



DIOCESE OF FARIDABAD

Syro-Malabar Catholic Church

TASKFORCE FOR TELE-COUNSELLING IN THE CORONA CONTEXT

Dear All,

We all know that with the timely intervention of the civil authorities and doctors, the situation of Corona in India, especially in the North is under control, at least for the time being. However, **as a migrant community** we should expect more emergency situation and we should get ready with a contingency plan in general, but especially for our migrant community. Those families who have children, family members or relatives abroad or in Kerala are concerned and worried about their near and dear ones. Fear and anxieties about their own health, job and livelihood as well as financial security lead them to panic. From the increasing number of phone calls and prayer request I receive, I feel that as pastors we should get prepared to strengthen and console them.

For that we can think of forming a **Pastoral Task Force** with a group of priests, sisters and experienced lay persons, including some nurses. This team will be available for tele-conferencing and counselling. Either we can have a Toll free 800 number, or a list of telephone numbers of the team members. Then we publish for the community the contacts of the PTF, who can be called for prayer requests and tele-counselling.

This may not be needed just now, but we make this preparatory step and get ready as a contingency plan. **I would like to know who among you would volunteer to be a member of the PTF. You may also propose names of some sisters and lay persons, including some senior nurses.** We need people who will help with prayer, Word of God, counselling and consolation. Our Associations like DSYM, Catechism staff, Mathruvedi, etc., also can collaborate. When you write names, please indicate their contact number and language also: Malayalam/English/Hindi. The data will be kept under strict privacy standards.

Along with social or physical distancing we need to promote spiritual nearness and community care.

Thanking you for your kind attention,

Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara