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World Malaria Day

Delhi & Northeastern States

Organized by Caritas India, a host of public and private stakeholders in campaign against malaria came together on the occasion of World Malaria Day, observed at New Delhi Caritas India head office on 24, April 2013. Among the major stakeholders who participated in the event were the WHO-SEARO, Regional Advisor Dr. Leonard Ortega along with Dr. A Gunasekar and National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDPC), Government of India, Director Dr A. C. Dhariwal along with Additional Directors Dr. G.S. Sonal and Dr. Avdhesh Kumar. Concurrently, in a move to intensify awareness against malaria, people in Northeast India, across more than 30 locations participated in rallies, symposia and other activities like painting, quiz and photography competitions.

With involvement of both public and private stakeholders the events collectively were joined by few thousands of people comprising school teachers and students, local community leaders, religious leaders, social activists, volunteers, other

service providers and general public. In Delhi, the major stakeholders in a meeting deliberated on the learning and successes of the ongoing Intensified Malaria Control Project II (IMCP-II) supported by The Global Fund

"Malaria is easily preventable and curable," informed Father Frederick D' Souza, Executive Director of Caritas India, "as effective interventions are now available. Reduction of disease burden can be achieved through collective commitment and convergence of efforts by all stakeholders, including the community and the civil society, public sector and donors."

to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM: Round 9) being implemented in seven Northeastern state by Caritas India consortium, complementing the efforts of the NVBDPC with an aim to reduce malaria related mortality and morbidity.

Giving examples of Sri Lanka and Bhutan, where malaria control program has been largely successful, Dr. Ortega felicitated the effort of trained civil society volunteers and ASHAs for

In North East India, Caritas India consortium has tested over 40,000 fever cases for malaria and treated slightly more than 2000 Plasmodium falciparum malaria cases since 2011 till date under the IMCP-II. Through several community awareness and mobilization programmes, approx. 5 lacs people were reached in 48 districts in the northeastern region.

contributing to curbing of malaria by thirty five percent in South East Asia in the last eleven years. Although monetary support plays an important role in achieving targets, he said that the support and dedication from these volunteers in the field play a key role.

"The total number of malaria cases have come down from 1,72,891 in 2010 to 1,09,856 in 2011.." mentioned Dr. Dhariwal in his message with reference to Northeastern states. "The deaths have declined from 290 in 2010 to 124 in 2011 with increased community awareness and participation" he said.



During the programme Dr. Leonard Ortega released the booklet on 'Intensifying the fight against malaria' and presented the first copy to Dr. G.S. Sonal



FUN(D) RAISING

An emerging discipline
in social sector

In an era where external funds are shrinking, Caritas Asia in coordination with Caritas Internationalis and CAFOD made an effort to organize a 3 day capacity building workshop from 13-15, March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand on fundraising for Caritas Directors and Program Officers from across Caritas Network. Fr. Frederick D'Souza, Dr. Haridas, Mr. N.M. Valan and Mr. Patrick Hansda from Caritas India participated in this workshop to gain insights and share the experience. It was facilitated by Mr. Nigel Wallace, Director of Income Development, Caritas Internationalis and Mr. James Lambert, Program Development and Funding Manager, CAFOD. Around 55 participants from 18 Caritas organizations, attended this workshop to learn the fund raising techniques and gather new insights.

Mr. Nigel's set the tone of the workshop by stating that fund raising is more of a fun raising exercise. It was shared that marketing, public relation, communications are very intrinsic components of fundraising. It is a philanthropy based on voluntary action for the common good which is primary to the quality of life. Various research studies prove that behavior pattern of giving and scope of fund raising in Asian countries are enormous. Advance Campaign planning and role of volunteers was discussed for succeeding in fundraising. Various aspects of fundraising like Annual Campaign, Capital and major gift campaigns were explained to involve the donors participation. During the workshop a role play was conducted to demonstrate the best practice of donor and applicant seeking donation techniques. The basic reason behind people not giving is that they have not been 'ASKED'. He evoked all the participants to lay emphasis on the term 'ASK'.

