



## **Dearest Friends,**

Blessed Easter to all of you!

Last February 2022, our General Diet convocation approved the religious houses that were newly founded by our African Delegation. We have now two new religious Houses in Tanzania namely, Ngomantimba and Karhumwa. Our brothers in those places have selflessly dedicated themselves to support this mission. Many projects have been lined up to address the pressing needs of the people in Tanzania to improve the lives of the locals and to help in uplifting their human dignity. Let us send words of encouragement to our brothers so that they may never lose their courage and perseverance to make the mission happen in the name of our Lord. I especially want to take this opportunity to thank the faithful for giving us the spiritual and financial support for this mission.

Two weeks after the General Diet assembly, I was once again blessed with the opportunity to fly to Congo and visit our brothers in some parts of the mission. My time was limited, but it was one of the most inspiring trips that I've ever experience. I was able to visit Goma (North Kivu), Nyamillima, Kamole (Idjwi Island), and our Seminary House of Formation in Nairobi. I have presided a meeting with many of the Fathers of the African Delegation to update them about what transpired in the General Diet. This is to let them know about the long-term objectives and goals of our religious family for the next couple of years. The Fathers were pro active and would want to contribute to the success of our Congregations endeavor.

The Mission is going well. However, the challenges of material scarcity will always be there. The materially poor was there and the same is for these people who are spiritually seeking nourishment. Our presence in the mission is and will always be the beacon of hope for the people. One passage in the Scripture became my guiding light and it has given me answers to my questions in the life situations I encountered while I was visiting the mission. The words are from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 49:8-15: "When the Lord promised Zion about the Covenant he made, he will not leave us orphans and abandon as he will always be with us. Even if a mother forgets you, I will not forget you". For me it is impossible for a mother to neglect and abandon her children. God uses this imagery to let Zion understand how great his love is for the people that it transcends more than a mother's love. Even if the situation is





dire and filled with hopelessness, God will always care. He will never abandon our people in the poor areas. God inspires our mission to give help where it is needed. Our religious Family have been doing missions in Africa particularly in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and I would describe it as a mutual inspiration between the locals and our Family. In the sense that our missions have been giving the people of Nyamilima, Goma, and other parts where we are present, an unlimited chance of hope and in turn as we touch lives in our little ways, it gives our religious Family integrity, and reason to keep helping, to do good every day.

The Gospel is not just a spoken word. The Gospel is meant to be lived and realized. I wish you could all have been there to hold the babies in the orphanage. The babies could not even stand up yet, they still need their mothers to nurse them and carry them to sleep. The kids on the street, they give their beautiful, big smiles and shout "Padirii Bombo!" It was an innocent and small gesture, but it definitely made me happy because even for a short time, I became a brother, a friend, and maybe even a father for these children. Every time they heard the engine or the honk of our cars, they greeted us with eyes shining of hope, and hoping to get some candies. We become like Christ to them, in some ways our missions help them to fill the void that was left in their lives due to violence, poverty, and injustice. The innocent children with their simple joys encourages us to work more and live with them. We see that this is our mission. This is the sign that God will never abandon us.

I believe that the streets of our lives are filled with weak, poor, and needy people. God passes by every day in these alleys to seek, call and remind us that we are all invited to the mission to help so that the promise of God will be realized. He will always move us to open our hearts and ears to hear the beautiful prayers of our brothers crying out for help. Let us not remain content in the four corners of our houses and live indifferently in the comfort of our life. God moves us and calls us to participate in this mission. This is not the mission of the Cacciolini alone, this is our mission, and you and I can make a difference by committing ourselves and sacrificing a little bit to contribute to the mission of God in saving souls and caring for the sick and the little ones.



Many of us may not have the luxury of time to go to these places and lift literally the brethren who are in need. In the world that we are living in, where anything is almost possible, we can help in our little ways to uplift the lives of those who are in need. Our Adoption program is still ongoing. During this time, offerings have decreased due to many political and world issues. The mission is not dependent on money, but on the promise that God himself sealed with a covenant with us. God will move many people to make all things new and accomplished. I am still moved with the picture I have often seen on the walls of the mission, the pictures of the founding Fathers who sacrificed themselves for these people. The pictures of Fr. Paul Di Nardo, CRM, Fr. Tommaso Barbona, CRM and Fr. Raffaele Mandolesi, CRM. They paved the road for the Caracciolini to get settled in these mission areas. Let us continue the great work they started by continuing and keeping alive the spirit of Mission and caring for the little ones.

I bless you all. I pray that the little news and reflections I bring you will help you to move forward as we strive to bring hope, inspiration, and evangelizing to the world. In this way, you will journey with the CRM worldwide.

**Father Ted O. Kalaw, CRM, Superior General**

