

Philippine Medical Mission

at

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church



Spring 2000

A NEW OUTREACH AT ST. CHARLES **[Project of the Social Justice Ministry]**

Launched at the St. Charles Library on August 14-15, 1999, Philippine Medical Mission (PMM) is very grateful to Fr. Gerry Creedon, pastor of St. Charles, and to Brigid Doherty, former Social Justice Ministry Director, for giving a home to PMM; and, to Micheline Toussaint, current Director, and to the entire parish for being so supportive.

PMM – Privileged to Help

“Lord give me this seeing faith,
then my work will never be monotonous,
I will find joy in humoring the pansies and
gratifying the wishes of all poor sufferers.
O beloved sick, how doubly dear you are to me,
When you personify Christ, and what a
Privilege is mine to be allowed to tend to you”.

—Mother Theresa—

The members of the Philippine Medical Mission (PMM) are inspired with this sentiment as we support the work of the Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission (FOLPM) in Manila, Philippines. Confronted with the inadequate, and in some cases total lack of, medical and health services to the underprivileged in the country, the founders, led by Sr. Eva Maamo, SPC, (St. Paul de Chartres) a nun and surgeon; and a missionary Jesuit priest, Fr. James Reuter, S. J., envisioned a ministry that would provide health and medical services to the poor throughout the country. These services are just a few of the many projects of the FOLPM.

[PMM has sent \$7000 to FOLPM as of March 17, 2000. If you want to help PMM help FOLPM help the poorest of the poor help themselves...call: Celia Coronado at (703) 524-1585]



Opening of Soup Kitchen in Ermita, Manila (12/24/99).
Pictured (L-R): Guest, Sr. Eva, Fr. Reuter.

From the Rev. Fr. Gerry Creedon, Pastor

I hope St. Charles, and especially our Filipino members, will reach out and accomplish much through this wonderful 'medical mission'.

In the Spirit,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gerry Creedon".

OUR LADY OF PEACE MISSION DIARY

Surgical Mission

February 6-13, 2000. Sr. Eva led a very successful mission to Maasin, Leyte, one of the poorest towns in the Philippines. About 149 patients underwent surgery that included thyroid, harelip, abdominal tumors, cataract, and others.

Feeding Center

December 24, 1999. The Foundation opened a new soup kitchen in Ermita, Manila. On opening day, 230 street children were fed.

Hospital for the Poor

January 11, 2000. Groundbreaking rites took place on Coastal Road, Parañaque, Manila, future site of the Hospital. The event was well attended by government officials, volunteers and the media. PMM's Maricel Bretault was there to witness the event.

PROFILE: THE PHILIPPINES

- 70 million population
- \$2/day per capita income (UN: '97)
- No medical insurance programs available
- Available medical professionals:
1.7 doctors/10,000 (WB: '97)

...a Promise...a Hope... a personal experience

On January 15, 2000, I visited the office of Sr. Eva on Ermita, Manila during a "Vision-Mission" seminar for the Foundation's staff. I had the opportunity to give a short talk to the staff about the goals of PMM. I informed them of the various fund-raising activities scheduled in December, such as the Misa de Gallo (dawn mass), December 16-24, and "Christmas letters to family & friends". I also told them of PMM's plans to conduct other fund-raising activities for the year 2000. My brief talk was received enthusiastically with several rounds of rousing applause and elicited beautiful smiles in their innocent faces. I did not realize that PMM's *promise* to send them support would inspire them *so* much... give them *hope*...as they feel they are not alone in their work of helping the poor – that 10,000 miles away are people who share their cause to uplift and preserve the dignity of the poor. The experience was equally inspiring for me as I saw and felt the gratitude of the Foundation's caregivers. Overworked and underpaid, they are truly living examples of those that give more and receive less.

Maricel Bretault
PMM Committee Member



Medical doctors during one of the medical missions.
(Palawan, 1999)

DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THESE IN YOUR CLOSETS??!!

Portable anesthesia machines, forceps, extraction elevators, Valleylab electrocautery machines, short needles, cotton, alcohol...PMM needs these and more. Call Grace Holden, 703-536-0844.

FEEL THE FILIPINO HOSPITALITY!

An Immigration Forum

Sunday, 9 April 2000
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Library of St. Charles

This is a joint project of the Social Justice Ministry, PMM and the Latin-American community of St. Charles. This very informative question & answer session will deal with U.S. immigration laws. Litong Roa, who practices immigration law and who, together with his wife Rachel, has been active at St. Charles for the last 12 years, will facilitate the session. **For more information please contact Julie Clark at (703) 312-0949.**

Bukas Palad (Open Hands) Mass & Concert

Tuesday, 9 May 2000
7:00 p.m.
St. Charles Church

The concert is free and the collection during the mass will go to PMM. Bukas Palad is an all-Filipino group visiting the states this spring. Their aim is to spread and enrich faith through music, fully aware of how faith can renew people's lives. After 14 years, 5 tapes, 3 CDs, rotation of members, and countless singing engagements, Bukas Palad continues to be friends who simply wish to share their music, "to reveal the joyful grandeur, the simplicity and the serene reality of God's presence in the world." **For more information please contact Nick Tongson at (703) 561-1144.**

OUR VERY SPECIAL THANKS

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