

PREM DAN

15, NATHALAL PAREKH MARG · BOMBAY 400 039 · TELEPHONE 2020474

24th. March 1986

Dear Friends,

As Easter draws near I am reminded that it is time for another circular and Easter Greetings. Before I give you news of Prem Dan and your children, I would like to share some thoughts with you on the Season of Easter.

The Season of Lent, is perhaps, the oldest and most familiar period of the Christian Year. Too often, however, this season has been seen only as a time of private reflection on our individual sinfulness and a time of self-denial. Seldom has it been thought of in regard to the larger "social sins" of our economic, political, and cultural life. Our typical parish activity during the forty days of Lent has supported only an individualized view of the world. It has neglected to help people come to believe that they can make a significant impact on the larger issues that we face today, such as world hunger.

During the past year, so many Christians have shown great concern for the victims of world hunger. We have contributed generously to many famine relief funds. At the same time, though, we have remained largely unaware of hunger's underlying causes. We have responded to the call for financial aid to alleviate the effects of hunger, but we have not looked very deeply at its root causes.

Let us resolve during this Easter, to move from solely private responses in aid of famine victims to becoming a community dedicated to social justice. In the context of world hunger, Easter is a call from the Lord to move from sinful yesterday to hopeful tomorrow. It is a time for all peoples to effect and celebrate the Exodus. It is a time to move from slavery to sharing the fruits of the promised land.

Jesus had to let go of a lot of things in trying to be faithful to the will of God. But He trusted that, if he did not try to avoid the loss, He would gain something that death could not take away. What He gained for Himself, and for us, is new life, eternal life. This new life is acquired at great cost - no Easter without Good Friday. What is required of us as Christians is that we embrace both these realities.

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We are now commencing a new type of Sponsorship Programme. Over the years, you have so patiently accepted a new child almost every 3 years. Since the programme has grown and we now have 2 schools and many local sponsors.

I thought you may be happy to sponsor a child who leaves our school for a recognised school. If this child, has to continue his or her education, fees have to be paid and all other items of expenditure such as lunch, stationery, transport etc. The advantage will be that you can sponsor the child till he or she finishes High School; for some it will be over a period of 9 years and others at least 6 years. I am sending the photographs of a child, the name of the school and the class in which he or she is studying. This also has a further advantage. Most of the children will be able to write their own letters. You can address them to the school or to me.

We have chosen 3 Catholic Institutions. I hope you will be happy with this new programme.

I wish each one of you the Joys and Blessings of this Holy Season, and thank you once again for being "A Saviour" to a destitute child.

God Bless You,

Your sincerely, in Jesus and Mary

Sr. Feleicity Morris

(SR. FELEICITY MORRIS)