



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA (CBCI)

Port.816/Gen.Sec.2018 (3-b-10/CBCI-GC)

22 August 2018

Dear Sean,

Greetings on behalf of Catholic Bishops' Conference of India.

I am very pleased to learn that the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is celebrating its 75th anniversary. We lift up our hearts in gratitude to God for the wonderful services that CRS has been rendering to the people in need throughout the world. The Catholic Church in India is especially grateful to this marvelous organization which has been working in India since 1946 and has supported it in various ways to reach out to the poor, the marginalized and those in dire need. CRS entered our beloved country when India needed help most. Immediately after independence as Hindu-Muslim riots wrecked the lives and properties of people and teeming millions struggled in miserable conditions, CRS was there providing solace, food, shelter and various other necessities of life to large sections of the population of our country.

Hand in hand with the Church, CRS showed what compassionate service inspired by God's love means and worked hard to translate into action Jesus' command "love your neighbour as yourself". This love shown to all people without discriminating their religion, ethnicity, language or region is etched in the hearts and minds of Indians. Whether during major calamities or otherwise, CRS has always been standing with the Church in India and is well appreciated by its leadership. CRS gave our country one of the largest food programmes which is engraved in the memory of the people even today though the programme itself was closed many years ago. CRS has helped many boarding, health and livelihood programs in the country which in turn has facilitated many people to do well in their lives.

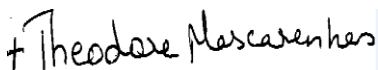
In recent times, CRS has been helping the Church in India to institutionalize strong systems and structures so that the Church can serve the modern world more diligently and face challenges more ably. Programmes aiming capacity building, exercises for strategizing and vision creation among the clergy and for helping local Church Institutions to grow stronger and be effective are new ways in which the CRS supports the Catholic Church today.

On behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, I would like to express my solidarity to CRS and pray that it grows stronger and receives much support from benefactors as its strength and blooming is a boon to the Catholic Church in India and elsewhere in the world. May CRS continue to work in the true spirit of Catholic Social Teaching and embody the Gospel values.

Through this letter, I also wish to express my gratitude towards the generous people of USA and to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops because of whom CRS can serve our country. We thank them for their prayers and their significant support that helps the poor in our country. We do hope that they will continue to extend their generosity and pray for us. While we are grateful to God for the gift of CRS to us, as many lives have been changed for the better because we have CRS, we assure our prayers for all those who make CRS what it is.

Our wish for you through the intercession of Mary, Queen of the Apostles is *vivat crescat floreat*.

With prayerful wishes,



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