

## Congregation united in solidarity



The Province of Santíssima Trindade, in Curitiba / PR, has established a solidarity camp in Lages / SC. The example to this is the College of Santa Rosa, which shows the concreteness of faith, as stated by Director Alderi Oldra: “We believe that our mission as an Educational Institution is to encourage solidarity, that love of neighbor is one of the most important gifts of life. We know that the donation is still small,

compared to the real need of that moment, but that this small gesture serves as the beginning of a movement to help the families in need of our city.”

The College of Santa Rosa de Lima carried out several other actions to combat the effects of the new corona virus, by donating basic food baskets, working together with the Municipal Secretary of Social Assistance, which will distribute the baskets to needy families in Lages. The teachers and staff of this institution have allocated the amount they would receive for Easter gifts to those in need.

Personal resources become collective, personal gifts are placed at the service of life. One example among many is that of Vanessa Henrich, a volunteer at the Laços de Vida Project (Colégio Santa Rosa) who, with great affection, continues to make masks that will be donated to the Lages Chemotherapy sector - UNACON. The afore-mentioned Project carries out many other actions, mobilized by faith and with the spice of affection, as Ana Claudia, coordinator of the project, says.



In the Capital City of Curitiba, our Sisters help groups of immigrants in a large urban center. In the Vila Verde neighborhood, the Sisters help the families, whose children are on the Social Project, all of ththem are in need of help.



In the Heart of Jesus Province, in Florianópolis / SC, the Sisters look around where they can help. Workers of the gabbage bins, who earn a living through garbage collection, lost their income. Thus the cry now of hunger. The Sisters helped with big basic food baskets. Likewise many families from Morro Monte Serrat, close to the Novitiate Community, are helped.

In the Divina Providência Education Network, the Sisters give additional teaching classes free of charge to students, whose parents are unable to pay.

In the **Province Mãe da Providência**, in Porto Alegre / RS, Sister Maria Helena Lorscheiter, with her team, works tirelessly, living up to the identity of AICAS (Intercommunity Association for Social Assistance). This institution is very well aware of the vulnerability and danger of the homeless. They say: "The work continues! Hunger does not wait!"



Humanity is in a time of observing social distance due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As we know, the consequences are severe, especially for people in greater social vulnerability, where hunger is not far away and where there is not adequate housing, or where it does not even exist. The risks are greater for people who live on the street, with lack of protective and hygienic items. And there are also families that ask just for food. Therefore, there is much more need that has and ought to be done. AICAS' work is an essential service, so they have not closed their doors. Overcoming fear, they sought help, launched a campaign to donate food and hygienic- as well as protective material, using projects in everything possible. Ensuring food security, in this

pandemic moment, is also the role of AICAS. As they get donations, they organize for those in need, in addition to seeing possibilities to include and / or give orientation to the many more who arrive and are not accompanied by the institution. Apart from that, remote work is done on what is possible, for example, with teenagers who are accompanied by the Team of Sister Maria Helena, via the media and social networks. Regards ecific situations, a way of responding to it is sought. "Our Kombi comes and goes".

"Yes, life matters and every individual life counts!" - The President of the Institution takes this opportunity to thank for the thoughtfulness of those who come to AICAS in order to know what they need and who mobilize themselves for the cause of the most vulnerable people and those exposed to food insecurity. Gratitude to the entire AICAS Team for the way they are striving to serve those who need it most in this difficult time that we live.



In Divina Providência Social Action and Citizenship Network - REDIPASC, also in Porto Alegre, we are all in quarantine, everything was reorganized after the announcement of covid-19. Amidst everything, sensitivity is born and reborn, humanitarian gestures happen and in a creative way. A praise-worthy initiative by all centers where we operate with Basic Protection was that the groups of educators made a call for solidarity in the media, involving their friends and family. With a positive response, it was possible to buy baskets with food and hygiene material, as well as Easter treats for each of the children in the Projects. All this dedication deserves our support and applause. In the Guajuviras and Rio Branco Projects, the dedication to distribution of basic food baskets from the Food Acquisition Program continues. The respective families were very grateful.

We are also receiving a great deal of help with the special protection scheme in the three homes (Casas Lar). The children are not leaving the houses, they follow the recommendations faithfully. Caregivers accompany them in their activities and tasks. The ability to understand and welcome each other is commendable, since the vast majority suffer from personal limitations.



This year's Easter was lived with intensity, with celebrations of the Word and the joyful visit of the Easter bunny, who even animated the whole neighborhood. Each gesture was a source of joy and gratitude. They had beautiful surprises, in which there was no shortage of gifts, eggs and chocolates.

All of this proves how much our employees, collaborators and benefactors are engaged in the cause of the needy child and their families.

The **Espírito Santo Province, in Cuiabá / MT**, reports the following: in the midst of the pandemic and suffering, many people are crying out for more life around us and around the world. "Christ does not judge anyone, but he opens his arms on the cross to welcome everyone," said Pope Francis this Good Friday.

In times of such great need, especially in places with more cases of Covid-19, in which municipal health authorities decreed social isolation to prevent the spreading of the new coronavirus, people who live on informal jobs have no access to basic food, not to mention the homeless people, who are many. Among these people there are a large number of Haitians and Venezuelans, whose situation is even more critical.

**"He saw, felt compassion and took care of him"** - The Communities in Cuiabá embraced the situation of Venezuelans and Haitians in an organized way, together with other social and religious entities that are also being in solidarity. There are around 3,000 people in vulnerable situations. The first thing is to satisfy these people's hunger! Basic baskets and hygiene items are distributed.

