

Society of Saint Pius X



S S P X



The Missions

Foreign Mission Trust MAGAZINE



In time of Plague...

“O God, Who willest not the death of the sinner but that he should repent: welcome with pardon Thy people’s return to Thee: and so long as they are faithful in thy service, do Thou in Thy clemency withdraw the scourge of Thy wrath. Through our Lord.”

—*Collect of the Mass for deliverance from pestilence*



Letter from the Publisher



Dear Faithful,

Our American benefactors have had their share of the “covid” heartache of this past year. And, whatever their trials and issues, the disruption, material and spiritual, has been manageable in most cases. The past Rosary and Mass crusade organized at the District level was made to offset the physical, and worse, spiritual evil which we have witnessed all around us. With our priests present in all major metropolis of the country, our little Society has held its ground, often alone in offering the Holy Sacrifice for the living and the dead, for those present and absent, for sinners that they convert and for the good that they may be saints.

It is with this background history that we reach out to our readers and bring to their eyes and minds other similar stories from other continents. Although many of the hardships are the same with the curfew and the jobless situation across the board, there is added anxiety among many of our faithful in these remote countries where poverty is always lurking around the corner and now poverty is fast becoming utter destitution.

Needless to say, our religious leaders and lay staff are offering all the help they can provide, whether it is in Nigeria, Kenya, or Sri Lanka and India. But, above all, in the midst of dire material circumstances, they focused their role on spiritual support, bringing God and the sacraments to souls, making processions of reparation and bringing hope to those souls prey to fear and despair. May the shining example given by our leaders and their helpers encourage us to be generous with God and with those around us too! May we all offer our prayers and sacrifices to bring about some relief to the dying and destitute next to us as well as those living in the four corners of the world.

In Christo,

Handwritten signature of Fr. John Fullerton

Fr. John Fullerton
Publisher



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News from Nigeria

The Coronavirus has not impeded the apostolate of the Society of Saint Pius X in Nigeria. On the contrary, during the lockdowns the Society's Masses in Enugu continued, drawing other conservative-minded Catholics. The decree by the bishops imposing Communion in the Hand throughout Nigeria in response to the virus has already brought new faithful to the Society who refuse to participate in this sacrilege, and who are consequently examining the whole problem with the New Mass.

Enugu Construction

The construction of the new priory in Enugu started in March of 2020, and has not stopped ever since, such that the carcass (the basic structure without finishings) is now very close to being complete. The foundation took two months to complete, and the various floors around one month each: the ground floor, which has the chapel, kitchen, refectory and laundry; followed by the first floor, which has three offices for the priests and four classrooms for

the future school; followed by the second floor, which has the bedrooms for four priests and five laypersons, followed by the top or third floor, which is as yet open space, but will be used for additional bedrooms and recreational space. Next will come the challenge of all the finishing details.

Meanwhile, the faithful at St. Michael's priory have not missed a Sunday or weekday Mass throughout all this period. Parish meetings were discontinued for a couple of months, but are now back in full swing: the Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Good Success, the Catholic Men's and Women's Organizations, the Confraternity of the Poor Souls, the Eucharistic Crusade, the altar servers, and of course Sunday children's catechism.

On August 9, the Eucharistic Crusade was officially inaugurated, with a ceremony to receive two Pages and six Crusaders into the group. The children turn in around 20 treasure sheets every month. An altar server outing on August 30, brought together 20 boys around Father to learn more about the Latin used in the tradition-



al Mass and to play and hike to the top of Mt. Sinai in the village of Amoli. All these activities combine to make up an active social life for the parish, and work to promote the Social Kingship of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lagos Church Purchase

For several months, churches in Lagos were forbidden to open, and so our priests had to celebrate Masses in private homes whenever they could. Meanwhile, negotiations for the purchase of a church facility in Yaba continued apace, but with a (characteristically African) slow, slow pace. After six months of negotiations, the purchase contract was signed on July 18, and immediately thereafter the faithful took possession of a small part of the almost 6000 square foot property. The property is centrally situated in Lagos, the largest city in Africa, and will help to draw many souls to the true Mass. For the time being, however, three



tenants occupy the main church, the parish hall and classrooms, as well as the second floor future living space for the priests. They have been invited to move out. A temporary chapel on the ground floor is presently being used for Mass, and a fine permanent sacristy has been remodelled, along

