



St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Kolkata and St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association

combat

COVID-19 Pandemic



Message from Father Principal

The entire world is under enormous threat of the deadly Novel Coronavirus pandemic and people are confined to their homes as Lockdown is continuing for months. Human race is battling it out for the maintenance of essential livelihood. This is the most unprecedented situation of a financial and emotional set back that humankind has ever experienced.

Fathers at St. Xavier's are actively participating in relief activities, sympathizing with people across the globe – particularly those who are unfortunate masses, shelterless and without basic living means. Our humble and persistent prayers for our brothers and sisters of the world reach out to places where the cases of getting affected by this invisible evil has been increasing day by day.

Aided by the blessings of the Almighty, accompanied by our constant prayers and encouragement, members of the St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association (SXCCAA), who are spread all over the world, have been reaching out to the needy. Members of the Alumni Association are popularly called 'Men and Women for the others, Army without Arms' – they are actively fighting this pandemic, determined to emerge victorious.

I feel extremely privileged and blessed to mention some of the momentous initiative already taken up by the members of SXCCAA – their endeavor beings at Kolkata, under our immediate supervision; they are conducting mass distribution of food bags to families of Students and Poor Villagers as well as urban and suburban poor. The members are ensuring distribution of PPE kits to Doctors and frontline workers, Medical staff and healthcare workers, they are distributing face masks and hand sanitizers at a mass scale among the poor and the marginalized of Kolkata. The members are cordially contributing Nationally and Internationally to boost the collapsed financial conditions and participating in person in relief works at this testing time for human civilization.

The details of the activities of social service, which is primary human responsibility, are mentioned below – I would take this opportunity to emphasize with grace and gratitude that St. Xavier's Community of the Fathers, the Professors, the Staff Members and members of SXCCAA have come forward, as the first educational institution, to donate Rs. 40 Lacs to the West Bengal State Emergency Relief Fund, initiated by Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, on 02.04.2020. There has been separate donations to Prime Minister's National Relief Fund – Professors and Staffs members of St. Xavier's have displayed exemplary philanthropic gesture by contributing their one-day salary for the accumulation of this donation fund.

I appreciate and humbly acknowledge the noble efforts of SXCCAA spread across our country, the members of all the National Chapters at Delhi, Mumbai – Pune, Bengaluru, Siliguri and Guwahati, the members of International Chapters of Dubai who have come forward to support their alma mater in reaching out to masses and extending their assistance to the affected population at this hour of international social crisis that has shackled civilization.

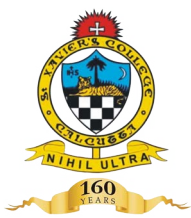
St. Xavier's Community and the College, with humongous support from its principal pillar, the SXCCAA pledge to continue to be at the service of the teeming millions who require to be rescued from their financial and social distress – we shall restore our dignity and design of life through application of all available sources – we shall tirelessly work to ensure seamless rehabilitation, during this period of global crisis and for all times beyond.

May the Lord bless us and bestow upon us His own Peace.

Rev. Fr. Dr. Dominic Savio SJ

**Principal, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Kolkata and
President, St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association**





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In Campus Services by St. Xavier's Community (at Park Street Campus)

#Good Friday 'Service' and Easter Monday Retreat at St. Xavier's College (10.04.2020 & 13.04.2020)

On the auspicious day of Good Friday when Christ sacrificed His life for the salvation of mankind, St. Xavier's Community and St. Xavier's College (Calcutta) Alumni Association commemorated this divine sacrifice under the leadership of its President and Principal of the College, Rev. Father Dominic Savio SJ, Rev. Fr. Jeyaraj Velusamy SJ, Rector and other Fathers of St. Xavier's and shared food packets with the needy local people with assistance from Kolkata Police after following all stipulated safety norms, which benefitted more than 500 poor families as a whole. The same process was repeated on Easter Monday on 13th April 2020 as retreat distribution.



#St. Xavier's Alumni Association Salute COVID Warriors (24.04.2020)

In continuation with its commitment and support to combat COVID-19 and after helping the poor and needy people, SXCCAA came forward with College Administration to salute the COVID Warriors who had been extending yeomen humanitarian service at this trying time. More than 300 PPEs were given for the Doctors, Medical staffs and healthcare support providers of a city based private charity hospital by the Principal of St. Xavier's College and President of the Alumni Association Rev. Fr. Dr. Dominic Savio SJ and Rector Rev. Fr. Jeyaraj Velusamy SJ. The PPEs were procured as per approved quality norms of WHO and Government Departments.

