



# Prasanthi Council

P.O. Box 660995, Arcadia, CA 91066-0995, USA.

Narendranath Reddy, M.D.  
Chairman

email: [nreddysai@yahoo.com](mailto:nreddysai@yahoo.com)

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Dear brothers and sisters,

Om Sri Sai Ram.

Greetings of loving Sairam to all of you. We are happy to announce that we will celebrate the Avatar declaration day on 20<sup>th</sup> October with a global service project "Serve the planet." This year the theme will be feeding the poor. Devotees from all zones around the world will participate in this tribute to our beloved Swami. On this day in 1940, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, in His infinite love and compassion, declared to the world that He is the avatar who has come for the redemption of mankind. By holding on to His feet and practising His teachings, we will reach the summum bonum of life. Below is the text from Bhagawan's biography "Sathyam Sivam Sundaram" written by late Professor Kasturi:

*"On the 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1940, the day after they all returned from Hampi by special bus, Sathyanarayana started for school as usual. The Excise Inspector of the place, Sri Anjaneyulu, who was very much attached to the little Baba, accompanied Him as far as the school gate and went home, rather reluctantly. He seemed to see a superb halo around the face of Baba that day, and he could not take his eyes away from that enchantment. Within a few minutes, Baba too turned back to the house. Standing on the outer doorstep, he cast aside the books He was carrying and called out, "I am no longer your Sathya." "I am Sai." The sister-in-law came from the kitchen and peeped out; she was almost blinded by the splendour of the halo, which she saw around Baba's head! She closed her eyes and shrieked. ... Neighbour Sri Narayana Sastri heard the noise; he listened and realised that it was something serious; he ran in; he saw the splendour of the 'halo' and fell at Baba's feet. He too heard the Historic Declaration, "Maya has left; I am going; My work is waiting."*

We will express our gratitude to Bhagawan on this Avatar declaration day by participating in the project "Serve the Planet" by feeding the poor. Swami emphasizes that giving food to the hungry is amongst the most noble and sacred of charitable actions. The regional officers will provide the details regarding the implementation of this project. I pray to Swami that by His grace we will serve the needy with the understanding that the service is done by Sai to Sai through Sai. This is the purpose of this project "Serve the Planet". Jai Sai Ram.

Samastha Lokah Sukino Bhavantu – May All the Worlds be Happy

Jai Sai Ram.

With loving regards,

Narendranath Reddy M.D.