Other situations in which the Province of Cuiabá is giving a contribution: solidarity through financial aid for fellow teachers who have not yet renewed their contract for the school year and are experiencing difficulties; assistance to the social project for caregivers, as well as people in the process of recovering from chemical dependency; many homeless people, at this time, pass by the sisters' houses, asking for food to satisfy their hunger, and are helped according to the possibilities of each community; other Sisters contribute by making masks for people who cannot afford to buy them.

In Santa Cruz, Bolivia, the situation with the coronavirus is alarming and, as in any other country, the measures taken by the authorities are radical. Authorization to leave the house is controlled by the last number on the identity document. You can see whole families eating what is in the Bins, unprotected and exposed to the danger of contagion. Many of them say: "I will not die from the virus, but from hunger". This pierces ones heart! The Sisters seek to promote solidarity among neighbors, so that they can help one another. So they make meals and distribute them to people in the neighborhood, to children and the elderly. They also sympathize with the mothers, by trying to get milk for the children.

There is a special care with the older Sisters, giving them all the attention, so that they do not leave the house and are protected. It is also a gesture of internal solidarity as well.

We are a grain of sand at a crucial moment, where the poorest are the most affected!

In the **Region Montes Claros** some forces are being mobilized so that - like the midwives of Egypt – life is saved!



On 8th April, 57 families, totaling 198 people, from three communities: Caraibas (in Pedras de Maria da Cruz), Croatá (in January) and Canabrava (in Buritizeiro), all in the North of Minas Gerais, received a cleaning kit and homeopathic remedies for strengthening the immune system.

For this action, the Sisters of the São Francisco Vivo Community mobilized the popular homeopaths Andréia Sol and Eliane Gomes, together with the communities of Sisters from Espaço Germinar and Madre Bertha. Gratitude to so many people, who are very much trying to save life!

In this time of pandemic storm, pastoral service to men and women of the waters has challenged us to find ways of solidarity with the recipients of our mission, while respecting the guidelines of the World Health Organization. In this sense, the Sisters use technologies and, in partnership with the National Fishermen's Pastoral Council, they are participating in the articulation of information bulletins for fishing families, the - victorious - campaign to claim the inclusion of artisanal fishermen in the public policy of Covid-19 Emergency Aid. They are also participating in the online group “Covid-19 Observatory in fishing communities in Brazil”, with the participation of pastoralists and social movements, academia and researchers.

May the Provident God grant us the grace to be new men and women - aware that everything is interconnected! We welcome the Easter season in the profound desire to wake up within us and in all humanity the active faith in the Provident God, which, in our congregational history, has been expressed in the certainty that “The arm of God has not been shortened”; it is He who holds us by the hand and leads us through this storm. Let us be open to the ways that He will lead us, to be signs of His Providence, in the humanitarian task of healing our Common Home.

In the **Province of Indonesia**, April 7, 2020 was an important day for the novitiate community of the Sisters of Divine Providence, which celebrated 77 years of existence, since on this date, in 1943, the House of Novitiate was opened. As an expression of gratitude, happiness and hope, we share blessings for the poor.



In the midst of the Covid-19 outbreak, the city of Solo also became a red zone for the transmission of this new coronavirus, and many drivers of “Ojek” - a very popular transport, taxi drivers and people with low income were left without protection . As a concrete action of solidarity, motivated also by the Lenten season that wants to continue to keep us moving, the community of the novitiate began to provide basic food for the meals on Saturdays, such as rice, oil, sugar, instant noodles, among others.

This initiative touched the hearts of the people of the nearby community "St. Ignatius", who made a solidarity effort and brought donations, with the request that the Sisters distribute it to those in need.

In front of the novitiate house, a tap was installed so that people can wash their hands more often.



In Temanggung, an industrial city, the Sisters of the Cor Jesu Community donated basic food baskets to families who have completely lost their family income. In addition, the Sisters constantly distribute portions of rice to the numerous taxi drivers.



“What we do is not a big deal, but at least there are families who can smile at the blessings they receive. We are grateful, because they can also feel our happiness. May the Covid-19 pandemic soon pass. We are strengthened in faith and hope, and solidarity is always cultivated to embrace threatened lives.”

The **Region of Malawi**, in Africa, is preparing to face the pandemic, carrying out small actions that sensitize people, especially our workers.

In the **German Province** and in the **Dutch Community**, there is great concern for our many elderly sisters, who, according to previous knowledge, have a high risk of a serious course of the illness with Covid 19. The sisters are protected by visitors stops, restricted movements and many hygienic measures. But even in seclusion, our older sisters are inventive through small signs of love and affection. Small signals such as a letter to beloved ones, bidding prayers for those suffering from the virus, those active in caring for them, and staying connected through telephone calls or other media, are of an priceless value right now.

Our entire international congregation was very concerned that Sr. Godefriede Joosten and Sr. M. Jacqueline van Lier from the Netherlands died on and with the coronavirus. We are especially grateful at such moments for the great bond of prayer in our international community.

At this moment, the essence of God that unites our international congregation is solidarity. It's no longer about 'me' but about 'us'! As women of the Resurrection, we reaffirm our trust in the Trinitarian God, who desires life and counts on the goodness and vastness of our hearts.

May the Risen Christ, the reason for all these efforts, remain among us, for He is our strength, and in Him we find life in abundance!