



**E-BULLETIN #291**

**09-Sep-18**

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*"Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5, 16)*

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### **resurrecting Kerala**

By this few will be unaware of the catastrophe which the Indian State of Kerala faced in August. Overwhelming monsoonal rain, the highest falls since 1924, reeked severe loss of life and property.

**Fr Jacob Nampudakam**, our Society's Rector General and himself from that State, happened to be visiting at the time and thus has first hand knowledge of the devastation. Recovery will be a lengthy and arduous process but that comes second to an immediate need for shelter and sustenance.

He writes of the crisis, asking for both prayers for the people affected and financial support, so that they can stay alive and rebuild what has been shattered:

*I was in India from 16th July to 23 August .... We had a very enriching UAC Congress in Nagpur, with the participation of about 150 members of the Pallottine Family. The Congress showed that if we put our heart and soul into it, the Union of Catholic Apostolate can become effectively a true gift to the Church. I visited a number of formation houses ..... and it was very inspiring to see the number of candidates at various stages of formation. There is much life and hope!*

*On the other hand, I also witnessed the devastation of my home State of Kerala in South India, especially in the month of August. Continuous torrential rain, landslides, and cloud bursts for days reduced almost the entire State of Kerala to an ocean of water. With about 40 rivers overflowing, the 30 also dams in the State had to be opened in order to avoid further catastrophe. Houses, people and cattle were washed away. Certainly, the government, army, navy and air force personnel and the ordinary people did an amazing job to save the people and to offer relief to the thousands. The role of the Church and the fishermen too has been astounding. More than anybody, the fishermen became the heroes by saving innumerable hapless people with their fishing boats.*

*I note with gratitude the initiative of the Prabhu Prakash Province (NA), my Province, in organising relief for the victims. The State of Kerala is part of the territory of this Province and most of the members of this entity come from Kerala.*

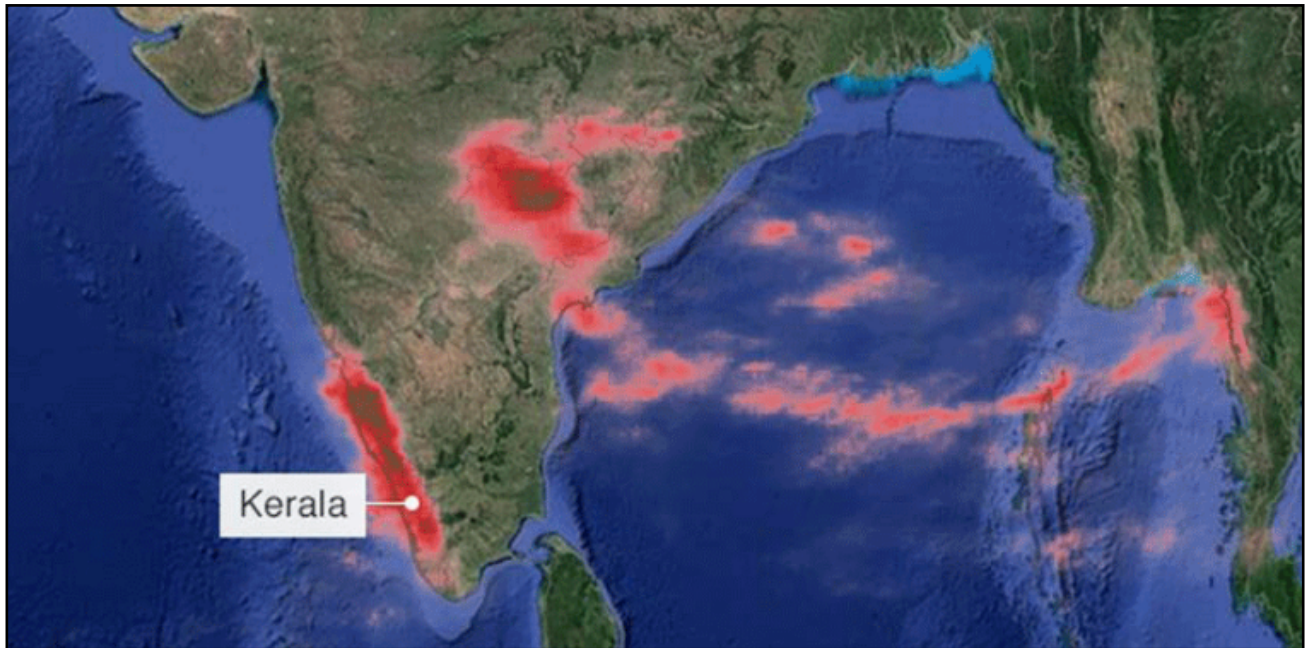
*Much of the resources will be raised from India itself, as the government is also insisting upon. However, considering the immensity of needs of millions of people who escaped death just with the clothes they were wearing, we would be blessed by God if we can do our little share to alleviate the suffering of people. Let us not look for big amounts but small contributions according to our possibilities....*

