

*That life may flow...*

*pour que la vie circule...*



*para que la vida circule...*

Congregation Website : <http://www.stjosephlyon.org>

## **With a World in turmoil**

In this newsletter we will read of Sisters' and Associates' various experiences in this particular time of the life of the world: yes, we are ONE...

We know a little about what is happening in the countries where we are and the media also informs us about almost all the countries of the world: the difficulties are the same, current or already a little improved. Globalization affects human reality: being present and taking care of one another, embracing, nursing, feeding... Money then takes on a specific meaning: to meet human needs, to share, to live more simply...

A question often arises: What will tomorrow be like? ... The world of tomorrow? Many people hope that this ordeal will require us to act for a different world, more respectful of nature, and the poor. What habits will we need to change?

The International Unions of Superiors General (UISG, USG) in Rome has organized several Webinars (internet conferences) recently to reflect on the changes we are called to make, in the 'Re-imagining the Future' perspective. Various expressions may encourage us: "With the pandemic, new and old forms of poverty are developing, while social illnesses are appearing that make rebirth difficult: so we are all invited to launch processes that will create an entire culture of care: of the Earth, of our homes, of our youth, of the elderly and of all those who have been left on the margins, the forgotten. It is a time of communion, of growing awareness of the interconnectedness that exists among us... Like the disciples, we rediscover the profound meaning of our consecrated life: to go out on a mission, to proclaim through our life and work the Lord Jesus, who opened the ways of justice and reconciliation for us."

At the General Council, we reflected on our global responsibility to participate in supporting so many families in the world... We know that all your Provinces/Regions/Sectors have been living in solidarity, often with other groups, to alleviate the most urgent needs of those around you.

We have decided to participate, as a Congregation, in projects that you could support or propose around you and which are beyond your financial means.

For this, based on the proposals you have sent us, we will study what part of the Congregation's patrimony could be used. The financial study begun during the previous mandate is not quite finished but we already have some important indications.

The world situation, full of unforeseen events, invites us to express our compassion to more and more people around us and calls us to organize the future with constant creativity. I quote Sr. V. Margron (Dominican), President of the Conference of Religious of France who states: "It will not be a question of telling ourselves that we are going to resume life where we left it, but rather of making the upheavals caused by this time enter into us and be changed by

it. In our faith as in our morals, will we allow ourselves to be visited, moved, questioned, by what has happened, by this event that has come to disturb everything? »

Let us move forward with Hope: the Lord journeys with us!

**" Whatever work you find to do, do it with all your might. -Ecclesiastes 9: 10**

**Catherine Barange**

## **A time to learn of the smallness of humans...**

The New Year and the new decade announced themselves with a wakeup call. Without much of a warning, the Coronavirus appeared and is spreading fast around the world. People are dying suddenly, others are experiencing isolation and hardship and our busy world has suddenly come to a thundering standstill.

On March 19, the Indian Prime Minister addressed the nation announcing the need for “social distancing” and called for a day of “people’s curfew” on March 22. He shared nothing about what his government would do during the crisis, but he asked people to come on their balconies, and ring bells and bang their pots and pans to salute the health workers.

Unsurprisingly, Narendra Modi’s request was met with great enthusiasm. There were pot-banging marches, community dances, and processions - not much social distancing. In the days that followed, men jumped into barrels of sacred cow dung, and BJP supporters threw cow-urine drinking parties. Many Muslim organisations declared that the Almighty was the answer to the virus and called for the faithful to gather in numbers in mosques.

On March 24, Modi reappeared on TV to announce that, from midnight onwards, all of India would be under lockdown. Markets would be closed. All public and private transport would be disallowed.

We were thus in lockdown which worked like a chemical experiment that suddenly illuminated hidden things. As shops, restaurants, factories and the construction industry shut down, as the wealthy and the middle classes enclosed themselves in gated colonies, our towns and megacities began to extrude their working-class citizens — their migrant workers — like so much unwanted accrual.

The heart-breaking story of the migrant crisis has touched and moved me deeply. I saw the visuals of millions of migrants walking down highways with their families... the elderly could hardly walk; some were being carried on shoulders. These images haunted me. The moment I closed my eyes, I could just see them. How can we be so ungrateful to the people who built our homes, our roads...they run the country, they are its heartbeat. How can we ignore this crisis thinking that if it’s not affecting us, why should we bother? I used to have sleepless nights on seeing them desperate to reunite with their families.



Since the lockdown brought all activities to a halt, there have been several horror stories of people struggling to find just a morsel of food. But, people have come together in the most extraordinary ways to go the extra mile and offer a helping hand. Across the country, employers and landlords have driven many people out. Millions of impoverished, hungry, and thirsty people of all ages, had nowhere to go, so they returned to their villages, which were hundreds of kilometres away and some, unfortunately, died on the way.



They knew they were potentially going home to slow starvation. Perhaps they even knew they could be carrying the virus with them, and would infect their families, their parents and grandparents back home, but they desperately needed a shred of familiarity, shelter and dignity, as well as food, if not love.

As they walked, some were beaten brutally and humiliated by the police, who were charged with strictly enforcing the curfew. Young men were made to crouch and frog jump down the highway. Outside the town of Bareilly, one group was herded together and hosed down with chemical spray. A few days later, worried that the fleeing population would spread the virus to villages, the government sealed state borders even for walkers. People who had been walking for days were stopped and forced to return to city camps they had just been forced to leave.

With no place to stay and no food, they simply started walking. In that milling crowd migrants at the inter-state bus stand were child labourers who were weeping. These little children moved my heart. Their innocent faces haunt me and I doubt if I will be able to forget the faces of those racking sobs.

My eyes have tracked too many stories like these while reading the newspapers and watching the news, and they are all lodged in my heart and mind like shards of metal and glass.

But when I see people lining up in queues in front of volunteers distributing food, hands stretched out for that packet, or when I see humanity lying lifeless on roadsides, beneath flyovers or near rail tracks, I am gripped by a feeling of guilt. Perhaps I do not even know how to feel the pangs of sorrow. To look for positivity at a time of unrelieved suffering and pain seems like a crime to me.

Whatever it is, Coronavirus has made the mighty kneel and brought the world to a halt as nothing else could. Our minds are still racing back and forth, longing for a return to “normality,” trying to stitch our future to our past and refusing to acknowledge the rupture, which exists. And amid this terrible despair, it offers us a chance to rethink the doomsday machine we have built for ourselves. Nothing could be worse than a return to normality.

I feel this is a time for reflection, for recognising that regardless of what we can or cannot do in such dire times, the one thing we can do is learn to be empathetic.

**Sr. Daisy Joseph**  
**Nava Jeevan Province**

## **He is with us always**

Many of Christ's words came to mind during this pandemic:

### **1 Love one another as I have loved you.**

It is amazing how these words were visibly acted out during this pandemic. Front line staff, in particular, medical and others, gave of their total self, regardless of race, colour or creed.

Neighbours took care of those living close to them, mainly those who were shielding and isolating. Shopping was done and left on the doorstep, their welfare was checked, from outside of the house and through an open or closed window.

