



## Coronavirus – COVID 19



Very dear Sisters,

Greetings of Peace and Grace from Auteuil!

I hope and pray that this message will find you in good health.

As you are aware, the global situation has worsened as the COVID-19 outbreak suddenly turned into a pandemic. It seems the entire world engine will have to slow-down for a few weeks and get realigned for a healthy restart.

Now the effort to minimize the spread of this pandemic is the paramount priority for all of us. We have therefore postponed the canonical visit to the Province of East Africa and the session for the Young sisters preparing for their final vows to be held at Auteuil. We will let you know if and when they are possible. Our parish priest announced that there would be no Mass for the public in our chapel. The Marie Eugenie Centre will also remain closed until 15 April, 2020.

Amid the rising cases of coronavirus affecting people globally, let us take all precautions to take care of ourselves and others, especially our elderly and sick sisters and people. Let us join hands with the millions from all religions and pray for all those who are affected by Coronavirus, especially the lonely and less privileged ones, for the doctors, nurses and medical experts ministering to the sick, and for the scientists who are searching for vaccines and remedies to contain the virus and stop its transmission. May I suggest to all the communities to say the Novena of Saint Marie Eugenie against COVID-19.

How do we perceive, understand, interpret and respond to this global misfortune? Is God telling us to slow-down a bit and to become more aware of our collective fragility and inter-connectedness? As I highlighted in my message on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Saint Marie Eugenie invites us to make a shift from self-centredness to God's reign, and to look at everything from the perspective of God's goodness. The virtue of Joyful Detachment is very relevant to respond to the current crisis of coronavirus, as it helps us take responsible measures on the one hand, and on the other not to panic – to remain in God's grace and peace. Let us be the messengers of both faith and reason in solidarity with the suffering and most neglected ones.

Please be alert for updates and follow the recommendations to combat the risk of the pandemic in your respective countries.

Last week, Sr Irene Cecile left for Manila for health reasons. We pray for her speedy recovery and look forward to having her back in the General Community at the earliest.

Let us remain in communion and pray for one another that we experience the grace of joyful detachment during the global crisis of coronavirus and become agents of God's peace and loving-kindness in our communities.

With all my affection and prayers!

Rekha M. Chennattu, RA  
Superior General

Auteuil, 14 March 2020