



**Help the Helpless**  
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**Christmas greetings from Fr. Altier- President of Help the Helpless**

Dear Benefactors,

Greetings in our newborn King! St. Paul tells us that Jesus, though He was rich, became poor for our sake. In the manger we can see clearly the poverty our Lord freely chose. Most of you who are reading this are parents; ask yourself what kind of circumstances you would want to be in while giving birth as well as for the child being born into this world. Jesus chose to be born in a place that was a shelter for animals and Mary laid Him in a manger, a stone feeding trough for cattle. When St. Paul tells the Philippians that Jesus took the form of a slave, we can see at His birth that He was willing to be lower than any human condition. This is even more astounding because He is God Who is infinitely above any human condition. His humility is a model for all of us as we strive to become more like Him.

The experience of His own poverty led our Lord to comment on the widow who put the two small coins into the temple treasury. Understanding her circumstances, Jesus remarked that she had put in more than all the rest. While the objective value of what she gave was minimal, the subjective value was immense. This is similar to the circumstances of many of our benefactors who, given the economy, do not have even the little bit of extra that they may have had a few years ago. There are many who think that the "little bit" they give cannot make much of a difference. Not only does God know the value of what you have given, but for the children in India it makes a huge difference. Even some of our more well-to-do benefactors are feeling the pinch of what they have given; the blessings of our Lord, Who will never be outdone in generosity, will be abundant.

It is in light of these considerations that to say thank you seems also to be so very little. I know that you are not looking for anything more than that, but please know that what you are doing has made and is making a huge difference in the lives of children who were born and often lived in a manner that we would want neither for ourselves nor for anyone else. You have raised these children out of those conditions and helped to set them on a path to achieve success and fulfillment in their lives. Thank you!

I assure you of my poor prayers and pray God's blessings for you and your families in this holy season.

**In our Lord and our Lady,**

**Fr. Robert J. Altier**

## **Christmas greetings from Fr. Antony Savarimuth founder and director of St. Mary's schools and orphanage**

Dear friends and Benefactors,

Christmas greetings to each and every one of you from Fr. Antony and all our children, students and the staffs. How are you?

Thank you for your kind support and prayers. Due to your love and help, our children are well cared for, study very hard in their education program and are very happy at St. Mary's.

Our children have just finished their tests and their half yearly exam will start in the month of December and usually they are over before the Christmas; but unfortunately they have some exams before the Christmas and some exams after the Christmas. We do not allow our children to go for quarterly holidays just after the exam. But we wait till "Deepavali" the Hindu festival for light. They go for ten days to celebrate their festival and comeback. Likewise they go in the month of January to celebrate the harvest which is called "Pongal". I have written about Deepavali and Pongal in some years ago in my different letters.

On November 30<sup>th</sup> twelve of our Physically Handicapped and Deaf Mute children went to the city of Chennai to participate in the state festival of Sports. Usually our children get many prizes every year. The children also will have sports competitions and we will have the Annual celebration of sports, education and distribute quite a lot of prizes and awards for the prominent students in their grades.

Here is some news that will give you an idea of what we experience in our country. The Supreme Court of India ordered the State of Karnataka to release water for irrigation to the State of Tamilnadu which is our State. During the time of British rule, the Metoor Dam was constructed in 1934; and ever since that was used for irrigation in many Districts in the State of Tamilnadu. Our place is one of those important Districts and it was called the Granary of South India. We always had water flowing from this big Dam. It is said that some years ago there was not much water in the Karnataka Dams too. But still whatever quantity of water was available it was divided between these two States for cultivation and drinking purposes.

The Monsoon has failed in Tamilnadu for past 3 years. Yet we had the flow of water and the Dam was full hence our cultivation of rice was most successful. But this year the short term cultivation was complete failure because the Dam was dry. A little water was collected in the Dam and it was opened for irrigation only September 17<sup>th</sup> and about 12, 00,000(Twelve Lakhs) of acres of rice of the long term was cultivated. But we had only water enough till the end of September but in the month of October the Dam was getting dry. Because the quantity of water that has to be supplied from the State of Karnataka would not give us the water. The Supreme Court ordered the Chief Minister of Karnataka to release the water but he refused flatly. The Prime Minister of India ordered the State of Karnataka to release water for the long term cultivation in the State of Tamilnadu. These two orders too not executed. Finally the Supreme Court suggested the Chief Ministers of these two States meet with each other and have amicable talk and come to conclusion for sharing of water.

The Chief Minister of Tamilnadu went and met the Chief Minister of Karnataka on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2012. All the farmers of Tamilnadu eagerly watched the outcome of these two Chief Ministers meeting and decision. But unfortunately the Chief Minister of Karnataka completely denied even a drop of water for the State of Tamilnadu. Our Chief Minister went with the aim of getting our share of 58 T.M.C of water for irrigation and for drinking

purposes. But the State of Karnataka would not give any water. Our Chief Minister asked for 30 T.M.C of water. But they said we have only altogether in the 4 Dams storage of about 37 T.M.C of water. So we will not able to release any drop of water either for cultivation or for drinking purposes. So all the farmers in the State of Tamilnadu are very much disappointed. Already they cultivated the crops are drying. We cultivated only 16 acres of crops that 2 acres of land of cultivation will have to dry. Other 14 acres of cultivation we may be able to scarcely save and get some rice for food. We had only rain for 2 or 3 days together and that is all for past 12 months. So our St. Mary's deep bore wells also will fail to supply water after 2 or 3 months. So everyone is at dismay as to what will happen for the drinking water and the cultivation.

This year the summer is going to be a long period of almost 12 months from November up to next November. Unless there is a depression in the sea and it rains. We may have to face a real famine. Whenever there is depression there is a torrent of rain the city of Chennai and in the far of Southern Districts. We in between meet the dry climate almost 11 to 12 months. This year it is going to be very dry, hard and very high climate of heat. I watch in News that you too have so many change of hurricane and depressions and rain in the parts of the country and meet problems. However, ours is going to be a very dry one, I hope not, forever.

You all know that above 70 men usually pass away in India; very rarely few survive after 80 and very rarely just a hand full may survive after 90. I will start my 75th year in June. I thank God for giving me a long life and I am very grateful to you for supporting me in our Lords work to help the children. I do pray for each and every one of you during my Holy Mass and visit to the Blessed Sacrament.

I thank you again and I and the children promise to pray for you all every day.

**Yours in Jesus,**

**Fr.Antony, and all our children, students and the staffs.**

### **From the Staff of Help the Helpless**

A Holy and Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all of our benefactors and friends of Help the Helpless. We thank you for all of your support, prayers, and love that you give to the children of St. Mary's and to us that work at Help the Helpless. We are grateful to God for the opportunity he has given to us and we are blessed to work with so many wonderful people. Please know that you all are in our daily prayers.

**Yours in Christ**

**Teresa, Janet, Kay, and Joe**

**The staff of Help the helpless**