**Mission Appeal of Fr. Vijoy in the Archdiocese of Chicago
Schoenstatt Fathers of India, Providence Region**

We all are now putting up a very bold fight against Covid 19 virus, and I know many people are going through a very difficult time. Let us stay safe and united.

Today’s first and second readings remind us that nothing should separate us from the love of Christ, and we shall not fail to love everyone, in word and deed.

In the Gospel today, we find Jesus multiplying five loaves and two fishes and feeding 5000 men, and women and children present there. It is an act of care and generosity of Jesus towards His people. We all can do small, small things with great love.

A poor old woman, back in India, perhaps in her early 70s, stood next to me in a medical shop. She ordered all medicine she needed, but then she found out ‘no enough money’, and therefore asked the shopkeeper to take some medicine back. I told her that I will pay the whole amount for her. I saw love and grace in her eyes, and gratitude on her face, and she asked me who I am. I said ‘I am a Christian and a priest’.

Through our deeds of mercy, compassion and generosity we are making the invisible God visible to the world and reconciling all things in Jesus Christ.

I am here to appeal you to support the social ministry of the Schoenstatt Fathers in India.

We run a small college for about 220 underprivileged students and privately prepare them for university examinations because they are poor and cannot afford paying the college fee. They do not have good grades and therefore cannot get into good colleges.

Besides, we also support many poor girls and boys at their homes with study materials, school fees and dresses and clothes.

We also give educational scholarships.

We provide elementary schooling to the children of daily-wage workers in the metropolitan city of Bangalore.

In this city a team of 3 fathers work for the wellbeing of the migrant youth who have come for their studies from North India, neighboring countries and Africa. And we provide them a Home away from their own homes.

Through SALTT, our school of art and culture, we contribute to the character formation of children and youth. Here we also run a center for the renewal of Christian families and youth, where they can get together and find a Home.

I will greatly appreciate if you can financially support us to carry on our social ministry in India. It is very challenging and not easy, and we alone cannot afford it. Every single penny you throw in is a great support for our mission and ministry.

I would like to thank your bishop, parish priest, parish community and all who have worked to make this mission appeal possible. Thank you all. God bless you!

Fr. Vijoy