



# Caritas in Mission

A quarterly newsletter by Caritas Singapore on the Catholic Church's social mission

Issue 01 April 2020

MCI (P) 028/03/2020

A  Letter

 for you





Dear Friends of Caritas,

I have always thought that the most beautiful, most profound truth in the Bible is that **“God is love”**.

And we are told further that the love of God was made manifest among us by God sending His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him (cf 1 John 4:8–9).

As children of God redeemed by the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus, we too in turn are called to love one another, because while we have not seen God, “if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us” (1 John 4:11–12).

This in essence is the mission of Caritas, **to manifest the love of God through the Church’s love for God’s creation, especially the last, the lost and the least among us**. This is what God asks all of us as followers of his Son, Jesus, to love our neighbour as God has loved us.

We want to make God’s love a reality, something real, something tangible, something that people can experience especially when they are facing difficult times. And when they experience that love from us, we hope they will see that there is more than the brokenness and the pain and the sadness that they feel, that there is a greater “something” that they can move towards. **And this something is God.**

At Caritas, by being the manifestation of God’s Love in Action, we try to see where the gaps are in the community and how we can make a difference by working with others. We hope that over time, we can begin to address some of the root causes, not just the symptoms of social issues. This is of course more complex.

And this is where I see the Caritas family of member organisations as a wonderful source of strength to the community because it showcases the diversity of talent and heart within the Catholic Church.

We are many parts with many different charisms, but ultimately, there’s only one Lord and one Body. Our different charisms will serve different parts of the community, and we can come together to work towards issues that require more complex solutions.

Whether or not you are a volunteer with the Caritas family, you are all called to be members of Caritas in spirit. There are many other practical ways in which you can be the face of Jesus in your community.

1. If you know someone in need, point him in the right direction so that he can get the help he needs.
2. We can also show kindness every day; a kind phrase, a pat on the back for somebody who has done a good job, or a hug for someone who needs a brighter day.

Everybody needs God’s love to be made manifest in their lives.

**You and I can be that manifestation** of God’s love to people so that they may see our Lord Jesus in us.

Cheng Han  
Chairman, Caritas Singapore



## MORNING STAR COMMUNITY SERVICES

“We have multi-stressed families in our community. They often go unnoticed. Invisible. There is a plethora of funds and services they can tap on to alleviate their situation, but the unfamiliar and weary may find it difficult to navigate.

I see myself as a guide for individuals or families in our community. As we journey together, we tackle financial boulders and brave relational storms. And when I see them get back on their feet, I am reminded that people are more resilient than we think.

Journeying with a family can be a steep climb, but it is worth it when you look back from the peak and see how far you've come together. ”

- **Joshua Wee, Case Manager, Family Wellness Division**



## CATHOLIC WELFARE SERVICES

“Don't do the right thing for the wrong reasons. It is the “why” that keeps us committed to our choices and defines our character.

So why CWS? Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you” and “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35) and “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did to me” (Matthew 25:40).

Serving in the CWS, we get the opportunities to make a difference and be the face of Christ to our brothers and sisters in need. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done. ”

- **Thomas Tan, Chairman, Night Missions**



## ASSISI HOSPICE

“Nursing can be a stressful job. I have learnt to be more patient in life, to be more caring and to have empathy for my patients.

I work in the Palliative Dementia Ward, I provide end of life care for patients with dementia. At the end of the day, I go to bed knowing that I have done my best to alleviate my patients' pain and suffering.

A simple ‘thank you’ from them makes my day. ”

- **Jeevitha D/O Chndragasan, Senior Enrolled Nurse**



## ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR THE PASTORAL CARE OF MIGRANTS AND ITINERANT PEOPLE

“My love for cooking led me to volunteer with ACMI Skills Development's programme in 2017. The Foreign Domestic Workers have come to work here in Singapore, away from their loved ones, to earn a decent wage. When they share their struggles with me, I sit with them and encourage them not to give up.

The logic of the world tells us that it is impossible to love another because we should care for ourselves first. Through my experience working with the migrant community in Singapore I feel that it is possible for all of us to show our love and concern. ”

- **Jan Teng, Skills Development Ministry**



## MONTFORT CARE

“I joined Montfort Care in 2011 as a social worker and was part of the pioneer team setting up a Family Service Centre.

Social work is full of challenges; it's not for everyone. No one can do this work alone. When you are down because your faith is tested, you become doubtful.

The rough patches that I have go through bring me closer to God. I turn to God for guidance and strength. I do not let my fear impede my curiosity and desire to learn and try new things.

We have one common goal: To be the voice of the people we served in making a difference. ”

- **Esther Tan, Lead Social Worker**



## CLARITY SINGAPORE

“Archbishop William Goh shared with us that only unconditional love can bring the best out of each person during his visit to our premises in Yishun. There is much truth in it.

