Daughters of Charity- Saint Vincent De Paul Social Work Department

Bethlehem

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<u>Date:</u> 20-02-2020

Dear Friends,

Dear colleagues,

Yes, it is a very critical time, here in Bethlehem everything is closed, the streets are empty and isolated, people are so afraid and worried.

We were under quarantine since 5th Mars the onset of the corona virus CV 19, The situation exploded rapidly in Bethlehem after reporting on the first cases of infected locals. the first four CV-19 cases were recorded in Bethlehem on March 5th when the four Greek guests of the Angel Hotel in Beit Jala, not far from Bethlehem where infected and from them the infections started in the city.

Palestinian prime minister declared Bethlehem as a red zone and quarantined the whole area closing Schools, universities, churches, mosques and institutions and public facilities, no one was allowed in or out the city in an attempt to blockade the viruses transition.

Israeli government closed all check points as they have even higher numbers of CV19."

Today, March 20th is the second day of curfew, we have 48 positive CV19 and still we are expecting more!!!

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but we manage to reach to work, in the office we closed for three days including Sunday to be able to clean the whole office and disinfecting it to be able safely continue to work, we meet with people one to one to avoid gathering and we sanitize the office before and after they leave preparing for the next family, we do urgent visits to the elderly who cannot leave and have needs, for some because of the safety we place the medication and food on the door step and leave, we receive calls and we call families to listen and encourages them,

We continue in our Mission, in providing medication, it is now needed more especially under the closure, Mariline, the Pharmacist continues to come every Wednesday and together we offer the medication but we give the medication for two months since we do not know what to expect and along we offer guidance.

We use social Media as another way of supporting the needy families of course for offering in kind support only, we contact the bakery and the supermarkets and send the food /Bread coupon on Whats up or Viber and the family goes and get their need, and so on ...

This past week was little bit challenging because Nadera could not come soldiers did not allow her to pass. The staff (Gladis And Mariline) (Nabil who drives us in our home Visits) they continue to work when possible, their families are well.

For us here we will continue to support the vulnerable as much as we can.

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I know that all the world is in great sufferance and is not in better shape so stay safe,

and I hope your family is safe as well.

Our thoughts, heart and prayers goes for those sick away from their families, sick

who cannot receive treatment, and those who dies and does not get the chance to say

goodbye or have descent prayers and funerals.

This whole situation reminds us of our fragility, asks us to pause and rethink our

priorities and life path.

It is said that "the darkest Moment is the one just before dawn" I hope we will all

Safely overcome this harsh experience, and We continue to pray in Unity and

faithfulness in Gods' Mercy to strengthen, protect and guide us in overcoming this

difficult painful circumstances

We Trust God for he is a loving caring Father to all of us.

prayers for all the world to be safe

Stay safe.

Salam for all

Flavia