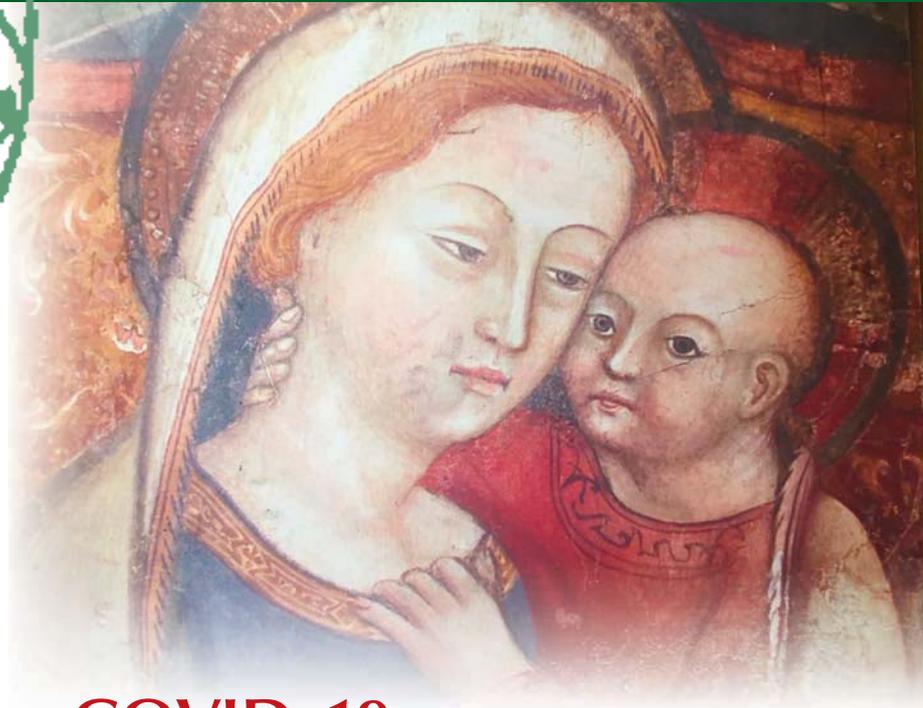


# Bulletin 2020

vol. 52, no. 3/4 - March-April

SEDOS



## COVID-19

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## ***SEDOS***

*(Service of Documentation and Study on Global Mission)  
is a forum open to Institutes of Consecrated Life,  
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It encourages research and disseminates information  
through its Bulletin, Website, Seminars and Workshops.*

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## Editorial



**Dear Readers,**

The Covid-19 epidemic has influenced the lives of millions on this planet. A little piece of dust, invisible to the human eye, that can paralyze so many of us on the planet. Who would have thought that such a thing would be possible in our modern times? But it is! It shows us our human fragility, and the superiority of nature. Nature is enjoying this time of worldwide lockdown. It is showing us how much we destroy of its beauty and magic. Maybe it was she that has created this virus as a kind of self-protection?

But in the midst of epidemic, we also see the beauty and strength of humanity. In face of such a disastrous epidemic, people work together, faith and hope are stressed, and donations are made for those who work on the frontline. SEDOS has also given a generous contribution to the Civil Protection in Italy who is supporting the medical staff in the country, and to Sant'Egidio Community who serve the poor in Rome these difficult days. Little gestures of compassion.



We start this issue on the Covid-19 crisis by three articles that relate to this current worldwide problem.

The first article is of the Sacred Heart Missionary Fr. Richie Gomez in the Philippines, who reflects on the effects of global warming and Covid-19.

Another article is of Salesian Fr. Joe Mannath who takes up a recent article of *The New York Times* that reflects on the role of sisters religious during the Spanish Flu crisis of 1918. It helps us to relativize also a bit our current crisis. Of course, if we would not have had all the social communications and great technology of today, we might have been much worse off too.

The last article is of a CICM confrere from the Philippines who reflects during Lenten Season about the Covid-19. Although Lent is already long finished, Covid-19 not, and his reflections can help to look at the whole problem from a faith perspective.

And lastly, our SEDOS Member Congregation are doing their best to lessen the negative effects of the epidemic in many different ways. We have gathered in this issue of the SEDOS Bulletin an little overview of the wide variety of their Works of Mercy. For a more detailed information of each Congregation, see the SEDOS Website.

### **Creativity of love can overcome isolation**

*Pope Francis expressed his appreciation for the “generosity of those who put themselves at risk for the treatment of this pandemic or to guarantee the essential services to society.”*

**He called them “heroes.”**

*The Pope said he is also thinking about those facing financial difficulties, those in prison worried about themselves and their families, and the homeless, who have no home to protect them. “It is a difficult time for everyone. For many, very difficult.”*

**Here in this issue of the SEDOS Bulletin,  
some of the creative Works of Mercy  
by SEDOS member Congregations!**

*Fr. Richie Gomez, MSC*

## **Dialogue with Nature and the Center for the Poor**

The pandemic Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) paralyzed all human activities. The world's longing to rest indeed happen, unfortunately great crisis on the part of humanity. This alarming rate of change is too difficult to pinpoint the cause and effect, we may not have seen the worst of it. But one thing is clear, this **WORLD WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN**. It has hurt most human pride and reminds us again that we need to care for one another. On a lockdown with so much time that we do not know what to do with it, suddenly we silently see within ourselves and understand the value of the words "solidarity", "love", "strength", "empathy", "faith". In an instant we realized that we are all in the same boat; rich and poor. That the supermarket shelves are empty and the hospitals are full. New cars and old cars also stand in the garages, simply because nobody can get out. Self-isolation and social distancing forced us to be alone even on the last hour of our deathbed. The human returns to his origins, realizing that with or without money, the important thing is to survive. Today, health is the main thing, even in spite of wanting to have or possessing. Nature is forcing us to clean up the mess made by ourselves. We do not have the power of controlling everything. The situation is simply telling us to go back to the basics, to the essentials, that the peace of your soul guide you towards what you are: a CREATION.

**Sustainability Revolution** – Is the greatest people's movement possibly to happen after the Pandemic COVID-19. Much more intensified by the current period marked by tremendous upheaval with a small window of opportunity to reverse a devastating ecological decline. Today's suffering cause by lockdown to people is just the beginning of more sufferings to come in a global scale, as many scientists see recent climate-related mass die off, including the coral bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef and

widespread seabird and marine mammal mortality in the Northeastern Pacific linked to a marine heat wave, as warming signs of impending biodiversity collapse.

*If it gets too hot for bumblebees, for example, it affects the reproduction of plants. If it gets too warm for insects and reptiles, it affects food supplies for birds and mammal. As global warming heats their habitat to the point that it is intolerable, many species have no place to go. Some will go extinct, with domino effect that affects scores of other species. I hope our predictions are wrong. But increasingly, what we're observing around us are the signs of this happening.”* (Alex Pigot – Bio-diversity researcher at University College, London).

Lockdowns and Social distancing won't save the world from warming. As the United Nation's secretary general recently noted, the threat from coronavirus is temporary whereas the threat from heat waves, floods and extreme storms resulting in the loss of human life will remain with us for years. But amid this crisis, we have a chance to build a better future.



**Food Sovereignty** – Who controls the seeds? Who owns farm lands produce that dominates our supermarkets? Who dictates price commodities that controls fair trades for all consumers? When you ask poor people in the rural areas why life is hand to mouth existence “*Isang Kahig – Isang Tuka*”? Their answer is so

ironical to what you see from vacant vast lands, rotten farm products around, excessive time of recreations. The reason is; No jobs available, No land to till, No financial capital, No seeds available, No support from the government, No water system, No machineries, 6 children in -do-re-mi, widowed, senior or advanced aged, abused, rebels, militarized, displaced, demolished, migrants, no education, discriminate, individualistic, ... name it and the list goes down. Complicated, mixed-up, and torturing to imagine. It is not that no staple food at all (rice/corn/banana/root crops). **The problem is systemic and structural.** The dominant maneuvering of agribusiness industries, oligarchs/elites, wresting the land from the peasantry, plundering our natural resources and creating billions of profit so they could accumulate more land and more wealth. It is a system that engenders structural inequalities resulting to the dispossession of peasant lands, the deterioration of agriculture, and the penury of the rural populace.

**Living Museum of the Center for the Poor as our Pilot area** – We have to open this land for the people as what we called it “**UMAHANTA**” Community Farming Site. To establish and produce farm products which is sustainable for people to live. For women’s productivity by creating Income Generating Projects (IGP’s) from food products to livelihood activities. Teach people to produce enough food and erase the season of hunger (*tiempo muerto*) that regularly stalks the land. Work of a technology that is appropriate, ecologically balance & safe. Train people to be fully self-reliant so as not to fall prey to the schemes of agrochemical companies, traders and loan sharks that capitalize on the penury of farmers to wrest the land and livelihood from them. Practice Organic Farming & Sustainable Agriculture. Must able to save and use the traditional rice, corn, and vegetable seed



varieties that are not dependent on heavy chemical input. We can Conduct Training Programs (EMS) ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. Strengthening Centers & Collective Farms. We must fight for a sustainable maximization of the land and our natural resources. And finally, we must look forward and work for a just, equitable, judicious use of our natural and human resources.

**OUR CALL FOR COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR**

– This current period of our time is marked by tremendous upheaval of unprecedented technological innovations affecting health, manufacturing, communications, transportation and agriculture. Gently invites us to make a few personal sacrifices that benefit the whole – to shift our inner place from ego-system to eco-system. As Pandemic Virus strikes us globally, Climate Change affects us collectively, we have to realize that we have to move as community to combat any of these crisis and of another crisis to come. Individualize or “*Kanyakanya*” will not work anymore, instead it will drown us more together to our own grave yard. Let us take in a deeper sense the “**BAYANIHAN TO HEAL AS ONE ACT**” officially designated as Republic Act No. 11469 as a law of this land (Philippines) that was enacted on the last days of March 2020. The word “*Bayanihan*” is a Tagalog word for Communal Work. We believe that we are all connected and that by helping another, we help ourselves. Each individual can make a commitment to work towards the common good. As individuals, our personal contributions may be small, but when united in common cause, we can change the world.

*Let us reshape our planet,  
revolutionizing sustainable life style of today,  
and the next to come.*

*Fr. Joe Mannath, SDB*

## **Heroic Sisters during Spanish Flu**



*The New York Times celebrates the extraordinary service of Catholic Sisters during the terrible “Spanish Flu” of 1918.*

On March 20, 2020, *The New York Times* published an article with this title: “We Should All Be More Like the Nuns of 1918.” The caption reads: “The sisters of Philadelphia were lifesavers during the Spanish flu epidemic. They are an inspiration today.”

### **What did Catholic nuns do in 1918 that inspires people even today?**

The author, a writer and journalist called Kiley Bense, was researching her grandmother’s childhood in Philadelphia. Her grandmother, born in 1917, survived the “Spanish Flu,” the terrible pandemic which hit many countries between 1918 and 1920. It was far more devastating than the current COVID-19. It came towards the end of World War I, multiplying the suffering of people who had already suffered and lost much during the War. The number of victims was incredibly high: About fifty million deaths worldwide! To give you an idea of what that number means, it was thirty-four million more than those killed in World War I.