The Mission on a Map



Coronavirus Restrictions Enforced in Nigeria on April 1, 2020

“As part of the measures in place to enforce social distancing and limit the spread of the SARS-CoV-2, the Federal Government of Nigeria has decided that schools, organizations and businesses in FCT, Lagos and Ogun States will close effective from 30 March 2020 at 23:00h... For the period of the lockdown, every person is confined to his or her place of residence, unless strictly for the purpose of performing an essential service, obtaining an essential good or service, or seeking medical care. All borders linking the two States and FCT to the rest of the country are shut during the period of the lockdown, except for the transportation of persons on essential duty, food, fuel, manufactured goods or donated relief items. Mass gathering is prohibited, except for funeral services as guided by infection prevention and control regulations, for which social distancing rules apply and crowds are limited to not more than 20 persons... *Limited transport services are allowed for the movement of workers, services and goods in response to COVID-19 and for the ... provision of essential services.*”



Priestly supervision at the construction site (above). A temporary chapel has been set up downstairs until the current tenants vacate the building (left). Work has been completed on a permanent sacristy as well (right).

with the bathrooms for the faithful and several bedrooms. The building has two stories in the larger front section, and three stories in the back section. When the tenants move out and the entire building is available for the faithful, it will provide ample space for all parish activities.

Port Harcourt

Towards the end of 2019, the Society of Saint Pius X purchased two plots (totalling half an acre) centrally located in the city of Port Harcourt, Rivers State. It is here that the faithful hope to move the Mass center that is presently using a rented school building. The first challenge was to construct a wall to



secure the property. This was completed by June of this past year. The next step is to build a simple structure, with a roof and concrete floor, for the celebration of Mass and catechism classes. This step has yet to be begun, due to lack of funds. The group of faithful in Harcourt is young, enthusiastic, and zealous, but without financial means to begin a construction project. May divine Providence find a way to help them without undue delay!

Oji River

The Society has a mission in the village in Inyi, near Oji River, Enugu State, using the local hall for the celebration of Mass twice a month. Fr. Nanthambwe is the pastor and continued celebrating Mass for the faithful throughout the lockdown for Coronavirus. This group of faithful originally came to the Society when the parish priest refused to allow them to have a cemetery and to bury them in consecrated ground. Since then, however, they

have learned a great deal about the Mass and the crisis in the Church, so that they will no longer attend the New Mass.

Abuja

The Society has had a chapel in the national capital, the Federal Capital Territory, for several years. Mass is celebrated in a hall located on the private property of one of the parishioners. The parishioners have been very active in remodelling their chapel and fitting it for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. This has included constructing a communion rail, replacing the ceiling, purchasing a tabernacle and a sound system, as well as many other projects. They long for the time when they can have their own permanent chapel, but the cost of real estate is so high in the capital city that this is not likely to happen soon, short of a miracle. They are thankful, however, to have the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass every Sunday.



Father and several of the faithful are pictured in front of the church property recently purchased in Lagos.





Intoibo ad Altare Dei

Fr. Peter Scott with the Eunugu altar servers hiked Mt. Sinai in the village of Amoli, and brushed up on their Latin for Mass



COVID in Kenya



Since March of last year, Kenya has been plunged into crisis. Millions of people have lost their jobs. In a country with the biggest slums in Africa, life had become precarious before—now it has become truly miserable.

Our Mission is on the edge of one of these slums and, for many months, we have had to help hundreds of people left without food or homes. With the assistance of some benefactors, we were able to organize a weekly food distribution for some poor mothers, thereby helping sixty families every week.

As the pandemic continued, people were not able to pay their rent. At first the property owners were patient, but after two or three months, they placed padlocks on the houses to prevent people from coming home and taking their belongings unless they pay the past due rents. We had to help

Father James, our Kenyan Priest, is in office for the Help for the Poor. Since the beginning of this health disaster, Father James has been distributing more than 100 pounds of cornmeal to help poor families. People cook this flour in the water to get a kind of polenta called “ugali”, the main food in Kenya. This food does not cost much and is very nutritious. A pack of two kilos costs about 1.18 USD.



these mothers who were left alone with four or five children by paying their rent.

