

**“NO ONE IN WANT”**  
**Decoding the Archdiocesan Vision for SCCs in 2023**

***“The measure of greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty. The only war that we must all fight is the one against evil. To be saints is not a privilege for the few, but a vocation for everyone. The love of God is not generic.” – Pope Francis***

As we welcome the New Year 2023, we lift our voices in gratitude to our Triune Godhead for the diminished ferocity of the pandemic which wreaked havoc for close to three years. The repercussions, however, linger on. Besides losing our loved ones to the dreaded disease, there were others who lost their jobs, especially the family breadwinners, and yet others who even now find themselves jobless in foreign lands!

How can we as SCCs reach out to these hapless families/persons? How can we decode the Archdiocesan Vision of **“NO ONE IN WANT”** into a perennial commitment during 2023? Here is a roadmap to help us achieve our goal.

***The Believers Share Their Possessions [Acts 4: 32-35]***

*All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time, those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales, and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.*

**1. CLUSTERS (today’s take on Acts 4:32-35)**

The term “Cluster” is still an enigma to many. More often than not, we are asked, “Why do we need to form Clusters in our Communities; we seem to be doing well anyway.” So we as animators ask ourselves: are the SCCs a ministry just to organise Annual Days and Community picnics? No! Our role goes beyond merriment and social gatherings. Therefore, how do we define Clusters, and how do Clusters help? The Oxford Dictionary definition of a ‘Cluster’ is: *a group of similar things or people positioned or occurring closely together*. In other words, a group of families in our immediate neighbourhood, coming together in prayer and fellowship, sharing one another’s joys and sorrows, and being a support in times of need.

Through the formation of clusters, we are able to identify persons or families in need; not necessarily monetary assistance or supplying ration kits, but also the lonely, the homebound, the sick, the differently abled, the destitute etc. and offer our services accordingly. The SCCs in the Archdiocese of Bombay have done a marvellous job during the pandemic months, and in most parishes, the good work continues. Our task for 2023 should be to religiously ensure that we support the tenets of the Archdiocesan SCC Vision **“NO ONE IN WANT”**, namely, those in need have access to **Food, Education, Shelter and Medical Assistance** within our respective parishes and beyond.

**2. Regular STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS (SCM)**

It is of paramount importance that every parish conducts the Steering Committee Meeting either monthly or bi-monthly, but definitely once in three months. The Steering Committee consists of the Community Coordinators who function as the **“THINK TANK”** of the

Communities of the Parish. The Coordinators, together with the Clergy Team (or the Priest in charge of the SCCs), are the nurturers for the sustenance of the SCCs in the parish. Coordinators should be encouraged to share their successes and challenges at the SCM; success stories can be emulated and challenges discussed to arrive at a solution.

The Coordinators who work at the grass-root level in their communities know and understand the needs of the families entrusted to their care. It is humanly difficult to admit that one has fallen on bad times or one needs external help, especially for the lonely and old who are deserted by their own children. Without specifying names, these challenges can be presented at the SCM, and solutions sought.

### **3. VISITATION**

This helps to stay connected with the members of the families in our respective communities, thus being able to identify the ones in need. If monthly physical visitation is not possible due to hectic work schedules and personal commitments, we must stay connected via phone calls. This mode of communication helped greatly during the two years of isolation, because of which the SCCs were able to reach out to many in innumerable ways.

### **4. SCCs MOVING TOWARDS BASIC HUMAN COMMUNITIES**

Pope Francis' Synodal message exhorts the lay faithful to cultivate a humanitarian approach to all, especially towards people of other Faiths. Whilst the SCCs have been doing a commendable job in their parishes/Deanery/the Archdiocese, it is now time for us to foray into making "Basic Human Communities" a way of life without losing the Christian dimension. This does not translate into just offering financial assistance or food as we did during the pandemic months, but welcoming them into our circle, our celebrations, as we need to join them in theirs. This should not affect our religious beliefs in the process. India is a nation of diverse cultures, religious beliefs, social customs and languages which, at times, cloud our judgment, alienating us from other people. We are all created in God's image and likeness, irrespective of our religious orientation, and if this is our belief, then our goal is not far away.

#### **Questions for reflection:**

1. How can we decode the Archdiocesan Vision of "NO ONE IN WANT" in 2023 through our Clusters/Steering Committee Meetings/Visitation? Document these as goals to be achieved in your SCC/Cluster in 2023.
2. 'Basic Human Communities' will gradually become a way of life. How do we feel about including people of other faiths in our social activities, and joining them in theirs?

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