Carers assisted residents to communicate with their families via facebook. Some carers even took up residency in tents, in the Care Home Grounds, isolating themselves, so as not to carry the virus into the Home.

### **2 If asked to go one mile, go the extra mile.**

The generosity and unselfishness of the front-line staff, neighbours, care staff and others was remarkable. Having been asked to walk the mile for the other, they travelled many extra miles in whatever they were doing. They went well beyond the call of duty.

### **3 You will have trouble in the world, but take courage, I have overcome the world.**

This lack of independence was difficult to handle during the first few days. I had not chosen this, it was imposed on me. I felt useless, with no way of helping others, as I was considered as one of the 'vulnerable' and therefore needed to be protected. Sewing, reading, gardening, praying and reflecting were great healers.

While pondering on my own inner life my attitude towards my age changed. I was astonished to realise that youth is no longer on my side. Always aware of being the youngest member in the Sector, I felt young. Now the time came to admit to myself that I am old and growing older. This truth has dawned on me.

### **4 Go into your room and close the door.**

Churches and places of worship were closed with a cessation of all public services. Jesus told us: 'When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father in that secret place' This is what I had to do. Mass was viewed on You Tube and Facebook and I was nourished by the homilies. Other prayers such as the Office of the Hours were said alone, sometimes with the help of hymns and prayers from internet and You Tube. How wonderful it will be to share prayer time together again, to participate publicly at the Eucharist and to receive the Blessed Sacrament orally after such a long time of receiving Him spiritually.

### **5 I am with you always.**

Looking outside of myself and my own personal concerns I could see how this virus was affecting other people. There were long queues at food banks, concerns as to how to feed the family, fears of having no employment when the virus had vanished etc. Prayers were raised to the Lord on their behalf.

In spite of all these concerns, at 8 o'clock every Thursday evening, people came out of their houses to acknowledge the work of the front-line staff. While keeping their distance from neighbours and friends, they applauded and clapped to show their gratitude to these workers for the good, difficult and challenging work they were doing, caring for those who had contracted the virus and those who are vulnerable.

There were some wonderful and grace filled moments. Because of the lack of traffic, empty streets and roads, the singing of the birds could be heard. It was Spring so they made the most of their musical voices and mating calls. Spring also brought new life to the trees, shrubs, hedges and flowers. Planting vegetables on the roof garden gave opportunities to hear and see Spring. Bees, butterflies and ladybirds were enjoying what the plants and flowers could offer them. Opportunities were open to acknowledge God's love, care for and the beauty of his creation.

In contrast, one listened to the daily requests for financial assistance or for the poor within the U.K. and abroad. Even though these needs are always with us, Covid 19 has increased them.

Those whose loved ones died in hospital were distressed as they were unable to sit by their bedside, hold their hand or give them a final kiss. Both sides of the family were alone. The grieving people missed out on comforting hugs from other family members who were also isolating. The burial was brief with only a limited number of family present.

Because of this pandemic the future will change and our attitudes need to change also. There are two important issues highlighted of late that need to be addressed: the needs of the poor and vulnerable in our society and that people of colour will feel equal and enjoy the same equal rights and opportunities as their peers.

**Sr. Anne Tynan  
Anglo-Irish Sector**

## **Serving...and Becoming...the Dear Neighbor**

There are over two hundred people in my building for elders. Twenty-three contracted COVID-19 at the same time. I was lucky to not be one of them. It was a scary time. It still is. The halls were strangely quiet, activities canceled, and common meeting spaces closed. We became a "COVID hotspot" and it was hard to get outside services, like people to shop for us, because of that status. We were told it was safer to stay in. Two of our folks died and some are still in the hospital.

As a person at risk of severe complications to the coronavirus, I have tried very carefully to follow safety guidelines. I have stayed home. Like everyone else, I experience a sense of isolation and loneliness in my one-person apartment. I miss gathering for Sunday liturgy, my social groups, my family and friends. And how I miss human touch!

As a community here, we have had to struggle with "unknowing". In the recent past our building management, for reasons of confidentiality, could not share with us who was ill, so we wondered. We all now deal with an unknown future. It's unsettling. We are not in control. Letting go of that false sense of control is very challenging.

Throughout this pandemic I hope my little ways of service have been a help to others. I've sent out more supportive cards and notes in the mail than usual. I've checked on neighbors and friends by phone and email. On the computer I found Facebook an opportunity to post funny cartoons or thoughtful quotes in an effort to lift people's spirits. And I have prayed for individuals and the world. I am particularly concerned about refugees, the homeless, those in poverty and those in war torn countries as they face this pandemic. How hard it must be to cope!

Finally, I have had to allow others to help me, to serve me. As a very independent individual, it has been challenging to let others "wash my feet". I have become the "dear neighbor" to whom others minister. God's loving presence has been apparent in my daily prayer as well as "distanced" interactions with others. Jesus has been Eucharist to me in ways other than our unavailable sacramental communion.

I have seen God alive in all of this. Neighbor reaches out to neighbor to help with shopping or daily chores. Unemployed and hungry people are fed by farmers, local and distant. There have been many acts of kindness here within my own building, among ourselves and from others outside of our building.

What has been reinforced in me through all this is that we are all so interdependent, so very interwoven. Looking at how COVID-19 spread so quickly to all peoples, how can we think we stand alone? Working together brings us bright solutions that over-independence denies us. We are the Body of Christ and must work together for God's greater good. May we people of the world become one. I pray all our hearts are transformed in this time.

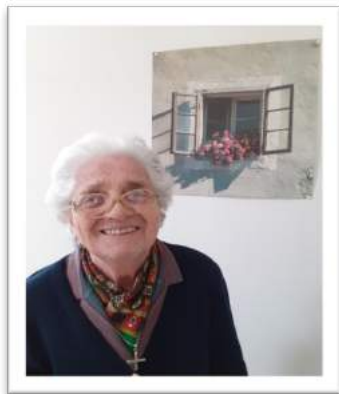
**Cheryl A. Smith, Associate, Maine Sector**

## Live This Time of Confinement, Manage to Get out of it... by Choosing LIFE



As a community, we were preparing to celebrate the St. Joseph's feast, with our parish community and friends, when the unexpected entered our house.

For several months, we were looking from afar at this virus in China, which was causing havoc, in Italy, in Spain, but certainly not at home!



However, as of March 17, the whole of France was locked down, hospitals were overflowing with serious patients. On March 20, this virus heavily struck our community: 4 sisters, then 7, confined to their rooms and tested positive for the virus. Sister Marie Christophe Rinieri appeared able to withstand the attack, yet, after 12 days of hospitalization she joined the Lord.

We had to face the ordeal! How? With limited means and a few nursing skills, we took care of our sisters, helped by those who could still assure the life of the house. We went through periods of worry, anxiety, fear, and fatigue. At first, we looked for the origin of this intruder - who had brought it to our house? Seeing us exhausted, the cook from our catering service ingeniously set up a meal delivery - Mac-Do type - that helped us a lot, as did the presence of Laurence, who agreed to do the housework during the pandemic. The entire world was overwhelmed; we also held all the caregivers and the lonely people in our prayers.

