



DOMANDE ALL'ARCIVESCOVO DI COLOMBO - IV

Initiatives of the Sri Lankan Church III

The southern diocese of Galle is vacant and is administered by Fr. Terence Liyanage the Administrator pro tem. A team of priests is working very hard coordinating the supply of essential food and other items for the refugees and displaced persons. This area is largely Buddhist. Hence the Church workers are coordinating very much with the non-Catholic leaders. One of the primary concerns of the Church here is the restoration of the Catholic school, the only one they had in the diocese, and from the total destruction it suffered. In fact one of the nuns died here in the tsunami.

The national shrine of Our Lady of Matara, in the southern end of the diocese suffered extensive damage. The presbytery is to be totally demolished as it is precariously leaning forward after the tsunami. The church has lost all its doors, windows and furniture. The miraculous statue that floated out into the sea returned and was discovered two days later. (*This is the third time that this statue was retrieved from the sea).

The national Caritas (SEDEC) is also very active and has been channelling funds to the affected dioceses. Most of the international donor agencies have been directing their funds through Sedec. Sedec accordingly channels them to the affected areas through the diocesan networks. It functions under an able staff and maintains good relations with the funding agencies who came forward to help us very generously.

What does the Church ask?

What is essential at the moment is the rebuilding of houses, supply of furniture, crockery and other household requirements, the supply of boats and fishing gear. Naturally, this would require purchase or supply from abroad. We are of opinion that they are best purchased in Sri Lanka because that would be very much cheaper here and save the costs of transport in addition. It will also provide work for the people in manufacture and boost the fallen economy of the country.

There are several churches damaged and some are completely destroyed. In the Archdiocese of Colombo four churches are very badly damaged and their furniture completely destroyed. Even though the main structures remain it is necessary to check these buildings as they are old and have been built of kapok. This type of hard soil brick remains good for long periods provided they do not get wet. In this instance they got wet though the water did not remain too long. We are consulting engineers to find out whether the walls have been affected. If this has happened a complete rebuilding of the church would become necessary. In the diocese of Jaffna 24 churches are badly damaged and two are completely destroyed.

(- segue)

800.086808

E' il numero verde dell'unità di crisi al quale devono rivolgersi i parenti di coloro che inizialmente erano stati segnalati fra i dispersi e che invece successivamente hanno dato notizie certe di sé.

286.000 MORTI

Sono già state censite 286.000 vittime, tra le quali 54 italiani. I nostri connazionali ancora irrimediabilmente ammontano a 53. La gestione della lista dei dispersi è di competenza del Viminale.

PARTECIPATE ALLA SOTTOSCRIZIONE

A FAVORE DELLE VITTIME
c.c.p. n.n. 12071411, abi 07601, cab 12900, intestato "Association Internazionale Reine Helene", causale: "terremoto in Asia".