Working at Clarity Singapore, I can see God's love in action in our therapists; they listen to our clients' sharings, and receive them with an open heart that carries no judgment. This is both humbling and inspiring! ”

- **Milaflor Evangelio, Administrative Assistant**



## CATHOLIC AIDS RESPONSE EFFORT

“Volunteering at CARE over the past four years has allowed self-discovery as to what it truly means to have faith in God.

Despite the daily demands of family and work, I find time to set aside for CARE. There is joy in receiving a simple greeting or a heartfelt smile. Also, in honest conversation with the residents. When I am feeling down and out and the residents show me their care and concern. This gives me consolation and a certain sense of peace.

My own faith has grown deeper and stronger and I am able to translate it into practical action. The greatest gain from my volunteering at CARE is God's peace. ”

- **Bernard Sim, Volunteer**



## CARITAS SINGAPORE

“My greatest joy in Caritas over the 19 months is to witness Catholic Social Workers coming together to support one another spiritually and professionally.

I feel part of God's love in action as a Caritas family as we are all delivering God's love together, sharing joys and pains as one, while impacting so many lives in the community.

My spiritual journey of faith has been strengthened and inspired by the few encounters with Archbishop William Goh, Fr John-Paul and Msgr. Ambrose Vaz when I reflected on their words of wisdom, and experienced joy and comfort. I am also appreciative of my Chairman, Prof Tan Cheng Han for being always available when I need a listening ear. ”

- **Christine Wong, Executive Director**



## BOYS' TOWN

“It is easy to be fearful of journeying with youth with complex trauma.

Working in Boys' Town gave me time in the chapel to reflect. God revealed to me the wounds of Jesus and it dawned on me that these youth were also wounded. They were fighting to survive in a darkened world where they did not feel loved.

It has been a privilege to be the “Rey” of light in their darkness. Given the years of abuse and trauma, their world is still far from becoming bright. Though disheartening, I continue to persevere to light one switch at a time. ”

- **Revathi d/o Thangavel (Rey), Lead of Residential Services (Therapeutic Group Home)**



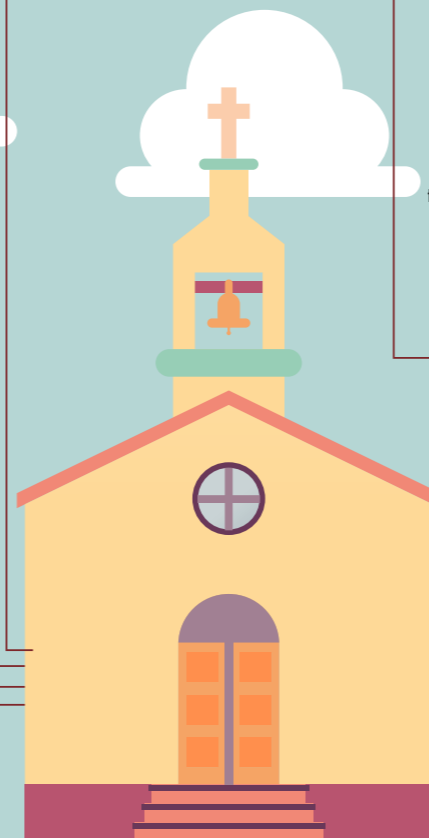
## MAMRE OAKS

“It's amazing how everyone here grows from being a stranger to a friend. Love and friendship blossom through time spent together journeying with our members.

It is a place where we feel like a family, using our gifts and talents to help each other. We are growing, and supporting and learning from each other. It warms my heart to see all the little milestones that our members have achieved.