Each day we continued our communal and personal prayer time. Every morning, I entrusted our community to the Lord, who stood at our ship's helm on these turbulent waters. We carried our sick, and this world: the Lord accompanying us to live these fragile moments.

On Holy Thursday, we all gathered for a celebration around the Word and the Bread. The time of washing hands for each member of the community was very important. *(A table set for the celebration - 14 rolls kneaded by our cook.)*



Thus, our Lent opened on a very special Easter: the sisters rereading this experience with these words: "I lived a real companionship, I was helped by prayer, I drew strength from my trial, a genuine retreat, it was difficult, but it was an opportunity.

We lived this alone, but united to all of you - through the airwaves and RCF (French Christian Radio), the televised Mass, the many testimonies of parishioners, sisters, friends, neighbors, the support of our sisters, our leaders, the liturgy, the texts of each day, enlightening what we were living; and the Lord was present at the heart of this journey, watching over us and accompanying us. Yes, our loving God manages well... He is close to his children.



After three months, we took time to reread this passage and we shared what had been fruitful for each one and what had been lacking. We had a day of reflection and relaxation wherein each one shared an aspect of the experience: a weaving produced by the sisters of the community - drawings, painting, on pieces of wood, crossword puzzles... a beautiful festive time which allowed us to live a new phase on our journey.

We can appreciate this time, which allowed us to demonstrate other ways of surviving trials and to continue the journey with trust and serenity.

Today, we still think and carry in prayer all those who are still struggling and living these difficult moments. Together let us become aware of the importance of LIFE and let us protect our planet in response to Pope Francis' invitation. Yes, let us CHOOSE LIFE and SHARE LIFE.

**The Sisters of Claire Maison  
Francheville, Europe**

## **My Experience in Working as a COVID-19 Warrior**

COVID-19 teaches us that we are one human community on earth experiencing together the sorrow and pain caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The only way to survive this situation of darkness is by responding together with compassion and hope to the needs of those who suffer. There are many who feel they are in a dangerous situation with no one to reach out to them. And in a desperate situation, it is important to know that the Lord is the only one for us to cling on.



Spending time with the people, I witnessed many of them weeping because they are living in poverty. Many have lost hope and ended their lives because of disappointments and fear of the days ahead. So many are dying alone in hospitals without the comfort of their families.

I heard the stories of elderly people and widows who said that each day, they had to wait for food, look for someone to get it from some community kitchen. The pain of those who lost their loved ones is a wound in the hearts of those who remain.

Pope Francis says that “humanity is a single community” and it will teach us that “universal kinship” is important and critical. He says: “It will no longer be ‘them’ but it will be ‘us.’ We will need “to build true kinship amongst us.”

India's Covid-19 tally has surpassed with the greatest number of cases being reported from Maharashtra. I am privileged to work with the Nagpur Archdiocese and to reach out without any break to those suffering from March to June 2020. This relief work is a joint initiative of Caritas India through the CSR support of HCL Foundation and implemented by NMSSS (Nagpur Multipurpose Social Service Society), a Social Outreach wing of the Archdiocese of Nagpur.

I am grateful to God, the Congregation, the archdiocese of Nagpur and the director Fr. Balaraju and the team of the NMSSS for this opportunity to serve the needy and to be part of the humanitarian response to fight Covid-19 across urban and rural Nagpur, vulnerable and non-fossil areas by reaching out to over 20,101 households and about 100,505 beneficiaries with essential food materials supplies, sanitizers and medical assistance.



The beneficiaries include: the Tribals, farmers, and migrants, slum dwellers and daily wage labourers, rag pickers and other vulnerable sections of the society in the Nagpur District. The Diocesan youth were very enthusiastic to participate in our team. I invite everyone to fight against COVID - 19 and to care for our suffering humanity.

**Sr. Rani Paulose,  
Nava Jeevan Province**

## **A covid-19 experience**

First, let me say that I was troubled because in my community one person was terrified that Father came to celebrate daily Mass. Since he is involved in many activities and meets different people, he might carry the virus. The other Sisters felt that we should trust in God for the Mass is a great blessing, so how could we refuse to accept Jesus?

As community coordinator, I attempted to listen to the Sisters who suggested having only one Mass during the week. I took time to reflect objectively and I proposed that we pray some days on the first floor where there is a large chapel and that we keep our distance from one another. Sisters would be free to come or not. Abiding by the safety rules, we were able to have daily Mass in this large chapel.

During these difficult times, I heard about many prisoners' families who needed material things. One generous person had given money to assist them. However, as a community, we had decided not to go out of the house for any type of service. Since I had talked with the priest responsible for this service, he suggested that we go together and that we take all the necessary measures to protect ourselves, because the families were in dire need. I felt in a bind and yet I was conscious of the needs of these families so I decided to quickly go by myself, give them money and return home. I took all the necessary precautions not to infect my Sisters, and I was grateful to God for everything went well!

I then shared this experience with my Sisters. I discovered the importance of our presence, as part of the mission. In responding to the cries of the people of God, we provide them with hope. I also discovered another aspect of the mission, which is to share peace with our collaborators and help them from afar through telephone conversations or prayers.

Later, the COVID 19 virus struck my brother and my nephew. It was very difficult but the community supported us through prayer. My brother's three sons refused to deal with their father's condition so he struggled a lot.

I spoke to one of them asking him to contact his father. This would help him endure this sickness. Finally, his 2 other sons contacted him, which was a great comfort for him.

Through prayer, I found the grace to bring consolation to my family during this difficult time and I truly felt that we are one body. Thanks be to God who helps us to be missionaries from our home without even leaving and to become creative in carrying out the mission

**Nadia, Egypt**

## **Covid-19 Pandemic**

It is a known fact that everyone in the world has been touched in some way by Covid 19 Pandemic and it has certainly left its mark on me. Like everyone else I was cocooned with regulations, recommendations, movement control, isolation and government guidance as to what I must do and what I should not do.

It was made clear to us Residents that there was a higher risk of coronavirus having a more serious impact within the elderly population so that management carefully insisted and monitored all policies issued by Public Health England. Without complain these daily, weekly guidelines were accepted.

So, I was restricted, curtailed and controlled but what was taken away was replaced by the gift of TIME. I faced each day realising that never had I so much time and it was all for me to fill it, use it, manage it however I chose.

Covid 19 has shone a light on my life. I was able to spend so much of this time in our Prayer Room where I treasured and welcomed peace and serenity and I was in no hurry to move on to something else awaiting my attention.

Such abundance of time allowed me to read more and I dipped into history books, novels, adventures and espionage. I tuned into radio programmes, a selection of TV shows. I wrote letters and even spent time repairing and altering my clothes.

It was amusing to meet other Sisters and Residents and we just nodded and smiled while keeping our distance but we could phone each other to chat and encourage each one another. Because we were physically more active than the other Residents, I decided with Sister Anne that we would try to improve the Roof Garden. So, Anne took over the vegetable plots and is now proudly gazing on strawberries, peas, beans, potatoes and she now has a herb garden.

