Greetings from Sacred Heart at the UN

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Dear Members of the Society of the Sacred Heart, Associates and Partners in Mission:

Greetings and prayers for your safety and well-being in the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic. On page 2 are some initial actions that we can take as one body. If you have other suggestions, please send them to: un-ngo@rscj.org.

Civil Society Appeal to UN

Through our UN-NGO Office, the Society of the Sacred Heart is supporting a civil society appeal asking UN Member States to hold a special meeting at the Financing for Development Forum in July 2020. We believe (and hope) that by July 2020 it will be possible to review the global response thus far to the COVID-19 emergency and assess what further social, economic and financial policy measures might be adopted at relevant United Nations and other international forums. The Society will be represented at this forum where we will collaborate with other members of civil society to give input. In order to contribute substantively, I will be in touch with the UN-NGO Liaison persons before July to gather information about recommendations from our provinces and countries.

However, July is far off. How can we be Artisans of Hope now? See page 2.
1) **Pray** together for those affected around the world, especially the most vulnerable and their families, all those working in essential services, and decision makers.


3) **Be informed** about the impact of COVID-19 around the world. One tracker: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/685d0ace521648f8a5beeeee1b9125cd


5) **SUPPORT the EASING OF SANCTIONS**: ***Attention all JPIC and UN-NGO Liaison Persons in sanctioning countries*** please find out which local group(s) that your province or country can support to help ease sanctions that hinder access to basic needs in countries such as Cuba, Venezuela, Iran, North Korea, and Zimbabwe. The UN Secretary General and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights have pleaded for an easing of sanctions for these and all countries that are struggling to meet basic human needs. See a link to their letters in the Resource section on page 3. These top UN officials did not directly point to which countries to petition. JPIC and UN-NGO Liaison Persons can contact the UN-NGO Representative at un-ngo@rscj.org for more information.
Resources from the UN

CORONAVIRUS COMMUNICATIONS TEAM
HTTPS://WWW.UN.ORG/EN/CORONAVIRUS

**Statements**

**Secretary General** António Guterres pleads for UN States to address three critical areas:

1) Act with coordination and cooperation to suppress the virus
2) Minimize the social and economic impact of COVID-19 for everyone and stimulate a faster recovery everywhere
3) Reaffirm our common responsibility to "recover better", with more inclusive and sustainable models of development