The writer found harrowing descriptions of life during the Flu—businesses, schools, churches and theatres were shut. At times whole families were seriously ill. Dead bodies were found piled up in basements and porches of houses, since the morgues did not have enough coffins. In just one day (October 16, 1918), over 700 people died in Philadelphia alone. In the midst of this desperate situation, an inspiring response brought much solace. The Red Cross found there was a serious shortage of nurses, partly caused by the First World War. “Now it is a matter of life and death,” an official said.

### **Generous and Courageous Response.**

At this point, the archbishop of Philadelphia asked the Catholic Sisters to come out of their convents and care for the sick. Most of the Sisters had no medical training, and, living under the strict convent rules of the day, very little exposure to the world outside. Yet they signed up for medical service—twelve-hour shifts caring for the sick and the dying, many of whom were poor, and belonged to different races. The patients were dirty, and at times violent. In some homes, the Sisters found parents dead, and children crying. In the wards,

the call “Sister!” could be heard repeatedly. Many sisters felt deep fear at the start, since they had never treated the dying, but they put their heart into this service of the sick.

The Flu killed 12,000 people in Philadelphia alone. Twenty-three Sisters died from their exposure to the disease. The mayor said this about the service of the Sisters, “I have never seen a greater demonstration of real charity or self-sacrifice than has been given by the Sisters in their nursing of the sick, irrespective of the creed or colour of the victims, wherever the nuns were sent.”

The author notices that pandemics make people fearful and mistrustful. Some panic and attack others. Some blame particular groups. (This is happening, sadly, in different places, including India.) In the midst of such negativity, we need, as the article says, the type of loving dedication the Catholic nuns of Philadelphia demonstrated a century ago. “The Sisters’ quiet, determined selflessness is what is needed now, and what we will need more of in the weeks and months to come.”



The article, which appeared not in a Catholic publication, but in the world’s most influential secular newspaper, concludes: “One hundred years on, the work of the Sisters provides us a model to follow and aspire to in this uncommon time: one that presses us to look for ways to support our neighbours rather than shrinking from them, to acknowledge our fears but to find courage in the strength of our communities, and ultimately to put others before self.”

*(Published in MAGNET 45, May 2020)*

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**Message  
from  
OFM  
Conventuals  
on  
Good Friday**

**“STAY  
AT  
HOME”**



## SUORE MISSIONARIE DELLA CONSOLATA



### **Come il nostro Istituto Missionario vive l'emergenza del COVID-19**

Ci sentiamo in comunione con tutta l'umanità che vive questo momento di grande sofferenza. Ci uniamo a tanti fratelli e sorelle che lottano contro la malattia, che hanno perso i loro cari, che vivono i disagi dell'isolamento fisico per cercare di debellare il virus. Sono situazioni che noi viviamo in prima persona e sosteniamo con la preghiera che è la forza e la luce che permette di guardare al futuro con Speranza e abbandono nel Signore della Vita.

### **In Europa**

In Italia, il virus ha colpito due comunità, nei pressi di Torino, ora in quarantena, con sorelle positive al virus, in fase di miglioramento dopo alcuni giorni di degenza negli ospedali, alcune già dimesse, altre con sintomi lievi e anche asintomatiche. Piangiamo la scomparsa di due nostre sorelle vittime del virus.

In questo tempo della pandemia le sorelle malate hanno sperimentato profondamente, non solo a parole, ma nella concretezza della vita, cosa significa essere una famiglia. Ogni Sorella ha saputo donare il meglio di sé mettendosi a disposizione con generosità e dedizione. In ciascuna, poi, si è rafforzato il senso della

gratitudine, per i gesti di attenzione e consolazione ricevuti.

La *Casa generalizia*, situata in Italia, in provincia di Viterbo, è una casa che accoglie gli uffici generali a servizio di tutto l'Istituto. È una comunità intergenerazionale e interculturale con sorelle provenienti da tre continenti: Europa, Africa e America. Viviamo la situazione di emergenza con senso di responsabilità e di solidarietà rimanendo vicine alle persone e a chi soffre attraverso i mezzi di comunicazione e soprattutto attraverso la preghiera. Ci uniamo alle iniziative di preghiera di Papa Francesco, si prega il rosario del mercoledì sera in diretta della TV2000, adorazione eucaristica tutti i giorni della settimana, al pomeriggio.

La nostra Superiora generale, in qualità di infermiera, si è recata a Torino per aiutare nell'assistenza una comunità di sorelle anziane e malate colpita dal virus, rimasta senza l'ausilio del personale laico.

Nel *Noviziato internazionale* localizzato a Caprie (TO), si cerca di essere vicino, specialmente a chi è più solo, attraverso i mezzi di comunicazione. Animiamo nella nostra cappella la celebrazione della S. Messa quotidiana che attraverso Facebook e Youtube raggiunge moltissime famiglie. Abbiamo intensificato i tempi di preghiera e di adorazione, ci uniamo alle iniziative di

preghiera sia a livello diocesano sia a quello nazionale.

Nella comunità di *Castelnuovo don Bosco* (AT), all'ombra della casa natale del Nostro Fondatore, apriamo il nostro cuore e le nostre braccia al mondo intero, colpito dalla pandemia. Preghiamo affinché da questa sofferenza nasca una vita nuova. Ascoltiamo, amiamo, piangiamo, speriamo...nella preghiera e nel contatto con le nostre sorelle e con le diverse persone che possiamo avvicinare secondo le modalità stabilite.

### **In America**

In ogni Paese in cui siamo presenti nel Continente, colte di sorpresa dall'esigenza di isolamento sociale, necessità assoluta per frenare la pandemia, ci sentiamo *sorelle della nostra gente*, condividendo situazioni e realtà dei nostri Popoli. Le missionarie impegnate nelle scuole (Brasile, Colombia, Argentina) hanno unito mente e cuore agli sforzi di professori e maestri, elaborando le classi *on line*, per giungere alle famiglie degli alunni e continuare la missione educativa. Nelle Comunità di inserimento nei quartieri di periferia (Venezuela, Colombia, Brasile, Amazzonia, USA, Argentina, Bolivia) si intensifica la vicinanza (pur mantenendo la distanza richiesta) alle famiglie più bisognose, condividendo ciò che si ha per lenire tante necessità. Nelle case delle nostre Sorelle anziane e malate si intensifica la preghiera e l'offerta, in comunione con l'umanità e si condividono lavori, preoccupazioni e speranze. Le Sorelle presenti tra i Popoli Indigeni continuano la loro missione, isolate completamente. Per tutte noi è tempo di maggior riflessione, condivisione, preghiera e supplica di consolazione per tutti.

### **In Africa**

Anche se i casi aumentano, il virus ha una diffusione ancora contenuta nei Paesi dove siamo presenti, ossia in Kenya, Liberia, Tanzania, Mozambico, Guinea Bissau, Djibouti, Etiopia. Si seguono le norme sanitarie e di sicurezza indicate dai rispettivi Paesi. La malattia fa paura, e occorre prestare molta attenzione nei contatti sociali. Eppure questo tempo porta con sé una grazia nascosta. È

un'occasione per pregare di più, leggere, aggiornandosi sui cammini dell'Istituto, della Vita Consacrata, della Chiesa e del mondo, opportunità anche di scoprire i doni di ciascuna, di rafforzare la vita di comunione in comunità, le più forti incoraggiando le più deboli, offrendo una presenza rassicurante a chi ha più paura. Con la preghiera le sorelle del continente si appoggiano e sostengono le nostre sorelle più colpite in Italia e tutte le persone in tutto il mondo.

### **In Asia**

Siamo presenti in Mongolia, Kazakistan e Afghanistan. In questi luoghi, pur nel rispetto delle norme di isolamento sociale, in alcuni posti più restrittive e in altri di meno, le sorelle cercano di essere accanto alla gente prima di tutto con la preghiera, l'aiuto materiale e attraverso l'ascolto facendo uso dei mezzi di comunicazione, offrendo una parola di consolazione.

La Superiora generale in una delle sue periodiche comunicazioni sulla la situazione dell'Istituto nei riguardi dell'infezione da COVID-19, si rivolge così a noi tutte: "Nei diversi luoghi del mondo in cui viviamo la nostra missione, continuiamo a essere canali umili e trasparenti di Consolazione, e, nel rispetto delle norme sanitarie e di sicurezza indicate dai rispettivi Paesi, siamo solidali e vicine alla gente aiutando le persone a leggere i messaggi profondi di questa pandemia e scoprire, anche attraverso di essa, la chiamata e tornare a ciò che siamo, creature profondamente interconnesse tra noi e col resto del Creato, figlie amatissime di Dio Padre e Madre che con noi e in noi soffre, si ammala, muore e, attraversando e caricando su di Sé ogni dolore e infermità, semina in esse il germe della Luce, della Redenzione, della Resurrezione".

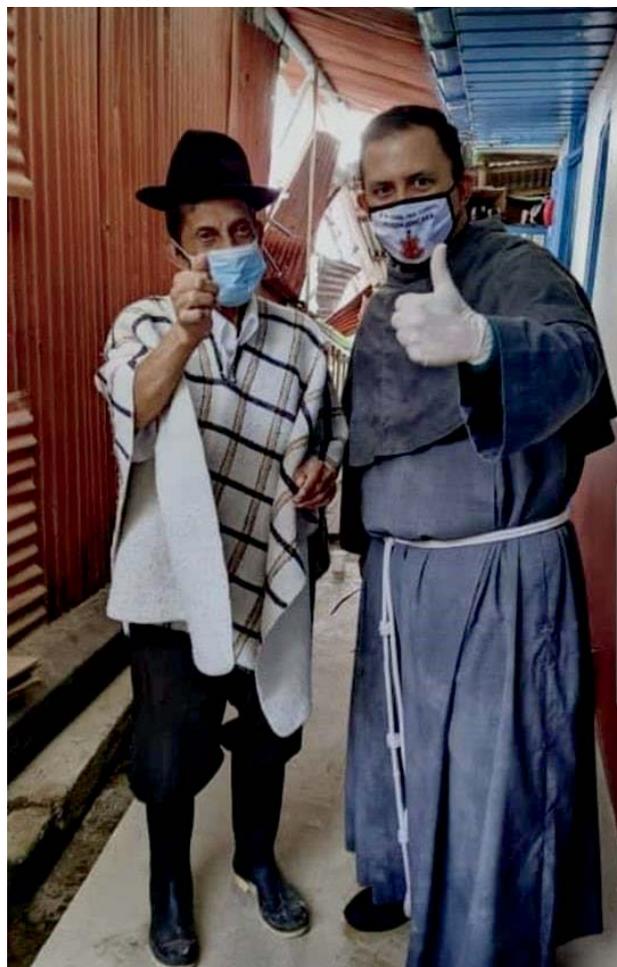


# ORDEN DE FRAILES MENORES CONVENTUALES

## Queridos amigos de...

*Todos los franciscanos somos misioneros a ejemplo del Pobre de Asís, en estos tiempos de COVID-19, los hermanos de la nuestra Orden de Frailes Menores Conventuales, siguen la propuesta del Evangelio (cfr. Mc 16,9-15) en la medida de las posibilidades que en cada lugar de misión se permiten, según las normas del gobierno y de la Iglesia, para el bien y la salud de la gente, tanto física como espiritual.*

En cuanto al cuidado físico, los hermanos no han frenado el trabajo caritativo, ayudando a las familias con menos recursos a no quedar sin alimentos o medicamentos. En cuanto al cuidado espiritual, por medio de las redes sociales como Facebook, Youtube y Twitter, se han publicado misas en directo, el rezo del rosario, meditaciones de la palabra, también a través de video conferencias se han dictado cursos, meditaciones del evangelio o simplemente el apoyo a aquellos que están solos.



