

**COORDINAMENTO ASSISTENTI**

**ASSISTANTS COORDINATION**

**COORDINACIÓN DE ASISTENTES**

**LUNEDI, 20 settembre 2021**  
 ore 8 - 9.30 Messico  
 ore 15 - 16.30 Italia, Spagna, Burundi  
 ore 13 - 14.30 Senegal  
 ore 10 - 11.30 Argentina  
 ore 21 - 22.30 Filippine

Per la registrazione: FORMAT

FIAC IFCA 30 1991-2021  
 FORO INTERNACIONAL ACCION CATOLICA INTERNATIONAL FORUM CATHOLIC ACTION

LINGUE: italiano spagnolo inglese

## INDIA

### Mgr Felix Machado

Situation in India: everything goes around the pandemic which is present especially because of the many festivities especially Hindu held during the Monsoon time which corresponds to the harvesting, so we are in lockdown and many people are suffering and dying.

This situation calls for strong faith, people are impatient, even if they know the danger is at their doorstep they want to return to previous life, but they are called to be prudent, so I ask Catholics, my community to give good example to others we protect ourselves in order to protect others so Catholic people are giving good example and, at the same time, are helping people. I feel very happy as Catholic bishop because in spite of the pandemic we are at the service of the country, of the state and of this small diocese of mine where we are minority, our institution is at the service of the local government, we gave a big building made with Catholic people money to the government that transformed the building into a hospital and for more than 1 and half year the building, all the ground and facilities of the church are at the disposal of the local government. We have also hospitals run by lay people and 24 hours a day they have become a source of hope for many people. All people from different religions they don't want to go to other hospitals and they want to come to this one because of the dedication they experience. We are preparing with hospital responsible and lay people in order to face another wave of pandemic better than before and avoid the many deaths as in the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave.

What troubles me is the pandemic has paralyzed our children, they don't go to school for almost 2 years now. Knowing that they live in small places, even if we offer online education, they have other needs, we realize now that school are like consoling places for children, and they don't have it. So, if it continues like this it will be a disaster. Technology here in India is quite good but if it doesn't work it is useless. For us as Catholics we need to give good example in persevering in this situation and to make people aware that God is not angry with us, He is there with us.

I conclude with the theme of preparation of the Synod: the announcement by Pope Francis that this synod will be in a very normal, creative and meaningful manner and will not be only a meeting of a few selected people by a gathering of the whole church I was very happy because as bishop I would be able to live this beautiful experience but again this COVID19 is like an enemy almost trying to obstacle in the way we would like to live the synod.

But I believe this is a challenge, as Christians we should not complain about it but Christians should find creative ways in doing things that need to be done. Today reading in the Holy Mass the reading from the book of Ezra the prophet talks about the hope Israel held alive during the exile in Babylon, hope which never dies. So when we come to the Gospel it is said the world is in darkness also because of Covid19 but for us the hope is light, God is light and as Christians we must keep hope, for us the hope is light and this encourages me and my pastoral ministry.

I would like to thank also for the support I receive also from Azione Cattolica also this kind of meetings are a way to support, encourage each other. This is one way to be synod. I want to thank IFCA those who work daily in Rome and in other parts of the world, IFCA is precious for many of us so that we are not going to give up hope and because of this hope which comes from God nothing will happen, God is with us. Thank you very much.