I put my heart into developing a flower garden and have immense pleasure in seeing a riot of colour from begonias and alyssums. On sunny days the Residents come up to the Roof Garden too. Looking back since the Pandemic started I can but repeat 'Yes, Covid 19 has shone a light on my life' and I am now a woman of action as well as words.

My dream for my nation:

- a) Reawakening of care for the planet for which we are responsible.
- b) Review and reflect on democracy, justice, care for all peoples.

**Anne Marie Eden  
Anglo-Irish Sector**

## Reaching Out during the Pandemic

During COVID-19, the shops, schools, and borders are closed, supermarket's shelves are empty, and roads are deserted. People set up offices in their homes. This is the current reality of the nation and other countries whose effects are seen and felt in every household and all over the world. COVID 19 separates us from one another through social distancing and isolation. Yet, it challenges me to stay connected and find ways and means to be with the people who may be going through a difficult time.

The Word of God struck me as the whole world is affected by COVID-19 and many volunteers come forward to help the affected people. "In truth, I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did to me." Mt: 25 - 40. This Word of God inspired me to offer some service to my needy brothers and sisters.

Amlipali (Sundargarh) Convent is situated in a District Headquarter. Many people come from different parts of the states to work here either in Government offices or Non-Government Organizations, Industries for daily wages and livelihood. Due to the lockdown period, people became jobless. They desperately need food and other necessary items, so, seeing their pathetic condition, I took small steps to help them by approaching the local Government and District officers. Few interested volunteers joined me to find out those most in need and register their names in our area so that they could receive provisions.



Another heart-breaking situation, most disturbing is to see an unprecedented number of migrant workers who have suddenly lost their jobs or income from their business and stricken down outside home or state without proper basic needs. Thousands of people were out of work queuing to apply for government assistance and begging to return safely back home to reunite with their families. I had the chance to render a little help by providing food and water to these migrants returning to their homes by bus, trucks, auto rickshaws, cycle or even walking for long distances. Some travelled for many days without proper food, water, and social distancing. Having seen the suffering of so many people, I experience fear, loss, uncertainty, and suffering due to the impact of this pandemic and Lockdown, for the entire world, is living in isolation and experiencing vulnerability and helplessness.

In the midst of all this suffering, I recognize something new in my life. There is more dependency on God than on a person's power and abilities and there is a strong bond in the human family. I feel the need for prayer and of others, and others all over the world need us including the entire creation. It has brought me closer to others, irrespective of cast and religion, and has encouraged me to continue to reach out to the poor and the needy. It has opened my eyes, ears, mouth, and heart to see, hear, speak, and understand the poor and the needy. In any crisis, usually the poorest, the most vulnerable, and the least powerful suffer the most.

So, I can say that the present situation has helped me to become more human and to care for everyone, irrespective of caste, sex, or religion, considering each person as my brother and sister and to be the body of Christ.

**Sr. Suchita Tirkey**  
**Nava Jeevan Province**

## Startling Call for Change

**“Children are the most precious gift that you have ever received.”**

**- Pope Francis**

We strongly believe that children are sacred treasures entrusted to us by God. Therefore, we, the management and staff of St. Joseph’s School, Cherukattoor (Affiliated to CBSE Delhi No. 930907), Kerala state, work to create possibilities which encourage the students to develop and enhance their capabilities, to leave a lasting impression not only on the fellow members of the school but also onto the society.

The academic year 2019-2020 started in a full swing with various academic orientation programs for staff and students. The students were triggered with enthusiasm to participate in various co-curricular activities like yoga, instrumental music (Guitar & Keyboard), dance, drawing, karate, school band, etc. But towards the third term, we had to face this tragedy, COVID-19. In the beginning, none of us took it very seriously. As the days passed, we had to shut down everything abruptly. This has affected the students, teachers, and society at large. This pandemic enabled all of us to think differently and bring about certain changes in our personal life, community life, and in our society. With our limited knowledge, we are moving towards this change.



COVID-19 is a time of great change. This pandemic has affected our day-to-day life and is slowing down the global economy. In education too, we see fast changes. With advanced technology, the student today is an individual, a real person with feelings of self-respect, sensitivity, responsibility, and compassion. Today, we need to recognize, appreciate, applaud and foster the fine blend of sensibilities in a child. The creativity in them urges to blossom forth naturally. As the saying goes, *the mind, like a parachute, works best when opened to reality*. The humble initiative that we have taken by adapting online learning is to set free the budding minds, allowing them to roam free in the realm of imagination and experience, to create a world of beauty every way. We feel proud to help them grow and develop into sensitive and

responsible citizens of the next generation. All these, we believe, would spur higher growth and enterprise in children.

The world is changing, changing without limits.... The word CHANGE is continuously being used in the present-day world. The word, CHANGE is more significant in the modern world. The development of new technologies and ideas along with the sustainment of natural resources for better living conditions will create incredible changes in the world we live in.

The present change in the world made people adapt the technologies and cling on to the Mother Earth for their sustainable development. As tomorrow's world is in our hands, let us be the change for our world today, with a stronghold on *Mother Nature*. Students' culture of continuous learning and self-discipline will enable one to witness the thrill of life and love to live with and for the other. So, light up the minds to script a better story of life.

We foresee the following immediate dangers hidden in *Online Learning*:

- Continuous usage of electronic equipment leads one to behave differently and to become enslaved, lethargic and less energetic.
- Visual contact will be affected.
- Change of character – reactions are explicit.
- Their room becomes their small world, with no dialogue within the family and lack of proper food and rest.
- Indifference and quick reactions to everything.
- Lack of socialization and respect for Elders.
- Depression, mental disorder, and suicidal tendencies.
- Bad habits and unhealthy relationships can be formed.
- Possibility of falling into cybercrimes.

Though we foresee the above-mentioned dangers, we make the students understand that online classes are temporary, not a solving factor. So instead of filling the students' stomach with medicine, we have decided to give effective classes within the limited time.

This pandemic invites all of us to think wide and act smartly. We have to come out of our woollen blanket and warm up to live along with Covid-19. Therefore, let us realize the fact that Change has to change us for a better tomorrow.

**Lovely Amamthuruthil**  
**St. Joseph Province**

## **Covid 19, also known as 'coronavirus'**

COVID 19 has caused the world great concern. This pandemic arrived in Burkina Faso on March 9, 2020, and it has had many negative as well as positive consequences. The negative consequences vary.

- First, an increase in unemployment of people working day to day to be able to feed themselves. Life has become more expensive, and many families have experienced famine.