El Espíritu Santo nos hace creativos, y en estos tiempos de cuarentena, es donde se ha visto mas que nunca la intervención del mismo. A todos aquellos que trabajan por el bien de los hermanos desde la Secretaria General de Animación Misionera (SGAM) les pedimos que no bajen los brazos, que no pierdan las esperanzas y les enviamos la bendición de Dios, que es amor, la protección de María que nos consuela, y el ejemplo de nuestro Padre San Francisco que nos da fuerza.

*Paz y bien.*

# SACRED HEART MISSIONARIES

*Our MSC Belgium Province continues to be affected by this pandemic.*

Br. Robert Ryckebusch, MSC (French MSC Province) was the first MSC who passed away due to COVID 19. Despite the sadness of this moment we thank God for the living missionary witness of Br. Robert. He spent many years in Senegal and was a deep presence in Issoudun, France. He was a member of the community in Marseille.

Also in these days three MSC Confreres from Belgium have passed away from this disease: Alfonso de Nijs, Edgard De Vlaminck and Jef Bosmans. We remember their dedication to the MSC mission in Congo and Brazil. This means that, up until now, we have lost four MSC confreres for this Pandemic that our world continues to face.

We are glad to hear that in Belgium Andre Claessens, Paul Verbruggen and René Van Looy are recovering well at home.

Three confrères in Spain have been able to recover from COVID 19: Manolo Barahona, Jose Ramon Gárate and Willy Mendez.



*MSC General Council cooking for community*



*MSC Philippines Province Covid 19 Outreach*

**From the MISSIONARIES OF THE SACRED HEART – USA PROVINCE**



**TO OUR HEALTH CARE WORKERS, FIRST RESPONDERS,  
AND THOSE WORKING IN ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES**

**THANK YOU ONE AND ALL**

**YOU ARE IN OUR PRAYERS EVERY DAY.**

## GOOD SHEPHERD SISTERS

### Chainpur – Jharkhand State

Harrowing visuals of migrant workers who were thrown out of their jobs and desperately trying to get home - attempting to walk impossible distances without food and money shook our collective conscience. There were 50 families being paid a meager sum of Rs. 10/- per day for their sustenance during this time of lockdown in the brick factories and construction sites. The rations of rice, pulses, vegetables and oil that we provided was a welcome blessing for them.



### Andheri – Mumbai.

Through Chalice sponsorship program we have advanced Rs. 4000/- from each child's account towards food supplies for 50 families. Further, we provided 25 families with food and hygiene kits and Rs. 1000/- to each of 5 families apart



from supporting some senior citizens with medicines. In partnership with *Mantra Foundation* and *Nirmal Niketan College of Social Work*, 200 food packets were given to senior citizen families at Goregaon, Mumbai. We also prepared 1500 food packets and distributed to the surrounding slum families in collaboration with *Prayas Ek Koshish*, a Gender equality and Human Rights Organization.

### Good Shepherd Provincialate – Nagpur

We responded immediately to the people who were stranded from neighboring states especially the construction workers. We connected them to NGOs, providing packed food and also distributed relief materials. We provided food grains and pulses to 100 families of unorganized workers like daily laborers, construction workers, vegetable and fruit vendors, domestic help and to the elderly people from our neighborhood.

### Sponsorship Program by CHALICE Canada

*CHALICE Canada* supports 1100 children for education through the sponsorship program and specially emphasize on health care of the child and his/her family. During this COVID-19 times, they have guided us to inform the staff to follow the guidelines of the Government and utilize the sponsorship money in the bank to purchase provisions for the family.

# SALESIAN FAMILY

On Saturday, 2 May 2020, the Salesian Family of Thailand which includes the *Salesians*, the *Daughters of Mary Help of Christians*, the *Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary*, the *Sisters of the Queenship of Mary*, the *Institute of the Daughters of the Queenship of Mary*, the *Association of Salesian Cooperators*, the *ADMA group and the Alumni* - these joined hands to prepare and give out 500 packages of food and other food items to the poor and the needy people living around the area of Phra Mae Marie School - Sathupradit. This school is located in the middle of Bangkok and the people around the area have been strongly affected by the pandemic Covid 19. The food packages came from each member group of the Salesian Family. The civil officials from the Yannawa District gave assistance by looking after the orderly distribution of the goods.



Fr. John Bosco Dheparat Pitisant, the provincial, said words of gratitude to the representatives of members of the Salesian Family: “to all the participating members, I would like to express our gratitude to all for helping alleviate the hardships of the people which is in line with the advice of His Holiness the Pope and the Rector Major who invite all to help the affected people in this pandemic. All of us in the Salesian Family cannot stay inactive and not empathise. Let us be the first to participate in extending help and may we have the heart sensitive to this situation we are presently facing.”

## SDB Haiti



*The five heroes that made all the masks*

## SDB India Bangalore

**BREADS & DON BOSCO YOUTH SERVICES PRESENT**

# CORONA BEATS

Corona Choreography  
Be Creative & Innovative

We send you a song  
You make it a dance or an action  
song and send us the video

**Who can participate?**

- Families
- Religious communities of men
- Religious communities of women

**Last date for submission**  
**May 9, 2020**

**Participate & Win exciting cash prizes**

Email your videos to :  
dbyskarnataka@gmail.com

or

WhatsApp your videos to:  
Mr.Eugine Paul: +91 8553837472  
Ms. Margaret: +91 9686641585

Contact:  
Fr.William: +91 9482447583

*Stay home, stay safe & have fun!*

**BREADS**  
Bangalore Rural Educational and Development Society

**BOSCO YOUTH KARNATAKA**

# RELIGIOUS OF THE SACRED HEART OF MARY

*In this time of tragedy, anxiety, and isolation, we share with you prayers for support and reflection, and some examples of ways our sisters are continuing their ministries during this critical time.*



## NURSING IN ZIM-BABWE, AFRICA

I am currently in Harare at Parirenyatwa group of hospitals doing nursing management and administration mid January to April. At this hospital we are only doing basic corona virus



screening for clients and staff. There is a hospital within Harare which has been designated for management of corona virus cases. No ventilators and we don't have the necessary protective clothing yet

[late March]. There is still a lot to be put in place. We still have long hours of load sharing, no running water etc. Very challenging to have this pandemic in the country which is already struggling economically. At the regional hospital in Chinhoyi, we had the first case of corona death and we are at risk though we try to be safe. We don't have adequate protective clothing right now. We have N95 masks and sanitizer. The country doesn't have much.

## FROM LISBON, PORTUGAL

Since we were called to stay home, very few things have changed in my life. Just the place and the way of working have changed. The work I used to do all day at the Catholic

University of Portugal now is all done through the internet at home: classes; personal monitoring of the students who are writing their thesis; the regular meetings of Research Center and the intensive work of the National Commission for a New Portuguese Translation of the Bible. In the beginning the students had some difficulty bring attentive, but now all is going very well. Most encouraging was to see the openness of the members of the Translation Commission, two senior biblical scholars and a senior specialist in Portuguese, who were always hesi-tant about working through the internet. They got the help they needed, and now they are very happy with this new achievement.



## EAST 93<sup>rd</sup> STREET, NEW YORK CITY

March 31, 2020: In these days of “staying in place” we have supported one another in daily prayer, preparing meals and celebrating the feast of St. Patrick with soda bread. We are continuing our work via Zoom e.g. UN meetings, RCIA class, Book Group, JPIC and teaching one another new aspects of zoom and computer, drawing, weaving. There are exercises every morning on the 3rd Floor corridor of our apartment building. Each night at 7:00 pm we hang out our window on the 14th floor with flashlights and clapping hands saying thanks to our doctors and nurses for their care. Even the NY Police joined us with their sirens.

## PRAYER AND SERVICE IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC

*There's time for everything.*

*There's time to look at the world with a different view.*

*There's time to ask yourself, how is my spiritual life? Have I had time to talk to God?*

*There is time to strengthen faith and trust in God's merciful love.*

*There's time to be with your family, enjoy your kids and love more.*

*There is time to smile, sing and see the beauty of life.*

*There is time to ask forgiveness and be forgiven.*

*There's time to call someone you haven't spoken to in so long.*

*There's time to say, You're special to me, I'm missing you, or even, I love you.*

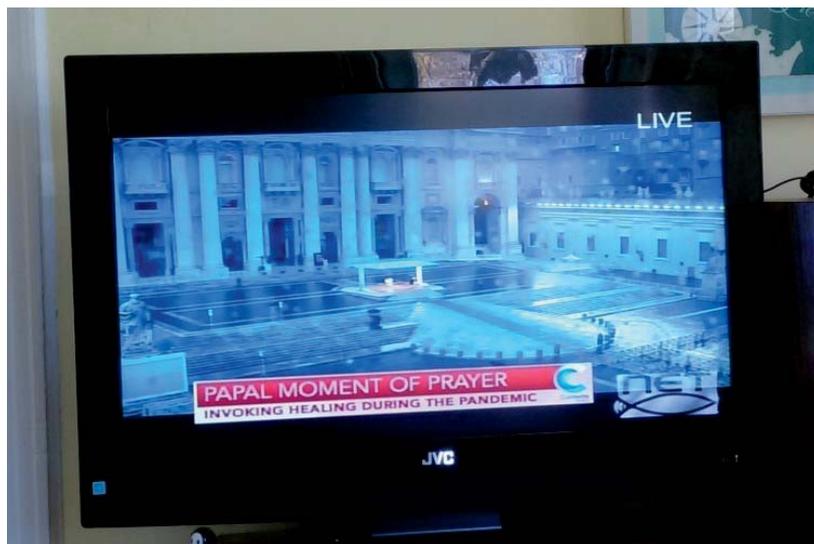
*There's time to tell someone: are you in need of anything? What can I do for you?*

*There is time to do differently, perhaps we had no time,  
or perhaps we prioritized other things and left aside what was most important before.*

*There is time to learn from the simplest things of everyday life.*

*There is time to learn from others what little we have to offer.*

*There is time to be grateful for all we have received from God.*



*Now it's time to look at what we're living in at the moment.*

*There are not rich and not poor,*

*we are all in the same boat suffering the same consequences.*

*And we can even wonder! What's all this about, what does God want from us?*

*What's happening is to review and reflect what we're actually doing in this world.*

*Are we building bridges of justice and solidarity?*

*May we return different and transformed with God's merciful love.*

*More human and supportive.*

*May God help us to have a renewed gaze and a burning heart  
that knows how to love without measure.*

(AN RSHM IN RIACHÃO DO JACUÍPE, BRAZIL)

## FIGLIE DI MARIA AUSILIATRICE

*L'Istituto delle FMA, diffuso nei cinque Continenti e in 97 Nazioni, ha sentito le ripercussioni della pandemia del Covid-19 in tutti i luoghi dove si trova, da un'estremità del mondo all'altra.*

In poco tempo ci si è trovate tutte coinvolte. È vero che i vari Stati hanno iniziato ad affrontare la situazione in tempi diversi e così la modalità di affrontare la situazione è diversificata, perché molto dipende anche dalle politiche e dalle risorse degli Stati.

