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**DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

Province of St. Louise de Marillac - Asia

Provincial House, Parañaque City, Philippines

Website: dc-stlouisedemarillac-asia.org

Email: dc.secoff@gmail.com

One heart … one spirit … one mission! Break through the gate … go towards … encounter!

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02 April 2020

My dear Sisters,

*May God’s loving presence sustain us through all the challenges we face today and always!*

So many situations that testus in various ways today can be traced back to a very tiny organism whose overwhelming destruction has upset over a million people and is killing several thousands in daily waves throughout the world. In the midst of this global crisis, you have kept yourselves abreast of the developments, the well-meaning instructions and the many possibilities to be in a “service of solidarity while in solitude and seclusion.” Ensuring safety and protection from all harm has become a priority which you have prudently applied to your respective situations as needed. Wearing face masks, frequent hand-washing, maintaining one-meter distance, self-monitoring for early symptoms, and “room-arrest” confinement for more severe cases have become necessary personal lifestyle practices. We wish to thank you for being “obedient in the little things” that matter a lot to both individual and community health maintenance.

We now wish you to see what more can you and your community do especially as you become aware of the specific needs in your local environment. We enjoin you to search for ways where your energy, experience, time, talents, skills and resources can be your contribution of solidarity. *“No one is so poor that she has nothing to give, and no one is so rich that she has nothing to receive.”* Pardon me for making the following remark but perhaps, for those who, during this past period of quarantine, have already had time “to clean, wash, organize, beautify, etc.” one’s personal turf, it is high time to go beyond one’s “comfort zone” and “mess up” with a world in anguish.On one hand, we wish to congratulate those communities who have initiated extra gestures of generosity and availability to join the efforts of both civic and ecclesial groups to provide what is urgently needed by those who suffer the most. On the other hand, the “war” is not over, dear Sisters, until we are certain that we have given our response according to the blessings that we have received from God’s Providence.

On a different note, we wish to share with you the attached letter from MHF Tomaž Mavrič that provides answers to what some of you may have been wondering about in terms of the governance of the Company after the death of MHM Kathleen Appler. He ends his letter with an appeal for prayers – both for the Company and the world – that we know you are always willing to lift up to our Lord. As we continue to pray for each other and strive to serve the poor in the best possible way during these difficult circumstances, may Jesus and Mary and our Holy Founders look kindly on our needs and fill us with deep faith, enduring hope and untiring charity.

Affectionately united with you in prayer,

Sister Maria Ana Rosario Evidente

Daughter of Charity