



Simla Chandigarh Diocese

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APPEAL FOR SOLIDARITY AND CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS NATIONAL DISASTER VICTIMS OF FLOODS IN KERALA, UTTARKHAND AND HIMACHAL PRADESH

To All the Lay Faithful, Clergy and Religious of Simla-Chandigarh Diocese,

Dear People of God,

Greetings of Peace!

Kerala is once again facing a natural disaster especially in Wayanad district in the dioceses of Mananthavady and Calicut where a sudden cloudburst occurred in the middle of the night when people were asleep. Many people have lost their lives and hundreds are missing as well. Defence personnel are working night and day to clear the debris and removing the corpses from the slushy muds.

Adding to Kerala, Rampur in Shimla, Nirmand in Kullu, Chauhar valley in Mandi, Samej Khud near Jhakri area of Rampur are the worst hit areas in Himachal Pradesh of our diocese. Many people are affected and suffering and the rescue team is in operation to evacuate the people from the areas.

We also hear a similar disaster in the state of Uttarkhand especially in Jakhanyali, Bhimbali, Rambada, Lincholi in Tehri and Rudraprayag districts in the Diocese of Bijnor along with hundreds of pilgrims in Kedarnath Yatra Route. Many people lost their lives and many are missing as well. Rescue teams are at work day and night.

All these people in the above-mentioned areas are in need of our both material and spiritual support. Hence, I exhort all the faithful in the parishes and the institutions to contribute generously to help all the affected people in Wayanad, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarkhand. I am attaching a prayer to be said for the victims and the affected people of this natural disaster in different parts of our country.

Our timely help and assistance will help meet the immediate needs of the affected and reduce the sufferings of our brothers and sisters in Wayanad, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarkhand. Therefore, Catholic Bishops (CBCI) have made an appeal for Solidarity and Contributions towards this National Disaster (CBCI/PR/24-25 Dated August 1, 2024).

May I make an earnest appeal to all the priests and religious to encourage the community of faithful, institutions and people of goodwill to contribute generously to this humanitarian call and express our



solidarity and support. The funds mobilized to this cause from diocese and institutions will be sent to the people concerned. Hence, this is to request you to send your contributions before August 15, 2024.

Contributions *DD/Cheque/RTGS/NEFT* may be sent in the name of:

“Simla Chandigarh Diocese Society, Chandigarh”

A/C No.028401000001377

Indian Overseas Bank

Sector 7 C, Chandigarh

IFSC CODE: IOBA0000284

PRAYER

God our Father, Our Divine Refuge and Fortress, You are our Creator and Protector. We commend to Your infinite mercy those ravaged by the tempest and deluge. Compassionate Lord, walking among us in Your mercy, shield life and property, and grant solace to the afflicted regions. Mend the broken hearts and fortify them with Your unwavering courage. May they find abundant aid and support. We implore this in the name of Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

Thanking you and with every good wish.

This Circular is to be read out or its contents to be explained in Hindi or Punjabi in all Churches on 04.8.2024.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+Ignatius L. Mascarenhas
Bishop of Simla Chandigarh

