

APPEAL FROM TOR BROTHERS IN INDIA

India, September 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the TOR

Pace e Bene

Fraternal Greetings from Bro. Franco Kannampuzha, Malabar Missionary Brothers! I wish you all the peace and happiness of Brother Francis and St. Clare. I do hope that you are all keeping fine and pray for the same. I am preparing to attend the Council meeting of IFC-TOR in Assisi during October.

You might have heard from the media about the flood disaster that occurred during the last weeks in our land Kerala, India. It was a terrific flood disaster that Kerala has seen since 1924. This small state of ours is known as 'God's own country'. A terrain with beauty. Everywhere greenery place. A place composed of rain and sunlight. We produce electricity with the water from the dams and reservoirs. A place where Hindus, Muslims and Christians live with harmony.

In the middle of August the incessant rains changed our life. All the dams are filled with water. There were many landslides. All the rivers and canals were overflowing. The havoc of the nature has taken away the lives of many people. Houses filled with water. In order to safeguard life, people had to move to refugee camps leaving everything that had been acquired during their life. Without sufficient food, medicine and clothes, people are living in the camps. Animals are dying everywhere. This tragic sight is not vanishing from our minds. We conducted special prayers in all our churches, ashrams, and convents.

God has heard our prayer. Last two days there is no rain. Water slowly goes down. Seeing the pitiable sight, those who are returning to their houses crying loudly. Houses are not fit to stay. Houses are filled with mud, snakes and creatures. All are helping and co-operating with each other for cleaning the houses. Our Brothers are in a state of separation for the last two weeks. We cannot contact them since there are no electricity, telephone, travel facility and any other media. Our Brothers are serving in the camps.

Emergency helps and assistance has to be given to these poor people who have lost everything. Many people are reaching their hands out for food, clothing and medicine. Every day we are seeing the horrible sights. When these people go back to their houses, essential commodities like, food, clothes, medicine, drinking water, cleaning items, study materials of the students etc. have to be hand over to them. The present situation of Kerala is so bad. I am asking you please pray for us, and for your generous support.

May the good Lord bless you all. May St. Francis, St. Clare and all other saints in the Franciscan family intercede for you before the Lord.

Yours sincerely in St. Francis,

Bro. Franco Kannampuzha, Malabar Missionary Brothers
Minister General.

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