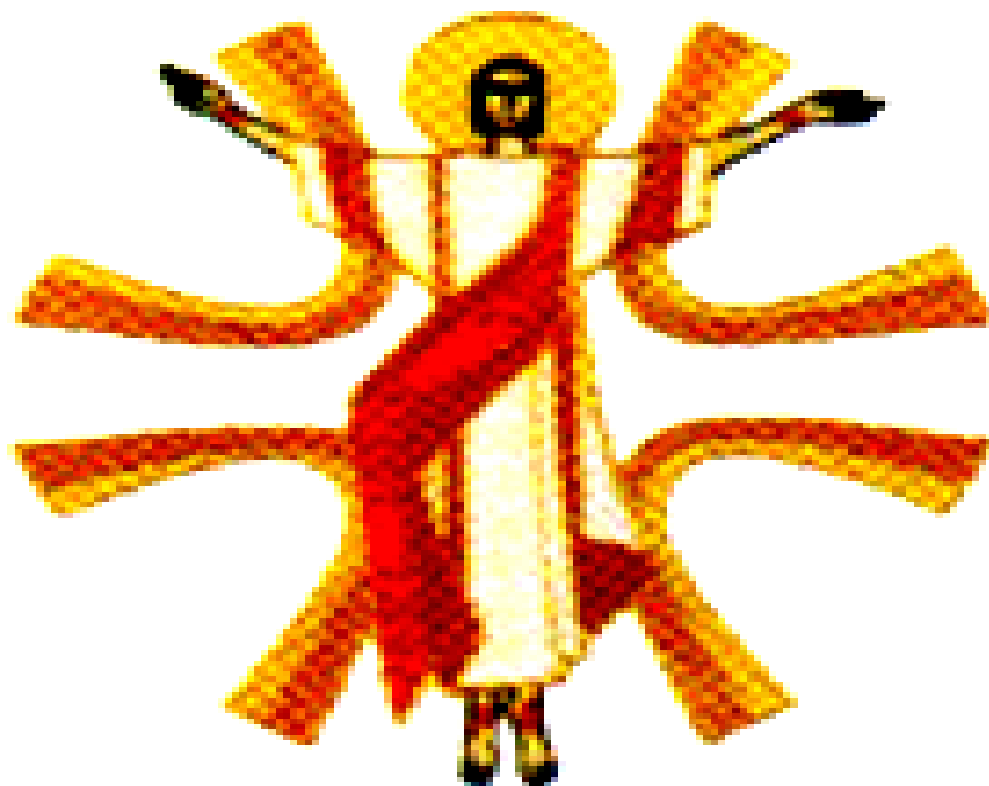


# **Live in His Love**



**Missionary Appeal for the  
Weekend of August 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>  
submitted by:**

**Rev. M. S. Selva Raj,**

**Mission Director,**

**Diocese of Kumbakonam, India**

# Letter to the Pastor

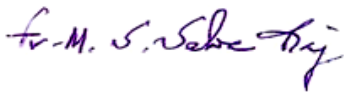
*Rev. Fr. M. S. Selva Raj,  
D. Min., P.D. (USA), M.A., M.Ed., B.Sc., B.Th.,  
Mission Director, Diocese of Kumbakonam  
369 Broadway, Staten Island,  
N.Y – 10310- USA*

*Rev. Thomas Lim, Pastor  
St. Lawrence Martyr Parish, Scarborough  
2210 Lawrence Avenue East,  
Scarborough ON M1P2P9, Canada.*

*Dear Rev. Father,*

*I humbly request you to publish this short message on Mission Appeal in your parish bulletin. The universal human tragedy, loss of life and financial resources, pain and deprivation of all sorts, caused by Covid-19 pandemic are beyond my description. Therefore, the mission Diocese of Kumbakonam needs your prayerful and financial help all the more. I humbly request you kindly to give accommodation for the missionary Most Rev. Bishop Teevanandam Amalanathan from Aug. 6 to 11.*

*With deep and prayerful gratitude,*



*Rev. M.S. Selva Raj*

**Mission Appeal submitted by:**

**Rev. M. S. Selva Raj, Mission Director, Diocese of Kumbakonam, India**

## OUR 2025 MISSION COOPERATIVE APPEAL

The Propagation of the Faith office of our archdiocese has invited the Diocese of Kumbakonam, India to participate in the Mission Cooperative Appeal in our parish this year. Here is an overview of the missionary assets, activities, challenges and the needs of the Diocese of Kumbakonam. Most Rev. Bishop Jeevanandam Amalanathan will speak about this on the week end of Aug. 9/10.

This Diocese, started in 1899 in the state of Tamil Nadu, India has an area of 7824 sq.km and a Catholic population of 2,13,000 (6% of the population), living in 94 parishes and 610 missions, served by 224 diocesan and 79 religious priests, 620 nuns, 12 trained catechists and 330 untrained lay catechists and two social service centres.