Mr. James took the session on raising & managing funds from Institutional Donors. Basic understanding of institutional donation was accessed by group discussion. Different countries shared their experiences related to managing institutional funding along with its advantages and challenges. Mr. James through his presentation pointed out that institutional funding helps the organization to escalate and increase their reach. The trend is changing, and there is a shift in donor priorities and they directly invite applications from INGOs rather than other agencies. Through various proposal writing techniques like adding statistics, research, data and reference publication and reports, situational and risk analysis were elaborately discussed to access institutional funding.

The workshop helped to broaden the perspective of mobilizing resources to enhance partnerships and draw sustenance to our work. It widens the understanding on accessing institutional and non institutional funding and how to develop and strengthen the fund raising activities within the organisation. Through various group exercises the participants were able to gain clarity on different techniques of mobilising resources.



-Patrick Hansda

Government solicits Caritas India to develop Adaptive agriculture strategy



Mr. Yogendra Sharma IAS, District Collector of Sagar, sought the support of Caritas India for developing an adaptive agriculture strategy for effectively addressing the climate change threats to agriculture. The collector appreciated Caritas India for its innovative efforts to protect the food and nutrition security of smallholder farmers. Mr. Sharma, IAS was addressing the international delegates in a consultation meeting organised for reviewing the progress of climate change resilient agriculture interventions in Sagar on 13, March 2013.

Mr. Sharma said that developing strategies for tackling the consequences of climate change holds critical importance in securing livelihoods of rural population in Madhya Pradesh. The fragility of eco-systems of rural areas has further been weakened by the several climate change effects including temperature fluctuations and shifting of summer and monsoon seasons. The expertise and experience of Caritas India in developing sustainable adaptive agriculture models suitable to the climatic features of Sagar will help the district administration to efficiently respond to the challenges to agriculture created by climate change, he added.

The consultation was held for reviewing the progress of Strengthening Adaptive Farming in Bangladesh, India and Nepal (SAFBIN) programme which is financed by European Union (EU) and Caritas Austria. The chief objective of the programme is building climate resilience of smallholder farmers and helping them achieve food and nutrition security.

While urging the delegates from Austria, Nepal, Bangladesh and India on developing an effective coping strategy to meet the challenges of climate change, the collector said that climate change poses ominous threat for the primary livelihood sector in the rain-fed areas in India.

Dr. Manfred Aichinger, Programme Manager of Caritas Austria, highlighted the losses that smallholder farmers frequently suffer across the world due to wild weather fluctuations. He said that research and development interventions around climate change hold key to the food and nutrition security of smallholder farmers.

Mr. Sunil Simon, South Asia programme manager of SAFBIN, gave a presentation on the progress of the project and said that the on-farm research trials of SAFBIN have yielded encouraging results which are replicable and affordable for smallholder farmers.

Several senior government officials including Mr. Kori, Joint Director of Agriculture, Mr. ML Chouhan, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Mr. Ayush Shivpuri, District Development Manager of NABARD, Mr. VL Malviya, Project Director of ATMA Sagar, other agriculture officials from Sagar, Khurai and Rehli blocks were present on the occasion. Senior Scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Sagar led by Dr. PC Dubey participated in the consultation which was also attended by Fr. Robin Devassy and Fr. Shaju Devassy of Manav Vikas Seva Sangh (MVSS), Sagar.

-Saju M.K.





The Development Debate

Caritas India organized half a day consultation on the relevance, future focus and strategies of Caritas India on 5, March, 2013. The consultation was attended by Mr. John Schumlansky, Director- Catholic Relief Service, Mr. Aqueel Khan, Director- ASK, Ms. Namrata, Asst. Director – PRIYA and facilitated by Mr. Khilesh Chaturvedi from ASK along with Mr. Philip from Caritas India.

