

Dear Friends,
Greetings of peace in the Risen Lord!

As I write this note to you, as I do it every year, my heart is filled with gratitude to God and to you.

I thank God for having looked at us with mercy and love and have reduced our long suffering from Covid19. This is not only our problem. It was and still is a global problem. Our brothers and sisters all over the world are still suffering and the virus has taken its second and third wave and even more in some places. As we together thank God for reducing it and slowly removing it from our areas and country, let us continue to pray for the people that are still struggling to get out of it.

I thank you all for your cooperation and understanding during the days of Covid19, when we literally had to shut down the church and all the parish activities. On Sundays, we had to limit our activities and the number of people coming to the church. I know that this is not easy to do in a parish like ours, in which the people are very devout and traditional in their religious life. It was painful for me also as your pastor to see you struggle due to Covid19 on one hand and not being able to come to the church on the other. I thank you very much for being so kind and understanding to do everything responsibly according to the directions of our beloved Bishop.

I thank you very much for your generous contributions that you have made for the good of my home diocese, Nellore, India in the years past. Our Bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock has generously agreed that this could be done once a year in all the parishes where the priests from our Nellore Diocese doing their ministry.

This year I come again making an appeal for our Diocese of Nellore with a particular need. My appeal this time is to help our Diocese of Nellore to fight Covid19. I know that there are more countries still suffering. I hope you already know the suffering in India as you go through the news every day. I appeal to your generosity to help us in this regard. We had a lot of people in Nellore that suffered and are still suffering. The hospitals are not able to admit people anymore and they are trying to treat patients at their homes, training other members of the family how to deal with the patients and to care for them. We face the difficulty of insufficient supply of oxygen cylinders for the patients that are seriously ill. There had been and still are a lot of people being cured and quite many people dying from this disease. We had several priests and religious nuns that suffered seriously and there were some deaths as well. I lost my family members and dear friends too.

Your contributions will be a great help for our Bishop in Nellore to pay for the medical expenses of the priests, nuns, and also for the poor lay people suffering. I wish that you prayerfully consider this my request and help our diocese this year for this special cause. Once again I thank You, for All the members of St. Michael and St. Mary, for your kind blessings .

May God grant you all peace and good health!
With my prayers,

Fr. Amal Punganoor
May: 8:2021