

Mission Appeal for the Diocese of Kumbakonam-2020

The Propagation of the Faith Office of our diocese has invited the diocese of Kumbakonam, India to speak to us about their missionary activities and challenges. This diocese, started by the French missionaries in 1899 in the State of Tamil Nadu, India, has an area of 7824 sq. km and a Catholic population of 213,000 (6% of the population). It is served by 220 diocesan and 68 religious priests, 620 nuns and 12 trained and 600 untrained lay catechists.

The diocese seeks your help for certain concrete missionary needs like:-

- 1) Establishing 10 more new parishes, each with a new church and rectory. At present, this diocese has 94 parishes and 618 mission-stations. Many of the missions are so large that they have to be made independent parishes with a resident priest. Most Catholics have no vehicle to travel to the main church for Sunday Mass. But the people are unable to give financial support, for such pressing pastoral projects. 120 missions need chapels, each costing \$25,000
- 2) Providing the 126 Catholic schools in the missions with better facilities, building, infra-structure, educational and technical tools, children's Bibles, a projector, catechetical materials in the form of Pen Drives, pictures, text-books and workbooks to improve the quality of religious and faith formation of Catholic and non-Catholic students in mission- schools. **Schools are our main means of evangelization and ushering in progress at all levels.**
- 3) Enabling 490 nuns and 3855 Catholic teachers in charge of catechetical, educational, medical and social ministries throughout this rural diocese, to educate the children in the Catholic faith and to help the people, particularly the poor and the marginalized for their integral development.
- 4) To continue Jesus' mission of healing and tender care through our diocesan hospital for lepers and 16 rural medical clinics run by nuns. 5) To build low cost homes (\$6000 each) for the poor.
- 6) Education of more young men in the seminary since the diocese abounds in vocation to priesthood and religious life so that some could be sent as missionaries to missions abroad where there is a shortage of priests. **Note: Annually the diocese sends nearly 100 young men and women to other missions and religious orders in India and abroad to serve as missionaries.**
- 7) For Helen Keller Home and School for 276 hearing impaired children under the care of nuns.
- 8) Educating 4600 very poor, semi-orphan, orphan girls & boys by providing them with free board & lodge. Otherwise these poor children will become child-laborers & victims of child-traffic.

Normally 70% of these mission-projects depend upon MCP funds this year 85% of appeals are cancelled due to Covid-19. **The mission and spiritual prospects of Kumbakonam diocese are bright but its needs are many and pressing. 60% of its Catholics are depressingly poor. Therefore, your fervent prayers and generous help are earnestly requested to build the Kingdom of God in the diocese of Kumbakonam, India.**

Due to acute poverty of 65 % of the Catholics the diocese depends mpstly on funds from annual mission appeal for the pastoral, educational, medical and socio-economic emancipation of the marginalized and poor converts. Your Christ-like intervention and sacrifice of :-

- 1) \$ 20 will feed a poor child or an orphan for a month. (\$200 annually)
- 2) \$ 50 will enable a single mother or widow feed her family of 3 for a month.
- 3) \$ 100 will go for monthly pay for a catechist
- 4) \$ 250 provides 4 goats to maintain a family of four.
- 5) \$ 500 will educate a physically challenged child (annually)
- 6) \$ 600 will pay the bill for healthcare and family maintenance of a leprosy patient for a year.
- 7) \$ 700 will fix the roof of a poor man's hut.
- 8) \$ 800 for a cow to feed an entire family of 5 or more.
- 9) \$ 900 for a grocery store, to provide employment and feed a family of 10 with elderly parents and grandparents.
- 10) \$ 1000 medical treatment and rehabilitation of a leper.
- 11) \$ 6000 will provide a home for a family.
- 12) \$ 25,000 will build a mission chapel.

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