After a short introduction and welcome by Fr. Frederick D'Souza, Mr. Khilesh briefed the gathering about the agenda and how the team arrived at this document that talks about the programme thrust for the next 5 years. The purpose was to get expert opinion and advise whether Caritas India has been moving in the right direction and its relevance of Caritas India work in the present context. Mr. Philip, Operation Manager, Caritas India presented the draft paper of Caritas India strategy and future focus areas for the year 2015-2018. Everyone appreciated the well drafted paper and congratulated the team

A few suggestions were tabled by some of the experts to add value to the draft paper. Mr. John suggested that aspects of information technology, research & development, monitoring & evaluation and partner accountability should be a part of this paper to figure out what works best in Caritas India.

Ms. Namrata shared her concern that too many goals look little ambitious and it can be reduced further.



Mr. Aqueel expressed that there should be a combination of both new and old themes. The overall orientation and approach towards capacity building needs to be addressed more elaborately. He also pointed out that Caritas India can take leverage out of its huge partner network and its reach by establishing successful initiatives and broaden its partnership that brings synergy. He strongly proposed for evidence based planning.

Mr. Munish Kaushik challenged the gathering to explore new areas of intervention and build new networks.

Ms. Shampa Nag, IMCPH expressed that there should be provisions of adding non communicable and lifestyle related diseases into the document. Fr. Chinnappa, Administrator Caritas India added his comments by saying that animation should be well defined at the grass root level where the real work happens.

With a number of suggestions and comments from the expert panel, the discussions were concluded by lunch. Fr. Paul in his vote of thanks, summed up saying that there is a need to work on internal capacities that should be adequately mapped and scanned. He also suggested that changes in strategies should be in alignment with our partners so that development progress can take place in a wholistic manner

-P.M. Philip

Agriculture Innovation Scouting Workshop



The widespread feeling of despair among smallholder farmers in the wake of climate change is often attributed to the persisting dominance of input-intensive modern agriculture over resilient traditional agriculture practices. Caritas India addressed this issue and organised a 3-day workshop on innovation scouting for identifying traditional agriculture solutions to the perils posed by climate change before smallholder farming systems. The workshop was attended by SAFBIN team members, smallholder farmers and community leaders in Sagar from 22 to 24 April 2013.

The workshop featured several rounds of community reflection and participatory analysis which were held in the targeted villages of Sagar district. SAFBIN programme, supported by European Union (EU) and Caritas Austria, is working in the rain-fed agro ecological zones of India, Bangladesh and Nepal for securing the food and nutrition security of smallholder farmers.

Mr. Sunil Simon, South Asia programme manager of SAFBIN, in his opening address underscored the necessity of identifying sustainable and robust solutions for the agriculture challenges faced by smallholder farmers. "Climate change and its ramifications have exacerbated the woes of smallholder farmers by further weakening their precarious food and nutrition systems. Dwindling profitability and ever-increasing input costs have also contributed to the misery of smallholder farmers in India", Mr. Sunil Simon said. He deplored the failure of mainline agriculture research in providing sustainable and affordable solutions to the challenges faced by the country's huge population which is engaged in subsistence farming.

Fr. Shaju Devassy, Director of Manav Vikas Seva Sangh (MVSS) Sagar, in his address lauded SAFBIN for campaigning for the cause of smallholder farmers and developing efficient and affordable models of small farming. He said that the results emerging from the farm trails of SAFBIN offer a fresh lease of hope for smallholder farmers.

Mr. Pranab Ranjan Chawdhary, Consultant of SAFBIN, helped the participants understand the significance of

traditional agriculture innovations which can secure the livelihood and nutrition security of smallholder farmers. Participants included SAFBIN district-level teams along with community leaders, were also informed about criticality of traditional agriculture innovations in the endeavour to insulate smallholder farming systems from the vagaries of climate change.

The three-day workshop was held as a preparation for the Kharif season during which SAFBIN will blend innovations of both traditional agriculture and modern agriculture practices and implement them as trial models on food crops. In the last two crop seasons, SAFBIN had helped over 200 smallholder farmers to design and implement crop trials. These trials had emerged as worthy candidate models for replication as they enabled farmers to reduce inputs costs and increase production of wheat and black gram up to two times.

During the 3-day workshop participants visited SAFBIN villages and facilitated community level reflection and analyses for screening and documenting agriculture innovations which have either been forgotten or on the verge of disappearance. So far, SAFBIN has identified 184 traditional innovations in the areas of seed selection, seed treatment, land preparation, soil nutrient management, pest management and storage.

A research delegation from Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHIATS) Allahabad led by Dr. Thomas Abraham attended the workshop and presented the analyses of trials conducted during the last Kharif season.

-Saju M.K.



SCIAF accompaniment visit to Jharkhand

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) has been a trusted partner of Caritas India who have been supporting our efforts to address the development needs of vulnerable communities in various parts of the country. As part of this continuous support, Mr. Mark Brownbridge visited the projects in Jharkhand supported by SCIAF, from 26th April to 3rd May, 2013.

Mr. Mark Brownbridge accompanied the joint evaluation of the Agrarian Prosperity Programme and interacted with the community to learn about the initiatives. The joint evaluation was lead by an external consultant, also involving Caritas India, Naya Savera Vikas Kendra (NSVK) and Community representatives to generate learnings from this noble initiative. Agrarian Prosperity Programme implemented by NSVK has emerged as one of the models of change which brought a host of benefits to the inhabitants of project villages in terms of quality of life and livelihoods. During his visit, Mark mentioned that mere enthusiasm and commitment of the community to work together itself is a measure of success of the programme. He appreciated the work of Mr. Kulbhusan Bara and Mr. Pradipta Chand for closely hand holding the Partner and making it a huge success. SCIAF with the support from the Scottish Government has been supporting the Agrarian Prosperity Programme in Gumla since 2010.

He also visited the Sustainable Agricultural Development Programme “Krishi Vikas” implemented by Hoffman Social Service Society in Rai and Budhotoli Villages and interacted with the community members regarding the initiatives. He expressed great hope from this project and suggested to harness the learning’s from the Agrarian Prosperity Programme in Gumla.

Amrita Mukherjee and Pallab De from Caritas India shared the progress of the advocacy programme in Sundarban which is focusing on developing effective and efficient strategies for reducing the impact of climate change in Sundarban area. This unique research initiative focusing on bridging the gap between development actors, scientists and community members through a multi-stakeholder approach has seen a progressive appreciation from many stakeholders from the region. As part of the programme series of workshops were organised to document the impact of climate change on human life and livelihoods.



Mr. Mark, Mr. Anthony and Mr. Kulbhusan with Most Rev. Binay Kandulna, Bishop of Khunti Diocese

A debriefing meeting was organised with the East Zone project teams under Mr. Anthony Chettri to share the feedback of the visit on various projects supported by SCIAF. Mr. Anthony thanked SCIAF for their continuous guidance and support.

-Sunil Simon



Members of the Women's Collective

Asia Regional Meeting on Humanitarian Intervention



With the increasing frequency of hazards and the changing dynamics at the ground and global level towards addressing these risks, it was time for the members of Caritas Asia to do a good stock taking of the Community based disaster preparedness programs, in order to explore ways of beefing up the program and maintaining its relevance and responsiveness to the respective emergency programs of the country.

Member countries at the South, South East and Central Asia have been implementing and conducting preparedness programs ranging between one to many years. Each of these countries have manoeuvred their programs resulting from their country specific challenges and opportunities.