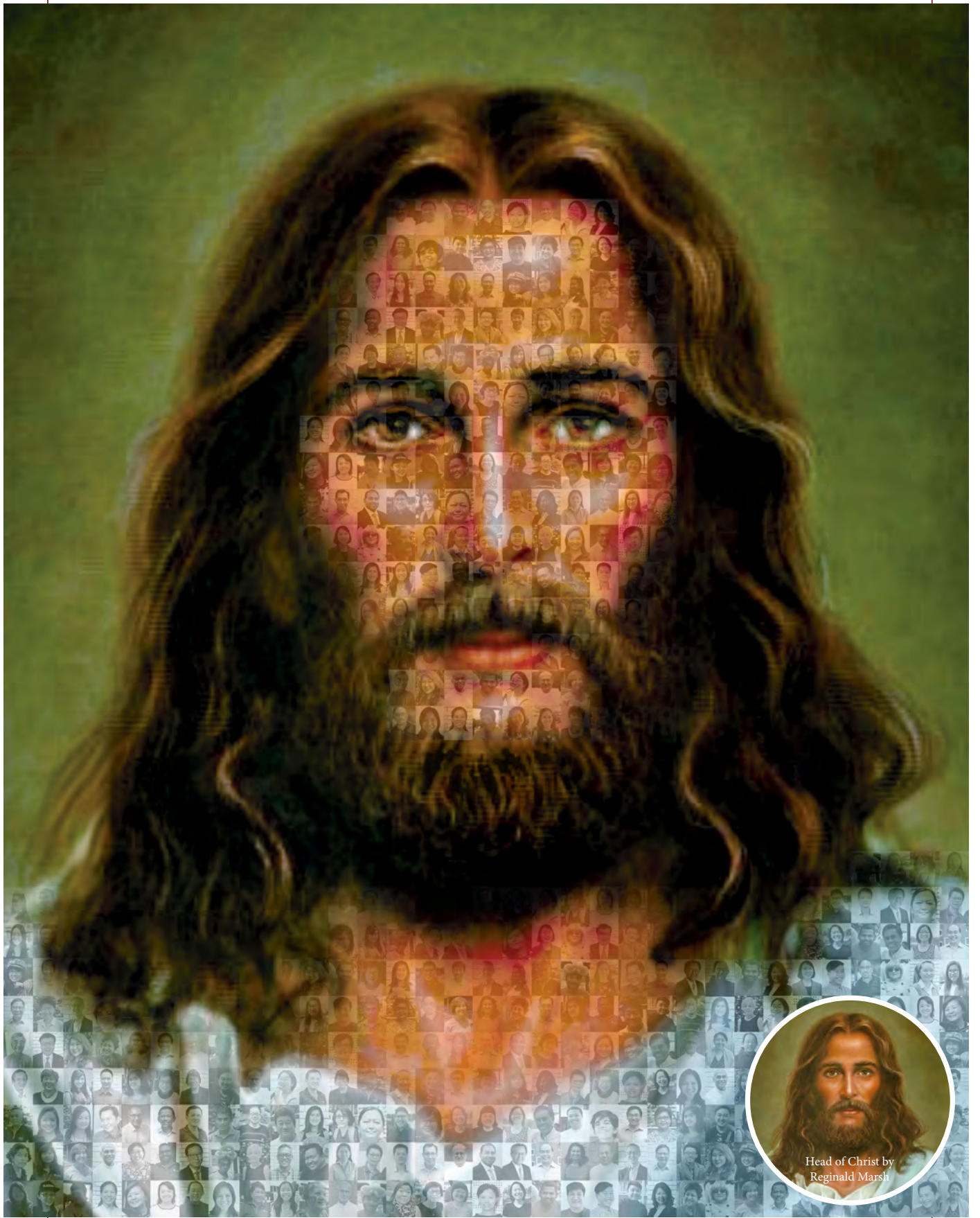
God's presence and love is felt in this community. I'm inspired by the selfless love and dedications of all our volunteers towards our members, our organization and with us. ”

- **Cherie Cheong, Senior Programme Coordinator**



**#PeopleofCaritasSingapore  
#GodsLoveInAction**





Head of Christ by  
Reginald Marsh



# Caritas Singapore Family




Together, we can be the manifestation of God's Love In Action

# #CARITASONCOVID19 #SGUNITED

## THINGS YOU CAN DO:


- Know someone living alone? Let them know, "If you need anything, I am here."
- Speak to shopkeepers, and then listen
- Call an elderly person you know, and relive some memories.
- Check on a friend with cancer or other illnesses, and listen as long as they need it.
- Get some sunshine. It's great for you! God made it for you

Credit: Checklist adapted from anon online



# CHARITIES WEEK 2020


7 March  
-17 May



**This Charities Week, let us give with Love.**

Donations to Charities Week 2020 will help the Caritas Singapore family continue our work on the ground to serve diverse and marginalised groups including low-income families, youth-at-risk, the incarcerated, people with physical disabilities, and also people with mental health problems. #GodsLoveInAction

Click link below or Scan the QR Code to donate:  
<http://bit.ly/caritas-cw2020>



*"A new commandment I give to you: that you love one another as I have loved you" - John 13:34*

 **CONNECT WITH US**  
Wish to be on our mailing list? Write to us at [comms@caritas-singapore.org](mailto:comms@caritas-singapore.org)

## CONTACT US

 55 Waterloo Street #08-01 Catholic Centre S187954  6338 3448  
  [@CaritasSingapore](https://www.instagram.com/CaritasSingapore)  [caritas-singapore.org](http://caritas-singapore.org)  [comms@caritas-singapore.org](mailto:comms@caritas-singapore.org)