



წმიდა საუდრის სადესპანო  
საქართველოში

Tbilisi, May 2020

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE  
IN GEORGIA

Dear Friends of Caritas Georgia,

I am writing to you because we are living in extremely difficult times with the world health pandemic crisis of the covid-19 (coronavirus). Many continue to live in isolation and separated from loved ones who may find themselves living in different parts of the country and the globe. Some, may have lost their means of livelihood and others find themselves completely abandoned by all support structures. I renew my fervent hope that you keep safe, look after your health and that of those around you, that you are able to communicate with loved ones, and that you have the necessary support to get through these unprecedented times.

For over a quarter century, Caritas Georgia has stood side by side with Georgians and side by side with all of good will to assist and support in times of need. The pandemic health crisis of 2020 will be no different for Caritas Georgia. Caritas Georgia will seek to assist those who are most in need because “Caritas” means “charity” and charity is the mark of the Christian. It is who we are.

We are grateful to staff and volunteers of Caritas Georgia who follow in the example of service of their heroic predecessors from Georgia and from around the world. We are grateful for staff and volunteers’ outpouring of generosity with their time and effort in making the maximum use of the resources at hand, making them “stretch” further to meet and motivate the many during this time of need.

Pope Francis has asked us in the Catholic Church to be close to the needy. He has met with various entities to seek the resources needed to meet our needs also here in the South Caucasus. Everyone is important and no one should be excluded.

Let us be mindful and least we forget to show our appreciation to all those who continue to risk their lives daily in order to serve and save ours: authorities, medical staff, health workers, employees of vital services that keep us safe and provide for, charity workers whose dedicated efforts save so many each day and offer succour to those in need, and all those who continue to offer their services for the good of us all.

As Christians we believe that Our Lord Jesus was victorious in the greatest victory of all. We must unite and not cease in our courageous prayer to God and service to our neighbour. Caritas Georgia, the Catholic Church, the Holy See and myself as Pope Francis’ representative here in the South Caucasus, we are united with you, because as citizens, we know that “*noblesse oblige*” and as Christians we believe that “*God is love*”.

José A. Bettencourt  
Apostolic Nuncio  
Dean of the Diplomatic Corps to Georgia