With widespread increase of avenues being explored in managing hazards, the Asia Regional Meeting on CBDP/Emergency/DRR organized by Caritas Asia, was geared towards defining ways of putting sub regional and regional aspects of country programs in order to maximise the benefits of a coordinated communication system and synergized efforts, relating to disaster risk reduction and humanitarian programs among Caritas Member organizations in the region. The meeting was held at Yogyakarta, Indonesia from April 24-27, 2013, hosted by KARINA, Caritas Indonesia.

The meeting began with a short review of the CBDP program, in order to carve out the future strategic directions of the programs in the region. There were planning sessions organized to review the CBDP programs in the sub regions and sharing of country strategic plans on Humanitarian work. Different countries were deliberating and brainstorming on strategies to synergize Caritas humanitarian intervention without necessarily disrupting or reformulating plans and programs of individual country organizations.

As a plan of action, regional action plans were integrated to ensure that the components of the next phase of Caritas Asia's CBDP will be based on the Member Organizations and that a consultative process shall be undertaken before Caritas Asia process to the next phase of its regional program.

There were 53 participants hailing from Asia, Eurpoe, North America and Australia. John Coughlin, Head of Emergency Desk, Caritas Internationalis briefed the members organizations of the new changes and developments taking place on account of the increasing trend of calamities across the globe and how Caritas Internationalis perceives these changes.

One of the key learning emanating from this workshop was the need for a common stand/voice that Caritas as a network pledges towards building safer communities in the context of hazards and disasters. For this a small working group was constituted with Caritas India taking the lead towards drafting Caritas message on humanitarian risk reduction. This message would be presented at the Global Platform for Risk Reduction to be held in Geneva, Switzerland from May 19-23, 2013. As member organizations, Caritas would table their plan of action that would be in sync with the new Hyogo Framework

-Babita Alick



Asia Regional Meeting on Emergency/ Humanitarian Intervention

Aatam Manthan

HARIT PRAYAS Review meet in village

An innovative concept of 'Aatma Manthan' was conducted in the Bundelkhand region by Caritas India supported Harit Prayas project to review the changes taken place in the intervention area. This particular review meet was unique in the sense that first time the whole arrangement was made at the project village in Sagar District at Jamghat panchayat of Rehli block. This has helped the team to understand the hidden and unforeseen realities of "Real Rural India". It had opened a way new interaction with the PRI members and the community at large.

The team visited 4 project villages of Kadatha, Juna, Semra Gond and Samnapur Kala to measure the changes and identify areas for improvement in the Harit Prayas project. The team interacted with the community on inclusion of women in the Farmer's club membership and empowering women for sustainable agriculture practices. The importance of inter-loaning in Mahila Mandals and collective farming was shared and discussed. During the visit, the team had a interactive discussion with a farmer who is practicing Organic farming which was initiated with the support of Harit Prayas project. Interaction with the PRI members was focused on issue of work that has taken place under MNREGA. The



team interacted with the community on the issue of prevailing "Gunghat System" in most of the villages.

In Semra Gond, the discussion revolved around the importance of organic farming and various other tools and techniques that can help to improve organic farming. The team encouraged the Farmers club to start savings and empowering women to voice their opinion in the gathering. One of the best part of this village was to see that Mahila Mandal and Farmers club sitting together to discuss various issues of village. In Samnapur Kala, PRI members were providing complete support to the Farmer's club and Mahila Mandal and sharing the MNREGA work in the village with the constant hand holding of Harit Prayas team. An important achievement noticed in the Harit Prayas field was use of CFL bulbs in the village, an awareness generated by the Harit Prayas team to save energy and reduce the cost of electricity for the villagers.

The most important thing about this review meet was to give a feel of rural India by sharing the life of the villagers while living with them. The only reason for this two days village Review meet was to understand the sufferings and realities the villagers face everyday.