#Charity at St. Xavier's College (06.05.2020)

St. Xavier's Community along with SXCCAA extended its support to their Needy Students and Non Teaching Staffs, who required handholding at this hour of crisis – inspired by Jesuit value systems. Dry rations and food packets were distributed to more than 300 needy students and Co-workers of St. Xavier's College and the Collegiate School. Rector Rev. Fr. Jeyaraj Velusamy SJ, Principal of the College Rev. Fr. Dr. Dominic Savio SJ and Principal of the Collegiate School Rev. Fr. Dr. Thamacin Arulappan SJ along with other fathers of St. Xavier's Community distributed the ration & food packets to the beneficiaries. The beneficiaries were overwhelmed with the gesture which gave them mental as well as economic support. St. Xavier's College and School decided to continue with this support till the lockdown is in place.



Notably, the College Professors, Staffs and SXCCAA members already took an active part in contribution of St. Xavier's Kolkata amounting ₹ 40 Lacs to West Bengal State Emergency Relief Fund and ₹ 10 Lacs in Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for COVID 19 Relief work.



Rural Connect and Outreach of SXCCAA to combat COVID-19

Relief distribution at Raghabpur Campus – March to May 2020

In the context of COVID-19 pandemic St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Kolkata, in its efforts reached out to more than 3000 families across 16 villages comprising of Daily and Migrant laborers, Rickshaw pullers and the poor sections of the society with essential food provisions for each family in the surrounding area of St. Xavier's College Raghabpur Campus.

On 27.03.2020, following the initiatives taken up by Fr. Dominic Savio SJ, Principal St. Xavier's College Kolkata, in collaboration with SXCCAA and volunteers of SSVP (Society of St. Vincent de Paul) distributed relief materials to 60 families in Paikhala Village under Panauka Gram Panchayat, South 24 Pargana District – under the supervision of Fr. Johnson Padiyara SJ, Vice Principal St. Xavier's College Raghabpur Campus.

Another 2500 needy families were covered in COVID-19 Relief distribution under Six Gram Panchayats namely Panakua, Kulerdari, Keoradanga, Amgachhia, Bonhoogly and



Bishnupur on 06.04.2020. These poor and most needy families spread over 34 villages under these six Gram Panchayats were selected as beneficiaries of relief distribution - the identification of those beneficiaries were done by the Fathers of SXC Raghabpur Community, Professors of St. Xavier's College Raghabpur Campus, SXCCAA members, Department of Social Work of St. Xavier's College Park Street Campus, Teachers of St. Paul's High School Raghabpur, Local Gram Panchayats and Police Administration.

Also a major Relief drive was carried out by 36 village volunteers from Raghabpur area near St. Xavier's College Raghabpur Campus for Six days from 13.04.2020 to 18.04.2020. The relief distribution went off well peacefully with the help of many committed village volunteers who gave their selfless service for this mission. The Panchayat Pradhan, some other Panchayat members of Panakua Gram Panchayat and the officers of Nepalgunj Police Station also helped in this initiative and supported the College Administration and SXCCAA members with all the logistics.



Relief to Tribal Population at Kalna, Purba Bardhaman along with Diocese of Asansol – April 2020

St. Xavier's Community along with SXCCAA members facilitated and financially helped in distribution of Relief materials for 300 Tribal families and few other beneficiaries (the Santhal population) staying in different villages near Kalna under Purba Bardhaman district. The relief distribution was done in the 3rd Week of April 2020 after the Easter weekend where a variety of materials were distributed like Dry Rations like Rice, Dal, Edible Oil, Spices, Biscuits, Soybeans, Potato; Soaps, Hand Sanitizer and Face Masks; Milk Powder for Children; Cloth and Bedsheets.

SXCCAA became a helping hand to Fr. Avinash Kumar of Diocese of Asansol through financial donations.



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LOCKDOWN RELIEF for SXCCAA Members through Virtual Networking & Entertainment Activities

#Virtual Friday Fellowship Meetings Zoom App is done every Friday – which replaces the Meet-ups at Room No. 5.

#1st Digital Edition of Knowledge and Ideas Xchange Series (KIXs) featuring Mind Hack Show by India's leading illusionist Tushar Raj Kumar on 8th May 2020.

