



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA (CBCI)

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Cardinal Baselios Cleemis

President

Your Eminence/Beatitude/Grace/Excellency,
Dear Fathers/Brothers/Sisters/Collaborators of Caritas India,

6 December 2015

Subject: Appeal for solidarity and contribution towards disaster victims of floods in Tamil Nadu

The Catholic Church in India expresses our solidarity with the people of Tamil Nadu and offer our prayers for the flood victims and condolences to the families of all those who lost their beloved ones and property in the devastating floods of these past days in Chennai and adjoining districts.

Heavy rainfall which started from 9th November 2015 and further intensified in the past few days due to cyclonic storm over the Bay of Bengal has caused a huge deluge of floods and has thrown millions of people's lives out of gear in several parts of Tamil Nadu including Chennai City, Cuddalore, Kanchipuram, Tiruvallur, Villupuram and Tanjavur districts.

The floods have left thousands of families in suffering and pain, helpless and homeless without even the basic necessities of food and water; the public service systems of transport, electricity and water supply have been severely damaged and disrupted. While media reported that 269 people lost their lives in the floods, it is feared that the actual toll would be much higher. As of now, 4515 Relief Camps have been opened and public utility places such as schools, Churches, Mosques, Cinema Halls are providing temporary shelter to the affected victims. The rapid assessment report says that about 30000 families have been displaced, about 7700 houses have been damaged, over 1000 huts got washed away and 2.5 lakh hectares of agriculture crops destroyed.

Caritas India, the Catholic Church's social arm in India for humanitarian support has responded very quickly to this calamity and has already placed a 10 member Team in 3 base camps to coordinate the relief operations together with the Social Development Wings of the affected Dioceses. The relief activities of Caritas India are in full swing and relief kits with food, drinking water, cloths, utensils, sanitary items etc are being distributed to the flood victims. Caritas India intends to reach out to over 10000 flood victim families in the next few days with the relief activities in the first phase.

The need of the hour calls us to express our solidarity with the flood affected suffering families and communities and to contribute our mite for their relief and rehabilitation to reduce their sufferings by bringing their life to normalcy. Therefore, on behalf of the Catholic Church in India, I make an earnest appeal to Bishops, Priests, Religious, Lay leaders and collaborators of Caritas India to encourage the community of faithful, institutions and people of goodwill to make voluntary donations to this humanitarian call and express our solidarity and support. Kindly include those who are affected by the flood in your valuable prayers and Holy Mass.

The funds mobilized to this cause from Dioceses and institutions may please be sent to CARITAS INDIA A/C NO: 0153053000007238 with SOUTH INDIAN BANK, ACCOUNT NAME: CARITAS INDIA, BANK ADDRESS: 22, REGAL BUILDING CONNAUGHT PLACE, NEW DELHI - 110 001, IFSC/ NEFT CODE: SIBL0000153.

I invoke the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ on all of you and your Dioceses, Communities and Institutions.

Yours lovingly in Our Lord,

+Baselios Cardinal Cleemis,
President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of India.

Residence

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