-Vinod Pandey

Electricity bill
slashed
by more than
50%
Harit Prayas

Semlapur Kala, a village roughly 40 km from Sagar district HQ has cut down its electricity bill by more than half, thereby becoming the first revenue village in Madhya Pradesh. 250 households under Jamghar Panchyat, a village led by community based and managed organizations (CBMO) in the form of farmers club and mahila mandals (women's groups) has made this possible by turning into completely CFL electrified village.

The decision has dramatically reduced the bill amount from rupees 250 to 100 per household every two months. At this rate, total saving by a household per year would be rupees 600. The total collective saving by the 250 households village is estimated at rupees one lakh fifty thousand in year besides vitally cutting down on burning of approximately two lakhs kilograms of coal and emission of five hundred kilograms of green houses gases released through usage of incandescent light bulb. The saved energy could be effectively used to light up another village of more than 300 households in the state. A practice if emulated diligently could make Madhya Pradesh 100% electrified state from its present 67% as per census 2011.

Compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs as prescribed by the state electricity board can save up to 70% electricity. A CFL bulb, although initially expensive can illuminate 8 times with as much longer life as compared to ordinary bulb. One 15 Watt CFL is equivalent to a 60 Watt Bulb reducing the cost to bare minimum in the long run. Initially, tired with high electricity bill, villagers could not think of any better option than to disconnect electricity supply. However over a period of two years Caritas India's Harit Prayas team has been able to study and advocate this convincing solutions to the problems of electricity with support from CBMOs.

Adopted by a few in the beginning, the idea today is practiced willingly by everyone, making Semlapur Kala village a completely CFL certified village with due credit from the state electricity board of MP.

When will services reach them..??



The Musahars are considered one of the lowest of the Dalit groups within India and suffer tremendously from their status in society. Their name is derived from two words meaning "rat catcher" and is likely attributed to them for their tendency to eat rodents in times of dire need. The Musahars, considered the lowest of the lower even today, are pining for dignity and participation in the process of development.

Musahar tola, Rohtas district is situated outside the village. 18 musahar families are living in the outskirts of the village. Every household has minimum 3 children who should be going to Anganwadi or school. These children spend most of their time in sun while their mother's go for work in field. One side there is a talk about the children friendly education system but on the other side these musahar children are on the street in the villages playing with the mud & bricks which they consider as best toys.

The basic amenities for the children like pre-school as Anganwadi is also not accessible. Far situated Anganwadi of the village discouraged the parents to send their children to Anganwadi. The primary school is closer to musahar tola is also not functioning due to poor performance of teachers. Hariram Musahar says teachers not even serve the mid-day meals so teaching children is a far dream.



Most of the people of the tola were hopeful about MNREGA and thought this will bring joy in their life but that didn't happen as they dreamt. They worked in MNREGA with lot of hope in 2012 but till now they did not receive their wages. Their job card is blank and they don't know about master roll status. So Hariram Musahar decided not to work under MNREGA until they receive their pending wages. The whole families agree with Hariram and took oath not to work in MNREGA. Now the families earn their daily bread by selling fire wood. Some of the young boys migrated to southern part to earn their daily bread. They manage to save approx. Rs. 5000 with their 6 month of struggle in earning livelihood.



A ray of hope is seen in the form of housing scheme of Government i.e. Indira Awas Yojna. 2 out of 18 families got their dream house through Indira Awas Yojna. The money was not sufficient as Hariram says corrupt officers of administration and people's leaders didn't exempt them and charged bribe for releasing instalment. But due to this support they got at least a place to live and safeguard their belongings. There are still many more miles to go for these families and service providers for changing the current scenario of this hamlet. Hariram says "there is an immediate need of livelihood options, education and health services". But the question is what should be the timeline for reaching these services to these communities...??

-Girish Peter

Agent of Change

promoting peace and harmony

Bringing peace in the heartland of Jammu & Kashmir is one of the initiative of Caritas India. In this regard Peace festival was organized by Social Service Society of Jammu & Kashmir for the members of Children's Peace Committee(CPC). Considering the future prospective, children are the change agents for promoting peace and harmony. The event provided opportunity for children to come together as a group and at the same time breed the feeling of love, working together, cooperation, patience etc and think beyond the barriers set by the society.



