

Vatican Radio at Ninety

Vatican Radio has nourished people's hearts for ninety years. Two Jesuits, both working with Vatican Radio, tell us of its global significance.



The Vatican Gardens in the Vatican City State with Vatican Radio broadcasting tower in the background

Despite what might have been thought, the radio continues to play an important role all over the world. It is synonymous with proximity and reaches large audiences who do not always have access to other media. In this context, Vatican Radio pursues its fundamental objective of a public service that seeks to nourish hope and to make available the voice of the Pope while offering an interpretation of current events in the light of the Gospel. It has done so again, and despite the obstacles, throughout this long worldwide ordeal of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vatican Radio offers programmes in

41 languages and broadcasts on various platforms, including the internet. In Rome, some 20 Jesuits collaborate daily in the radio production of RV. Two of them tell us in a few words the meaning of their commitment to this service of the Church.

Jozef Bartkovjak SJ **Chief of the Slovakian Desk**

For eight years I have been leading the Slovakian section of Vatican Radio, one of the small ones. We are a team of three. Besides being a source of news from the Vatican seven days a week, we offer people extensive translations of the Holy Father's recent

speeches and homilies. Accompanying him also on his visits abroad. We use several channels: Vatican News portal, Vatican Radio, Facebook, newsletter by email.

Vatican Radio is a family of nations, a 'redeemed Babel'. It also shows clearly how in the Church we help each other with complementary roles: lay people, priests, nuns. We Jesuits, through our vows, can be free to sacrifice almost anything for the mission, and this thanks to the support of the community. A generational chain is also evident: I can say that I find inspiration in those great predecessors who worked in the Slovakian programme over the years and we, in turn, prepare and motivate young Jesuits for this mission.

The apostolate in the field of media is for me a connection with all kinds of challenges. The first is to stay with God, otherwise all the effort is useless. Then the challenge of being able to listen and discern where the truth is, to understand the meaning in the midst of all the turmoil and deception going on in the world. Also the challenge of being a faithful interpreter of what the Pope says and does. Then the challenge of choosing the appropriate medium, both vocal and multimedia. that speak to the hearts of my Slovakian people.



Sanjay Dilip Ekka SJ Hindi Desk


As I finished my tertianship in 2015, I was missioned to Vatican Radio in Rome. It was unexpected and sudden. However, I feel delighted and grateful to God who invited me to embrace this mission.

In the beginning, meeting the everyday deadlines for the transmission was quite demanding. It was like a marathon. I had to be on my toes and 'to burn the night oil' to be ready on time. I have been translating the speeches, homilies and catechetical

teachings of the Pope along with Church documents, including Fratelli Tutti, into Hindi. Our Hindi programmes are followed by many Hindu and Muslims in Asia.

I have been personally moved and

touched by the translation work of the Pope's messages: they are always accessible. So we constantly get feedback from our listeners. Many have expressed that our programme touches them in the heart.

Communicating the message of the Holy Father, through Vatican Radio, to the Hindi listeners of the Universal Church has given me real joy and fulfilment: this mission has indeed brought about unique transformation in me. 

Courtesy of SJ Curia News (Rome).