI. In 1974 its Office-bearers decided to stop all the work of CNI. However, it had to be kept alive as a legal entity to allow litigation over a property in New Delhi.

Another news agency, the News Bureau of India (NBI), founded in 1979 by Mr. Thomas Mulackal in Delhi, came up to fill the void. Though NBI offered to serve Catholic papers in India, it did not want to restrict its services merely to Catholic papers or the Church. At the same time, it came to rely more and more on the CBCI for financial help. The CBCI's Communications Commissions and a revitalised ICPA began to take more interest in NBI and was concerned about its functioning, which was far from satisfactory. For four or five years, the CBCI and ICPA tried to make NBI improve its operations and become more professional, but in vain.

Subsequently, the ICPA, CBCI's Commission for Social Communications headed by Fr. F. X. McFarland SJ, and other

concerned persons set up, in 1979, a ten-member committee to study the feasibility of starting another agency under the management of ICPA. This initiative elicited wide interest even from overseas as can be noted in the presence, in a decisive meeting in May 1979, of Fr. Robert Astorino, the then UCIP Coordinator for Asia, along with Fr. Hector Welgampola from Sri Lanka and Fr. Jyoti Gomes from Bangladesh, Secretary and Vice-president of SACPA, respectively. This resulted in the founding of a new Catholic news agency, the South Asian Religious News (SAR News) in February 1981 at New Delhi.

10 SAR News

Specialising in Christian and other religious and development news, SAR News, saw tremendous growth during the tenure of Fr. Varghese Paul SJ, its first Director and Editor and thereafter. In 1991 SAR News office was shifted to Bombay where there was greater Christian presence. However, due to problems related to personnel and finance, SAR News could not render effective services from Bombay. The ICPA Executive Committee decided to shift the office to Bangalore. After many difficulties SAR News was re-launched from Bangalore in January 1996, from a place offered temporarily by the Archbishop of Bangalore. In 1997 with the money received from the settlement of the Rohit House (acquired by Fr. Barrett) in New Delhi, ICPA purchased a building in Bangalore and named it *Barrett Bhavan*, after John Barrett. The building was blessed and inaugurated by Archbishop Alphonse Mathias of Bangalore, on November 13, 1997. The offices of ICPA, Edit aids and SAR News are now located in Barrett Bhavan.

The SAR News with the help of Edit aids has improved its news service and has begun to gather and distribute news and

features through electronic mail since 1998. It has also organised several training programmes for its correspondents. In January 2002, SAR News purchased a digital printer with which it started in-house publication of its weekly dispatches. News is also provided daily on e-mail. In 2003, SAR News launched its own website: www.samews.org.

11 Collaboration with Other Christian Communication Bodies

ICPA and its various sister organisations have worked in close collaboration with the UCIP, SACPA, CBCI, its Commission for Social Communications, Signis-India, (formerly Unda-OCIC), National Institute of Social Communications, Research and Training (NISCORT) and regional communication centres and organisations. The SAR News has been covering the CBCI General Assemblies and other events of the Church in India. Joint workshops and meetings with the Signis-India, consultations on NISCORT, CBCI national assemblies and other consultations are a sign of the growing collaboration between various communication bodies of the Church in India.

George Plathottam sdb
President, ICPA

**Persons who have been at the helm of the
Indian Catholic Press Association
(ICPA)**

Presidents

Fr. Eric D'Souza	1963 - 1966
Fr. Horace Rozario, SJ	1966 - 1969
Fr. Benny Aguiar	1969 - 1978
Fr. Horace Rozario, SJ	1978 - 1983
Fr. John Vallamattam	1983 - 1989
Fr. Dominic Gomez, SJ	1989 - 1992
Fr. George Veliparambil	1992 - 1995
Fr. M.A. Joe Antony, SJ	1995 - 1998
Fr. D. Amudhan	1998 - 2001
Fr. George Plathottam SDB	2001 - 2004

Secretaries

Fr. John Barrett, SJ	1963 - 1969
Fr. Victor Narively, CMI	1969 - 1975
Fr. Sebastian Kokkat, SSP	1975 - 1980
Mr. Dominic Azavedo	1980 - 1983
Fr. George Veliparambil	1983 - 1989
Fr. Marceline Morais, OCD	1989 - 1993
Fr. J. Amudhan	1993 - 1995
Mr. Jose Vincent	1995 - 2001
Fr. Jose Kalapura SJ	2001 - 2004

Constitution of the Indian Catholic Press Association (ICPA)

(Incorporating the Amendments passed up to the General Body Meeting,
Kochi, February 2003)

1. Name

The name of the Society shall be INDIAN CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION (ICPA). It is a Registered Society under the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Cultural and Charitable Societies Act, 1955.

2. Address

2.1 Registered Office: 41/163 Banerji Road, Emakulam,
Cochin,
Kerala-682 018.

2.2 Administrative Office: Barrett Bhavan, 2/5,4th Cross
Road, Vivekananda Nagar, Bangalore-560 033.

3 Aims and Objectives

- 3.1 To promote the development of a Catholic Press in India;
- 3.2 To act as the central organisation of the Catholic Press in India;
- 3.3 To represent the Catholic Press in India at the various national and international bodies, government or otherwise;
- 3.4 To promote and defend the right of information, freedom of expression and to uphold ethics of journalism;
- 3.5 To be specifically concerned about the promotion of a Catholic Press in Indian languages;

- 3.6 To promote collaboration of the Catholic Press with the secular and other media;
- 3.7 To promote professional skills of its members through in- service courses, training programmes, seminars, etc.;
- 3.8 To promote young Catholics in secular and religious press and enhance their academic and professional skills by helping them find admissions/scholarships or other assistance to attend appropriate programmes;
- 3.9 To promote and conduct research in media related disciplines;
- 3.10 To promote and safeguard the business and professional interests of the Association and its members by taking suitable steps when affected by legislative, executive or judicial actions of any agency.

4. Membership

4.1 Classification of Membership

- a. Regular Individual Membership
- b. Regular Institutional Membership
- c. Associate Membership
- d. Honorary Membership
- e Patrons

4.1.1 A Regular Individual Member can be any Catholic who is:

4.1.1 .a A Journalist according to the Working Journalists of India Act, 1955;

4.1.1. b A Freelance journalist;

4.1.1. C A Writer;

4.1.1 .d A Teacher of Journalism in a recognized institute;

4.1.1 .e An Editor, publisher, regular contributor to and writer for Catholic periodicals and Catholic news agencies;

4.1.1 .f A person retired from any of the above professions, with at least ten years of working experience.

4.1.2 A Regular Institutional Member can be:

- 4.1.2. a A Catholic Periodical
- 4.1.2. b A Catholic News Agency
- 4.1.2. c A Catholic Publishing House
- 4.1.2. d A Catholic Institute of Journalism or/and a Department of Journalism

4.1.3 An Associate Member can be any Catholic journalist or print media person who wishes to associate himself/herself with ICPA without becoming a regular member.

4.1.4 An Honorary Member can be any Catholic who subscribes to the aims and objectives of ICPA and is willing to promote and patronize its activities. Honorary Membership is a conferred membership. **4.15 A Patron** is one who is interested in the well being of the Association

4.2 Procedure for Admission of Members

4.2.1 Any Catholic who belongs to any of the categories mentioned in # 4.1.1—4.1.3 may apply for membership in the ICPA in the prescribed Application Form. The application shall be accompanied by the following supporting evidence:

A. Regular Individual Membership

A. 1 For Editors: please enclose a copy (original) of the newspaper/ magazine/periodical/newsletter you edit in which you have your name in print on the masthead or in any conventional place. Your periodical should be a registered publication to be eligible for membership in ICPA;

A. 2 Regular Correspondents/Reporters

- A.2.1** For those employed as Regular Correspondents/ Reporters, in a **news agency**: enclose a letter of accreditation from your editor or, send one photocopy each, of 6 (six) of your original published works with your byline (which have your names in print) during the past one year (ending on the date of your application);
- A. 2.2** For those employed as Regular Correspondents/ Reporters in a **registered periodical/newsletter/newspaper/magazine**: enclose a letter of accreditation from your editor along with a sample copy of the periodical/newsletter/newspaper/magazine;
- A. 3** For **Freelance Journalists** please enclose one photocopy each of 6 (six) of your original published works with your byline (which have your names in print) during the past one-year (ending on the date of your application);
- A. 4** For **Teachers of Journalism**: kindly enclose an accreditation letter from the competent authority of the university/ college/institute/department.

B. Regular Institutional Membership

- B. 1** For **Institutional Membership** the following are eligible: a Catholic publishing house/firm, a Catholic News Agency, Catholic Periodical, Catholic Press Institute, or a Catholic Institute of Journalism/department of Journalism. The Director/Editor/Publisher/Department Head may forward his/her application accompanied by a copy of the periodical/book in which his/her name appears in print in a conventional place. The above document should be of the past one year period (ending on the date of application).

- 4.2.2 Application for membership should be recommended by two regular members of the ICPA. A member may not recommend more than four new applicants during the same year.
- 4.2.3 Admissions may be recommended by a favourable decision of the Executive Committee after verification of the documents produced.
- 4.2.4 The General Body makes the final decision to admit members on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.
- 4.2.5 The admission procedure is complete when the applicant remits the required admission and membership fees. If the applicant fails to remit the above fees within sixty days of the receipt of the intimation of his/her admission into the Association, the membership will be considered not accepted unless the applicant furnishes documentary evidence for the delay beyond the prescribed date.
- 4.3** Regular Individual and Institutional Members shall attend the Annual General Body Meetings (AGMs) and collaborate in all other activities of the Association.
- 4.4** Members shall pay the Annual Membership Fees before the AGM of an year or March 31, whichever is earlier.

4. 5 Cessation, Suspension and Termination of Membership

The Membership will cease:

- 4.5.1 If a member fails to attend the AGM for two consecutive years without giving valid reasons, in writing, to the Secretary; However, if a member is abroad for studies or work he/she may be exempted from this

clause and continue to remain member provided he/she duly pays the membership fee at the prescribed time;

- 4.5.2 If a member fails to remit membership fees for two consecutive years;
- 4.5.3 If a member resigns or withdraws from the Association;
- 4.5.4 If a member leaves the Catholic Church or is duly excommunicated from the Catholic Church;
- 4.5.5 If a member works against the interests of the Association. For incurring any of the above disqualification a member shall be removed from the rolls of the Association, for which the Executive Committee shall initiate the process.

The Executive Committee after examining the matter shall suspend the member concerned and then issue a show-cause notice duly served by the Secretary to him/her. The notice, to be issued by Registered Post with Acknowledgement Due, shall seek an explanation/response from the member.

The member, failing to respond to the show-cause notice within 60 days from the day of the receipt of the notice or failing to furnish a response satisfactory to the Executive Committee, shall be liable to be removed from the membership.

The recommendation of the Executive Committee to dismiss the member concerned shall be placed before the General Body which shall make the final decision. However, no retention is possible in regard to clause # 4.5.4.

5. General Body

- 5.1 The General Body shall be the final authority in all matters concerning the Association. Every Regular Member shall have both an active and passive vote in the meetings. Associate members may participate in the meetings but shall have no right to vote or to be voted for.
- 5.2 The General Body shall be the final authority in matters relating to the immovable properties of the Association.
- 5.3 The General Body shall meet at least once a year; and whenever the Executive Committee deems it necessary; or whenever one-fifth of the regular members ask for it in writing.
- 5.4 The General Body shall approve the Annual Budget of the Association presented by the Treasurer.
- 5.5 Meetings shall be convened with a notice of 45 days. One-fourth of the members shall form a quorum. Decisions shall ordinarily be taken by a simple majority of those present and voting.

6. Executive Committee

- 6.1 The General Body shall elect an Executive Committee (EC) to manage the affairs of the Association.
- 6.2 The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer and not less than six other members.
- 6.3 Members of the Executive Committee shall be chosen from among the Regular Members so as to include at least one from each of the ICPA Regions, with at least one woman member, and a representative of the Institutional Members. (The four Regions of ICPA are the geographical areas covered by the following

states: North. Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand; West. Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Maharashtra, and Goa; South. Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh; and East. Orissa, West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya).

- 6.4 The term of the office of the Executive Committee shall be three years. No person shall be elected to the same office for a third consecutive term.
- 6.5 If a member, without sufficient reason (expressed in writing, to the Secretary), fails to attend two consecutive meetings of the Executive Committee, his/her membership shall be considered terminated. However, such absentee shall be present at the subsequent meeting failing which his/her membership shall be considered terminated.
- 6.6 Vacancies arising in the Executive Committee may be filled for the term by the Executive Committee.
- 6.7 The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a year. Not less than five members of the Executive Committee shall form a quorum. The Secretary as convener of the Executive Committee Meeting shall ordinarily invite the members at least with a three-weeks advance notice.
- 6.8 The Executive Committee shall prepare an annual budget and present it to the General Body for approval.
- 6.9 The Executive Committee shall prepare an annual report of the activities and statements of accounts to be presented to the General Body by the Secretary and Treasurer respectively.
- 6.10 The Executive Committee shall raise funds and incur

expenses according to the budget approved by the General Body.

- 6.11 Executive Committee shall execute the decisions of the General Body and strive constantly towards the achievement of the goals of the Association.
- 6.12 No member of the Executive Committee of the Association shall be a paid employee of the ICPA or its subsidiary organisations.

Office Bearers

- 7.1 The Association shall have a President, Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary and Treasurer as Office-Bearers. They shall meet whenever required and shall manage the day-to-day affairs of the Association.
- 7.2 The Office-bearers shall be elected by the General Body for a term of three years. They shall hand over all the records of the Association pertaining to their Office upon relinquishing Office.

7.3 The President

- 7.3.1 The President is the head of the Association.
- 7.3.2 He/she shall preside over all the meetings of the Association.
- 7.3.3 He/she shall represent the Association in all matters.
- 7.3.4 He/she shall take appropriate action in emergency situations after consulting the Secretary and as many Executive Committee members as possible.
- 7.3.5 In the event of such actions, the matter should be reported to the next Executive Committee meeting and be ratified.

7.4 The Vice-President

The Vice-President shall assist the President. He/she shall act as President in case the President is incapacitated to perform his/her duties.

7.5 The Secretary

- 7.5.1 The Secretary shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Association.
- 7.5.2 He/she shall sue and be sued on behalf of the Association.
- 7.5.3 He/she shall convene the meetings of the Association in consultation with the President.
- 7.5.4 He/she shall be the custodian of the proceedings and other records of the Association and shall hand them over to his/her successor upon relinquishing office.
- 7.5.5 All communications of the Association shall be issued in his/her name.

7.6 Joint Secretary

The Joint Secretary shall assist the Secretary. He/ she shall act as Secretary in case the Secretary is incapacitated to perform his/her duties.

7.7 The Treasurer

- 7.7.1 The Treasurer shall be responsible for the funds of the Association.
- 7.7.2 He/she shall maintain the accounts of the income and expenditure of the Association.
- 7.7.3 He/she shall prepare and submit the Annual Budget and Statement of Accounts to the Executive Committee and after approval of the Executive Committee, to the General Body.
- 7.7.4 He/she shall hand over the accounts, Registers and other Records of the Association to his/her successor at the end of his/her term or upon relinquishing the office.

8. Internal Auditor

The General Body shall elect one Internal Auditor, for a term of three years, from among the regular members to examine the accounts furnished by the Executive Committee and submit

a report to the General Body. The Internal Auditor should not be a member of the Executive Committee.

9. Ecclesiastical Advisor

A bishop nominated by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) shall be the Ecclesiastical Advisor of ICPA. The term of Ecclesiastical Advisor shall be for three years. The Ecclesiastical Advisor shall help to achieve the aims and objectives of ICPA and liaison with the CBCI and other organisations of the Church.

10 Elections

10.1 All elections shall be conducted by the duly convened General Body.

10.2 The General Body shall elect a Returning Officer during an early session of the first day, for the conduct of the elections. The General Body shall also elect a three member Appellate Body for the immediate redressal of grievances.

10.3 Election shall be notified two months before it is held.

10.4 The date and venue of the election shall be decided by the Executive Committee, taking into consideration the suggestions made by the General Body.

10.5 An Electoral Roll shall be published along with the notification of the election. Only regular members who have paid their subscription fees and other dues shall be allowed to vote in the election.

10.6 Nominations for the election, filed in person, shall be made during the opening day of the General Body Meeting. Nominations may be

- accepted till 5.00 p. m on the opening day.
- 10.7 The Returning Officer in consultation with the Office bearers shall arrange for the introduction of the candidates to the General Body on the evening of the opening day of the General Body Meeting.
 - 10.8 Nominations shall be made in the prescribed form.
 - 10.9 Election shall be held during the pre-lunch session of the second day of the General Body Meeting.
 - 10.10 All elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.
 - 10.11 An absolute majority is required to be elected to any office.
 - 10.12 In case absolute majority is not secured by any candidate even after two ballots, there shall be a third ballot in which only the two leading candidates are voted for. In the third ballot, the candidate who secures the highest number of votes shall be considered elected to the office.
 - 10.13 The new Office-bearers shall assume charge at the same General Body Meeting that elected them.
 - 10.14 There shall be a joint meeting of the outgoing and the newly elected Office-bearers immediately after the General Body Meeting to facilitate the handing over of offices.

11 Funds

- 11.1 Funds of the Association shall consist of membership fees, contributions, loans, income from publication of souvenirs and books and funds raised for projects like training programmes and seminars.
- 11.2 Funds of the Association shall be kept in Scheduled Banks. The accounts shall be jointly operated

by the Treasurer along with the President or the Secretary.

11.3 The Financial Year of the Association shall be from April to March.

12 Admission Fees and Membership Fees

12.1 Admission Fee:

12.1.1 For Individual Member:	Rs. 150.00
12.1.2 For Institutional Member:	Rs. 350.00
12.2 Membership Fee:	
12.2.1 For Regular Individual Member:	Rs. 150.00
12.2.2 For Institutional Member:	Rs. 350.00
12.2.3 For Associate Member:	Rs. 500.00

12.2.4 For Flonorary Member

12.2.5 For Patrons Rs. 10,000.00

12.3 The amount of fees in each category may be revised from time to time by the General Body.

13 Dissolution

In the event of dissolution of the Association, the assets shall be given to a Catholic Organisation/Institution with similar aims and objectives, as per the decision of the General Body.

14 Amendments

Amendments to the Constitution require not less than a two-third majority of the members present and voting, at a duly convened General Body Meeting. The proposed amendments are to be circulated among the members three months before the General Body Meeting.

END

INDIAN CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION (ICPA)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP (Modified as per the Amended Constitution, February 2003, Kochi)

[Kindly note that this is a sample (not for official use) of the prescribed Application Form. The prescribed Application Form can be obtained on request from the Secretary or any member of the Executive Committee of ICPA and from ICPA office]

The Indian Catholic Press Association (ICPA) is an organization of editors, journalists, teachers of journalism, freelance journalists, periodicals, publishing houses, news agencies and regional press associations in India. **Before you fill up this application form, kindly read the instructions given below and in the detachable sheet.**

The prescribed application form, duly filled up and signed by two members of the Association, may be sent to the following address, along with the required documents:

Secretary ICPA,

The Secretary will forward your application to the Executive Committee (EC) of ICPA, which will scrutinize your application, the result of which will be communicated to you by the Secretary. If the EC accepts your application, you become a provisional member of ICPA. The process of admission is complete: 1) when the General Body of ICPA formally admits you at the time of its Annual General Body Meeting (AGM), and 2) you pay the required admission and membership fees

within sixty days of the receipt of the intimation of your admission into the Association, failing which your membership will not be considered accepted unless you furnish documentary evidence for the delay beyond the prescribed period.

1. Name & Address of the Applicant: -----

(Use BLOCK LETTERS)

PIN Code: _____

Tel: Res: _____

Office: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

2. Membership

2.1 **Category of Membership** (tick mark what is applicable to you): I would like to be

- (1) a Regular-Individual Member
- (2) a Regular-Institutional Member
- ^(3) an Associate Member
- (4) an Honorary member

2.2 If you opt for 2.1(1) (**Regular-Individual**), (kindly tick mark the appropriate category): I am

- (1) a Working Journalist

- (2) a Freelance Journalist
- (3) a Writer
- (4) an Editor of a Catholic Periodical/News Agency
- (5) a Regular Writer/Contributor to Catholic Periodicals or News Agencies
- (6) a Teacher of Journalism
- (7) Retired from being (Chose the appropriate categories), after 10 years of working experience

2.3 If you opt for 2.1(2) (**Regular-Institutional**) (kindly tick mark what is appropriate for you): I represent a

- (1) Catholic Periodical
- (2) Catholic News Agency
- (3) Catholic Publishing House/Firm
- (4) Catholic Institute of Journalism/Department of Journalism

2.4 If you opt for 2.1(3) (**Associate Member**) (kindly fill up): I am interested in joining ICPA because....

2.5 If you opt for 2.1(4) (**Honorary Member**) (kindly fill up): I am interested in joining ICPA because -----

3.1 Academic/Professional Qualifications and Experience

3.1.1. Regular-Individual Member:

(a) My qualification (degrees, diplomas etc):-----

(b) My Journalistic Experience (Years):

(c) The Institutions I worked as a (category of work) are:

Names and places of institutions:

3. 1.2 Regular-Institutional Member:

(a) . Name and address of your Institution:

(b) . Our institute/firm publishes Catholic periodicals (daily, weekly, biweekly, monthly, quarterly, etc): (answer in order) name of the periodical, year established, periodicity, and language used;

1)

2)

3) -----

4) -----

(c)-----

Our institute/firm publishes Catholic books in -----
----- (Languages) for

liturgical, educational, moral science, etc.

3.1.3 Associate Member:

My profession is: -----

3.1.4 Honorary Member:

My profession is: -----

4. Documents required to be furnished along with your application (see the Detachable Sheet, page 6) for directions on documents.

4.1 I have enclosed the following documents as evidence of my journalistic orientation (In case the documents are not in English, please give a **list of the documents in English** with following details: title of the article, date of publication, name of the periodical/newspaper, other documents, etc).

- 1) -----
- 2) -----
- 3) -----
- 4) -----
- 5) -----
- 6) -----)

5. I have enclosed two stamp-size photographs for ID card:
----- (Yes/No) -----

6. Declaration:

I understand the aims and objectives of the Indian Catholic Press Association and I agree to abide by its rules and regulations:

Signature: -----

Place: ----- Date: -----

7. Names and signatures of the two ICPA members who recommend you:

(1) .

a. Name:-----

b. Signature:-----

(2) .

8. (For Office use only)

1) Application received on:-----

2) Scrutinised by the Executive Committee on:-----

3) Decision of the Executive Committee:-----

4) Approved by the General Body on:-----

5) Decision on admission communicated to the applicant on:

6) Admission fee paid on:----- (7) Receipt No: _

8) Membership fee paid on:----- (9) Receipt No:

(Name)	(Signature)	(Name)	(Signature)
President ICPA		Secretary ICPA	

(Detachable Sheet: to be Retained by the Applicant) Some essential information and Guidelines for admission in ICPA

1. Some Aims and Objectives of the Association (Cf. ICPA Constitution, Revised Version, 2003)

1. To promote the development of a Catholic Press in India;
2. To act as the central organisation of the Catholic Press in India;
3. To promote and defend the right of information, freedom of expression and to uphold ethics of journalism;
4. To promote professional skills of its members through in-service courses, training programmes, seminars, etc.;

2. Classification of Membership

- a. Regular Individual Membership
- b. Regular Institutional Membership
- c. Associate Membership
- d. Honorary Membership
- e. Patrons

2.a. A Regular Individual Member can be any Catholic who is:

- 1) A Journalist according to the Working Journalists of India Act, 1955;
- 2) A Freelance journalist;
- 3) A Writer;
- 4) A Teacher of Journalism in a recognized institute;
- 5) An Editor, publisher, regular contributor to and writer for Catholic periodicals and Catholic news agencies;
- 6) A person retired from any of the above professions, with at least ten years of working experience.

2.b A Regular Institutional Member can be:

- 1) A Catholic Periodical
- 2) A Catholic News Agency
- 3) A Catholic Publishing House
- 4) A Catholic Institute of Journalism or/and a Department of Journalism

2. c An Associate Member can be any Catholic journalist or print media person who wishes to associate himself/herself with ICPA without becoming a regular member.

- 2. **d An Honorary Member** can be any Catholic who subscribes to the aims and objectives of ICPA and is willing to promote and patronize its activities. Honorary Membership is a conferred membership.
- 2. **e A Patron** is one who is interested in the well being of the Association

3. Procedure for Admission of Members

- 3.1 The prescribed application form, duly filled up and signed by two sitting members of the Association, may be sent to the ICPA Secretary, along with certain documents as supporting evidence for qualification as member of this Association. The documents for various categories may be noted below (see guidelines on page 6).
- 3.2 Admissions may be recommended by a favourable decision of the Executive Committee after verification of the documents produced.
- 3.3 The General Body makes the final decision to admit members on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.
- 3.4 The admission procedure is complete when the applicant remits the required admission and membership fees. If the applicant fails to remit the above fees within sixty days of the receipt of the intimation of his/her admission into the Association, the membership will be considered not accepted unless the applicant furnishes documentary evidence for the delay beyond the prescribed date.

3.5 Guidelines on Qualifying Documents along with the Application Form for Membership in ICPA A. Regular Individual

Membership A.1 For Editors: please enclose a copy (original) of the newspaper/magazine/periodical/newsletter you edit in which you have your name in print on the masthead or in any conventional place. Your periodical should be a registered publication to be eligible for membership in ICPA;

A. 2 Regular Correspondents/Reporters

Reporters, in a **news agency**: enclose a letter of accreditation from your editor or, send one photocopy each, of 6 (six) of your original published works with your byline (which have your names in print) during the past one year (ending on the date of your application); **A. 2.2** For those employed as Regular Correspondents/ Reporters in a **registered periodical/newsletter/newspaper/magazine**: enclose a letter of accreditation from your editor along with a sample copy of the periodical/newsletter/newspaper/magazine;

A. 3 For **Freelance Journalists** please enclose one photocopy each of 6 (six) of your original published works with your byline (which have your names in print) during the past one-year (ending on the date of your application);

A. 4 For **Teachers of Journalism**: kindly enclose an accreditation letter from the competent authority of the university/college/institute/department.

B. Regular Institutional Membership

B. 1 For **Institutional Membership** the following are eligible: a Catholic publishing house/firm, a Catholic News Agency, Catholic Periodical, Catholic Press Institute, or a Catholic Institute of Journalism/department of Journalism. The Director/Editor/Publisher/Department Head may forward his/her application accompanied by a copy of the periodical/book in which his/her name appears in print in a conventional place. The above document should be of the past one year period (ending on the date of application). Your application should be recommended by two regular members of the ICPA. A member may not recommend more than four new applicants during the same year.

4. Responsibility of Members

4.1 Regular Individual and Institutional Members shall attend the Annual General Body Meetings (AGMs) and collaborate in all other activities of the Association.

4.2 Members shall pay the Annual Membership Fees before the AGM of a year or March 31, whichever is earlier.

5. Cessation, Suspension and Termination of Membership

The Membership will cease:

- 5.1 If a member fails to attend the AGM for two consecutive years without giving valid reasons, in writing, to the Secretary; However, if a member is abroad for studies or work he/she may be exempted from this clause and continue to remain member provided he/she duly pays the membership fee at the prescribed time;
- 5.2 If a member fails to remit membership fees for two consecutive years;
- 5.3 If a member resigns or withdraws from the Association;
- 5.4 If a member leaves the Catholic Church or is duly excommunicated from the Catholic Church;
- 5.5 If a member works against the interests of the Association.

6 Admission Fees and Membership Fees

6.1 Admission Fee:

For Individual Member:	Rs.
For Institutional Member:	150.00

6.2 Membership Fee:

For Regular Individual Member:	Rs. 150.00
For Institutional Member:	Rs.
For Associate Member:	350.00
For Honorary Member For Patrons	Rs. 10,000.00