Le risposte delle nostre comunità da una parte tengono conto delle direttive dei Governi, ma sempre hanno l'attenzione prioritaria alle persone in situazione di maggiore disagio (persone senza tetto, migranti, bambini della strada, donne sole, gente senza lavoro).

La situazione del Covid-19 colpisce tutti e non discrimina tra ricchi e poveri, però i poveri soffrono molto di più per la mancanza di sicurezza, di cure mediche, di protezione a tutti i livelli.

Pur con ritmi e modalità diverse nei vari Paesi, le FMA in quanto educatrici di giovani e di bambini/e, insegnanti di scuole, catechiste, incaricate di opere sociali e culturali, si sono trovate impedito nei loro spostamenti e soprattutto le attività educative di tutti i giorni improvvisamente interrotte. La stessa vita quotidiana è stata stravolta a cominciare dall'impossibilità di avere l'Eucaristia quotidiana, che per noi è il cuore della giornata. È come se l'Istituto, che ha un volto educativo, si fosse paralizzato poco a poco nel suo DNA più profondo: le case sempre rigurgitanti di bambini/e, ragazze/i, adolescenti e giovani si sono trovate vuote, silenziose, senza più le attività e le molteplici relazioni che intessono ogni giorno con le famiglie, il territorio, la parrocchia.

Fin dall'inizio si è preso consapevolezza che il contagio e le sue conseguenze potevano essere affrontati solo grazie alla **responsabilità di tutte le persone e di tutte le comunità.**

La Madre generale ha richiamato l'Istituto ad una grande solidarietà che ha trovato una corale responsabile risposta in tutte le comunità.

### RESPONSABILITÀ DELLA SOLIDARIETÀ

In quasi tutti i luoghi, per decisione ministeriale, sono chiuse le scuole e le università e non sono autorizzate le attività che raggiungono bambini, giovani adulti.

È ammirevole constatare la **creatività intelligente e solidale** che le comunità stanno esprimendo per raggiungere le/i giovani *on line*, per non lasciar mancare loro l'accompagnamento educativo e spirituale di cui hanno bisogno. Anche le comunità educanti sono vicine alle famiglie nelle forme a loro possibili.

Nelle difficoltà si è sviluppata dovunque una nuova creatività apostolica mossa dall'ardore del *da mihi animas cetera tolle*, insegnatoci da S. Giovanni Bosco e da S. Maria D. Mazzarello. In questo tempo di difficoltà si cerca dappertutto di essere coraggiose nell'aprire nuove vie di comunicazione valorizzando gli strumenti elettronici a disposizione. In futuro le comunità continueranno ad avvalersi di questa creatività.

### **Solidarietà a livello comunitario**

Questo tempo di restrizioni ci porta a stare di più in comunità e ci permette di rafforzare la fraternità, anche se la carità verso le sorelle chiede di rispettare la distanza fisica.

La Madre generale, in una sua circolare a tutte le sorelle, dell'11 marzo e del 6 aprile osserva con realismo che è possibile che in alcune comunità sorgano delle difficoltà per essere più tempo insieme, senza la giustificazione dell'apostolato. Per questo raccomanda: "Possiamo aiutarci a prendere coscienza del **valore della fraternità** come opportunità per crescere nella carità, per fare un cammino di conversione e di purificazione. Le difficoltà della vita comune sono normali, ma si possono sempre superare con la grazia del Signore.

Penso sia la stessa situazione che anche tante famiglie stanno vivendo in questo tempo, ma l'amore autentico è più forte di ogni difficoltà".

Nella condivisione tra le consorelle, è emerso che questa esperienza, pur nella sua durezza, fa riflettere sull'**importanza dell'unità vocazionale** da coltivare sempre in ogni situazione di vita. In un tempo in cui mancano le attività pastorali dirette, si rischia di sentire il vuoto, come se non facessimo nulla a livello apostolico. Questa situazione è un appello a verificare qual è il centro del nostro essere e della nostra missione come consacrate educatrici. Tutto nella vita religiosa parte dall'incontro personale con Gesù, che si esprime nella preghiera e nell'apertura alla comunità che ci invia in missione. La missione non si identifica con le attività, ma tocca il cuore delle persone appassionate per la salvezza dei giovani qualunque sia il lavoro che svolgono. L'unità vocazionale è il cammino di tutta la vita, e la pandemia che stiamo vivendo ci stimola a curare l'armonia tra il lavoro e la preghiera, le attività e le profonde motivazioni che le muovono, a vivere come ci chiede don Bosco: l'armonia tra Marta e Maria, la vita attiva e la contemplativa, senza alcuna dicotomia.

Dalla condivisione tra le consorelle emerge anche come riflessione e verifica **la necessità di ritornare all'essenziale**, di limitare ogni esigenza non necessaria; di rivedere se le nostre proposte pastorali puntano su ciò che vale di più per la vita e la maturazione umana e cristiana dei giovani, oppure se si limitano ad eventi, attività, incontri di massa. La pandemia, con i limiti che ci ha imposto, ci fa rivedere il **modo di stare con i giovani come presenza significativa e propositiva** che annuncia Gesù e li porta gradualmente ad incontrarlo e a testimoniare nel quotidiano.

Tutte sono consapevoli che non si può andare avanti senza prendersi dei tempi per questa necessaria e urgente riflessione che ha risvolti pastorali. Sarebbe assurdo aspettare che finisca la crisi per incominciare a pensare.

### ***Solidarietà a livello educativo e promozionale nel territorio***

In quasi tutte le comunità, sia che si trovino in piccoli paesi e soprattutto in grandi città, si è attivata una **grande catena di solidarietà** per andare incontro a famiglie bisognose, a donne sole con bambini, ad anziani e persone immigrate che si trovano in una grave necessità di cibo.

La Madre generale, nella sua lettera circolare dell'11 marzo 2020, aveva invitato tutto l'Istituto ad unire alla preghiera piccoli e quotidiani **gesti di carità fraterna e di solidarietà** fattiva. Questi diventano irradiazione di bene, canali di speranza, luce nelle tenebre. "Anche se siamo invitate ad essere prudenti, la solidarietà da parte nostra, e anche da parte dei/delle giovani verso coloro che sono nella necessità, è sempre un segno della Presenza di Dio che nel suo Amore non abbandona mai il suo Popolo che soffre".

Con creatività generosa, le FMA raccolgono e distribuiscono **generi alimentari** che ricevono da centri commerciali, negozi o da singoli benefattori, e preparano pacchi per chi ha bisogno. In genere sono i volontari che vanno a depositare i pacchi o le borse alla porta delle case, vigilando per mantenere la debita distanza.

In alcuni luoghi, dove le suore dispongono di un'auto o furgoncino, allora – sempre con l'aiuto dei giovani – vanno per le vie con il carico stracolmo di viveri, consegnano i pacchi alle famiglie, ma spesso anche **quaderni, libri, pennarelli per i bambini**, senza risparmiare parole di conforto e di speranza a chi è stato messo in ginocchio dalla crisi del coronavirus.

Le famiglie povere non hanno connessione internet e alcuna possibilità di tenere i contatti con la scuola.

Varie comunità hanno **elaborato sussidi, giochi, e celebrazioni** per la Settimana santa e la Pasqua in famiglia. La nostra Facoltà di Scienze dell'educazione "Auxilium" di Roma, grazie alla collaborazione di alcune docenti e studentesse del curriculum di Psicologia dell'educazione, ha ideato e realizzato un Video per i bambini dal Titolo: *Coronello, il virus*

*monello* per aiutarli ad elaborare la paura e ad affrontare la pandemia con più serenità.

In alcuni paesi, si è attivato il volontariato da parte di suore e di giovani per l'**accompagnamento telefonico** di giovani e anziani che hanno bisogno di parlare con qualcuno per condividere ansie e preoccupazioni.

In varie comunità si sono **messe a disposizione strutture e spazi** per le persone che hanno bisogno di quarantena, per il personale medico e infermieristico, per i migranti e altre persone senza fissa dimora.

A livello centrale, l'Ambito per la Pastorale giovanile ha organizzato tre incontri online "*Teniamo viva la speranza*" per le **Coordinatrici ispettoriali di pastorale** come spazio di ascolto, scambio di iniziative e condivisione del vissuto. Questo ha favorito la condivisione di tante iniziative, soprattutto di idee e di sussidi in diverse lingue. Si continuerà questo cammino di vicinanza alle Ispettorie attraverso le Coordinatrici di Pastorale giovanile.

Alcune FMA e comunità hanno **lanciato collette sul Sito** per raccogliere fondi a favore dei poveri, di chi è senza lavoro, di chi non ha risparmi o il sostegno della cassa integrazione.

Attraverso l'Economato generale si sono elaborati e sovvenzionati – in rete con vari Organismi di sviluppo - progetti di solidarietà chiamati "**Progetti emergenza Covid 19**" attraverso cui ottenere risorse per provvedere alimenti o beni di prima necessità per le famiglie, materiali sanitari per luoghi di missioni, mascherine o tute protettive per gli infermieri o i medici.

Varie comunità educanti, si sono indistricate a non abbandonare gli alunni/e delle scuole e le loro famiglie e hanno inventato **una forma di accompagnamento formativo a distanza**: ogni sera alle ore 21.00, attraverso lo skype o altre piattaforme virtuali, hanno raggiunto le famiglie per dare **la tradizionale "buona notte"** in uso nel nostro Istituto. È un incontro familiare in cui

si condivide, si dialoga, si comunicano contenuti educativi che alimentano la speranza e fanno crescere lo spirito di famiglia.

Anche le suore anziane si sono prenotate per tenere questi incontri molto graditi dalle famiglie. Alcuni genitori degli alunni hanno risposto con riconoscenza alle suore mandando messaggi in questo tono: "Grazie perché non ci dimenticate!", "Grazie, perché ci fate sentire famiglia che soffre e condivide". "Grazie perché con la vostra presenza sostenete la nostra speranza in questa dura prova".

Varie comunità di FMA sia in Italia che in altri paesi si sono messe a **produrre mascherine** da distribuire a ospedali, famiglie, personale medico o paramedico in alcuni luoghi privi di qualsiasi dispositivo di protezione.

È un gesto che contribuisce allo sviluppo di una cittadinanza attiva, solidale e responsabile e al tempo stesso dà la gioia di contribuire al bene comune sentendosi parte viva di una grande famiglia.

In altre comunità si sono organizzati **momenti di preghiera, di adorazione eucaristica, rosari, catechesi** on line. Si sono realizzati **esercizi spirituali on line** per i giovani. Si è constatato che molte famiglie e tanti giovani si sono collegati e hanno seguito volentieri questi momenti di spiritualità, tanto è vivo in tutti il bisogno di preghiera e di speranza.