The situation is not improving in Kenya. The main sector of activity is tourism, hospitality, and restaurants. However, all restaurants were closed for a long time because of COVID-19 and tourists did not come this year because of the lockdown. All schools are also closed since March. A lot of people have lost their jobs. The teachers at our school can no longer be paid, although we try our best to support them.

Yesterday a woman came to see me: she had just returned from three months in the hospital with her baby and had found her house locked up with all her belongings inside. The owner did not want to open if she did not immediately pay the equivalent of \$60 US.

ery day, and many faithful were able to follow the Mass daily and especially on Sundays.

During this time, we were one of the few churches in Kenya to provide the sacraments with dozens of confessions and communions every day. Many of the faithful of other parishes have come to us during this time.

Since July we have been able to resume public Masses on the condition that certain rules are respected. At this time, we have had a large influx of new members who have discovered and are enthusiastic about Tradition.

The bishops of Kenya have ordered priests to give Holy Communion in the hand and not to give Baptism to anyone (except in danger of death). Many Catholics have refused to receive

COVID-19: A Spiritual Blessing?

In Kenya, by decision of the government, the churches were not able to organize public masses for four months. These were four dangerous months for the spiritual lives of some of the faithful. Fortunately, we were able to stream the Holy Mass live on YouTube ev-



Holy Communion in their hands and have joined us. Our priests can also baptize the children of good Catholics who have asked in vain for baptism from their pastor. In the end, it seems that in Kenya as in many other countries, COVID-19 will have been used for the advantage of the Traditions of the Church!

Some News...

Father Antoine-Marie Claret, who was in Kenya for a year, was recalled to France by our superiors in July. We have therefore welcomed a new priest, ordained last June in Ecône : Fr. Louis Gravrand. Fr. Louis was able to reach Nairobi on August 14th. Welcome to Kenya!



Help our Families! Give them Something to Eat!

It is written in fact: “Come, blessed my Father, you have been bequeathed the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world, because I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you dressed me, you visited me, I was in prison and you came to see me.” Then the righteous will say to him, “Lord, when we saw you hungry and fed you, or thirsty and gave you a drink? When have we ever seen you stranger and welcomed you, or naked and dressed you? When have we ever seen you sick or in prison and come to visit you?”

And the king will answer to them: “Truly I say to you: all that you have done to one of my younger brothers, you have done to me.” —Matt. XXV, v. 34



Chiapas:

a Mexican State at War Against the Devil


Since the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, a multitude of miracles and conversions were reported throughout the novohispanic territory. All the work that the missionaries had done before the apparitions, without much fruit, was abundantly fecundated by the presence of the Blessed Virgin. Her message was very clear: Our Lady is the Mother of the Americas and the Mediatrix of all graces. The triumph of Guadalupe was a prelude to what will be at the end of time the triumph of Her Immaculate Heart.

Chiapas

The expansion of Catholicism in Mexico continued over time. However, in the southeast of Mexico, Chiapas, a state with Mayan roots, is of particular interest. The name “Chiapas” comes from the word “Chiapan” or “Tepechiapan” which means “water under the hill”. Its capital is Tuxtla Gutiérrez. “Tuxtla” means “place of rabbits” in Nahuatl. When the tribe of the Mexicas conquered this territory, they named it “Tochtlán” (“place where rabbits abound”), but the tribe of the




Zoques modified that word into their language and pronounced it “Tuchtlán”. In 1560, the Dominican friars founded a town in this region and called it San Marcos Evangelista Tuchtla and the Spanish switched “Tuchtla” for “Tuxtla”. It was only in 1848 that a governor changed the name of “San Marcos Tuxtla” to “Tuxtla Gutiérrez” in honor of General Gutiérrez Canales. It seems crazy, but history



The State of Chiapas

- Chiapas is located in the southeast of Mexico. It is bordered to the north by the state of Tabasco, to the west by Veracruz and Oaxaca, to the south by the Pacific Ocean and to the east by the Republic of Guatemala.
- Chiapas is distinguished by the production of Amber, which is a fossil resin, a product of the trees of a legume *Hymenocourbail L.* (Guapinol).
- Amber is the only precious and semi-precious stone of plant origin, leaving aside the diamonds that are formed from graphite. In America, only in Chiapas, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic can amber be found.
- It is the eighth largest state in Mexico, representing the 3.8% of the country's surface, with 74,415 km².
- The main economic engines of Chiapas are mining and agriculture. Coffee, banana, coconut and corn are the products that are most harvested in Chiapas.