#1st Digital Edition of Beyond Barriers (the flagship Musical Extravaganza of SXCCAA) featuring Xaverian and Globally acclaimed Music Composer Pandit Bickram Ghosh on 13th May 2020.

#A Special Music Video with Musicians, Eminent Xaverians and other Celebrities composed by Xaverian and Renowned Percussionist Pandit Subhen Chatterjee – as a Tribute to Mother Earth.



CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Even the members who belong to National and International Chapters of SXCCAA had been trying all out to help & contribute in this battle against COVID-19 in their respective capacities. Remarkable contributions from the members of various National Chapters are as follows:

In **Mumbai**, SXCCAA members had been donating food kits to various NGOs, taking care of street inhabitants and at some places poor street animals, initiated digital initiative to track the migrants living without food and alert the NGOs through social media platforms like Twitter and WhatsApp messages. Those members have also donated to the Relief fund at St. Xavier's Community Kolkata apart from their separate donations to PM CARES (Central Government Relief Fund) as well as CM Relief Fund at Maharashtra.

At **Pune**, Xaverians joined hands with the local Rotary Club and donated 2000 Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) kits worth Rs. 13.50 Lacs to Sasoon Hospital. They had been also distributing more than 1500 food kits, face masks to truck drivers stranded on highways, security guards and local street vendors, apart from distributing food to 13 workers from UP stuck in Malad area of Mumbai.

The Xaverians of North Zone Chapter were not left out as well. The members of SXCCAA based at Delhi had been distributing free cooked meals to the needy people of **Delhi NCR** twice a day. They have made collection for feeding 1000 people i.e. 2000 meals a day.

Even the members of SXCCAA attached with the South Zone Chapter at **Bengaluru** had been working tirelessly on a grand philanthropic noble mission which includes food & medical support for homeless, needy and underprivileged people in Bangalore and Orphans in the Street affected by lockdown due to COVID-19 in the state of Karnataka along with along with other organizations like St. Joseph's College Alumni Association, Ramakrishna Mission Math (Ulsoor) and other philanthropy organizations – special thanks extends to Mr. Rudra Shankar Roy and other members of South Zone Chapter for their sincere efforts.

The International Chapter members at **Dubai** had been kind enough to donate Rs. 3,00,000 (Rupees Three Lacs Only) at SXCCAA which considerably expedited the relief work of St. Xavier's Community and SXCCAA at Kolkata.





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All the initiatives taken by St. Xavier's Community, Teachers and Non-Teaching Staffs and even Students during the Lockdown period had been fully in compliant with safety guidelines issued by Government of India as well as State Governments like:

- Everyone used face masks and hand gloves to ensure Zero contact with the beneficiaries.
- Regular usage of hand sanitizers after each and every handing over.
- Maintaining Social Distancing in all the initiatives



Core Team of St. Xavier's Community Fathers, SXCCAA and ALSOC coming together to distribute the items for the Noble cause



Fathers of St. Xavier's Community offered Prayers before Distribution on every occasion



Social Distancing Maintained at Distribution at Paikhala



Social Distancing maintained during distribution at St. Xavier's College Park Street Campus



Social Distancing maintained at St. Xavier's College Raghabpur Campus



Social Distancing maintained even outside the Main Gate of St. Xavier's College Park Street Campus

Thanksgiving Message by Hony. Secretary SXCCAA

The deadly evil of COVID-19 has already affected more than 200 countries of the World in a massive way and the sufferings – death cases of the victims are already reported to be more than the impact of World War II and still counting. Lockdown is enforced everywhere – most of us are confined to our homes in destitute. Still SXCCAA had been keeping up with the commitment of extending all possible help to the affected population due to this biggest pandemic outbreak in our lifetime.

Let me thank our President Rev. Fr. Dr. Dominic Savio SJ and all the Fathers of St. Xavier's Community, all the members of our Alumni Association for their excellent support and co-operation – without your selfless service, we would not have achieved this unprecedented success & glory as a team. My gratitude goes to all the donors & contributors who have continued to support our various activities in this testing time. I sincerely thank our Chapter Members of West Zone Chapter, North Zone Chapter, South Zone Chapter as well as International Chapter at Dubai for their sincere teamwork to make our efforts reach out to mass all across India.

Sanjib Koner

Hony. Secretary, SXCCAA

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