

Most Rev. John Moolachira
Archbishop of Guwahati



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Dear Father/Sister/Brother,

Wish you good health, joy and peace!

1. **Covid 19 pandemic has upset our lives.** We have to be extremely careful not to be infected by the virus; we cannot carry out our normal duties as all our institutions are closed down; many of our people are left in penury for the lack of work and some of them/us are/were affected by this sickness. We do not know how long this pandemic situation will last. We are grateful to God that he has preserved us in his love and kept us safe. We continue to implore his mercy and guidance.
2. As Christians and **members of the mystical body of Christ** we feel the suffering of our people. In my earlier circular dated April 26, 2021 I had requested that all of us must go out to help those who are hungry and helpless with the resources we have. If there is much need in your parish area and you cannot manage it alone, please contact Guwahati Gana Seva Society (GGSS) and we will try our best to ameliorate the suffering by way of rations.
3. North East Diocesan Social Service Society (Social Forum) has set up **NEI Covid Task Force** with a core team with the blessing and support of the Bishops of the region to go out help people in need as best possible. A number of steps have been taken. Some of them are given below.
 - A Toll Free helpline number 1800 121 7119. If you need any help anywhere in India you can ring up this number and seek help on any matter regarding covid. The people attending the number will be able to direct you
 - It has made available a team of counselors for those who may need help. There are counselors from all parts of India and N.E. The team will direct your patient to the counselor who knows his/her language. Bro Varghese Mandapathil SG (Montfort Provincial) is the coordinator. He can be reached at (M)9863037214
 - Two accounts have been opened at Guwahati to receive local contributions.
 - Foreign agencies, Caritas, etc. are contacted to get help.
 - All the Social Service Society Directors of North East Dioceses are contacted.
 - Requested each parish and institution to appoint some volunteers who will help the illiterate to register on line to receive vaccination.

4. **Guwahati Gana Seva Society:** Whatever service that Social Forum can render will be spread out to the whole of North East. Many of the dioceses of North East have set up their own covid care teams. In the archdiocese GGSS have already started helping the parishes that have sought help. The finance of GGSS is limited. It depends on your contribution. Last year most of the parishes and institutions had contributed for covid care and flood relief and we were able to help a large number of people. May I, therefore, request you to send this year also your **donations to the GGSS** account that is given below. Let us be generous towards the poor.

Account Name: Guwahati Gana Seva Society Relief Fund

Account No. 0473053000005607

Name of the Bank: The South Indian bank LTD

Name of the Branch: Guwahati

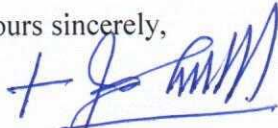
IFSC Code: SIBL0000473

5. **Covid Help in 2020:** At this juncture I also ask you to calculate the amount of help you have rendered to the people by way of relief
- relief donation to organization in cash/cheque including to GGSS
 - Fee concession/waiving of fees to students due to covid, etc.
 - Expenses incurred due to quarantine facility made available in our institution/parish: cleaning after the patients have left, fumigating, painting, repairing, electricity bill, etc. (Fr. Alex Kalayathinal told me that the Govt has recently paid all the expenses Chhoygaon parish incurred by for covid quarantine in 2020).

This data should be verifiable. Make a copy of all these expenses for your file and send one copy to the archbishop's house so that we can, if necessary, quote the amount the Church in Guwahati had spent for Covid relief in 2020 and keep in our archives. It is already done by many dioceses in North East and the rest of India. In the same way keep an account of the expenses you incur this year.

6. I also encourage our priests, religious and faithful to receive **vaccination**. It seems to have ability to resist covid. Priests or a volunteer in every institution could help people to register on line, if necessary, to get vaccinated
7. This is the month of June, the **month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**. Let us meditate on his infinite love for each of us and seek his mercy to protect us from the pandemic.

Yours sincerely,


+John Moolachira
Archbishop of Guwahati
05.06. 2021