Coat of Arms of the State of Chiapas

continues to repeat itself: what our good God makes to flourish, the world, the flesh and the devil try to tear away. Let us not forget that history is summarized in this great battle: the city of God versus the city of man.

Natural Wealth and Poverty

The state of Chiapas is well known for the variety of places of interest to tourists: the amazing archaeological sites of Palenque, Bonampak, and Yaxchilán, the latter located in the Lacandona Jungle; beautiful colonial cities such as San Cristóbal de las Casas, Comitán de Domínguez and Chiapa de Corzo, all filled with monuments and cathedrals such as the Temple of Santo Domingo de Guzmán and the Cathedral of San Cristóbal; ecological reserves and natural areas such as the Canyon of Sumidero, with its impressive natural settings, the imposing Lacandona Jungle, the Agua Azul Waterfalls, and the Montebello Lakes National Park with their multicolored lagoons.

Despite the fact that Chiapas has extraordinary natural beauty and wealth, it is the poorest state in Mexico, with the smallest Catholic population in the country and the state that registers the highest number of religious conflicts. About 76% of the population lives in conditions of poverty and of that percentage, 31% suffer from extreme poverty. In Chiapas, the Catholic Church has lost more faithful than elsewhere in Mexico: In 1900, 99% of the population was Catholic. In 1930 it was 97%, but with the changes of Vatican II this percentage declined drastically. Currently, less than 58% of Chiapans are Catholic, well below the national average of 83%. In the areas which the Catholic Church has neglected, the various protestants sects (such as Baptists, Pentecostals, Evangelicals and even Adventists, including many satanic groups) have gained ground converting Chiapas into a state of great religious diversity.



Parachicos are traditional dancers from Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas, Mexico, who dance on the streets of the town during the Grand Fiesta festivities, which take place from January 15 to 23 every year.

I will not Leave you Orphans

Although it seems that the battle is being lost and that Catholicism in Chiapas is destined to disappear with the passage of time, both Our Lord (Jn 14: 8) and Our Lady promised that they would not leave us orphans: “Am I not with you, I, who am your Mother? A small, but fervent group of around fifty faithful at our Mission Saint Joseph, like new Cristeros, have been fighting to re-establish the reign of Christ the King in Tuxtla Gutiérrez. After many years of struggle, and the generosity of the faithful, a chapel is currently being built in honor of Saint Joseph, Protector of the Holy Church and Terror of the demons. Little by little, the Mission is growing. New families are approaching, and a new stage is envisioned for the mission of the SSPX in Tuxtla. We will wait to see what Providence grants, but truly Saint Joseph, through the Masses, processions, rosaries, and sacrifices of the faithful, has made the local clergy tremble, as the Archdiocese of Tuxtla in Chiapas has published an official document alerting Catholics not to seek or attend the SSPX chapels for the doctrine which they supposedly already have in theirs. We all know very well that the doctrine is not the same. Fortunately, this declaration has helped make us better known and the good God is granting graces especially to



The Cascadas de Agua Azul (Spanish for “Blue Water waterfall”) are a series of waterfalls found on the Xanil River in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas. (above) Palenque is an ancient Mayan city located about 500 miles (800 km) southeast of Mexico City. It lies in northern Chiapas. Its ancient name was Lakamha (“Big Water”) and its modern name comes from the nearby Spanish colonial settlement of Santo Domingo de Palenque. (below)



many young people. Many realize the tremendous crisis that the Church is experiencing and are approaching us. As Saint Paul has already stated: “All things work together for good, for those who love God” (Rom 8: 28).

