

Mission appeal -2020 for Vincentian congregation (Marymatha Province)

Vincentian Congregation is a religious Congregation started in India in 1904. Imbibing the spirit of St. Vincent De Paul, who is commonly known as the father of the poor, we the Vincentians are trying to preach the good news to the poor. In the Synagogue at Nazareth quoting from the book of Isaiah Jesus proclaimed "the Spirit of the Lord is up on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. St. Vincent De Paul in 17th Century and we his spiritual children in the present century have tried and are trying to fulfill the mission of Jesus, namely, the preaching good news to the poor.

To this end in view, we have started four missions in India and one in East Africa. In the Indian Missions direct evangelization is almost impossible now due to the political, religious and cultural situations there. Because of this through our social service activities and, mission schools, orphanages and other charitable institutions we are trying to impart good news of Jesus to the people. You know, the salvation of Jesus should reach the hungry in the form of food, to the naked in the form of cloth, to the illiterate in the form of Education, to the sick in the form of medicines and treatment, to the homeless in the form of a place to lay their head. Inspired by the Christian spirit of charity we are trying to provide these things to the poor people in our missions. We, the Vincentians reach up to them in moments of troubles and provide them what is needed to lead a dignified human life, which is their birth right.

Our Lord said "go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." It is relevant even today. Even today a vast majority remains unevangelised. Even though India received faith in the first century of Christian era from St. Thomas the Apostle we have only 2.5% Christians in the whole country. This is because of the special religious situation there. In Africa, very many countries still remain un-penetrated by the gospel. Those who received faith need to be deepened in faith. It is the wish of Jesus that Gospel should be preached in every nook and corner of the world. We need your support to continue the mission of Jesus.

Natural calamities and catastrophe are regular phenomenon in all our Mission areas, both in India and Africa. Sometimes the flood washes away the whole village and people will be left homeless. Drought destroys their crops and they will have to starve the whole year. This year above all, the spread of the coronavirus pandemic destroyed our entire missions. The pandemic has taken a serious toll on our missions, impacting our overall health and well-being, our financial stability and our entire way of life. We've all been impacted either by the illness, or the quarantine, or by the economic shutdown. It's been hard on everyone. We know it's been hard on you. Acknowledging that many of you face financial strain at this time, if your means allow we ask that you prayerfully consider a gift to the 2020 Annual Mission Appeal so we, together, may continue the work of strengthening our missions in India and E. Africa and reaching out to those in need with love and compassion.

So, as St. Mother Teresa used to say, I stretch out my hands before you not for my sake but for the sake of the poor in our missions who are also the beloved children of God. We have the Christian duty to share what we have with the needy. Finally, we all are members of the universal Church. We are sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father. Let us help each other through our prayers and sacrifices.