- This is due to the closure of businesses, restaurants, schools, national borders, flight cancellations, and confinement of cities.
- The closure of schools has demotivated young people in their studies. They looked forward to the day when classes would resume and for the dates of the exams.
- There has been a significant downturn of the economy in trade, investments, and unforeseen expenses.
- Then we faced various social changes: no more large gatherings, which led to the closure of several places of worship. This made us aware of the Christians' thirst for God since they could no longer participate in the Eucharistic celebration.
- Important ceremonies no longer took place (weddings, funerals, baptisms...) and those that occurred were sober.
- The upheaval of daily life: hand-washing, wearing masks, and no hand-shaking. This affected relationships and the curfew set up made us feel like a dead city.
- The confinement has led to the decline of the love of life and of fraternal relations (no more family visits or visits to the sick).
- Finally, the health centers received fewer patients and hospitality was conditioned by the new ways of living. This disease led to a large number of deaths.

Nevertheless, this pandemic created certain benefits such as:

- Solidarity in our country: numerous associations and people of good will provided support to health workers and vulnerable people.
- People learned how to manage the little they have.
- Hand washing is ideal for hygiene and can fight diseases related to the handling of things, and wearing masks protects us from many diseases.
- Moreover, the curfew has allowed some parents to share more the family reality, to take on more responsibilities that are sometimes ignored or left to the 'poor woman.'
- The confinement has motivated us to set new time schedules: it has allowed us to have more time for community prayer, personal prayer and recreation together.
- In the end, we can say that the coronavirus has overwhelmed the whole world: it has installed fear and individualism; it has snatched away the joy of living and created mistrust among people.
- In spite of everything, we notice more humor in the community and on social networks.

May God protect us and keep us away from this scourge.

**The Postulants, West African Region**

## **Service to the Needy**

Following the lockdown time, I had the occasion to accompany a young Syrian woman, Diana Rafeh, with her two children, Louna who is 6 years old and her 2½ year old brother, Alex. Diana became a widow during her 2<sup>nd</sup> pregnancy. She speaks Arabic and understands a little English, so I was contacted to teach her French. However, this occurred two weeks prior to our moving from Saint-Priest to Lyon. In the midst of packing, I was able to meet Diana at 8 a.m. while the children were sleeping to give her a few French lessons. She was very quick to learn.

'Refugee Forum' had given her a card, which allotted her 400 Euros a month; unfortunately she was never able to receive any cash. I, therefore, brought her to 'Resto du Coeur' for 2 consecutive weeks to get the week's groceries.

Next, the children needed to be registered for the coming school year, which meant filling out various forms at the Mayor's office, and bringing the necessary documents to school. Diana absolutely wanted Louna to begin school immediately and it was difficult to make her understand that the registration was only for September. One day, she called and wanted me to accompany her to school. Upon arriving at her apartment, I saw Louna well dressed, and carrying her lunch bag. Since the school was re-opening after a lockdown period, I was certain that the school would not allow Louna to attend and I could well imagine her great disappointment. As we left the school, I decided to take her to our apartment for a morning French session and her sadness turned to joy. We had lots of fun singing the Alphabet and watching Little Red Riding Hood in French.

Next, it was important to register Diana at the Social Center so that she could join the Fall French sessions. She also registered for a few summer outings.

I tried to imagine what it would have been like for me to arrive in Syria without understanding or speaking Arabic so it helped me understand her great disappointment in seeing our community leave for Lyon on June 24. I continue to keep contact with her by phone and the parish has found another person to teach her French during these summer months.

As a community, we were also able to assist a Rwandan family, Agnes and Jean Pierre, who were being sponsored by the Saint-Priest parish. As arrangements had been made for them to move into our apartment, we left them lots of furniture and household materials, which they greatly appreciated. Again, through phone calls, we continue to assist, guide and support them.

**Rita, International Community**

## **Province of Europe**



We, sisters of the Province of Europe, are elderly, very elderly. During the pandemic, we were part of the so-called "fragile" and "at risk" people. Yet, we feel very much alive and often privileged. We lived in communities, with all that we needed, while many people of our age lived this time in solitude. This virus makes us aware of our fragility and renders us humble.

Even if we had to insist with some people that they put into practice the "barrier gestures" that were asked of us, the confinement was faced with courage. Sisters in retirement homes were the ones who suffered the most, living as hermits, confined to their rooms.



This forced confinement awakened us to the suffering of people who are "confined" all year round, sometimes of their lives: sick or handicapped... prisoners... It invited us unceasingly to "take care" of ourselves and of others.

This confinement has also made us more aware of the importance of what is referred to as "small tasks," those who do menial work, underpaid, but which our society has suddenly discovered to be so useful.

Sharing among the sisters the housework of the employees who could no longer come made us become aware of their work.

It was also a time to heighten one's awareness of interdependence, everything is linked, says "Laudato si." We want to hear the Church's cry of Hope, and to participate in the civilizational turning point in the small things within our reach. "A smile doesn't cost much and it can be very profitable. »

We marvelled seeing solidarities spreading everywhere.

For many of us, the confinement was also the absence of liturgical celebrations in our churches or chapels. Of course, the radio, television, and parishes on you tube, allowed us to unite our prayer with that of all Christians and to be one Body.

The Holy Week liturgies united us strongly, because we knew that all our sisters were, like us, in front of their TV set or computer.

Several sisters mention that this time allowed them to deepen various texts or documents, to read the newspaper more thoroughly, to watch or listen to interesting programs, and thus to be more open to the world. In some communities, the places or times of prayer were modified or more carefully prepared.

Some say: "I have never lived such a good Lent."

We have enjoyed the beauty of spring, the singing of the birds much more...

There were numerous phone calls, and e-mails among us and with those with whom we are in contact, or those that we had somewhat "forgotten." Giving and receiving news from one another became more important than usual.

The retirement home directors communicated regularly on the state of their establishment. The school system shared a lot during this complicated period. The directors exchanged ideas, information, and news. It was a great support for each one.

Several sisters collected and disseminated all kinds of serious or humorous documents that gave food for thought or added cheer to these days that were all identical.

What an unprecedented experience!

What an experience! Unprecedented!

Today we are in the "after"... What are we going to do with this experience? Are we going to forget it?

### **Dreams are expressed:**

- How shall we enter more deeply into the profound meaning of this Eucharist that we've missed?
- How can we continually improve the quality of relationships, being satisfied with what we have and receive, without moaning or criticizing?
- How can we keep the bonds and solidarities begun in this confinement time?

**We are hoping:**

- That the awareness of pollution lead to real effects and real efforts and that in France the reform of the health system materializes.
- That local product be used more and more for the well being of the producers and ours.
- That Europe renews itself and be stronger, and that negotiations between governments be bearers of progress, respectful of people.

**We also have dreams for our Church:**

- The laity, priests, deacons, that each one be in his place, with his own responsibilities...
- We would like to see greater sensitivity towards ecumenism by all Christians.

Basically, we come out of it changed but profoundly the same...conscious of moving towards eternity where everything will have a marvellous consistency and stability!

In the meantime, my sisters, let us take care of the world, of ourselves and of those who are helpless.

*Jean Pierre MEDAILLE would say: BLESSED BE GOD!*

**Sr. Marie-Ange Vuillerme**

**With the participation of several communities**

## **How the covid-19 affects my life**

The disciples were confined to the Upper Room out of fear of the Jews but above all because they were waiting for the fulfilment of Jesus' promise: to receive the Holy Spirit, strength and dynamism for the mission that they would have to live very soon and which was to change the face of the earth.