Charity Covers a Multitude of Sins

Despite the generosity of Chiapans, there is still much work to do. Aside from the new chapel, we are hoping to construct—God willing—pews, the altar, and a confessional. Alongside of all this, we are hoping to build priests’ quarters and a catechism room. Currently, the priest stays with the faithful, jumping from home to home. Therefore, we ask your generosity in raising \$50,000 US for this project, reminding you of the words of the Holy Ghost in Sacred Scripture, which are a source consolation for kind souls: “For alms delivereth from death, and the same is that which purgeth away sins, and maketh to find mercy and life everlasting” (Tob 12: 9). Let us especially not forget to pray much and offer many sacrifices, so that Our Lady of Guadalupe may spread her man-

tle over the Mission Saint Joseph, enlighten and ignite souls with love for Our Lord Jesus Christ and with a desire to conquer Heaven so that in a short while, that profession of faith which the Cristeros once shouted at their moment of death, might resound once again in the souls and in the streets of the state of Chiapas, and become our stairway to Heaven: VIVA CRISTO REY!

—Fr. Pablo Guiscafré Musalem



In Sri Lanka:

Curfew since March 20, 2020

The following article was written on 13 April 2020 during the pandemic curfew.

The measures taken in Sri Lanka to combat COVID-19 are extremely strict. Containment is total and the sanctions are severe. Police checkpoints are set up on roads and many people are arrested. Vehicles are seized, requisitioned, and used by the police for health operations.

Overall, Sri Lankans are respectful of the rules that have been put into place. Most are afraid since they are not to be able to afford suitable health care in the event that they get the dreaded virus.

As of April 11, the country had 210 confirmed cases (for 22.5 million people) and 7 deaths. Many areas of the country are completely unaffected by the virus. The government publishes daily reports and adapts its policy on a daily basis as well. People returning from abroad have been quarantined and are being closely monitored, which has helped to contain the spread of the virus. The country took strong measures very quickly by blocking its port and airport. The situation



appears to be under control for the time being.

Due to total containment with a 24/7 curfew, everything is closed. No one is allowed to leave their house unless they have written permission from the police for a serious reason. Fortunately, supermarkets and small shops have set up delivery services. Street vendors drive around neighborhoods with their tuk-tuks or small lorries making fruits, vegetables, eggs and bread available for people to buy.

As far as religion is concerned, all public religious gatherings have been forbidden since the curfew was put into place. From March 20, 2020 onwards, nobody could attend our ceremonies so we had to say Mass without the presence of the faithful. Brother Isidore, from Iloilo, Philippines, is still with us until he flies back on May 25th. Fr. Cornel Eisenring, who was due to come on March 25 from Davao, Philippines, had his flights cancelled since no foreigner has been allowed in the country since March 20th.

On March 10th, Fr. Tyler Nelson arrived at the Colombo Airport from India. He came to Sri Lanka on the way to his final destination in Singapore. Unfortunately, when he went to the airport on March 18, he was denied access to the plane because he was flying to Singapore via Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Singapore

Government had just forbidden passengers from Malaysia to enter the country. Father Nelson had to stay with us in Negombo. His tourist visa was automatically extended to May 12th and, after two weeks in the priory, the police issued a Quarantine Certificate allowing him to leave the country without interference once the situation is unblocked.

During the curfew, we had two Masses each day. We had Benediction on Thursday as usual and we organized a procession with the Blessed Sacrament around our property praying for the end of the pandemic. On Palm Sunday, we blessed enough Palms to give to the faithful, and later in Holy Week, the three of us celebrated all the Triduum ceremonies. The Easter Vigil was performed without any attendance, but all the liturgical blessings were carried out as prescribed and we kept all our faithful in our prayers.

Being held in a sort of house arrest for weeks at a time is an unusual experience. Thank God, we are well looked after by our parishioners and were provided with food in abundance through their generosity. In return, we had plenty of time to pray more and appreciate the great privilege we have to live under the same roof as Our Lord Jesus Christ present in the tabernacle. These great blessings make the curfew easy to bear.



Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Kurana, Negombo (Sri Lanka) received an unusual visitor before Benediction recently. Ironically, the peacock has been a symbol of Our Resurrected Lord since ancient times, when the Greeks believed its flesh to be incorruptible. In the Medieval period, it was believed that the peacock shed his feathers each year and grew them again as a sort of “resurrection”.



Processions in time of Plague



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Catholic Churches in the National Capital Region (Metro Manila) were ordered by the Bishops' Conference to be closed until Easter Week—something quite unprecedented. However, this is not a time for the Church to recoil but an opportunity to urge the faithful to do penance, to pray, and to inspire others to have a spirit of conversion. All these things are not possible without Our Lord or His priests.

During epidemics in past centuries, processions were often organized and the Holy Rosary and Litanies were sung or recited. Examples of this can be seen in the lives of Pope St. Gregory the Great and St. Charles Borromeo. Despite the restrictions and the quarantine imposed on the National Capital Region (Metro Manila), Our Lady of Victories in Quezon City was able to secure permission from the local Barangay Captain (community leader) to have a Eucharistic Procession in the surrounding area to implore Our Lord's mercy for the people of the community. A very kind and longtime parishioner was able to secure the permission for a pro-



cession every evening as long as there were only five participants with proper “social distancing”. The only request was that the processional route pass by the Barangay for the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

It caused a strange sense of awe to behold the busy streets that are usually filled with all sorts of vehicles and pedestrians, now totally empty save for an occasional passerby. The streets were completely deserted and marked by barricades to prevent “outsiders” from entering the Barangay as our small procession, led by priests, brothers, and our prior Fr. Walliez carried the Blessed Sacrament through Barangay Mariana. This neighborhood has been nicknamed “the little Rome” because of the high concentration of religious houses in the area. All was quiet except for the distant whine of a karaoke which was overpowered by the priest singing the Litany of Saints on the loud speaker. The Blessed Sacrament was greeted in proper fashion by some of our faithful who welcomed Our Lord by sinking to their knees in the street.

Our Lord was greeted by about twelve of our faithful who were able to come for the evening Mass. Nowhere else in the Philippines was this possible save for our other priory in Davao. We give thanks to Our Lord on this feast of the Annunciation for granting this privilege to our priory.

The daily processions of the Blessed Sacrament have continued following a short hiatus from Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday. The checkpoints and patrols have increased, but still the procession of three km continues, passing by some of the homes of our faithful. It is a touching sight to see our faithful with lighted candles at their gates kneeling to receive the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Many passersby, including those driving cars, scooters, motorcycles, and trucks as well as those jogging, strolling, or going for groceries have stopped when they see Our Lord passing by. The usual practice for drivers is that they would slow down and cross themselves to acknowledge the Divine Presence. One driver saw the procession in the distance, parked her car, and alighted her vehicle to greet Our Lord.

In other barangays in the city of Manila,



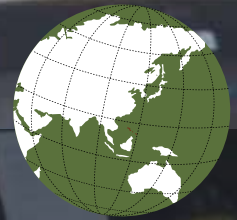
Novus Ordo priests have made processions perched in the back of pickup trucks, giving the benediction as they go. It was remarked by some of the faithful that it seems less dignified, less solemn, and so rushed. The usual practice for the Our Lady of Victories route is for someone to be a lookout in the street for the procession and then to alert the households to come out with their lighted candles. It’s beautiful to behold the little ones being taught such devotion by their parents.

The number of people greeting Our Eucharistic Lord has grown to about seventy-five, including several communities of Novus Ordo religious sisters and several neighbors who are not among our faithful but who nevertheless have a great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. It is interesting to note that contact was established with several of the households by means of “Block Rosaries”. We see our Lady’s guiding hand in preparing for the way of Her Divine Son! We pray that through Our Lady many more will see the riches of the Blessed Sacrament through the traditional Catholic Faith.





These are Unusual Times



During the pandemic, Eucharistic Processions were held throughout the Philippines. 541 homes have been blessed and nearly 2000 people have greeted Our Eucharistic Lord with reverence. To reach more distant neighborhoods (known as barangays) a pickup truck was used to facilitate the procession.

