



# DIOCESE OF LONDON

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

With great pleasure, I offer my sincere congratulations to Save A Family Plan on the occasion of their Diamond Jubilee. For the past sixty years, thanks to the generosity of many donors throughout our diocese and beyond, SAFP has served the poorest of the poor in India. Guided by Catholic social justice teaching, it has been a wonderful example for all of us of faith in action. Following my predecessors, Bishop Carter (later Cardinal Carter) and Bishop Sherlock, I offer my steadfast support for SAFP.

I first heard about SAFP when I was growing up. My aunt was a great supporter. She spoke about SAFP as close to her heart. For her, and for many other donors, personal bonds were created with their partner families in India through the exchange of letters and photos. This kind of contact with families makes the charitable experience a personal one and gives the donor the assurance that a real difference is being made in the lives of those most in need.

The mission of SAFP has grown since its founding in 1965 by Msgr. Augustine Kandathil ("Father Gus"), his colleague Dr. Leo Ferrari and the late Archbishop James MacDonald, CSC. They were inspired by Pope Saint Paul VI, who brought the world's attention to the suffering in India: *"From this peaceful altar of the Eucharistic Congress may this our anguished cry go forth to all nations and governments of the world and may God inspire them to undertake this peaceful battle against the sufferings of our less fortunate brethren."*

For us as Catholics, the work for justice is rooted in our faith in God. We believe that we are Jesus' hands and feet and mouth in the world. The mission of SAFP puts that faith into action. It is a mission that belongs to all of us: parishioners, clergy, religious, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's Leagues, prayer groups, seminarians, Catholic teachers and students, and many others.

As we celebrate this important milestone, I encourage you to support SAFP. Our brothers and sisters in India face the challenges of poverty, sickness and despair. We hear their cries for justice and respond with our prayers and donations. In the words of our recently deceased Holy Father, Pope Francis: "You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. That's how prayer works."

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, CSB  
Bishop of London