

## INSTITUTE OF CHARITY BULLETIN 15.

DURING THE TIME OF CORONA / CoVid 19. July 3, 2020

**Brothers and friends, some news from around the Institute, starting with a brief statistical overview of CoVid cases and deaths in the countries where the Institute is present :**

### **Friday July 3rd**

|             |           |           |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Italy:      | 240,961   | (34,818)  |
| UK:         | 283,757   | (43,995)  |
| Ireland:    | 25,489    | (1,738)   |
| USA:        | 2,837,189 | (131,485) |
| Venezuela:  | 6,273     | (57)      |
| Tanzania:   | 509       | (21)      |
| Kenya:      | 6,941     | (152)     |
| India:      | 628,205   | (18,241)  |
| New Zealand | 1,530     | (22)      |

<https://www.covidvisualizer.com/>

**Note: from now on we will produce this Bulletin on a two-week basis.**

### **From Therese & Kevin Petersen, Ascribed Members New Zealand**

We have now had three weeks at level one with very few restrictions on daily activity but tight controls on our borders. Despite warnings from our Prime Minister and the Director General of Health we were lulled into complacency by 24 days of no new confirmed cases of Covid 19. Then reality hit with first 2, then another 3, now 22 confirmed cases, all from returning New Zealanders serving out their time in managed isolation or quarantine isolation. No systems are perfect, especially those relying on human initiative. As a result mistakes are made, accusations are given news time and kindness is forgotten.

As we have a national election in less than 80 days the battle lines are already being drawn between those who want to remain with our borders closed to all but returning New Zealanders to restrict the potential of community infection and those who want them open to benefit the economy. Either way there is a price to pay.

For several weeks we were enticed with the potential of joining a giant bubble with our Australian cousins across the Tasman Sea, affectionally called The Ditch. That prospect has been dented by the recent upsurge in new cases in parts of Australia which serves as a reminder to us all that our own complacency is a dangerous thing.

As we seek some return to normality in our isolated lives with Covid under control but not beaten, it is easy to forget the thousands of souls throughout the world for whom Covid 19 is a very real and escalating danger. We may live in a beautiful set of isolated Islands but we also know we are part of the global community and must continue to work for the common good and pray that all people in the world will eventually be free from Covid-19.

Thankfully this Sunday we will as Rosminians be able to join together and celebrate today's feast of Blessed Antonio Rosmini. We pray that Rosminians isolated from their families around the world will continue to be inspired by Antonio's life, teaching, and example of love for our neighbours.

May God bless you and your faith support you through this time.

### **From Fr. Joe O'Reilly in Ireland.**

In Ireland we are supposed to be in the final phase of lockdown before everything opens up fully. Yes, Pubs and restaurants are open – but you have to book and most of them can only take about 30% of their usual capacity, in

order to comply with social distancing regulations. Churches have begun having weekday Masses where the numbers attending are usually low. However many churches have decided not to have Mass on Sunday because they do not want to turn away people. It's all a bit crazy ! Just like the times we are living in. It also seems that many people are planning 'sun holidays' in Spain and other sunny places, against public health advices and so there is a fear of a 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of the virus. All of our schools have been closed since March and are not due to reopen until the end of August but there are some concerns that they will not be able to reopen fully. More worries for parents. Thankfully all of the Rosminians are well.

**From Fr. Enhart in East Africa.**

Greetings from East Africa as some of you are still struggling with Corona pandemic. For our neighbors in Kenya things are not that great with an increasing number of infections. The Kenyans are awaiting eagerly the Presidential announcement on July 6th whether the lockdown will be suspended or not.

In Tanzania things are as if there has never been Corona. All schools opened on Monday of last week. So we will have to wait to see how things are in few weeks. Today I was in Dar E Salaam, in the business area of the city. There is hardly any evidence of corona; except in a few offices where you are required to wear face masks.

In the East Africa Province our plan is to welcome the first year novices to join with those already in Tanzania, sometime after July 6th.

All the brethren are well.

**From Fr. Rick Pilger in Florida.**

Greetings from Florida.

I wish you well and good health. The number of cases in the Tampa Bay area are out of sight again this week clocking in at 158,997 new cases.

There was a spike in cases today, in the last 24 hours, 10,109 new cases.

Below please find the updated COVID-19 statistics the 3 counties and cities where our parishes reside:

**Pinellas County**

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Total Cases                    | 7,164      |
| New Cases today                | 374        |
| <b>Increase over last week</b> | <b>70%</b> |

\*\*Seminole - 353 cases - fourth highest in the county behind only the larger communities of St. Petersburg, Clearwater and Largo

**Hernando County**

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Cases                    | 428         |
| New Cases today                | 35          |
| <b>Increase over last week</b> | <b>268%</b> |

\*\*Spring Hill - 215 cases

**Hillsborough County**

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Cases                    | 11,807      |
| New Cases today                | 713         |
| <b>Increase over last week</b> | <b>123%</b> |

\*\*Plant City Near Seffner - 536 cases.

Thank the Lord, all our brothers/priests are doing well here in Florida. Everyone is healthy. However, there are a couple of parishes in the diocese that have had to close because the pastor and the priests got COVID 19. In one of the parishes, the priest told the Eucharistic ministers they didn't have to wear masks when distributing Holy Communion and they have now paid the price.

Even one of our seminarians in that parish in Tampa got the virus. He quarantined for two weeks. He was very sick and had to go to the emergency room twice. He's back in the parish again but wearing a mask.

My team convinced me that they did not want our priests to distribute Holy Communion, and so, only our team have distributed Communion. We still are not using Eucharistic ministers. We were ready to have a training session for them, but this rush of the virus hit our state and our area, so we have gone back to square one. Up to two Sundays ago, the numbers at the Sunday Eucharist increased steadily. The weekend before the cases of Coronavirus hit us; we were averaging around 700 people. That's about 1/3 of what we usually would attend on a weekend this time of year without the virus.

Please keep us all in your prayers. I am praying for you as well.

#### **From Fr. Geoffrey Feldman in Rome.**

Greetings from a sweltering Rome. Not much news from over here. The Bishops Conference had presented a request to the competent authorities regarding the obligatory use of gloves for distributing communion and obligatory use of face masks during marriage ceremonies by the bride and groom. The authorities have replied that it is not obligatory for the wedding couples to wear face masks (while all the others present are obliged to wear them) and that it is not obligatory for the priest or eucharistic minister to wear gloves for distributing communion, a thorough sanitizing of the hands before distributing communion would suffice.

Some good news from India and Tanzania - Three novices will be making their first profession today (3rd July) in Vettuthura and Deacon Potentinus Mutekanga will be ordained to the Priesthood on 18th July 2020 in Bukoba Diocese, Tanzania.

#### **Fr. Ephreme in India.**

Dear Friends in Christ, Greetings from India.

India reports 379 deaths and highest single-day spike of 20,903 new cases in the last 24 hours. Total coronavirus cases in India is now 6,25,544. The total number of Covid-19 tests in India is set to touch (1,00,00,000). India has at present 1,065 diagnostic labs. Meanwhile, the Ahmedabad-based firm Zyventus Cadila Healthcare Ltd and Bharat Biotech got government approval clinical trials for experimenting with humans. The current strain of Covid 19 raging across the World is more infectious than original that emerged in China. Thus India's population is in a dreadful situation as the number is increasing so rapidly.

The current standoff between India and China regarding the border issue forced India to ban 59 Chinese apps for engaging in activities "prejudicial" to the sovereignty and integrity of the country.

Despite all these worries, the Indian Rosminians are blessed with vocation as 3 novices are to make their first profession this evening in the presence of limited number of people. Let us be united in prayer for them as well as the pandemic affected people. Ephrem, reporting from India.

#### **From Fr. Pierluigi in Calvario, Italy.**

Greetings from Calvario. Things in Calvario are going well. We have readmitted our volunteers only for outside works, not yet for inside services. The Guest House is closed and won't open for this year. We'll have some brethren in August for Third Probation and it's going to be very good for the Community. The situation in Italy is relatively good, with rather small numbers compared with what we had during the previous months. It's common fear that Covid 19 will come back during next Autumn.

Let's pray and hope for the best. God bless. Pierluigi

#### **From Fr. Chris Fuse in the UK.**

Big news in Wales is that the diocese has given permission to re-open churches, for private prayer. as long as we fill in and present many documents of Risk Assessment. We mean, many pages, risk for cleaners, for clergy, for volunteer stewards, for the state of the church, and of course for the Parishioners with hand cleansing, one way in and around church, spaced out seating, and disinfecting all areas of touch.

In England the pace was faster, and churches have been open for a while, only for private prayer. This is the weekend for pubs to open in England - and in the same time Leicester has been put "on hold" with a

new lockdown because of a spike in new cases. We are in very uncertain times with this disease. In prayer for all our brethren. Chris

Finally, congratulation to the 3 Rosminians in India who will take their first vows today, on the Feast of St. Thomas.



**Our Lady, Queen of Peace. Pray for us.**

**Blessed Antonio Rosmini, Pray For Us.**

