

CIRCULAR LETTER GENERAL SUPERIOR FIC

Maastricht, May 14, 2020

Dear fellow Brothers and Associates,



“Everything shall be well soon”

From the depth of my heart, I send you all fraternal greetings. I wanted to say hello to you. I realize that with the current state of the world, you may not have as many visitors stopping by. So, this is me "stopping by" to let you know that you are loved and thought of. And if it were possible, I would give you a great big hug! However, I always ask your Provincial Superior about your welfare. I am grateful to God that you are all safe and still keeping yourselves safe from the infection of the coronavirus. The primary purpose of my letter is to send you greetings, assure you of our growing unity in spirit, and to encourage you to have enduring courage and hope in this unusual time.

Any brother who reads this letter owes God a sense of praise and gratitude. The opportunity to read this letter is a sign that you are alive and have not lost your vital senses. Very many are those, who went to bed last night and did not live to see the light of today. As a member of the Union of the General Superiors (USG) I have access to our (USG) newsletter. We share experiences and information particularly about the effects of the COVID-19 on our respective Congregations.

Comparing the experience of some Congregations, we as brothers need to be grateful to God for ours so far. This does not mean we are insensitive to the crushing experience of the Congregations that have lost many of their members. However, it may lighten our burden of fear and increase our trust in God when we know that all our fellow brothers in our respective provinces are safe and still keeping themselves safe.

Permit me to repeat and emphasize what I said in the last IGC that each one of us has the responsibility to ensure for ourselves and others a good psychological, physical, emotional and spiritual WELL-BEING just by a choice of focussing on positive experiences, positive thinking, entertaining pleasant thoughts, seeing opportunities in this situation, a feeling of gratitude for the many good things we still enjoy daily. In other words, choose to concentrate on things that give energy, courage, and hope instead of dwelling on fear, worries, feeling of loneliness, feeling of the loss of freedom and other negative thoughts that drain your mental, physical, and spiritual energy. Pope John XXIII could not have put it any better way when he says, "in times like this [crisis], consult not your fears but your hopes and dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled [yet to be fulfilled] potentials. Concern yourself not with that you tried and failed [also lost of freedom] but what is still possible for you to do". This corona-virus will surely pass into the human history!!!

Dear Brothers, I know that the corona-virus and its gripping change on the normalcy of life has the potential to overwhelm many, but more than that, it has also the potential to carry each one of us forward through the power of prayer and the miracles of God's grace. In this uncertain time, surely St. Paul's words to the church in Rome (Romans 8:35, 38-39) speak with all the certainty we need:

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

You are in my prayers.



Bro. Augustine Kubdaar

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