È ammirevole constatare che i **giovani volontari/e** nelle varie parti del mondo sono riusciti ad organizzarsi in breve tempo e, nonostante la paura, la tensione, l'ansia che vivono alcuni, hanno accolto la sfida della solidarietà, lieti di poter servire ed aiutare anche in questo momento non privo di rischi. Si costata che i volontari in questo periodo sono a fianco delle famiglie, ma anche delle istituzioni, delle Regioni, dei Sindaci, della stessa protezione civile e soprattutto di tante persone povere, vulnerabili o segnate dalla malattia.

A CURA DELLA SEGRETERIA GENERALE DELL'ISTITUTO FMA

Roma, 24 aprile 2020

# MARIST FATHERS

*At the General House of the Society of Mary in Via Latina 22, Rome, there are two communities, each with its own particular programs: the Curia community and the Seminary community. Some important steps have helped and continue to help us to live this period of confinement:*

## 1. One Community

Here in Via Latina, the communities of the General Administration and the International Seminary have temporarily fused into one, in order to better manage the strict norms of hygiene and "social distancing" that these days demand. We are experiencing One Community. Indeed, since the beginning of the confinement, we have decided to come together for prayers and meal sharing. This sharing has helped us a lot to overcome solitude and the fear of isolation.

## 2. A Family

We have formed a virtual family together with our collaborators and people familiar with our Sunday Eucharistic celebrations. So we put the photos of each one of them in the chapel as a way of showing our closeness and opening our prayer to them.



## 3. Passion and Easter

We have lived two very special moments: Holy Week and Easter. Through these two moments we lived intimately our encounter with Jesus who died and rose again. We lived them in union with all Christians, especially those who did not have the chance to experience these strong moments of the Church. From our terrace the brothers performed Easter songs on Resurrection Sunday and Easter Monday. Thus our neighbors were able to live with us this Easter joy.

## 4. Eucharistic Adoration

The day of prayer and fasting proposed for the diocese of Rome was also lived as a day of Eucharistic adoration. We took turns in adoration throughout the day. It was very important and significant for us.

## 5. Dialogue

We received a guide for psychological care in this time of pandemic in different languages. The guide was produced by the team of the Jesuit University of Comillas (Madrid). The guide offers very interesting reflections on personal and community life, prayers and relationships with the outside world. In small groups, sometimes linguistic, we exchange on these different themes. It also allowed us to share our fears and hopes.

## 6. Messages of Support and Hope

We sent a short video message of happy Easter to the whole Marianist family throughout the world and to our relatives and families. In return, they also sent us videos full of hope. It brought us so much closer together.

Finally, let us look at the new world that is on the horizon and that so many people are calling upon with all their heart. Let us be ready to work for its growth so that afterwards it will not be just a return to "business as usual", without hope. May today's sufferings not remain without fruit and may contribute to this rebirth.

The communities of Via Latina 22 send you their sincere greetings filled with great fraternity and fraternal Love, assuring you of their fervent prayer for the good health of all the members of SEDOS, of the entire Christian Family, and of those with whom we work.

**THE RESURRECTION ASSURES US  
OF GOD'S VICTORY!**

(Bro. Frederic Bini, SM)

# MEDICAL MISSION SISTERS

## Ghana

Holy Family Hospital in Techiman, Ghana, where several Medical Mission Sisters currently work, has formed a COVID-19-Response Team, which is leading the effort to prevent the spread of the virus in their area, whether through public education or by raising awareness, using all available means. The sister pharmacist at the hospital, Sister Rita Amponsaa-Owusu, heads a team, making and packaging a continuous supply of hand sanitizer for use by hospital staff and they sell it, basically at cost, to others in the local community.



## The Philippines

In the Philippines, there is a growing concern for the well-being and safety of medical and healthcare workers in the frontline of this pandemic. Every Saturday, Medical Mission Sisters prepare and deliver healthy snacks of meals for the health staff at the Lung Centre of the Philippines in Quezon City - one of the country's first testing centres. They also respond to other requests for food assistance, whether among urban poor communities in Manila or four Lumad (indigenous) communities in Quezon



## Peru

In Peru, the sisters and some Associates participate in an inter-congregational work of delivering donated food to the most needy - by foot! This includes families of children with disabilities to ensure that no-one is left behind.

### St Catherine of Siena

*It is not the hour to seek one's self for one's self, nor to flee pains in order to possess consolations; nay, it is the hour to lose one's self.*



# LES FILLES DE LA SAGESSE

*À l'heure du Covid19, où tant de besoins se sont fait sentir, les Filles de la Sagesse dans les différentes Entités répondent aux situations avec créativité et audace.*

## 1 - Soutien fraternel dans les communautés

En Italie – Communauté de San Remo



A Tournai en Belgique



A la Maison-Mère - St Laurent – France par les sœurs de l'Année Sagesse pour quelques-unes de nos sœurs aînées



## 2 - A plusieurs endroits, des masques ont été confectionnés



En Indonésie (Florés, Poco) en collaboration avec le centre public de santé à proximité de la communauté.

## Pour le personnel de différentes maisons de retraite:

En France, à l'île d'Oléron pour l'Etablissement «Oléron Sagesse»



A Ottawa - Canada pour la maison Accueil Sagesse où plusieurs congrégations sont représentées



Aux Etats-Unis pour la maison de « Sound Beach » communauté pour nos sœurs aînées



## Pour les membres de nos communautés: A la maison générale à Paris

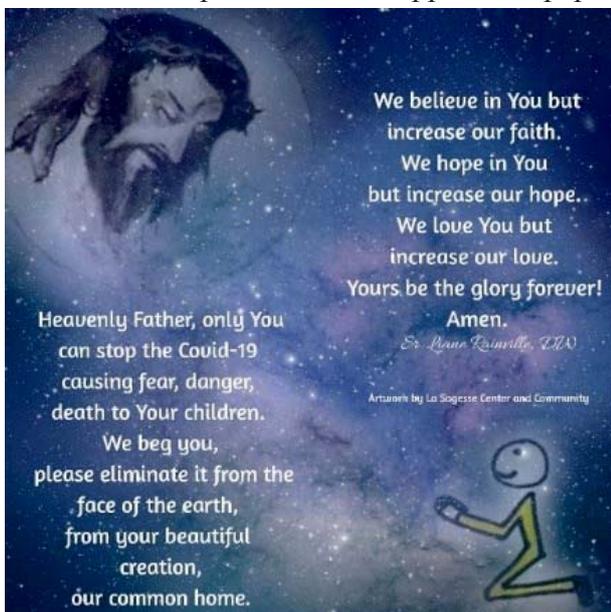


Au pré-noviciat (Kinshasa-Congo)



3 - Soutien spirituel ont été fabriquées

En Grande-Bretagne: des boites avec une croix;  
Des cartes de prière aux Philippine en papier



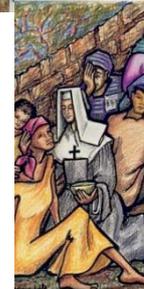
recyclé,

et une petite bougie de prière pour les malades de «University Hospital Southampton»



### Distribution de nourriture

Repas pour le personnel soignant à Manille - Philippines



TO OUR HEROES,  
WE ARE UNITED WITH YOU IN PRAYERS ❤️  
"I trust that God will sustain me since i am doing His will."  
Blessed Marie Louise of Jesus  
Maraming Salamat sa Pagmamahal!



Nourriture pour la population à Cebu – Philippines

En Inde à Bangalore nourriture pour des familles pauvres (travailleurs domestiques, travailleurs migrants, petits vendeurs de rue...) en lien avec le diocèse et avec l'ONG Dream India Network.



#### 4 - Services de santé

Distribution de masques, de savon et de nourriture à Madagascar



Programme de sensibilisation des populations au Malawi



Poursuite du service de santé face au Covid 19 à Kiunga – Papouasie Nouvelle Guinée



#### 5 - Solidarité dans la paroisse

de Huntington Station à New-York – Etats-Unis



#### 6 – Sensibilisation à travers un chant: le noviciat Francophone Clamart France

*Ensemble agissons*

*Habitants du monde il est temps*

*Dans l'unité combattons*

*Engageons-nous tous et arrêtons COVID19*

1. Ne laisse pas faiblir ton courage  
Ne laisse pas sombrer ton sourire  
Ne laisse pas non plus briser ton espérance
2. Rappelons-nous de 1918  
Et de 50 millions de morts en l'année  
Nous avons intérêt à nous mobiliser
3. Si nous restons vraiment dans nos maisons  
Et pratiquons les simples mesures d'hygiène  
Ajoutons un petit temps de prière par jour  
Habitant du monde il est temps  
Dans l'unité combattons

*(Paroles et Musique de Patience Bolunda Fille de la Sagesse Interprétation:*

*Le Noviciat Francophone ©*

*Une production des Filles de la Sagesse)*

Présenté sur le site international  
de la Congrégation:

<https://www.fdlisagesse.org/ensemble-agissons/>

## COMBONI FAMILY

*Dialogue with Father Tesfaye Tadesse Gebresilasie, Superior General of MCJJ and new President of SEDOS:*

**How is your experience as Religious and Missionary Community of COVID-19 epidemic?**

Yes, as a sharing of experience, I can say that the first thing we did as General Council in March was to write to the whole Institute recommending that all Comboni Missionaries avoid unnecessary traveling, so as not to be infected or contribute to the spread of the virus. Then we informed that in the coming months, the members of the GC will not make any visits and all visits scheduled during the coming weeks are cancelled and that they will be rescheduled after normality is restored.

We invited the confreres to accept this situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, with much faith and hope and as a call from God to become more and more Missionaries; who are increasingly committed to communicate with their lives; hope and confidence in God's protection. We are once again sent as missionaries, who are invited to share serenity, hope and renewed impetus for the mission entrusted to us. The Coronavirus pandemic has claimed and is still claiming many victims in almost every country in the world.

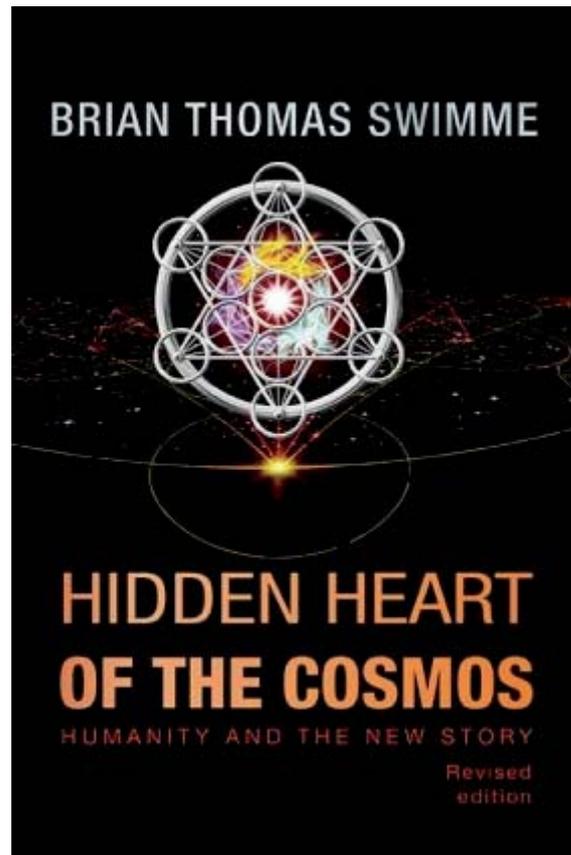
We too, as Combonian Missionaries and as Comboni Family, have been severely affected by this pandemic with many confreres between Italy and Spain and many Comboni Missionary Sisters in Italy who died with and without coronavirus. With our Combonian missionary Sisters, we had great experience of mutual comfort and reciprocal solidarity.

