



## RANCHI CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE

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### President's Message



Dear Friends and Well Wishers,

“Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are in turmoil within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.” These words from Psalm 43.5 keep coming to my mind as we pass through very difficult times. The pandemic that has hit the world creating a global crisis has turned into a deeply personal and particularly troubling adversity for us there in Jharkhand. suffering, pain and anguish has followed, in our presbyteries, in our religious communities and in our neighborhoods.

But despite the dark clouds, hope in God, faith in his mercy, love for mankind, and compassion for the weak, the underprivileged and the deprived were also shining like torches amidst the darkness and the gloom around us.

For me, it was a particular grace of God to be blessed with the possibility of leading much relief work an actually, being part of it. While we were pained and troubled by the despair in the eyes of returning migrants, displaced because of unplanned lockdowns, fear and joblessness, we also saw hope in God shining in their eyes when they found welcome and relief in the shelters run by the Catholic Church. There was much to learn from the quiet dignity of widows struggling to take forward their lives and families, from the tender gratitude in the expressions of rickshaw pullers who often live by the rough rules of the road, through the tiny smiles on faces of tired hungry villagers as they received rations from us and realized that they had something to eat for the next fortnight. Amidst all this happening around us, the refrain in our hearts was always, hope in God for he is the master of the universe.

Our work of relief and comfort was largely possible because of your benefactors and to a very great extend due to our Funding who enabled us to reach out to the weak and the marginalized. The support and encouragement of our funding partners enabled SIGN to perform extensive relief work during this pandemic. In the initial stages, SIGN participated in the joint relief effort of the Government of Jharkhand and Archdiocese of Ranchi. It also distributed rations on its own. Later as the lockdown restrictions were relaxed by the Government, SIGN implemented the project activities of Child Health Care by motivating and encouraging pregnant women and lactating mothers to visit VHND of child vaccination. It also motivated farmers in their work during these very testing times.

It is my ardent desire that we continue our efforts of brining God's hope to all people specially to those who need it most.

Though it is a sad and sorrowful task that I have to perform, I cannot conclude without paying tribute to Late Fr. S. Christu Das, whom we lost on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. In him we have lost a dedicated warrior whose heart throbbed for the poor and whose enthusiasm and dynamism were unmatched and contagious. He was an asset to SIGN and its partners. May God grant him eternal Rest.



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