

Statement from Signis India Assembly on the Theme “Media and Family Values” held at, Shanti Kiran, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Mangalore.

Karnataka, February 23th-24th, 2016

Signis India in its General Assembly 2016 with around 100 participants and nearly 50 college students from the various colleges from the city of Mangalore together with the eminent speakers reflected and contributed on the theme “Media and Family Values”.

We, the Catholic media professionals have a responsibility to communicate with the new digital environment through the social networks to highlight the beauty of faith, to encounter Christ and to work especially for the poor and marginalized. Communication must lead us to grow in human relationships, mutual understanding and dialogues with cultures.

The Message of Pope Francis for the 48th World Communications Day states that communication is at the Service of an Authentic Culture of Encounter. The internet, in particular, offers immense possibilities for encounter and solidarity. This is something truly good, a gift of God. We should not overlook the fact that those who for whatever reason lack access to social media run the risk of being left behind. We need to grow in the new environment created by digital technology to have a true encounter with God to discover the beauty of faith and to encounter Christ.

Therefore, in answer to the challenges of Media to the Family Values, we, as a National association of Catholic communicators and media professionals, pledge to make use of Social Media positively and promote Family Values through it. Through this we will grow in the new digital environment and give witness to the gospel values.

Hence, we commit

1. To promote and support Social Media Education Training Programme at all levels and at every age so that children and youth can use the media wisely and creatively to encounter Christ.
2. To strengthen efforts to protect children and youth from harm and violence through the Social Media Networks.
3. Encourage and enable Signis India Delegates and members to be the voice of the voiceless especially of the poor and marginalized whose cry is unheard by the mainstream media and will use all social media networks to write appropriate content to spread the Gospel Values.
4. To set up regional websites and strengthen the National website through content writers from each region about their works.
5. To organize family retreats in various regions by using the social media networks such as Skype and through our physical presence.