In our particular and special moments of prayer for the situation of suffering caused by coronavirus, like the Daily Adoration, the prayer of the Holy Rosary, we think of all those

who suffer and who are still under the threat of the virus and we accompany them with our prayers.

We thank the Lord with all those who have been healed and are totally recovered from this infection. We have learned much from the generosity of many doctors, nurses, medical personnel, politicians and volunteers, who have sacrificed themselves at the service of the people; like many priests, religious men and women and lay people. I send you the copy of our a message we wrote together with the General Council of the Comboni Missionary Sisters, some weeks ago and our last Easter Message in this moment of coronavirus.

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(Gift from ORBIS Books to SEDOS Library)

# CONGREGATION OF JESUS MARY JOSEPH

*We, the sisters of CJMJ, are glad to share with you our hope-filled experiences of working with the marginalized sections of the society at this time of uncertainty and grief where the Global Pandemic is devastating the whole world. Sisters of the Congregation of JMJ in India are totally involved in serving the poor and the marginalised in interior hamlets and villages during this Lockdown due to COVID-19.*



The unprecedented lockdown, the world's largest - is wreaking havoc on India, has stung millions of poor in country, leaving many hungry and jobless like tribal indigenous people, migrant labourers, rickshaw pullers, itinerant produce peddlers, maids, parentless children, day labourers and other informal workers who form the backbone of the Indian economy. While many of us are at the comfort of our homes during this lockdown, there are also many people who aren't as fortunate. There are people out there who don't have a roof above their heads and can't afford freshly cooked meals even once a day; their earnings have taken a massive drop and this lockdown has ended up being a very stressful time for them.

But here's where you and I can make a difference and bring a smile on their faces during this trying time. "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (*Matthew 25:40*). In the evening of our lives we will be examined in love- love expressed in deeds. Empowered by the message of the Lord and carrying the very essence of serviced in our hearts, we have undertaken the task of reaching

out to the poor and needy by distributing ration in the surrounding areas of Bangalore (Karnataka), Guntur (Andhra Pradesh), Odisha, Tamilnadu, Hyderabad (Telangana), Raipur (Chhattisgarh) and other parts of the mission countries like Rome, Belgium and New Mexico, USA. To these people of God, we the sisters of JMJ bring solace – by and reaching out to them conducting health and awareness camps, distributing medical kits, offering counselling, extending financial assistance and sharing with them the provisions (rice, dal, oil, vegetables and other provisions ) which can support for their livelihood during these days of social distancing, thus, giving hundreds of families a ray of hope. Most of these families are deprived of Government aid during this difficult time.

## Bangalore Province

Sisters with all the precautions went themselves and distributed food packets. We are saddened to witness the situations of the people just waiting for someone to reach out to them and give them food to eat. The hungry children stretch out their hands and pleading for food, people staying on the pavements seek safety and security to protect themselves from this threatening pandemic.

Our sisters from each community extended their support to those people by

dispensing foodstuffs, medicines and other essentials to the poor from the remote

villages who are deprived of their daily wages. JMJ sisters are collaborating with central and the local governments by generously extending all their resources in terms of space, infrastructure, buildings and hospitals etc. for the prevention and treatment of this global pandemic.



## Guntur Province

The JMJ sisters of Guntur Province through its Social Apostolate-JMJ Social Service Society obtained special permission from the District collector, wherein they were issued COVID-19 pass for the Distribution from District Civil Supplies, Guntur District. In the same way, the sisters extended complete oneness with the affected in Odisha, Tamilnadu and other parts of Andhra Pradesh providing necessities of life in the interior villages.

Following were the responses towards Covid-19

- Created awareness on Social Distancing
- Maintain cleanliness and their surroundings
- Distribution of dry provisions-Rice, Dal and Cooking Oil
- Distribution of Masks
- One meal in collaboration with local sources for their life to move on in the lockdown days.

## Hyderabad Province



The twin year 2020 Lenten journey was very unusual. The unexpected news of pandemic corona virus

across the globe filled our hearts with the news of sickness, fear, stress, tension, death, disaster and uncertainty of life etc...

The sisters of Hyderabad Province (Telangana, Medak and other parts of our service) reached the unreached hungry families of slums, migrants and refugees etc., They have distributed groceries like rice, dhal, vegetables etc... now we understand the pain and sorrow of the needy deeper. They feel fortunate to share the social responsibility for the society at large.

## Raipur Province



As the whole world is under Lockdown trying to slowdown the COVID-19 pandemic spread, the CJMJ Sisters

of Raipur Province, in collaboration with the government and other social sectors, NGOs, Educational Institutions reached out to the class four employees, ward helpers and the other housekeeping staff, those vulnerable to acquire the infections during their duty hours etc., we distributed masks stitched by us and other necessities to those around our communities and work places.



They reached out to the people in Jarway Basthi - the stone cutters, Sarona Slum, Tendua Village, Hasda village. In collaboration with KFHB (Kuch Farz Hamara Bhi) NGO and Education department of Chhattisgarh extended help to the surrounding places of Tatibandh colony, Factory workers in BALAJI company, Chandinidih slum etc...

## JMJ Sisters on march ....

- ❖ To explore the possibilities for expanding the frontier mission in order to support the poor and the marginalized in rural areas of India by the JMJ Indian Provinces: Bangalore, Guntur, Hyderabad and Raipur.
- ❖ To support the poor and COVID-19 affected in Ghana, West Africa.
- ❖ To extend help through – Youth Initiatives of Talitha Cumi from KU Leuven, University, Belgium, with a vision to reach out 10000 families: rural / migrant workers, slum residents etc., through emotional / spiritual / material support.

*“Like the Apostles of long ago, so we, the JMJ sisters today are sent to administer Mercy to the poor and needy...”*

*(Congr. Document: Sent by the Lord page 14)*

# DMI SISTERS

## Update on COVID 19 Preparedness and Emergency Response DMI – South Sudan P-163-2020-001

### 1. Planning and Coordination

The COVID-19 preparedness and emergency response desk under the leadership of Sr. Lisa prepared the ground and the core team to launch the initiative. IEC materials were prepared as per government guidance and the team quickly ensured its availability for distribution. The planning meeting enabled the core team to accelerate the execution.

The intervention areas are divided into three zones – the Zone-1 consist of UN camps (PoC-1 and PoC-3), Zone-2 includes Mangateen, Rock city and Mauna and Zone-3 comprise of Kapuri, Joppa, Jopari, Lemangapa and Sukzante. For each zones, we have appointed a coordinator to prime move the execution namely Mr. Joseph for Zone-1, Mr. Tony for Zone-2 and Mr. Isaiah for Zone-3. Since we have been implementing the program in the selected locations and have established good rapport, it was easy for us to select the frontline volunteers. The selected volunteers implement the program with the support of field staff – barefoot doctors and teachers.



### 2. Our engagement with key stakeholders

Sr. Lisa and her core team met key stakeholders and explained about the COVID-19 emergency response plan and obtained permission from the ministry of health, ACTED-UN camp coordination, camp manager and village leaders. Ministry of Health initiated a public sensitization program in PoC-3 and overall IDP's movement is restricted. Youth and children stopped playing football and camp manager also advised to avoid public gathering. So far COVID-19 high-level country task force has confirmed four cases and the government is pondering seriously to introduce lockdown to restrict the movements further.

### 3. Summary of Main Events

On 15th of April, the emergency response team commenced execution by reaching out to zone - 1 ( UN camps – PoC-1 and PoC-3)

#### 3.1. Capacity Building

On priority, the core team-oriented the frontline volunteers and staff team of UN camps about COVID-19, transmission mode, early symptoms and prevention methods. The team members were sensitized and explained about the IEC materials content and effective use of hand wash. Planning exercise with the frontline team helped in allotting families and ensuring family coverage for home visits to facilitate counselling, best practices and behaviour change. Necessary protections were provided

for the frontline team such as – hand gloves, mask and sanitizer.

### 3.2. Coronavirus SMS short public awareness messages

We just finalized the short SMS messages and planning to disseminate the messages through MTN mobile internet services. We have initiated to negotiate with MTN mobile company to send bulk SMS messages monthly. Finalized SMS messages -

- Take simple steps to stop the spread of COVID-19 – regularly wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap. DMI – Juba –South Sudan.
- Together we prevent COVID-19 by practising - social distancing, limit public gathering and staying at home. DMI –Juba- South Sudan.
- To prevent the spread of COVID-19 - avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth. Keep yourself and your environment clean. DMI –Juba –South Sudan.



*A young girl from South Sudan learning how to properly wash hands to avoid infection by Covid 19*

### 3.3.Sensitization through IEC materials

With the help of volunteers and local leaders identified prime locations to display banners. Even though, there are nine zones in PoC-3, we focus our interventions at F, H and I zones. Placed 30 banners at prime locations – front gate of UN camp, schools, shops, youth clubs, and drinking water collection point etc.. Volunteers distributed pamphlets during home visit and sensitized 923 members on the importance of hygiene, hand wash, need of behaviour change etc. Overall we were able to reach out in sensitizing 2800 members through using IEC materials. Volunteers and staff team played key role in explaining the content in the banner and pamphlets.

### 3.4. Hand Wash and Sanitation Facilities

At prime seven locations, we placed hand wash facilities with the help of volunteers. The volunteers provide orientation on the importance of washing hands a minimum of 20 seconds. Volunteers ensure availability of water; soap and sanitizer at hand wash locations. Volunteers also influence beneficiaries to practice hand wash at home. On the first day, 745 members availed hand wash facilities at seven locations.

### 4. Conclusion

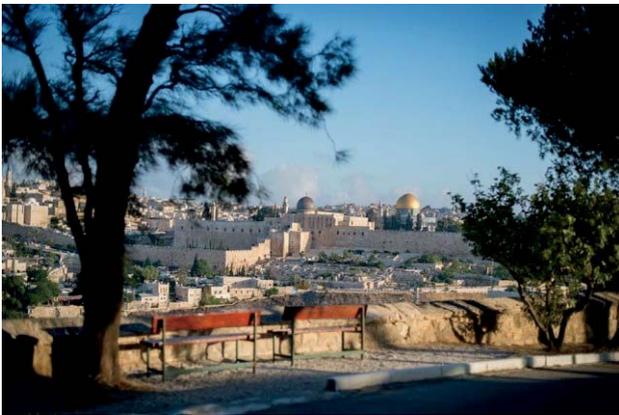
In the coming days, we would intensify our emergency responses in reaching out to all 10 locations. We were the first one to kick start the COVID-19 emergency response initiative. We would also use mobile phone to provide orientation for volunteers and extend all possible virtual support to execute the program as per the plan.