The first phase of the peace festival was organized in Ismailpur and Akalpur in the month of February 2013, which attracted 225 and 301 children respectively with great enthusiasm. To encourage children, prizes were awarded under different segments. Caritas India made constant visits to the project area to steer the interventions and strategies adopted at different levels.

The second phase of the peace festival was meant for competitions between two units. Out of selected 120 children from two units i.e Akalpur and Ismailpur ,113 children came for the programme.

During the feedback session, parents expressed their appreciation for the programme as it gave the children a platform, to come together and excel in their talents. Besides, the winners also were given good prizes in both the

phases.

The peace festival helped, firstly, the children, who belong to different units, culture, religion and caste, to come together and work for a common cause, i.e., peace building. During this process the children learnt various things, that will help them in their character and personality developments. Besides, it also gives children the confidence to associate with bigger groups, which they had never experienced in their villages. The attitude of the parents also changed and now they send their children for such programmes .

Programe of this nature brings a change in the mindset of the children to understand, mingle with each other and to develop a relationship regardless of caste and religion. This becomes a trend setter in the area and promotes peace and joy. Parents are also supporting this initiatives as their children are being nurtured with various talents for developing personality. In future , these children could become agents of promoting peace and harmony. This kind of programme is essential in a place like Jammu & Kashmir. Caritas India is documenting this experimentation and experience and is also sharing the findings with the government and civil society organizations.

-Maria Dason

Bidding Adieu

Caritas India appreciates the contribution of Mr. J. P. Nelson, Mr. Cletus Zuzarte, Mr. Bapi Biswas, Mr. Kona Tambi and Mr. Stanly Thirselvadas for their service during their tenure. Their efforts were instrumental in many ways to carry forward the mission of Caritas India. We wish them a great success in their future endeavors.





Remembrance of reminisce

Msgr. Mathew Valiaparambil

17-01-1932 - 08-02-2013

Msgr. Mathew Valiaparambil (81), left for his heavenly abode. He served as Administrative Manager in Caritas India for seven years from 1993-1999. He completed his earthly duties and passed away on 08-02-2013. Caritas India family reminisces his great service towards the cause of "Poorest of the Poor".

-Sebastian K.A



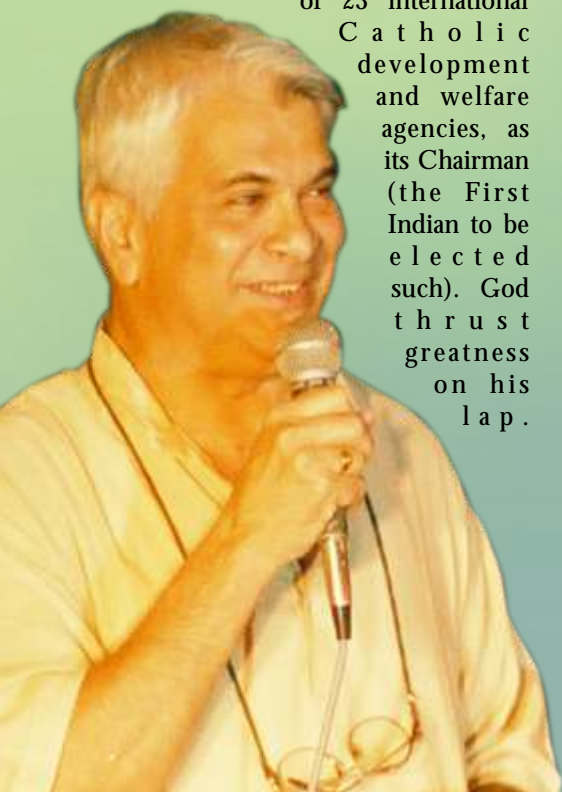
Fr. John Noronha

09-10-1948 - 07-03-2013

**your Greatness will be
cherished for ever**

Inspite of his busy schedule in Caritas India, he could serve in a Bangkok-based Asia Partnership for Human Development (APHD) - an association

of 23 international Catholic development and welfare agencies, as its Chairman (the First Indian to be elected such). God thrust greatness on his lap.



