

“ if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.”

- Isaiah 58:10



Pandemic! That sounds worse in every way. In reality, the term describes not a disease itself but how extensive and prevalent the appearance of the disease is geographically. In our current situation of the spread of the corona virus (COVID-19), the World Health Organization has declared this disease to be a global pandemic. There is no location that provides immunity. This is the factor of anxiety and chaos for all.

The plague, pestilence; such terms not only imply a disease with deadly consequences, but a disease that is mysterious, unknown, and without human control. The church has always been aware about such situations because of the Scripture. Knowing is different from facing in reality.

The approach of the Church of North India has been both spiritual and practical in the midst of the present Pandemic.



The Moderator of CNI, Most Rev Dr P.C Singh on 25th came forward with a statement of how church and individual should respond to the present situation.

In his stamen he asked the entire Church of North India with all the dioceses to help Government in all the ways possible and follow the Law of the land.

He also appealed to all the Bishops and Pastors to encourage people to pray at home during Sundays and even when Festival

are coming which are central to Christian Faith, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

He asked the Bishops and Pastors to be constructive in their approach to reach to people to give them their spiritual food, which will encourage and uphold them in spirit during this time of crisis. He also emphasised that all pandemics that come may not be due to sin of an individual but can be due to lust and greed of other powerful ones. He encouraged church to repent for not being just to ecology and other human being but at same want church to understand not to become fanatics about sin. Pray for all in all situations.

He said, while India is in Lockdown, there are 42 crore of unregistered daily wage workers who are on roads and need help, they are real Bharat. He encouraged churches to help them in all the ways possible yet keeping the Law of the land of stay safe.

His call was well accepted by all the dioceses of CNI.



Diocese of Kolkata under the leadership of Rt Rev Dr Paritosh Canning opened and gave his space to the government to open Quarantine place. Premises of Oxford Mission in Behala, St Thomas School, Howrah, were open under the supervision of Government as Quarantine centres. He has expressed his willingness to open even other places across the diocese which can be built up into isolation wards etc. The diocese of Kolkata is also helping the daily wage workers with food at their various churches premises.

Diocese like Delhi under the leadership of Rt Rev Dr Waris K Masih has asked his hospitals to join with the Government in opening isolation wards and quarantine places. Dr Sudhir Joseph director of St Stephens Hospital, Delhi has turned one of their wards into an isolation ward for corona positive cases, and Philadelphia Hospital has been made available for quarantine. Diocese of Delhi is providing food for construction workers who are trapped in various pockets of city.



Diocese of Amritsar, under the able leadership of Most Rev Dr P Samantaroy , is providing dry ration to poor in and around various churches in their diocese.

Diocese of Agra under the leadership of Rt Rev Dr P.P.Habil and Director of Hospital Dr Ajay Mall has offered St Catherin Hospital Premises for quarantine ward. St John College, Agra is offering food to the Migrant workers who are crossing Agra.

Diocese like North East India with Rt Rev Michal Herenz in Guwahati has opened there churches to feed the hungry daily wages labourer who is settled in various places.

Diocese of Durgapur under the leadership of Rt Rev Samir Khimla has started relief material distribution to BPL and unregistered labourer throughout the diocese of Durgapur through their churches.

The Diocese in Tribal belts like Diocese of Phulbani, Sambhalpur, Cuttack and many more have engaged themselves to educate people about quarantine and how to stay safe and work in protected environment. This is the initiative taken by Rt Rev Bijay K Nayak.

There are around 27 diocese, all are doing various relief works in their own capacities to help the needy not only in community but for people of other faith as well.

Women Fellowship of CNI has also engaged itself in prayer during this time of crisis, SWF, CNI has called for chain prayer from 31st March 2020 till 14th April 2020. During these days various dioceses WFCS are called to observe particular day as Fasting and Prayer. In this way all the women fellowship together across CNI are having continues chain prayer from 31st March till 14th April. Their main focus of prayer is , Healing for corona virus positive people, Doctors, nursing staff and hospitals, families and people who are in quarantine, migrant workers who are travelling. Healing, Peace and Justice is the focus for these 15 days of chain Prayer which is called by Synodical Women Fellowship of CNI.



Youth Fellowship also has taken the initiative of helping the people in distress. The Diocesan Youth Fellowship of Jabalpur with a spirit of care for needy went to distribute food and some utilities to the underprivileged people who are on roads for shelter. Mr Piyush Singh, President SYFC, CNI and also the President of DYFC, Jabalpur , took this initiative along with other youth of his diocese. They are doing it on daily bases. Till today they have feed 800+ needy people with food.

The youth of Indore in the Diocese of Bhopal under the guidance of Rt Rev Manoj Charan are helping the students who are struck in hostels and PG to either get permission to travel back or helping them to stay put and be safe. This is indeed a time our youth has taken a lead and responsibility for building our community in innovative ways possible.

This is the time when all the people of church have come together in their own capacity to help and encourage each other and help the people who are suffering.

All these help that are given are not merely one day event but an ongoing process of love and caring as we are taught by Christ.

We would like to acknowledge the great contribution of all the hospitals, doctors and nursing staff and support staff of medical engagements, their efforts and strength is commendable.

May God strengthen all during this time of crises resulting in lockdown and help us to pray and encourage each other.

This year we may not be able to Celebrate Palm Sunday in our churches, but food that we give to every migrant worker on their way home is a palm leave we spread to welcome Jesus Christ.

Every help we render to homeless and people who are in distress and with whom we share hygiene utility may be for us all the Fellowship of Love Feast and Serving Love, which we celebrate on Maundy Thursday.

May all our chain Prayers be like intercessions that Jesus did at the garden of Gethsemane and even on the Cross.

May the coming observation of Resurrection day bring a new us for our life time through all the experience we have in these 21 days of Lockdown.

The one song we all need to sing together, “ We shall overcome, we shall overcome, someday, deep in our heart I do believe, we shall overcome some day”.

Responses compiled by-

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