# DOMINICAN SISTERS OF CHARITY OF THE PRESENTATION

*Our Congregation deals with COVID-19 in:*

## Jerusalem

House of Abraham conducted a moment of inter-religious online prayer in our house in Jerusalem- ON TUESDAY, 03/31/2020 for Believers of all religions, to pray for a worldwide increase in solidarity, compassion and tenderness for the most vulnerable in the face of the pandemic.



[\(https://www.facebook.com/events/235889757797258/\)](https://www.facebook.com/events/235889757797258/)

## Spain – Mallorca

The association “ENCOUNTER PROJECT”, is formed by a group of volunteers, catholic lay people and some Sisters of Mallorca, to care for the homeless. There are many people who take refuge under the bridges, in the porticos of the buildings, lying on the benches in public squares or finding places to spend the night, seeking shelter from cold and withstand the weather conditions. Every Tuesday nights, the volunteers come to the meeting in a square in Palma, after prayer we divide into small groups. Each group is assigned to a sector of the city where we know there are homeless: **we bring them some dinner, we talk to them, we create links of friendship and closeness** and we discover their sufferings of rejection, loneliness and illness.

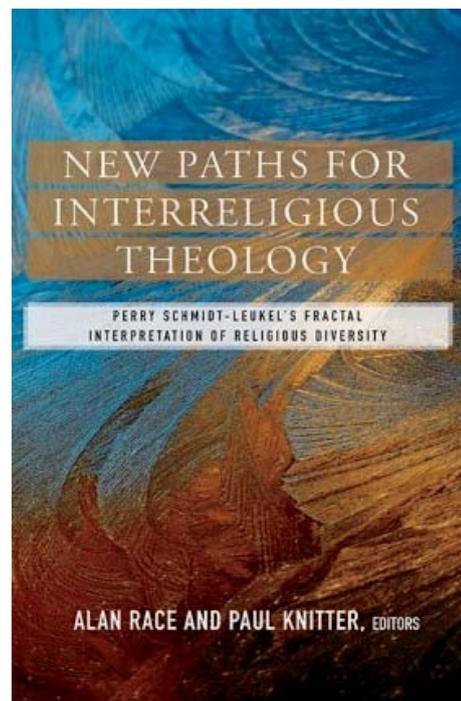
## India – Bangalore

In collaboration with some private agencies we **distribute 300 food packets daily to the poor** in the slums near and far, with special permission from the police department and taking necessary precautions. We also distribute food kits to women in the Self-Help Groups.

As regards to the great need for self-protection and the scarcity of masks in different places, sisters in Bangalore, Dhulkot and Paruthiyoor are **making masks** and are distributing to the people around.

In Paruthiyoor, one of our sisters offer online **counselling** services to people in need. In Dhulkot, our sisters offer awareness classes to the people around.

During this time of enormous needs generated by this crisis, we have been able to find new forms of response as we live the mystery of death and hope for a new life in the Risen Lord for all our brothers and sisters.



(Gift from ORBIS Books to SEDOS Library)

## Covid-19 and the Season of Lent 2020

*As the world comes to grips with the new reality of the coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19), medical experts remind us of the seriousness of this pandemic which has affected and spread to all 7 continents.*

They give us useful medical advices as to how to contain the virus like: washing of hands carefully, practicing hygiene, putting on face masks, social and physical distancing, lock down, self-isolation or self-quarantine, reminding all of us that the virus does not discriminate on whoever we are: rich or poor, young or old, male or female, celebrities or simple man on the street, healthy or sickly, white or black or brown or yellow, Catholic, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist or Hindu, professor or students, doctor, nurse, therapist or patient, priest or religious or laypeople, etc. We are all together in this.

As for the Church of Indonesia during this time of pandemic, in general the Church follows the advisory precautions issued by the national government. Since March 15, all the Catholic Churches in Indonesia, following the “social and physical distancing” advice, had been told to suspend all daily and weekly Masses including the Holy Week Services 2020. Priests may privately celebrate Mass without the faithful. However, there are some Protestant and especially sectarian denominations who do not heed the advice from the national and local governments. One Minister on a Sunday morning have conducted the usual services with 800 people attending. Of those who attended some 100 were infected and had to be quarantined for 14 days in their respective homes. For the first time in my lifetime – and I hope it will never happen again, the Holy Week Services are not attended by the faithful. For the Holy Thursday Services, there will be no

Washing of the Feet, for Good Friday there will be no kissing of the Cross, and Holy Saturday no celebration of the Easter Vigil. However, the catholic faithful are encouraged to follow the Holy Week Services by live streaming. In almost all the dioceses in Indonesia, live-streaming is used.

As we journey more deeply into this season of Lent within the context of the pandemic 19, God is calling modern man/woman to stop and pause for a while, reflect and return to God, their Creator. And the season of Lent is the right time for this to prepare for Easter, the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus

Christ, through true repentance and conversion of hearts and minds – the return to God. Is it merely coincidence that coronavirus happens during the season of Lent? I don't think so. God must have a purpose. God does not allow evil to happen in this world and humankind without a purpose. In my reflection humankind has



become increasingly advanced in technology and sciences, thus becoming more and more secular, putting God aside from the world stage. In other words, human beings are becoming in control of the world and the life of modern men and women to the point of disregarding His place in the world. They have long been running the world without God. They are becoming more and more intelligent and powerful so as to be able to conquer the moon and in not so distant future the planet Mars. Cosmonauts and astronauts have already encircled the outer space – which positively speaking is a wonderful fit of human being and science, but only to return to earth with a conclusion that, like the Russian first cosmonaut, Yuri Gagarin, who pierced – so to speak -- the outer space, said, “there is no God!” He said this because he did not see God

in space nor did he successfully put God in his tube. Which reminds me of the sin of pride by our first parents, Adam and Eve. They submitted to the enticement of the devil to eat the fruit which God had forbidden. They wanted to become like God and independent from God. The consequence of their action was they were banished from Paradise and from then on to suffer and die. But God in His mercy and compassion had promised them that He would send a Savior. Likewise, in the story of the Tower of Babel. People at that time tried to compete with God by building the Tower that would reach beyond the heavens. But God confused them with their language and thus the building of the Tower was a total fiasco. That was the end of the competition.

Furthermore, human beings are becoming so bright and smart that they can make nuclear weapons. Although they rationalize the creation of them as a means to self-preservation, nevertheless it is meant as well to destroy lives and defeat the potential enemies and so to conquer lands and expand their control. As it is being proven in the previous World Wars and now in the Middle East and in some parts of the world, the use of those deadly weapons has killed millions of innocent civilians and turned those otherwise beautiful countries into ashes. Greedy rich people and corporations have long been cutting or burning forests in many parts of the world especially the developing countries so as not only divesting the country and populations of their much-needed oxygen and livelihood, but causing as well erosion and the destruction of God given nature. The air we breathe is being poisoned by too much gas in the atmosphere. Climate change is slowly but surely destroying nature and some world leaders are insisting that it is merely “fake”.

What otherwise clean and crystal clear waters in the rivers, seas and oceans have long been polluted, consequence of which is that many people drink polluted water and cause terrible sickness. Unethical doctors, governments, parliaments and unscrupulous judges approve abortion for so-called human right and for political reason, allowing the killing of innocent lives of human beings in the womb of the mothers, thus breaching God’s commandment “*Thou shall not kill.*” The same is true with

those in power approving same sex marriage, justifying it as human right of individuals, thus again breaking the divine teaching of God: the sacredness of marriage, “*what God has joined together, let no man put asunder.*”(Gen.19,6). Despite the constant appeals made by the United Nations to stop the wars or respect the ceasefires by warring parties, and the futility and meaninglessness of killing innocent men, women and children, some leaders turn a deaf ear and insists on executing their murderous plans to wipe up the enemy, thus resulting in the unprecedented loss of lives and millions of refugees running away from their country, risking their lives to seek asylum in other countries. While at the beginning of the first waves of refugees coming into the “new countries” some world leaders opened their countries for humanitarian reason, but, unfortunately and sadly, many, including those leaders who had opened their borders previously, have also followed the policies of the other leaders who chose to close their borders. Hence, innumerable refugees were and still stranded and left in the mercy of the United Nations to send the much-needed aid necessary for the continuance of the life of those refugees. On the other hand, hate speeches from some government leaders themselves continue to provoke some people to do just what has been advocated by their leaders thus re-emerging the evil spirit of racism among the citizens. On the other hand, while some billionaires or millionaires try to help the poor and the down trodden and a number of institutions that work for peace and justice and especially to provide necessary medical instruments like ventilators and protective gears, nevertheless there still remain some rich and the powerful politicians and ambitious leaders who remain selfish, thinking only of their own interests and their business so that the rich become richer while the poor become poorer, hence widening the gap between the rich and the poor in the world. In some parts of the world, the right of people to worship is being breached, while in some country, Moslems are not being treated as legal citizens of the country they have come to love so much. Lastly, today as never before truth is relativized. Truth is said to be fake, and the fake is said to be the norm and the truth. Indeed, a

complete reversal of reality. Sad to say, many people are confused and if they are not careful, they will wrongly support the lies that are spreading in the social media.

All these, to name just a few evils that modern man/woman has been committing and continue to commit, contribute to the destruction of the world and of human life. And so, God allows this “angel of death” which does not discriminate on whoever we are: rich or poor, young or old, male or female, celebrities or simple man on the street, healthy or sickly, white or black or brown or yellow, catholic, Christian, Islam, Buddhist or Hindu, professor or students, doctor, nurse, therapist or patient, priest or religious or laypeople, etc. We are all together in this.



(Credit: Getty Images)

In the Christian world, Lent is given to us to prepare for Easter, the Lord’s Resurrection. It is the time to prepare catechumens for baptism. But Lent is also a time of conversion, of doing penance for the sins of humankind. Lent ushered in on Ash Wednesday, beginning with the rubbing of ashes on the forehead, a powerful symbol to remind Christians and modern man/woman of the true meaning of life and where he/she is going. The readings, especially the *Gospel of Matthew*, remind us of the teachings of Jesus Christ specifically of the three pillars of conversion, namely Prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Prayer, which invites us all to return to God, who is the source and meaning of human life and the world. is a call to return to Him who is God and to acknowledge Him as Creator, thus putting Him, not man who is a mere creature, in His proper place in the world. He is not at the periphery of our life nor is He unconcerned

with the sufferings of His children, but right in the middle of the human kind’s hopes and fears, joys and sadness, struggles and challenges. He is the one in control, and not the coronavirus. Lent is a time for us to pray in the depths of our heart in order to connect with Him lest modern man/woman completely abandons Him. They may abandon Him, but God in his loving mercy and compassion will never abandon His people. Lent is also a time for fasting not only from food and drink, but also and especially from sin. It is a call to discipline our selfish desires and urges, and be in solidarity with millions of people in the world who go hungry. Lent is a time also for almsgiving, to think not only of ourselves but also of other people especially the poor and the downtrodden, the afflicted and the sick, the hungry and the thirsty, those who need our support, to do justice to many people who are mistreated, persecuted and millions of suffering humanity in this world. These are the three pillars by which not only Christians but also those who are touched by Jesus teachings can do.

