



MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

GUWAHATI PROVINCE

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April 11, 2020

Dear Confreres,

Wish you all a very Happy Easter!



Easter 2020 is special. It will go into History. AC and BC get a new full form **A**fter **C**COVID -19 and **B**efore **C**COVID-19. In the history of the Church there was never a time where all churches in the whole world go without the Easter Triduum. Due to epidemics and plagues there have been cases of churches closing down locally, but never in the entire world. A tiny virus brings the whole world to a standstill! Lockdown due to COVID-19 makes our Easter celebration 2020 different. Coronavirus does not differentiate between east and west, rich and poor, friend and enemy, ruler and people, black and white, sick and healthy, Hindu, Muslim or Christian and believer and atheist. For the first time humankind comes to a realistic realization that all are equal; only if we hold together, we can survive; **WE ARE ONE!**

Pope John Paul II wrote "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song." We are Resurrection people. If resurrection is our fate then we cannot just give into the powers of a CORONAVIRUS. We fight it out. We cooperate with governmental and non-governmental agencies to resurrect ourselves and the whole world from the Coronamalaise. We have to experience the Risen Lord in our personal life. That makes Easter a real celebration. The personal experience

of the Risen Lord is not limited to the liturgical celebration alone. Easter celebration 2020 without liturgical celebration invites to experience him personally, especially these days when we are confined to our won houses. Easter becomes a complete celebration when the personal Easter experience is permeated to the society. "He is not here; he has risen..." (Luke 24:6). I look for him where HE is and not where we I want him to be. I seek him and find him in the poor, marginalized, downtrodden, alienated and sick, in our own days those with Coronavirus afflicted and inflicted, the health workers, the social workers, the policy makers etc. What Henry Knox Sherrill says about Easter is very much valid for our days "The joyful news that He is risen does not change the contemporary world. Still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice. But the fact of Easter gives us the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline, and make the sacrifice."

Robert Goddard has the saying, "It is difficult to say what is impossible, for the dream of yesterday is the hope of today and the reality of tomorrow" May the Easter 2020 break in us the power to make the impossible possible. May it give us the hope that we are not alone in the fight against evil powers. May it make our today a reality. I wish you all a happy Easter and all the blessings of the Risen Lord.

Congratulations and Prayerful Wishes:

In the name of all the members of our province I express my Congratulations to the new council members of the South East India Province. I myself was present for the Provincial Congress of the Southeast Province and all of them are your companions and friends. Many congratulations and prayerful wishes to Fr. Ignacimuthu and his new team of councillors.

Fr. C. Sebastianraj: Admonitor and Councillor incharge of Mission

Fr. P. S. Joseph: Councillor incharge of Formation

Fr. A.Luckas: Councillor incharge of Education

Fr. K.Joseph Xavier: Councillor incharge of Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries

Fr. Sahaya Wilson: Provincial Bursar.

Provincial Congress 2020 Postponed

The outbreak of COVID-19 forced us to postpone our Provincial Congress 2020 indefinitely. Thank God that we took the decision in correct time so that we could avoid a lot of unwarranted troubles. I thank you dear confreres for your cooperation and understanding. We will have our Provincial Congress at the earliest convenience. I thank our beloved Father Superior General for allowing us to postpone the Provincial Congress beyond three months. The Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL) has through a general writing authorized the postponement of the celebration of general and provincial chapters to a date to be determined. I thank the previous administration for their support to run the day to day activities of the province till the new administration takes charge of the office.

An Extended Easter Celebration

Easter is not a celebration limited to the church building. We are proving it in our commitment to alleviate the pathetic situation caused by COVID-19 and the Lockdown especially among the poor and immigrants. Our social work department FAsCE India, through the dedicated service of Fr. Saji Puthiyakulangara, Fr. Anto Thomas and the staff, does a commendable job particularly in the Narengi area and also in some of our parishes. They have already reached out to more than 2000 families with provisions. A provision-packet, containing rice, potato, dal, oil, onion, salt and soap is distributed family-wise in a weekly basis. I believe that the Easter Celebration 2020 has a special meaning for us because of the helping hand extended to the poor of our area. Please continue to help in your own neighbourhood especially people who struggle to survive the Lockdown.

A Special THANKS

Dear Confreres, on 6th April I had written a request Email to all of you. I requested you to raise some fund to help the poor during the COVID-19 Lockdown. I am very glad that the request had been well accepted. I am overwhelmed with the positive responses. We were able to raise some fund both locally and from abroad. Moreover, a mobilization and conscientization to help in emergency was created among the parishioners. I thank every confrere who sacrificed much to contribute to this project, particularly all our confreres working aboard to raise fund in this hard time. I thank specially Fr. Saji Puthiyakulangara and FAsCE India team for materializing the project. I give thanks to God for the blessings the poor receive through you and pray for His guidance every day.


Let Us Pray for the Departed

- Mr. Chacko Kanicheril (59), uncle of Fr Biju Kanicheril, who passed away on March 25, 2020.
- Mrs. Alice Jose (75), sister-in-law of Fr Job Karikkampally, who passed away on March 26, 2020.
- Mr. Augustine Puthiyadathuchalil (78), father of Fr Jacob Puthiyadathuchalil, who passed away on March 31, 2020.

Let Us Pray for the Sick

- Let us also pray for people around the world who have contracted COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

With lots of good Easter wishes
Yours in Christ



Fr. Sabu Francis MSFS
Provincial, Guwahati Province

WALKING ON THE PATH OF THE PATRON

It is not possible to acquire perfection by crossing one's arms and doing nothing. SFS



HAPPY EASTER