We are a large community of 14 elderly sisters, therefore fragile, vulnerable, and at risk! So we had to take serious measures if we wanted to be spared from a virus that was decimating the whole of humanity: very limited outings, masks, gel, frequent hand-washing, respect social distancing...

For three years, I have been a volunteer at a Social Centre in Toulon to teach French to migrants who are required to learn it, take an exam, and obtain the D.I.L.F (Initial Diploma of French Language.) We meet and manage to welcome a certain number of students in the Town Hall living quarters. Like all schools, the Centre quickly closed its doors. Although this Centre lacks essential amenities, we manage the best we can, to welcome the many migrants of all ages. The pandemic isolated us completely and only the person responsible for the Centre could give us any news.

Gratuity, availability, fraternal hospitality, and friendly meetings are suspended. We will have to wait for the 'confinement' to be lifted, to think seriously about the future of this Centre, which renders great services to many migrants who daily live the nightmare of being sent back to their country....

Personally, I find it impossible to continue to live my mission in these conditions. I do not have the right as a vulnerable, fragile and at-risk person, to bring the coronavirus to my community and endanger the lives of an entire group. It is up to the Town Hall to take the necessary measures and to provide voluntary help that is dear to our hearts...

Summer is here but the fear of a pandemic re-surfing is in the air and many people no longer respect the sanitary barriers and the cautions given daily by the government officials. On a small scale, confined in a spacious and pleasant house, away from the noisy crowd, each one, in her way and according to her possibilities, becomes aware that the world is anxiously awaiting an answer to prepare a more human, more just and above all more fraternal future.

Together and with a clearer head, during these vacations for those who will be lucky enough to have them, we have to search for ways to become a living stone in this Edifice that is called Humanity.

"We are not out of the health crisis but out of the most acute phase. We are now entering a phase of surveillance and great vigilance. The COVID-19 crisis is not behind us," said Emmanuel Macron on July 3. But our Hope remains alive and with our efforts, the Holy Spirit will once again blow and change the face of the Earth.

**Catherine Maïdiotou  
Toulon, Europe**

## **Covid-19 a time for personal renewal**

COVID 19 is so frightening that it shook the whole world like a thunderbolt in recent months. Throughout the history of humanity, we've heard of different epidemics taking millions of lives in certain countries. But COVID19 was something unheard of until recently. The speed with which the pandemic is spreading, no human power can control, not even the powerful nations of the world. Such pandemic is not only eliminating millions of lives in various parts of the world but it is making many people feel disappointed, frustrated, and hopeless and as a result, many young people have ended their lives. Among those who have died are many religious serving others, especially in the medical field. All that has been published about COVID-19 on TV, in the newspapers, and Facebook has clouded our minds with negativity. Our challenge is to look for something positive amid this pandemic.

I also see another side of COVID-19. The confinement situation has enriched my life and the lives of thousands of religious men and women who took more time for themselves through personal prayer and to reflect on the Word of God. Beginning on March 13, there were no more Eucharistic celebrations however it was a luxury for me to have this opportunity to have the Eucharist in different languages (English, French, Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada) through You tube and to pray for all our dear ones, our Sisters and the whole world.

I made an online Ignatian retreat based on COVID-19, which helped me to spend more time in personal introspection and see the need for healing in our world. It gave me an awareness that nothing happens in the world without the knowledge of the CREATOR. We, humans, have polluted Mother Earth and in some way, it has retaliated for our egoism and self-centeredness. These reflections and the time spent on the Word of God enabled me to place my total trust in God and I realized that my future solely depends on His grace.

In May, I was scheduled for a home visit in India, since my family had planned to celebrate various events such as my brother priest's silver jubilee of Ordination, some grand nieces' and nephews' first communions, baptisms, etc. When the cancellation was announced, it was a big disappointment for everyone but celebrations can wait; what is important is that we remain safe and healthy.

When the whole world looks helplessly at this pandemic, let us think positively and do whatever we can to prevent the spread of it by becoming responsible citizens, by adhering to the country's rules and regulations. We can only hope that this experience makes us feel that we are equals, having concern and compassion for the suffering brothers and sisters. As the World Health Organization Director says: *"this pandemic has given us an opportunity to come together as humanity to learn and to grow together."* I pray to our Creator God, to forgive our sinful humanity and remove this pandemic from the face of the earth and save the humanity.

**Lilly THOCKANATTU**  
**Generalate**

## **A Letter from Mexico**

We want to share with you how we, the community of Betania (Pedregal), are living this pandemic time. We are following the instructions that have been given at the official level: confinement, healthy distance and hygiene rules. To this isolation, which does not differ much from our usual way of life, we add the experience of not being able to receive visits from our families or friends; fortunately, we have the telephone.

This virus worried us when it appeared. We wondered how it had arisen? Had been created? By whom? For what? Why? Future generations will have the answers.

In the community, this time has fostered reflection, dedication, service and fellowship. Each one, according to her possibilities, redoubled her service and dedication, because two of our collaborators did not return to work because of their delicate health, but we, with generosity, replaced them.

We lived Holy Week in a spontaneous and personal way, like a spiritual retreat, in an atmosphere of deep reflection, with serenity and trust in God's mercy, the Father-Mother. The beautiful and profound reflections and celebrations of the Spanish Jesuits in St. Francis Borgia Parish in Madrid helped and encouraged us to create this atmosphere of peace. Fortunately, we continue to take advantage of the Eucharist (on line) during this time of confinement. And God has spoiled us because during the Easter Triduum and these last Sundays Fr. Sergio Cesar Espinosa came to our house to celebrate the Eucharist.

We are well informed about our Congregation's situation, the world and especially of Mexico, which has so many problems: the threat of the coronavirus, the growing poverty, the migrants at both borders, north and south, and the non-stop violence.

We pray for all those who care for the Coronavirus patients in hospitals: mainly doctors and nurses. We pray for the poor families who live this confinement in limited spaces and are exposed to violent aggressions between family members themselves.

We pray for those who have lost their jobs, who are unemployed; that the growing poverty, a consequence of this situation may end; but above all, we pray for those who are victims of the Coronavirus, for those who have died and for their families. We have prayed for our sister who died of the Coronavirus in France, and who is now in the Father's house.

We pray for those who, facing so many problems, have responded in a fraternal and in solidarity way, through economic support, to remedy many needs that have presented themselves and that will continue to do so. With the "For Us" team coordinated by Chema Castillo, we have appealed to friends to help us pay the salaries of the 26 mothers of "Los Hornos" (a poor neighborhood) who work at the "Estancia Infantil" (a daycare center). Thank God we got a good response. As community of Betania, we joined this solidarity by abstaining ourselves from meat three days a week and thus collaborating in this action.



We are most grateful for the great solidarity towards our community. We have received numerous messages and phone calls from the communities of the Province and also from the Congregation. Friends, teachers, parents and former students of our school have manifested their concern by sending us food, cleaning products, money donations from their salaries, and which have allowed us, in turn, to be in solidarity with some of our communities and their projects in favour of our brothers and sisters most in need, especially in these very difficult moments which, we hope, will soon end, with God's help and everyone's involvement.

