Caritas in Mission

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

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
 Despite the daily demands of family and work, I find time to set aside for CARE. There is joy in receiving a simple ‘thank you’ from them that makes my day. 

- Thomas Tan, Chairman, Night Missions

Volunteering at CARE over the past four years has allowed me to reflect and to be reaffirmed in my faith. I work in the Palliative Dementia Ward, and the patients we served in making a difference.

- Jeevitha D/O Chndragasan, Senior Enrolled Nurse

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 CWSP? Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you” (John 13:34-35) and “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40).

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

- Jeovitha D/O Chndragasan, Senior Enrolled Nurse

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 Woo, Case Manager, Family Wellness Division

I see myself as a guide for individuals or families in our situation, but the unfamiliar and weary may find it difficult to navigate. 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 as many lives in this community.

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

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

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.

- Cherie Cheong, Senior Programme Coordinator

#PeopleofCaritasSingapore
#GodsLoveInAction
Caritas Singapore Family

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

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

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