*By being compassionate and in solidarity with people suffering in any part of the world, we remain children of the one Father who loves and cares for all. Probably this tragedy is part of the global climate change. Presently Puerto Rico is devastated by Hurricane Maria killing at least 3000 people. More than ever, the destiny of our planet is determined by our good or wrong deeds. Such massive tragedies, we might even say, will help us to rediscover our humanity and help us to trust in a God who is the Ultimate Master of our history.*

**Jacob Nampudakam sac – Rome – ITALY**

**30.08.18**

**[inampudakam@gmail.com](mailto:inampudakam@gmail.com)**



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The local Province leader, also from Kerala but based further north at Nagpur, is **Fr Varghese Pullan**. Many of his men come from South India and their families are included in the literally millions of those now believed displaced. He wrote, on 18 Aug in the middle of the turmoil, offering his condolences and begging assistance:

*The Union of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallottines in India) expresses its solidarity with the people of Kerala and offers condolences to all those people who have lost family members and dear ones in the worst flood to strike the southern state. We pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died.*

*The flood situation in Kerala continues to be grim with no let up in the torrential rain. It has wrought immeasurable misery and devastation to the people of Kerala. Hundreds have lost their lives, thousands of people are rendered homeless, houses and roads have collapsed due to floods. More than 250,000 people are rendered homeless and taking refuge in around 1000 and more relief camps set up across the state. Incessant rain, rising water level, cloud bursts and heavy landslides have made the matters worse. Life is at a standstill, and people are faced with the stark reality that it will be a herculean task for most of them to bring their life back to normalcy. There are all the chances of the spreading of contagious diseases as the result of floods.*

*People cutting across religions and languages are involved in rescue operations. The Local and State Government authorities along with the support of the Union Government are doing everything possible to evacuate people to safer zones and organize relief works. The Catholic Church is also doing their best through Local Bishops, Clergy, Religious and lay volunteers who are involved in relief operations. Churches and Institutions have been opened to shelter displaced people. Many of our parishes, schools and other institutions have become centers of aid and assistance to people in need.*

*At this critical juncture I appeal everyone to unite to extend humanitarian aid in solidarity with the people suffering and help in all possible ways to the people in need. There is a strong urgency from our part to reach out to our brothers and sisters. Our timely assistance will help the needs of the people affected and help in rebuilding the lives of people and communities with rehabilitation and restoration of livelihoods in the long run. It is time to step up and help.*

*I humbly request you to mobilize as much financial contribution as possible from our parishes, institutions, schools, collaborators and well wishers.*

**Varhese Pullan sac [NA] – Nagpur – INDIA**  
**18.08.18**  
**[napallottines@gmail.com](mailto:napallottines@gmail.com)**

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Two very graphic videos reinforce the gravity of the disaster. View them on You Tube at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0HQwvH\\_gik&t=8s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0HQwvH_gik&t=8s)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EW2pl2mJl2Y>

**Financial contributions, from outside India, can be made to the Nagpur Province fund as follows:**

**Account title: Prabhu Prakash Community Development Society**

**Bank Name: Corporation Bank, Branch: Nagpur**

**AC NO: 520281000389868, IFSC: CORP 0000209, MICR CODE: 440017002, SWIFT CODE: CORPINBB132**

## **sac asia oceania e-bulletin**

### **you commented...**

#### **on #290**

Many thanks to Donatella for the ongoing sharing of her reflections and vision. The words written provide such a clear overview of what our Charism asks of us. Donatella notes that we are at the beginning of our journey. It is and it will be a long road with many turns, but certainly one worth taking

**CS 02.09.18**