These are the most pressing missionary needs:-

1. Establishing 8 more new parishes, each with a new church and rectory. The large missions need to be made independent parishes with the resident priest for better pastoral ministry. But the people are unable to give financial support.
2. Providing the 136 Catholic schools and 22 orphanages in the missions with better facilities, building, infrastructure, educational and technical tools, children's Bibles, a projector, catechetical materials in the form of videos, pictures, text-books and workbooks to improve the quality of religious and faith formation of Catholic and non-Catholic students in mission-schools. Schools are our main means of ushering in progress at all levels. Education is a main means of evangelization and boosting the future prospects of the youth.
3. Enabling 480 nuns and 4955 Catholic Teachers in charge of catechetical, educational, medical and social ministries throughout this rural diocese, to educate the children and adults in the Catholic faith and to help the people, particularly the poor and the marginalized for their integral development, through annual seminars on Scripture and Catechetics.
4. Projecting the healing touch and loving care of the Divine Healer through our diocesan hospitals for lepers, home and school for hearing impaired children, children of HIV patients and the many rural medical clinics, staffed by nuns.
5. Education of more young men in the seminary since the diocese abounds in vocation to priesthood and religious life so that some could be sent as missionaries to missions abroad where there is a shortage of priests. Note: Every year an average of 120 young men and women go from this diocese to other missions and religious orders in India and abroad as missionaries.
6. Educating 4800 very poor or orphan children, from families of single mothers and widows, and of addictive and abusive fathers by providing them with free board & lodge, in order to eradicate child labor. Such children are forced to tend cattle, work in hazardous conditions in factories, hotels or farms in order to eke out a living for the family.

All the above mission projects are 80% dependent on MCP funds, Due to acute poverty of 65% of the Catholics the diocese depends mostly on funds from annual mission appeal for the pastoral, educational, medical, and socio-economic emancipation of the marginalized and poor converts.

Your Christ-like intervention and sacrifice of:

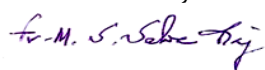
1. \$20 will feed a poor child or an orphan for a month. (\$200 annually).
2. \$500 will educate a physically challenged child (annually).
3. \$600 will pay the bill for healthcare & family maintenance of a leprosy patient for a year.
4. \$50 will enable a single mother or widow feed her family of 3 for a month.
5. \$900 will provide a grocery store, and employment to feed a family of 10 with elderly parents and grandparents
6. \$100 for monthly pay for a catechist,
7. \$250 will provide 4 goats to maintain a family of four.
8. \$700 will fix the roof of a poor man's hut.
9. \$800 will provide a cow to feed an entire family of 5 or more
10. \$1000 for treatment and rehabilitation of a leper.
11. \$2000 to sponsor a seminarian for a year.
12. \$6000 for a home a family.
13. \$25000 will build a mission chapel.

#### **Spiritual and Missionary Productivity of MCP: Personal witness:**

I was pastor (1980-1984) of St. Paul's mission founded in 1935 by a holy priest and some dedicated nuns, with 18 sub-stations, spread over an area with a radius of 28 miles, located in a jungle. Around midnight one day Kumar a Hindu adult was rushed to my rectory, at the point of death due to cobra-bite on his shoulder. After giving him a powerful, herbal anti-venom stand-by medicine, I had to rush him, already unconscious, to a hospital, 30 miles away, three of us on my motor cycle, to give him anti-venom injection to be doubly sure of saving his life. A year later, the Hindu fundamentalists had the police arrest Kumar and 22 other Hindus to prevent their conversion. Meanwhile the Holy Spirit had transformed Kumar to come forward with a bold defence through his powerful, personal and convincing witness: "It is through the selfless ministry of the priests and the nuns during the past 50 years that this entire area is booming with life (in the jungle) through good education, medical care, moral standards, culture of life and civilization of life, provided by them. But for the Catholic Missionaries we would still live in dark ages. Whereas you, the zealots of Hinduism and your government have never cared for us in our misery and distress. My family and I would have vanished into oblivion had the priest not intervened the right time to save me from death. As for me and my family Jesus is the only Saviour and true God. Any amount of your vile tactics of physical extortion, deprivation of social and economic benefits and social castigation, cannot prevent me from embracing Christianity."

His personal conviction and courageous witness, supported by 22 of his peers, saved our mission from further harassment. Undoubtedly this powerful endorsement from a group of Hindus delivered a rude shock to those who opposed our missionary work. In truth such a manifold ministry through mission school, clinic and orphanage for boys and girls, mostly non-Christians, trying to mirror God's love for the poor and forsaken, was made feasible mainly through Mission Appeal and Propagation of Faith in U.S. and Rome.

Yours sincerely in O.L



Fr. M. S. Selva Raj