The Feast of Passover which has its roots in the Old Testament is commemorated and celebrated by the Jewish people as part of their long-standing tradition which dates back in the time of the Exodus. God in His loving care for His suffering people in the hands of the iron-handed Pharaohs had seen this event unfolding. He intervened and one day appeared to Moses and Aaron as we read in the Book of Exodus (Ex. 12:1 – 8:11-14.) which here I quote only the pertinent passage:

*“This is how you are to eat it: with your loins girded, sandals on your feet and your staff in hand, you shall eat like those who are in flight. It is the Passover of the Lord. For on this same night I will go through Egypt, striking down every firstborn of the land, both man and beast, and executing judgement on all the gods of Egypt – I, the Lord! But the blood will mark the houses where you are. Seeing the blood, I will pass over you, thus, when I strike the land of Egypt, no destructive blow will come upon you. This day shall be a memorial feast for you, which all your generations shall celebrate with pilgrimage to the Lord, as a perpetual institution.”*

In connection with the coronavirus pandemic currently plaguing the world, the angel of death is still hovering around the world. The world (i.e. human kind) is suffering and is being called to share in the sufferings and death of Jesus on the Cross. But just as the angel of death is still hovering over the world, human kind is finally putting their hopes and expectations to God and/or the Divine Being that this angel of death may finally pass over the face of the earth and let the angel of life and light instead make an impact. When that happens, then that will be our true Passover – the feast of Easter, of the Lord’s Resurrection. The blood of the lamb in the Old Testament points to the blood of Jesus Christ on the Cross. It is His blood that would save humankind from the darkness of sin. His blood is truly life-giving. In the Eucharist, we are invited to partake of His Body and Blood as spiritual food for our pilgrimage on the way to heaven, our true home.

In the Christian liturgy, this Passover feast which we commemorate and celebrate beginning on Holy Thursday until the eve of Easter, Jesus has made two significant actions: i.e. the Lord washing the feet of His apostles and changing the bread and the wine into His Sacred Body and Blood thus, instituting the Holy Eucharist. On these two important points, I would like to reflect on:

### **1. The washing of the feet**

Jesus gives us a concrete example during the Last Supper in manifesting His love and concern for His apostles and all of humankind., which will peak on Good Friday, when He sheds His blood literally and dies. He is teaching us to serve other people, especially the poor and the down-trodden in society long forgotten. Serving our neighbors is a concrete way of showing that spirit of solidarity in a world torn by divisions. Especially in a time like ours today the humble service we do for and with our neighbors is a symbol of that washing of the feet of the apostles by Jesus. We are called to help one another and to reach out to those in need in our society and our world and to forget our selfishness. As I write this

reflection, I am wearing a black T-Shirt on which is printed a slogan:

*“Less for self, More for others, Enough for all.”*

Responders or the front liners – medical doctors, nurses, therapists, drivers of ambulances, and even janitors in hospitals – have heroically exemplified and shown their spirit of solidarity and sense of humanity as they sacrifice their lives in order to save the lives of other people. As a matter of fact, in trying to help and save the patients, some of them succumbed to death, in imitation of Christ who gave His life as a ransom for many. They teach us unconditional love and sacrifice for the sake of the beloved others.



### **2. The institution of the Holy Eucharist**

As I mentioned above, the Holy Eucharist is Jesus’ gift to the Church to partake of His Body and Blood as a memorial of Him. It is participating in His passion, death and resurrection. He is the Bread of Life that gives us so much hope and courage in this time of difficulties, in this time of fear, anxiety, stress, uncertainty and insecurity. He is our Hope and our Strength. We hope that God in Jesus Christ is faithful and will certainly fulfill His promises. He will complete what He has begun. It is a living hope rooted in faith in the divine salvation in Christ (Galatians 5, 5). He is also our strength in our time of fear, anxiety, uncertainty and insecurity. Many times, in the Bible, we meet the sayings: “Fear not! I am with you always.”

In his meditation during his “Urbi and Orbi” on Good Friday Service before the steps of the Vatican and empty plaza, Pope Francis read from the *Gospel of Mark* 4, 35 – 41 which tells of the “*Stilling of the Storm*” by Jesus in Lake Galilee. He then developed it in connection with the pandemic saying that we are like those apostles who were afraid, our boat being tossed about by the strong gusts of wind. When the apostles finally remembered that Jesus was with them, they woke him up from his deep sleep appearing undisturbed, and they said: “*Teacher, do you not care we are about to perish?*” Jesus woke up and said to the wind: “*Quiet! Be calm!*” And the lake became calm. And Jesus then confronted them saying: “*Why were you afraid? Why did you not believe?*” “*Like the apostles*”, the Pope continues, “*we are all together in this boat. We are called to work together, help one another and think of others, forgetting ourselves.*” With Jesus on their side, they need not fear. And so, with us. We believe that Jesus is with us in this pandemic. He assures us that this virus will pass over and need not be afraid as we journey on this world and heeding the precautionary advices from medical doctors and scientists to lockdown, use facemasks, etc. to minimize contagion. He is beside us and helping us. God in Jesus cares for us His children. He loves us and will not forget us. “*Even if a mother forgets her baby, I will never forget you*” says the Lord (Is. 49, 15 – 16). To the Psalmist: “*Be still. Know that I am God.*” (Ps. 46,10). God is in control, not the coronavirus! He will see to it that the angel of death will soon pass over and send the angel of light and life to renew the world. Hopefully, the “new normal” will give humankind the lessons to be near God and to think that He, not the power of darkness, is in control; the lesson for us humankind to unite and work with and for one another instead of fostering division and gross individualism; the lesson for world leaders for global cooperation instead of competing and playing politics; to love others instead of competing with one another; to work together to make this world a better and more humane place to live in instead of inventing weapons of mass destruction to destroy human lives and this beautiful God-given planet; to respect the dignity of one another as human

persons as God intended it to be instead of trampling on their rights; to work for peace and justice instead of making wars; and finally to build bridges instead of walls. It is a call for all of humanity to leave behind the “old normal” and embrace the “new normal” that this pandemic wants to bring home to the consciousness and awareness of human kind.

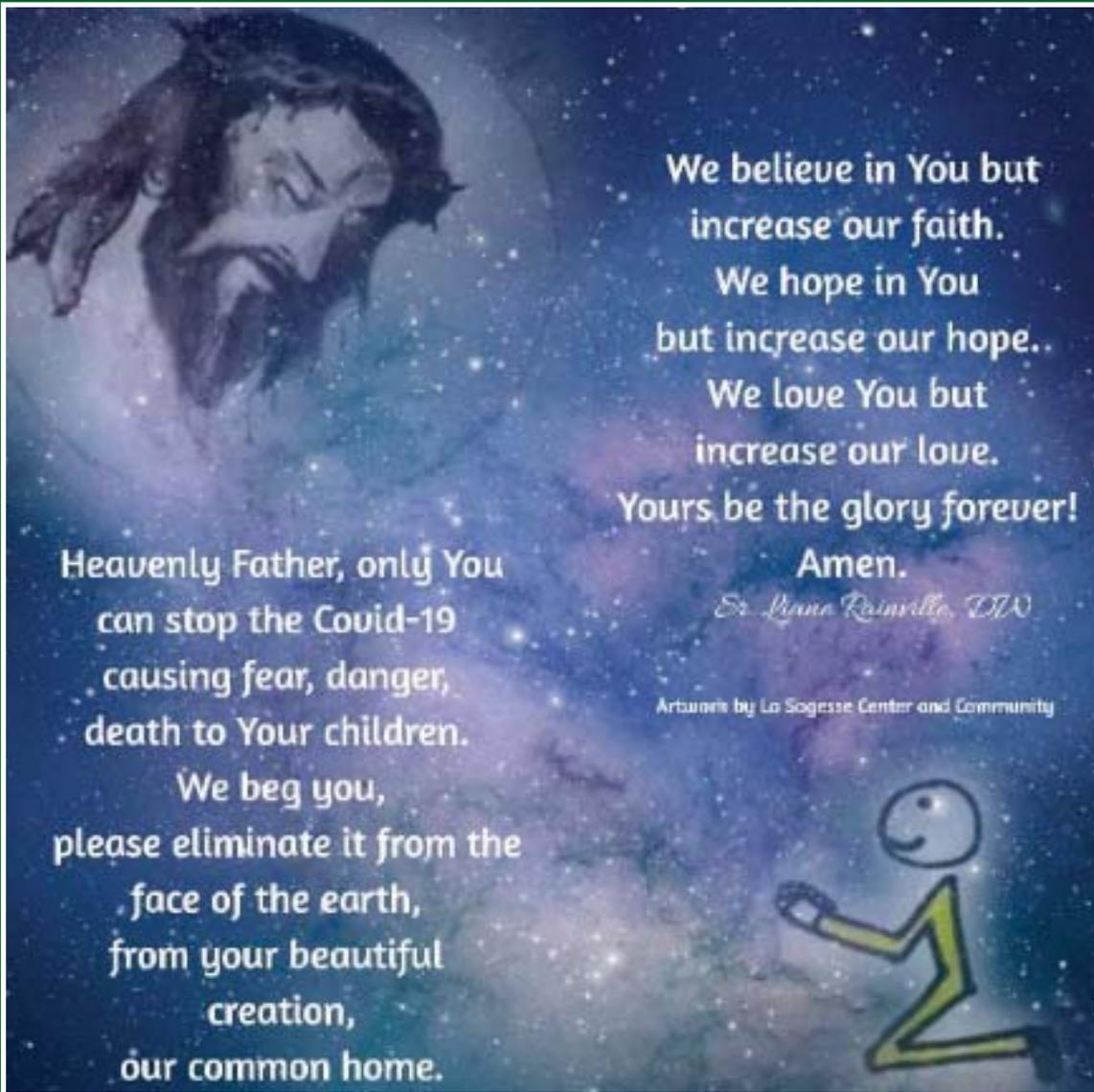


As a final conclusion, let me close this reflection by coming back to the Pope’s meditation where He said: “*The storm exposes our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities. It shows us how we have allowed to become dull and feeble the very things that nourish, sustain and strengthen our lives and our communities. The tempest lays bare all our prepackaged ideas and forgetfulness of what nourishes our people’s souls; all those attempts that anesthetize us with ways of thinking and acting that supposedly “save” us, but instead prove incapable of putting us in touch with our roots and keeping alive the memory of those who have gone before us. We deprive ourselves of the antibodies we need to confront adversity.*” “*In this storm*”, the Pope continues, “*the façade of those stereotypes with which we camouflaged our egos, always worrying about our image, has fallen away, uncovering once more that (blessed) common belonging, of which we cannot be deprived: our belonging as brothers and sisters.*”

**Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
intercede for us, your children.  
Happy Easter!**

(Ref.: *CICM Asia News Bulletin*, March – April 2020)





Heavenly Father, only You  
can stop the Covid-19  
causing fear, danger,  
death to Your children.

We beg you,  
please eliminate it from the  
face of the earth,  
from your beautiful  
creation,  
our common home.

We believe in You but  
increase our faith.  
We hope in You  
but increase our hope.  
We love You but  
increase our love.  
Yours be the glory forever!

Amen.

*Sr. Marie Rainville, D.D.*

Artwork by La Sagesse Center and Community