Bringing Essential Items

Here in Southern India, it is day 30 of our nation-wide curfew and we have another 10 days to go. Will the curfew be lifted as scheduled? Hardly. India is probably not among the worst hit by this pandemic. Deo Gratias. Will it stay that way? Only time will tell. At the moment, we are riding in the dark and there is no light at the end of the tunnel. With the departure of all our non-local priests, I am left alone at the mission. At the same time, the world's biggest lockdown sent 1.4 billion people into isolation. As expected, chaos erupted. Panic spread everywhere and it is disturbing to see how panic feeds itself and gains momentum.

It is easy to discern that we are in this for the long haul. We who have become accustomed to have everything 'Prime-delivered' have to wait. It could be months before our world returns to normal—if it ever does—or if it even should. We are all experiencing something unprecedented.

In this coronavirus blitz, what are we doing here at the mission? We planned ahead and stocked essential items for the next few weeks. We also helped our poor starving neighbours

with rice bags and other things. God has been very good to us. He kept us safe. In the beginning, I was able to organize liturgy for our faithful while, of course, respecting the so-called 'social distancing'. But as time went on and as the rules became more draconian, we had no other option than to close our doors.

Providentially, the government began to allow the movement of essential items from 6 am to 1 pm. Taking this ruling as a God-send, I was able to visit our sisters under the pretext of bringing 'essential items'. But in reality, I am bringing them the most important requisites for daily life – Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. It is truly 'meat' for our soul, 'food' for our spiritual life, and Sacramental Confession – 'medicine' for our soul. Besides this supernatural food, I was also their 'meat-man', their 'milkman', and also their 'pharmacist'. I know very well I am not cheating anybody as these are 'analogous' terms. The police could see my milk vessel, rice bag, and stock of medicine... but could not notice the supernatural intention behind those things. The Sisters were happy and so were the kids.




As for the faithful, we organized regular talks and sermons in Tamil, as many other districts had done. I would preach sermons in my office and send them electronically. I was never a fan of 'WhatsApp' and I'm still not, but I must admit it can be used well. Spiritual connectedness is a known protector against loneliness. After all, St. Thomas the Apostle wouldn't have demanded those horrible proofs from the risen Christ had he stayed in fellowship with the rest of the Apostles! When medical professionals began to insist on 'social distancing' as a way to curb the spread of coronavirus, people reacted with alarm. But to me, it is an unique opportunity which we should not pass up. Very many times, I have asked them to come to a retreat. But now, during this long pause, they have a chance to do it. Many have discovered the beauty of silence, prayer, and the joys of family life—perhaps for the first time. God draws good out of evil and only He can do it. Our faithful are discovering, or at least are being 'forced' to discover the 'principle and foundation of our spiritual life.' If they continue along this path, they will most likely fare well both during and after the pandemic.

Last, but not least, I was able to spend more time with the children: from extra catechism classes to working in the garden and even playing cards with them. I have ample time to spend with them and for them. It is the worst of times, but it is also the best of times—age of wisdom and at the same time age of craziness. It is our wish that this coronavirus blitz brings sanity back to our world and brings people back to the true God Whom we have offended by our sins.

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Facts



INDIA

PALAYAMKOTTAI

Priory of the Most Sacred Heart

The mission runs 17 Mass Centers with 3 SSPX priests, 3 heroic helper priests and 2 zealous Brothers. It also looks after a school of 70 pupils, works very closely with an orphanage run by the Consoling Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

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Society of Saint Pius X



S S P X

The Society of Saint Pius X is an international priestly society of almost 700 priests. Its main purpose is the formation and support of priests.

The goal of the Society of Saint Pius X is to preserve the Catholic Faith in its fullness and purity, not changing, adding to or subtracting from the truth that the Church has always taught, and to diffuse its virtues, especially through the Roman Catholic priesthood. Authentic spiritual life, the sacraments, and the traditional liturgy are its primary means to foster virtue and sanctity and to bring the divine life of grace to souls.

Faithful to the words of Our Lord—“Going therefore, teach ye all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost”—the Society of Saint Pius X strives to bring the Gospel and Tradition to souls around the world. As a lifelong missionary, Archbishop Lefebvre passed on this charism to the Society. This magazine aims to both inform souls about the work of the missions and how they can be helped.