Fr. John Noronha (former Executive Director of Caritas India) has been called by the Lord for eternal rest at 11:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 07, 2013. He was 64 years old. Fr. John was a friend for all. One can rarely forget his face with a smile and a heart full of concern. Service to the poor for him was a celebration of divine charity. There were many challenges during his tenure in Caritas India as the Executive Director. The first being his taking over as Executive Director just six months into his joining as the Asst. Executive Director, unlike what used to be a tradition for the incumbent in the position a five year tenure. His able leadership as a person of influence was tested during the two massive disasters beginning with the Gujarat Earthquake and later the Tsunami.

Be it in the Diocese as Parish Priest, then as Director of Seva Kendra, Vicar General of his Diocese and several other responsible positions in national and international levels and President of CHAI, Fr. John never forgot that first and foremost he was a man of God, thereby exuding compassion and humility, the hallmarks of his personality, accessible to one and all.

Fr. John, who moved on to the other world will be remembered as a hero whose greatness will be valued because he was always great at heart, love and outreach. He did not ask for nor did he try to surround himself with insignia of greatness, for his greatness was thrust upon him by God. God is love and love ruled Fr. John's heart all his living days. The wide spectrum of admirers is proof that Fr. John's association included persons of the highest professions in the country and the meek as well. People's

company made him even forget his schedule or need for food and rest.

Fr. Franklin, the Director of Seva Kendra, Kolkata, said in his funeral Mass: "Dear John, You enjoyed talking, and talking and talking. When I was in your company, you spoke and I listened. Today I speak and you listen. I am not here John to tell your friends gathered here about your educational qualifications, the high positions that you held, about your outstanding achievements - those I would certainly mention but more than anything I would tell them what a wonderful human being you were and what a committed priest God made you. I take this opportunity to thank you for all that you were to each one of us present here and the many more whose lives you had touched and transformed. Thank you John and May the Risen Christ grant you the fullness of life. Amen"

Though gone, Fr. John will not be forgotten. Along with his family, friends and relatives we at Caritas India will celebrate his life for many years to come. May his Soul Rest in Peace. Let Fr. John's example, leave the world a better place than it was found.

-Dr. Haridas

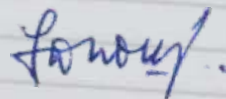
Dear Friends,

Civil society organization has a larger role to play towards the Social development of the society. Every individual owe certain degree of responsibility which they need to fulfill to attain a higher degree of self realization. Caritas India is moving ahead for the last 50+ years with its vision of formation of a just and sustaining order where gospel values of love, equality and peace are nurtured and live. This vision cannot be fulfilled without the wholehearted support of all the stakeholders.

Volunteerism has always been an invincible part of our journey towards nation building. The need has emerged to focus more concretely to develop a realistic and strong volunteer base which not only provides assistance towards uplifting the socio-economic conditions of the marginalized and vulnerable section of the society but also through relief and rehabilitation during emergencies.

Caritas India is committed to make volunteerism as an integral part of all our development initiatives and programmes by way of involving more and more volunteers. These volunteers will be the ambassadors of Caritas India to promote and promulgate the mission by extending their support. This meaningful partnership will motivate more people to associate with us and share their expertise in creating a better society.

I invoke all our stakeholders to help us in building the volunteer base for Caritas India to work for the restoration of human dignity of the poor and marginalized.



Fr. Frederick D'Souza
Executive Director

Caritas India

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Public Relations & Communications Department, Caritas India