**We embrace you with much affection and remain united in prayer,**

**Betania community, Mexico**

### **AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL**

I'm sitting in my room, facing the wall, totally lost...

Look to the future and forget to be in the present.

Waiting, waiting, always waiting...

Panic, worry, anxiety... darkness is closing around me... these are some of the words I could use to describe my waiting. This was my three-month experience from May 8 to August 2. I was



following a formation program at Saint Anselm's Institute in Rome from January 5 to May 8. The European borders were closed and I had to spend one month in Rome before returning to France on June 8. Even though it was the time of confinement, Sr. Sally, Superior General and her council of the Sisters of St. Joseph de Chambery, welcomed me at their home in Rome. It was a difficult time; at the same time, I enjoyed the month spent with them and I thank each one of them for their generosity, their thoughtfulness and their concern for me.

These days, weeks, months that I spent without any responsibility remain very alive in my heart; likewise, the hours of searching the Internet for the means and information for my trip, the fear of looking at my phone, to find information on successive flights and cancellations, the moments of discouragement, losing hope of returning to India each time I saw international flights cancelled.

I received a ray of hope when the Indian Embassy in France gave me a positive response. So I left Lyon on July 28th for the Paris airport to fly on the morning of the 29th. But the most painful part of my story happened there, when, at the gate of the last checkpoint, just 10 minutes before departure, I had had no Covid test (as well as 20 other people.) It was last minute news! It is needless to share my experience at that moment. New difficulty: although I was not well acquainted with Paris, I had to move from one place to another to find an available laboratory. In the midst of all these feelings, emotions and struggles, I can say one thing: I could feel God's powerful hand holding me close to him, as I moved from one subway to another and from one laboratory to another.

I experienced God's grace, St. Joseph's protection and the care of our Mother, the Virgin Mary, through different people and events. As I am grateful to God, I also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Sr. Catherine Barange and her Council for accompanying and supporting me and keeping in touch with me through it all. I also thank Sr. Cecily, my Provincial and her Council, who did all she could do for the homecoming and for the prayers of all the sisters in my province.

Finally, on August 2, I arrived in Bangalore, India, but with another 14 days of confinement: the first 7 days, isolated in a hotel, and then 7 days in my community, still isolated in my room. But I am at the end of the tunnel.

Looking back over these three months, I feel that it was a time to be in touch with myself, to come closer to God, in union with many others who struggle in life, to understand the other better. Today, I tell myself that whatever happens around us doesn't matter, let's trust in God. Deo Gratias!

**Shiji James KIZHAKKEDATH**  
**St. Joseph Province**

## Environmental Charter

<http://france.fmc-sc.org/mission/en-rural/vivre-autrement/189-Environmental-Charter>

"To live on the land differently" has become an individual and collective requirement. Lay people, Soeurs et Frères Missionnaires des Campagnes, reflected on this theme in 2008. It resulted in a "landmark" charter for our daily lives.

1. "And God saw that it was good!" (Gen. 1)

Creation is a gift; life is a gift. Learn to give thanks for life given and life received.

2. "God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it." (Gen. 1)

This invites us to sing the wonders of the living God. Take time to breathe; leave a place in your life for contemplation, praise, gratuity and hospitality.

3. "You have made man little less than a god." (Ps 8)

In cooperation with God the Creator, you are responsible for the management of the earth and its resources. Act in solidarity today, remembering future generations.

4. "Pursue peace, seek it." (Ps 33) Beauty and harmony are factors of peace.

Cultivate this harmony in your relationships; your peace will then become contagious. Look at the places where you live and ask yourself: Are they simple, neat and beautiful places of prayer, community, and family life?

5. "Choose life so that you and your descendants may live." (Deut. 30:19)

Various forms of waste endanger the creation and the life of humankind: water, energy, and garbage, over-packaging. Think about the repercussions of your choices on people here and elsewhere. Think about turning off the lights, turning down the thermostat, of using public transit, carpooling....

6. "Don't have a taste for greatness, but let yourself be attracted by what is simple." (Rom 12)

An invitation to seek a simple life, a joyful sobriety, a certain frugality...

Question your shopping habits: check the origin of the products, think of the fairest rather than the cheapest; support local businesses, choose seasonal fruits...

7. "I hope that in all things you will be well and in good health." (3 Jn. 1)

We are not always in control of our health, but a balanced diet can help. Do some gardening, when possible, to benefit from fresh and varied produce, and be vigilant regarding medication!

8. "Live with respect for one another." (Rom 12)

To drive reasonably is more economical and less risky! Feel responsible for your life and that of others, and if you have to stop driving, accept to talk about it.

9. "You shall observe my covenant, you and your descendants after you." (Gen.17)

Aware that we are not 100% consistent, let's get informed, let's be vigilant, and let's participate in associations. Let us agree to take stock from time to time to re-motivate ourselves!

Created in the image of God who loves this earth, a person is called to love, to respect creation...

How are you taking care of the earth? How are you caring for your brother and sister? Several religious congregations have taken up this Charter. We find it in the booklet "Ecology and Religious Life" of January 2018 of the CRVR, Center for Research on Religious Life.

### **In soteapan, during 'laudato si' week...**

During this period of confinement, our relationship with Mother Earth has been closer. We felt cherished as we are given so much and we are grateful to the God of Life for giving us this beautiful common home.



This aroused in our hearts a strong desire to care for the earth and to defend it. What follows is an "Ecological Decalogue," the fruit of our reflection with the Apostolic Team.

Know, dialogue, remain informed and updated on the reality of the Earth.

Learn to look at and treat creation with more tenderness. Protect the earth, water, vegetation and animals.

Do not eat junk food and do not use disposable products.

Reject agrochemicals and favor the organic. Say no to transgenic production.

Promote and defend native corn.

Separate waste, organic and inorganic

Promote the **three "R's": Reduce, Recycle, Reuse.**

Raise awareness through workshops, courses, forums, etc.

Know the laws of each locality and see how to respect them.

Get involved with others in this work: similar groups, networks, etc.

**Soteapan Community, Mexico**



## United for the Life of the World

In Lebanon, we are living a very strong economic crisis, which has been greatly complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a community, we are aware of this situation and we tried to be close to our people to help each other overcome this difficult and long period.

How?

➤ Two of us are working with young university students in chaplaincies. In collaboration with others, we strive to support several initiatives in different areas:

1. "Online accompaniment": The chaplains (men and women) of the public and private universities have always been ready to accompany persons during this difficult period.
2. Various actions:
  - Send support messages to the medical team responsible for the COVID-19 branch of the Hotel Dieu de France - in Beirut.
  - Invitation to prepare a dessert or a fruit basket and place it in front of the neighbor's door or of a family in need. Any other homemade product will also be accepted!
  - Take advantage of this free time to rebuild our relationships with friends, neighbors, and family members.
  - To think of others is very important, but it is also important to think of oneself. Accomplish a certain activity or hobby that we haven't had the opportunity to do for a long time.
  - Enlist volunteers to help students in difficulty, through online sessions; this can help to relieve mothers in this period of confinement.
3. Food Collection: facing the pandemic and the alarming economic situation, several sectors and student groups of the Jesuit University of Saint Joseph have multiplied their efforts and initiatives to help families who have been very affected by the situation.

To organize the work, 80 volunteers broke up into committees and teams. One group is in



charge of finding families in need by going to their homes. Another group organizes the food that arrives. And there is the "Call Centre" committee, one group collects donations, another one does the shopping and the last one distributes the food to families. So far, more than 1,000 families, from all over Lebanon, have received help, either as food or medicine.

### **The silent cries:**

In addition, our small group of sisters tries to be attentive to the silent cries in our society, especially in areas where we are inserted. For that, in Deir-el-Harf, a sister is doing social work visiting the families of the village, to detect those who are in need and especially those who do not dare ask for help.



➤ One sister works in the parish of Ghadir, in collaboration with the parish priest and lay people: they collect food to help poor families. They are also looking for benefactors to help pay for the medication of those who are ill.

- A 'crisis cell' has been set up with the Associates and some friends to:
- Discover families in need.
  - To call upon benefactors.
  - To buy priority products for families, looking for good prices and good quality.
  - To distribute the products, while being discreet and safeguarding human dignity.

➤ On the eve of May 12, International Nurses' Day, our community remembered the team responsible for the COVID-19 section for the sick at the Hotel Dieu de France in Beirut and prepared a delicious meal, cake included, to celebrate this day with them.

They sent us this message:

*"Let's be grateful to the people who make us happy, they are the gardeners through whom our souls blossom"... A big thank you for this delicious meal. May the Good Lord shower you with his graces.*

*Service 3A, Hôtel Dieu de France.*

➤ Thinking about the future and in order not to arrive at a famine situation, a sister from Klaya, together with one of the parish priests and the youth group, are presently looking for some available land where vegetables and fruits could be cultivated. These products would then be distributed to the poor.



### **Lebanon Sector**

**\*Through this letter we associate ourselves with the pain of the Lebanese people following the explosion in Beirut by our prayers and the sharing.**

## **IPIC Report - Province of Europe** **April 2020**

The economic and political powers are blinded by finance; this crisis highlights the damage caused by unreasonable rationale globalization, because only the economy and finance count and are not at the service of humankind:

- Relocation - among other things - of clothing factories, drug manufacturing, and food products to countries where the actual cost and labor cost are cheaper, where people are exploited, whereas, in France and in Europe, factories are closing down, medications are lacking, peasants no longer live off their work.
- Air pollution by intensive agricultural production and air and sea travel, etc.
- Classified as "the elderly," we're on the sidelines...but happy to see the young people getting involved.

### **Awareness or/and confirmation of values:**

- Awareness that we are mortals; that not everyone in the world has the same Social Security coverage as we have in France.
- As consumers, the importance of the caregivers in hospitals, Nursing Homes, medical-social organizations, cleaning company employees, garbage collectors, in the city organization close to the people.
- Directors and Nursing Home staffs have become more aware of the meaning of their commitments: to be there to accompany LIFE and not only death.

### **Witnesses of a lot of solidarity, creativity and generosity ... everyone is active...**

- We are becoming aware of the importance of relationships,
- Free meals delivery during 5 weeks to the Nursing Home personnel by caterers in partnership.
- Parishes and charitable organizations distribute many meals on the street; mutual help in buildings where communities live.
- A lot of ingenuity by the staff to make the confinement easier for the Residents: tel. TV. mail, Skype with families, children's drawings, etc.
- Residents walking in the park when the weather is fine!
- Lots of mail from families and residents to thank the personnel...
- Much ingenuity in the parishes to keep in touch and to pray, and also by the Taizé Community, KTO (Catholic Television Channel) RCF (French Christian Radio)etc.
- Thanks to the constraints, many people rediscover the meaning and necessity of healthy eating and near home.

### **Towns, Communities**

- Called to make choices, to be patient, and be able to wait!
- Efforts to continue or rethink the way we sort household garbage.
- The school requisitioning to receive the children of the staff and security guards, etc.

- Mask-making, protective equipment for health care personnel for local hospitals and nursing homes.
- Three rooms provided for temporary staff coming from far away to work at the Nursing Home.
- Opening of certain establishments for patients' rehabilitation from the COVID 19 leaving intensive care.
- Community organization for grouping purchases, home deliveries, etc.
- In community, call for more kindness, patience among ourselves, more listening, silence and attention to others...
- More intense personal and community prayer time...
- Serious attention to follow the instructions given by "The Way of Hope" and awareness that it is a help to each one.
- This time of confinement allowed us to discover the richness of our house (La Guille): library, corner of the garden.
- We joined in saying "Thank you» with the 8 p.m. applause for the caregivers, which allowed us to communicate with our neighbors across the street: hand gestures, words exchanged, smiles, like a mutual getting to know between young and old...
- Much attention on the part of the personnel of some town halls towards the elderly, especially in rural areas.
- Numerous contacts between communities, especially when some Sisters have been ill.
- Communication through letters with families, friends: all this gives life and hope.
- More reading about the situation analyses in newspapers, DVD reading (the salt of the earth), "The Man who Planted Trees," Protestant programs of the Lord's Day, Psalm of Creation, etc.
- Prayer time was maintained while respecting the distances, which were especially appreciated and prayerful during Holy Week.
- Rereading of several passages from "Laudato Si" which shows us all its relevance and strength in these pandemic times.
- Patience in lines at the store.
- Greater attention to the planet's lack of water: "I am the river and the river is me" (Mossi proverb).
- Many signs of hope: youth served free of charge, greater fraternity, no more running after time... we hear the birds, we admire nature!

### **And after?**

- Reflection on how we live afterwards...
- The virus arrived, the pollution went away... and then what?
- Questioning regarding tomorrow, where young people will have a large place for the development of living together.
- Anxiety of many workers threatened by unemployment...
- Desire to get to know the neighbors better to continue the relationships.
- We hope that from this event something good will emerge.



**We entrust to the Lord our dear deceased Sisters and we give thanks to Him for their witness and service to the Kingdom.**

**April- August 2020**

**"I am the Resurrection and the Life, and whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live". John 11:2**

<b>Name</b>		<b>Place</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Date</b>
RINIERI	Marie Christophe	Francheville, France	89	15.04.2020
POYETON	Marie Ange	Vernaison, France	95	20.04.2020
LA CROIX	Madeline	Pessac, France	96	21.04.2020
MATHEVON	Andrée Marie	Vernaison, France	97	29.04.2020
MORIN	Rita	Mount St.Joseph, Maine	87	20.05.2020
ANTONYMUTHU	Adaikalamary	Medaille Sadan , Inde	69	14.06.2020
SUNDARAM	Marie Cecilia	Medaille Sadan- Inde	93	09.07.2020
ZAMUDIO	Elisa de Jésus	Bethania- Mexico	83	14.08.2020

