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DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE

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To

April 15th, 2020

**The Mission Partners, Dioceses & Project Holders
Light to Life Program.**

Dearly Beloved in Christ:

Greetings form the Sinai Mar Thoma Center, New York.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an unprecedented human and health crisis. The measures necessary to contain the virus have triggered an economic downturn. At this point, there is great uncertainty about its severity and length. The latest Global Financial Stability Report shows that the financial system has already felt a dramatic impact, and a further intensification of the crisis could affect global financial stability. Many of our sponsors to Light to Life program have lost their job and the inflow of sponsorship have decreased drastically for the past two months. But the health, Safety, and well-being of our beneficiaries in our mission centers is the need of this time. Hence we will be trying our best to send the designated amount to centers, with some modifications on the utilizations of the funds being sent to the Light to Life program.

We are working around to adapt to this new landscape, to adjust our procedures and policies to take care of our beneficiaries and their families to maintain a clean, healthy and comfortable environment and also join with the Ministry of Home Affairs of the government of India to do our part in creating awareness about combating the spread of this virus. Addressing to the need, we have decided that 15% of the funds along with any accumulated funds be utilized to mobilize support for COVID-19 related programs in the local area. We have entrusted Holistic Child Development India (HCDI) to monitor and receive the reports about the steps taken and the funds utilized for COVID-19 related programs by each center.

Some of the immediate steps that can be implemented are as follows:

- Creating awareness about crucial aspects like prevention, hygiene (provide sanitizers, soaps), social distancing, and isolation and combating stigma.
- Provide food provisions kit to all the families who are beneficiaries of the Light to Life program so that none of our children will be hungry during these days.
- Social Workers should take necessary steps to check about the well-being of the children and the environment in which they are residing.
- Provide protective provisions like sanitizers, soaps, masks, gloves for health and community workers and volunteers.

As we continue to navigate our way through this unprecedented time and deal with extraordinary challenges, we are committed to keeping you informed and updated on the steps we are taking to manage through the COVID-19 pandemic.

With Prayerful Regards

Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos
Diocesan Bishop & President