

Spring/Summer 2002

"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But if that drop was not there; I think that the ocean would be less by that missing drop. We don't have to think in numbers. We can only love one person at a time, serve one person at a time."

– Mother Teresa –

PMM SUPPORTS A COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH CARE PROJECT IN COTABATO

On 26 January 2002, PMM agreed to support the projects of the Religious of the Notre Dame Missions (RNDM) in Kulaman, Cotabato, Philippines. Kulaman is a remote, isolated town of 55,000 people. Since 1989, the RNDM has trained local health workers to serve the community and built water wells and a school. Peggy Carrington introduced the RNDM to PMM and serves as PMM's Project Team Leader [Editor's Note: Her personal account of this partnership is provided in the article on the right hand column].



One of many Manobo tribal families being helped by RNDM in Cotabato.

PROFILE OF KULAMAN, COTABATO

- Population: 55,000
- No access to electricity and safe water
- 90% of children have intestinal worms
- Most young girls marry at onset of puberty
- Common causes of death are dysentery, malaria, and complications from pregnancies
- Base source of livelihood: fishing and farming

PMM–RNDM GOALS FOR KULAMAN

In order to strengthen and expand the operations of RNDM in Kulaman, PMM will raise funds to support the following projects by the end of 2002:

- The purchase of a vehicle that can serve as a mobile clinic and a means of access to isolated areas.
- Immunization of children against dysentery, malaria, and tuberculosis.
- The construction of one water well.

THE PMM–RNDM CONNECTION: HOW IT ALL STARTED By Peggy Carrington

I met Sr. Christine Lowther of RNDM in Western Samoa in 1989 where she was working at a school outside of Apia. I was impressed by this gentle, spiritual, yet strong lady, who could fix the boiler for the house, come in and rustle up a meal for 15 and later that evening sit quietly crocheting the most delicate and beautiful lace doilies. Since then, we have kept in touch with each other through our correspondence. A few years after we met, Sr. Christine was sent to work in Kulaman. I was once again impressed – by the work she and the other sisters were doing in Kulaman.

This tribal people, originally nomadic hunters and gatherers, now live mainly by working as day laborers for a mere pittance on farms that were once Manobo land – their land. They are very poor, with no access to electricity, safe water, or regular health services. Apart from the small health program provided by the RNDM, there are no government doctors, nurses, or midwives who serve them on a regular basis.

Two years ago I began to volunteer for PMM. When PMM committee members learned more about the work being done in Kulaman, they decided it was important to support the RNDM mission. Sr. Christine and all the RNDM sisters are very appreciative. [Editor's Note: For more information about RNDM, please visit their website at www.rndm.org.]

FOLPM HOSPITAL OPENS

The 100-bed Hospital for the Poor of the Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission, Inc. (FOLPMI) located in Coastal Road, Parañaque, Manila opened for service on 24 March 2002.

Dear Rev. Fr. Gerry Creedon and the St. Charles Parish, CrossLink International, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society:

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you very much for the three 40-foot containers of hospital beds, equipment, furniture, computers, and supplies that you have sent us. You all have been a Blessing to us. You enable us, equip us, and arm us to work for PEACE and SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS to our country's poorest.

Gratefully,

Sr. Eva Fidela Maamo, SPC

SR. EVA FIDELA MAAMO, SPC, MD
President, FOLPM

James B. Reuter SJ

FR. JAMES REUTER, SJ
Chairman, FOLPM

PMM MISSION: SUPPORT NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) WHO EMPOWER COMMUNITIES FOR BETTER HEALTH

It is PMM's vision to promote in the Philippines the inherent right of the poor to be healthy, to survive with

dignity, and to receive basic health services. In pursuing this vision, PMM works closely with NGOs in the Philippines who have an excellent track record in social services, health care delivery, and who work closely at the grassroots level amongst the neediest. PMM hopes to strengthen partner organizations in the Philippines to empower the community for self-reliance and better health.

PMM-IMF "TASTE OF MANILA" HAPPY HOUR A HUGE SUCCESS

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and PMM fundraiser, "Taste of Manila" Happy Hour, was to benefit the Feeding Center Project of the Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission (FOLPM). Held at the IMF Headquarters downtown on 15 February, about 350 people came to enjoy the festive atmosphere and to support the PMM-FOLPMI Feeding Center projects in Manila. Many St. Charles parishioners were there, headed by Rev. Fr. Gerry Creedon.



Fr. Creedon and PMM Core Member Gilda Ordoñez at the happy hour.

One of those who attended the happy hour had this to say: "A fun combination of Philippine culture, a charitable cause, great snacks, music and a homely, friendly atmosphere that Filipinos always bring to any place - (it) was not something I was about to miss." — *E. Soares/IMF*

PMM would like to thank all the donors for their generosity and volunteers and friends who worked tirelessly to make this event a success!

FEEDING CENTER FOR MALNOURISHED CHILDREN

Proceeds from the happy hour will help maintain a feeding center at Under the Bridge in Paco, Manila. The seven Feeding Centers of FOLPMI prevent malnutrition among children 0-6 years old. Sixty children are fed daily for one year. Their caretakers are provided parenting classes, nutrition education, and participate in income-generating projects so that the children continue to eat well even after they have graduated from the program.

PMM SPONSORS AND FRIENDS

- **Fiesta Oriental Store sponsors PMM Raffle 2002.** Through the efforts of Mr. Fred Sunga, manager and owner, the following major prizes will be raffled: 1st prize is a 20" Color TV (courtesy of Egay Detera, Forex Cargo, Inc.), 2nd prize is a DVD (courtesy of Manny

Tagle, Jr., Fairfax Realty, Inc.), and 3rd prize is a VCR (courtesy of Fiesta Oriental Store). Winners will be drawn on 24 August 2002, between 2 – 4 p.m. at the St. Charles Library. Proceeds will benefit the RNDM Kulaman Project. For tickets, call Grace Holden at 703-536-0844.

- **"Pistang Pilipino" to benefit the St. Charles Fund Campaign.** The St. Charles Filipino-American parishioners will hold a "Pistang Pilipino" (Philippine Fiesta) at the St. Charles Borromeo Cafeteria on Sunday, 30 June. Come around lunchtime and enjoy your favorite dishes. Organized by the **St. Charles Simbang Gabi Group**, all proceeds will go to the St. Charles Parish Center Building Fund. For more information, call Bobby Chan (703-892-1112), