

IACA Pilgrimage Newsletter 2016

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OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH, VAILANKANNI 19 th ANNUAL NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE

**Basilica of the National Shrine of Immaculate Conception
400 Michigan Ave, NE, Washington DC 20017
Saturday, September 10, 2016**

Program

**1:00 PM Confession in the Crypt Church
1:30 PM Assemble in Memorial Hall (Lower Level)
2:00 PM Rosary - Crypt church
2:30 PM Procession to the Upper Church
3:00 PM Holy Mass- Upper Church**

Main Celebrant:

Most Rev. Mario Eduardo Dorsonville-Rodriguez

**4:15 PM Blessing & Dedication of Children -Crypt Church
4:50 PM Novena to Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni
5:15 PM Community Reception -Pryzbyla Center, CUA**

Mariaselvam Chinnappan	202-316-1790	Sumathi Croos	301-385-9328
Johnson John	301-208-0645	Jacinta Mascarenhas	703-830-2327
Nimmi Soares	703-303-2095	Faustina Archer	301-401-6654
Agnelo Gonsalves	301-928-9604	Pushparajan Arokiaswamy	301-990-7708
Robert Nathan	301-262-5599	Flyn Mendes	732-522-3999
Harold D'Souza	703-598-3575	Noela Francis	703-922-5826
May Whittle	301-770-9087	Puthuparambil Scaria	301-404-7530
Maria Pakianathan	301-404-4828	Glenda Bastian	240-447-2918
Mala Britto	703-946-4724	Fred Semendy	703-764-1450

Presidents Message...

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Indian American Catholic Association (IACA), I invite you to participate in the 19th Annual National Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni. In this year of Mercy, our Pilgrimage will be held on September 10, 2016 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. The Pilgrimage Mass will be celebrated in English by the Most Rev. Mario Eduardo Dorsonville-Rodriguez, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC.

Every year we gather at the Basilica to show our love and devotion for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His mother Mary. This beautiful and solemn event starts with recitation of the rosary, litany, procession, and culminates with Holy Mass and blessing of the children. Priests will be available to hear confession before the rosary, for those interested. Every year the Pilgrimage attracts devotees from various parts of the country, especially the East Coast. This is significant evidence of our Mother's healing power and the success of IACA's activities and increased visibility over the past 23 years.

IACA is an umbrella organization representing Catholic communities from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka and its main mission is to help South Asian Catholics to come together to share their common spiritual heritage and to pray to Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni to intercede for their needs. This year the Pilgrimage is more meaningful for us because our own Blessed Mother Teresa will be canonized in Rome on September 4, 2016, and the order she founded in Calcutta, the Missionaries of Charity will be recognized for the great humanitarian work they do all over the world.

Through our Blessed Mother's intercession, IACA had an outstanding year since the 2015 Pilgrimage and we look forward to continuing the momentum on the progress we have made so far, for which we ask your support. IACA is a Washington, DC-based organization that is operated solely through the services of volunteers. Any and all costs of activities are supported solely through the generous contributions from our well-wishers. I thank you for your generous support and for making IACA a special family of faith and ask you to make this year's Annual Pilgrimage a memorable one with your presence.

God Bless you all.

Sumathi Croos

President, IACA



Mario Eduardo Dorsonville-Rodríguez was born in [Bogotá, Colombia](#) to Carlos and Leonor (Rodríguez) Dorsonville. He studied for the priesthood at the major seminary of the [Archdiocese of Bogotá](#) where he received a bachelor's degrees in philosophy (1981) and sacred theology (1985). He was ordained a priest for the Bogotá archdiocese on November 23, 1985. While studying at Catholic University he served as curate at Good Shepherd and Christ the Redeemer parishes in the [Diocese of Arlington in Virginia](#) (1992-1994), and as a lecturer at the [Inter-American Development Bank](#) in Washington. At the same time he also served as a professor at the Hispanic Apostolate of Arlington from 1993 to 1994. After he returned to

Colombia, Dorsonville served as chaplain and professor of ethics at the National University of Colombia and professor of pastoral counseling and catechesis at the major seminary of the Archdiocese of Bogotá (1995-1996). He returned to the United States where he served as curate at St. Joseph parish in [Arlington, Virginia](#) in 1996.

Dorsonville was named [titular Bishop](#) of Kearney and an auxiliary bishop for Washington by [Pope Francis](#) on March 20, 2015. His episcopal consecration took place on April 20, 2015 at the [Cathedral of St. Matthew](#) in Washington, D.C. He was consecrated by Cardinal [Donald Wuerl](#) of Washington DC.

Major Activities of IACA - 2016

IACA is a non-profit charitable organization registered in the Nation's capital supporting religious and charitable causes important to our communities. During the past year IACA was actively involved in the following events:

1. Divine Mercy Lenten Retreat – IACA helped organize and promote the Retreat by Bro. Mathew Joseph in March 2016 in Alexandria, 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 Blessed Mother Teresa, who was very close to the Joseph family from the beginning of her mission. Blessed 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.
2. Luncheon Discussion – In April 2016 Archbishop Emeritus Vincent Concessao of New Delhi, an outspoken leader of our Catholic faith, came to the DC Metropolitan area with a number of other Christian leaders from India as part of a United Prayer Movement for India. He is the Vice President of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) and the former Director of Social Action of the Archdiocese of Delhi. While in Washington, he celebrated Holy Mass and IACA organized a luncheon reception after Mass. At the reception he shared his experiences and discussed the challenges faced by Christians in India in the past few years. It was an eye opening experience.
3. Asian & Pacific Island Pilgrimage – IACA actively participated and helped organize the 14th annual Asian and Pacific Island Catholic Pilgrimage on May 7, 2016 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This large, multi-cultural religious celebration had representatives from almost all Asian and Pacific Island Catholic communities including Bangladeshi, Burmese, Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Lebanese, Montagnard, Pakistani, Samoan, Sri Lankan, Thai, and Vietnamese. The main celebrant for Holy Mass was Archbishop Bernardito C. Auza, Vatican Representative to the United Nations; he was assisted by over 25 priests from the various Asian countries.
4. Mothers' Day Pilgrimage – IACA organized the annual Mothers' Day Pilgrimage on May 15, 2016 at St. Mary's Chapel, at the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Emmitsburg, MD. The Holy Mass - celebrated by Rev. Fr. Anthony Dhas in honor of our Mothers - was followed by rosary in the Grotto, and then a luncheon picnic at the nearby Cunningham Falls State Park. Next year, the Mothers' Day Pilgrimage is tentatively scheduled for May 21, 2017.
5. Hindu-Catholic Dialogue – IACA supported the second Hindu-Catholic dialogue held July 7, 2016, organized by USCCB, overseen by the (Vatican's) Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue. The objective of these annual sessions is to examine Hindu and Catholic traditions and promote dialogue and understanding. The theme for this year was "Theological Reasons for Mutual Respect and Reverence." The sessions are co-sponsored by the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs at the USCCB.
6. Statue of Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni at the Lourdes Grotto – 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 Annual General Body meeting, a resolution was passed to approve the installation of the Vailankanni statue at the Grotto Shrine. The IACA Executive Committee (EC) has been in communication with the Grotto Director and a spot close to the main entrance has been designated for the statue. The EC is currently working on the feasibility and the costs of this project. Soon after the annual Pilgrimage, IACA will establish a separate committee to oversee this project.

IACA Membership:

We request you to consider becoming a member of IACA.

- IACA is an umbrella organization representing the members of immigrant Catholic communities of South Asia settled in USA.
- IACA has members from the Tamil, Keralite, Bangladeshi, Goan, Mangalorean, Anglo-Indian, Pakistani, and Sri Lankan Catholic communities.
- IACA promotes religious devotions practiced in South Asia, in communion with the church in the U.S.
- IACA does charity work both within the U.S. and overseas, in collaboration with Catholic Charities USA (the overseas charitable arm of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops).
- The youth and young adult members of IACA are active in evangelization through community and charity work.
- IACA works closely with the U.S. CCB, the archdiocese of Washington, DC, and the diocese of Arlington, VA, and collaborates with Asian and Pacific Islander communities on a variety of policy and social justice issues.

Please fill up the membership form and send along with your membership fee check
To the address given:

INDIAN AMERICAN CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION, WASHINGTON, DC

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM FOR 2016
(Annual fee: \$20 for families and \$10 for individuals)**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Tel: _____ **email:** _____

Membership\$ _____ **for** _____ **Years, Plus donation \$** _____

If you have any questions, please contact,
IACA President at: sumcroos@yahoo.com

Please make your check payable to: IACA, Washington, DC

And mail it along with the membership form to the address given below:

**Indian American Catholic Association
c/o Prema Pakianathan
210 Twelve Oaks Dr,
Gaithersburg, MD 20878**



OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH VAILANKANNI

- First Saturday of every month
- Rosary, Holy Mass and Novena to Our Lady of Good Health
- Starts at 4:30 PM
- Crypt Church, Lower Level, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC



IACA Christmas Celebrations

Date: December 10, 2016

**Location: Mid County Community Recreation Center
2004 Queensguard Road
Silver Spring, MD 20906**

Time: 5 PM – 10 PM

- Holy Mass
- General Body Meeting
- Dinner
- Christmas Celebrations.
- Conclusion

Pease mark your calendar

Dear IACA Supporter,

As you know, IACA is a charitable, non-profit organization run by volunteers and all costs including the cost for holding the annual Pilgrimage are covered by the generous donations from people like you. We are blessed to have hundreds of Catholics of South Asian origin from all over the country participate in our Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni. This year we hope and pray that you can join us at the Basilica on September 10th, 2016.

The costs to conduct the annual Pilgrimage amount to approximately \$10,000. Besides paying a stipend to the main celebrant, the concelebrants, and Basilica staff, we have to cater the reception for the pilgrims and pay the hall rental and insurance, in addition to several other miscellaneous expenses like printing and mailing this newsletter. We also pay a stipend to the priests who celebrate the monthly Novena Mass at the Shrine and at the annual Mother's Day pilgrimage. IACA's operating costs are paid for by your generous donations and the annual membership fees; which are only \$20 per family.

To run this Association it takes many hands and financial help. We rely on your support both as a volunteer and as a donor. Please note that the offertory money collected during the Pilgrimage Mass and the monthly Novena Mass goes to the Basilica and not to IACA. Also, all offerings made at the Oratory of Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni in the Crypt Church are retained by the Basilica. Please be generous and visit our website (www.iacausa.org) to make a donation by using your credit card. If you prefer to mail your membership fee and/or donation, please make your check payable to: **IACA, Washington, DC** and mail it to:

**Indian American Catholic Association,
c/o Maria Packianathan,
210 Twelve Oaks Drive,
Gaithersburg, MD 20878.**

You could also make your contribution in person at the Pryzbyla Center when you come for the reception following the Pilgrimage.

Thank you for your generous contribution and please be assured that your money will be put to very good use. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

If you have a prayer request, please mail it along with your check and we will add it to the special intentions during our monthly Mass at the Crypt Church.

God bless you for your generosity.

Sumathi Croos
IACA president