

SHARING FUND DONATION

JUNE 2002

Each month (on the fourth Sunday), the Justice and Peace Committee seeks your donation in support of worthy causes. We encourage you to be as generous as you can. In advance, we thank you!

DIocese OF MARTHANDAM, INDIA

This mission diocese, founded in 1997, is in the southern part of India and is very economically and educationally deprived. Bishop Yohannon Mar Chrysostom wrote last year requesting prayers and financial assistance for the continued growth of this mission diocese. His letter comes to us through Rev. Donald M. Fest, S.S.J. at St. Veronica's parish in Baltimore. Fr. Fest wrote in his cover letter that he and the Bishop served together in Washington, D.C..

In the Bishop's own words (excerpted from his letter of June 15, 2001), here is what they have and what they need:

This is a mission diocese in which we have 75,000 newly converted believers from other religions. These people are very poor and uneducated.

Let me write to you some of the needs of my diocese for which I request your prayers and financial assistance. I have only 17 incardinated priests to work in 65 mission churches in my diocese. I need more priests to serve the people. At present we have 52 seminarians studying for priesthood and I have to provide them with accommodation, food, transportation, medical insurance, etc. because they come from economically poor families.

Now the diocese is functioning in three rooms in a rented house. It is very urgent that I should have a chancery office to function the diocese properly. I have purchased a piece of land to construct the chancery. I also have to start kindergarten, elementary, secondary and high schools for giving basic education for the poor children. I have started a community college with the intention of giving job-oriented training to the young men and women who are unemployed and without having any income to support their families. We do have orphanages and homes for the aged in which we take care of the poor people who have nobody to care for them. There are so many other activities and programs in my diocese to uplift the living conditions of the poor people. At this initial stage I need people like you to help me in my ministry in this mission diocese.

I am very grateful to you for listening to the needs of my diocese and for helping me. God bless you.

*Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,
Most. Rev. Yohannoon Mar
Chrysostom
Bishop of Marthandam*

*I ask you, how can God's love survive in a man or woman who has enough of this world's goods yet closes their heart to their brother or sister when they see them in need?
Let us love in deed and in truth and not merely talk about it. (1 John 3:17-18)*