



Volume-8, Issue-05

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Cry of the Earth

Dear Sisters and Brothers,
Greetings!



I hope and pray that all of you are keeping fine and safe from the pandemic.

It has been an extremely difficult time for all of us in these last couple of months, especially here in India with the COVID-19 cases skyrocketing and the health system crumbling, bringing untold miseries to the millions of people. As we continue to move forward in these trying times, I request your prayers and support.

Without obscuring the current situation caused by the pandemic, my thoughts also focus on another issue that cannot be ignored for long – *the cry of our planet earth*. As part of our ongoing 3rd Centenary celebrations, our Congregation is calling upon each one of us to become more aware of this cry. Heeding the clarion call of the Dicastery for Promotion of Integral Human Development marking the 6th anniversary of *Laudato Sí* and the mandate given by the 47th General Chapter of our Congregation, the Superior General has constituted a committee to help us become more aware of this cry of the earth and come up with action plans to be formulated over the course of next twelve months.

To help us move forward, the Dicastery is proposing seven *Laudato Sí* goals: 1) *The Response to the Cry of the Earth*, 2) *The Response to the Cry of the Poor*, 3) *Ecological Economics*, 4) *Adoption of Simple Lifestyle*, 5) *Ecological Education*, 6) *Ecological Spirituality* and 7) *Community Involvement and Participatory Action*. A seven-year plan is chalked out by the Dicastery to achieve these goals. The first year of which will be dedicated to the tasks of: 1) ***Community Building***, 2) ***Resource Sharing*** and 3) ***Drawing up of Concrete Action plans***.

To give a specific Passionist flavour to this entire journey, the Committee appointed by the Superior General, has come up with a theme: “**Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross**” and will be helping us move along by providing resources to help in our study, reflection and drawing up of the action plans. I hope to work with our JPIC committee to come up with a strategy to help each of our members and of our communities to take up this challenge and get going.

It will be a journey that cannot be relegated only to a few. If it must achieve the goals as set out for us above, everyone must be part of this journey, in the spirit of what Pope Francis calls “walking the *synodalpath*”. No one can be indifferent to this journey. In this I am reminded of the ironic quote from Pastor Martin Niemöller. Speaking about 1930’s Germany, he said: “*First they came for the Jews; but I did nothing because I was not a Jew. Then they came for the Socialists, but I did nothing because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the Catholics, but I did nothing because I was not a Catholic. Finally, they came for me, but by then there was no one left to help me*”.

Take care, Stay Safe and God bless,

Paul Cherukoduth, C.P.
Vice Provincial

UPDATES

JUNE

Birthdays

Antony AV	01
Antony John	06
Nelson	10
Alphin	17
Jenish	21
Paul	26



THOM Vice-Province, Covid-19 Relief Works...
Carmelaram Community initiates distribution of food items to the neighboring poor families (Above)
Kochi community distributes medical aids through the Local Police. (Below)

Profession

Sony	02
Louis	02
Prem	02
Noble	02
Abiyouth	02
Mahendra	10
Moncy	10
Binod	11
Devaraj	11



Palliport Parish, one of the badly affected area formed Covid Task Force to help distribute food kits to the affected families. (above) Celebration for the Third year students of Minor seminary as they are graduated and moving to Philosophy & Fr. Muthappan jointly celebrated his birthday. (Below right)

Feast Days

Sacred Heart of Jesus	11
Bl. Lorenzo Maria Salvi	12
Day of Fasting & Prayer at Jyothir Bhavan community. (right)	



My Experience as a COVID-19 Volunteer

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Mathew 25:40).

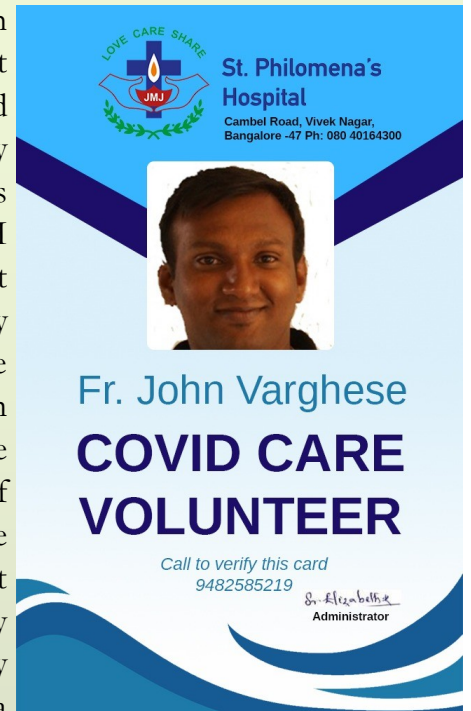
The Corona virus is creating havoc in our world. We are still in the firm grip of this deadly virus. The anxiety surrounding the contagious aspect of this pandemic has distressed the social, cultural, religious and economic aspects of our lives. This pandemic has broken all the security of our family members, friends, and humanity at large. Fortunately, this pandemic has not troubled my life except for some of my ministries. I ardently follow news about this pandemic in its spread, containment strategies, and various vaccinations proceedings etc. I was disturbed by the escalating effects of virus in India especially in the city of Bangalore from the last week of March. Items from daily newspapers and television channels carried heart-breaking events, deaths and struggles of people around my city. Hospitals were struggling to take care of the loads of people come with limited resources especially human resource. Hence there was a call on the volunteers to help out some of the prominent hospitals in the city. The Spirit moved me to take up the challenge in my loneliness. It was a matchless experience to help out people affected by this virus. The situation moved me to take up multiple roles of a bystander, (family members are not allowed) ward boy, nursing assistant, counsellor, feeding patients in ICU ward, person who pack the deceased, mortuary assistant, and as a priest to give holy communion to the catholic faithful, all in the duration of a single day. It was not an easy experience to undertake, especially to change and replace diapers and wipe the bedridden persons clean. I tricked my mind to carry out such activities, imagining them as one of my family members, and overcome my hesitations.

Apart from all physical suffering, the Corona Virus has broken our conventional human interactions, even in hospitals, with all the personal protective equipment. Hence, besides all the medical and physical service I rendered, I also tried to give some emotional support like being present to them, giving hope, making them resilient, listen to their stories, and communicating with the family members about grievances, especially death. At the end of the day, as Mother Teresa put it: “Suffering shared with the Passion of Christ is a wonderful experience.” It is a feeling of content to see most of the people get discharged from the hospitals. I was able to bring smiles back to their faces and prayed for the deceased.

Fr. John Varghese, C.P.

Jeevadhama, Passionist Theologate,

Bangalore.





**Bro. Mahendra (Left)
&
Bro. Moncy (Right)**
renewed their vows at the
places of their Pastoral Year
Ministry in the Archdiocese
of Imphal



**Bro. Prem renewed his vows at
his home parish in the Diocese
of Baghalpur. Dn. Binod joined
for the celebration. (Left)
&
Bro. Abiyouth renewed his vows
at the Randham Community.
(Left)**

**Bro. Alphin Judson
&
Bro. Don Peter renewed their
vows at Jeevadhama
community, presided over by
Fr. Paul. (Right)**



**Bro. Christudasan renewed his vows at his home Parish in
the Archdiocese of Trivandrum. (right)**



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Verba volant, scripta manent!