



10 May 2021

In re: Update on SVD and COVID-19

Dear confreres,

While the good news of the rollout of anti-Covid 19 vaccines is spreading and giving hope to the world, the situation in some countries, such as India and Brazil, is getting worse in these last weeks. We have at present around 30 confreres who are positive with the virus (active cases), most of them are in self-quarantine in the communities; but some of them are in the hospitals, a few of them are in critical condition. Due to the scarcity of health care facilities, many people could not have proper treatment.

In the first months of this year, we have lost 47 confreres, 19 of them have passed away due to, or with complications related to COVID-19. It is very sad to note that young confreres are among those who have lost their lives because of COVID-19. In many countries, the funeral of the COVID-19 patients has to follow the strict protocol with only a small number of attendees during the interment. The funeral rites have to be done within hours. This strict protocol adds to the pain of losing confreres, sisters, lay partners, friends, and family members.

I invite all of you to pray for those who are positive of the COVID virus: our confreres, sisters, relatives, lay mission partners, benefactors and friends, especially for those who are in the critical situation. We offer our special prayers for the eternal repose for those who have lost their lives in these past months, in particular due to COVID-19. We ask God's special blessings for the healthcare personnel who are at the frontline in caring for Covid-19 patients.

I would like to ask all of you to take care of yourselves because that is also the way to protect others. We continue to be careful and follow the protocols given by the civil authorities and the Church leaders. I would also strongly recommend that you get yourselves vaccinated when an opportunity comes.

Through the intercessions of Saints Arnold and Joseph, Blessed Maria Helena and Josepha and our Blessed Martyrs, we entrust ourselves and our loved ones to the hands of the Lord.

Fraternally in the Divine Word,



Paulus Budi Kleden, SVD
Superior General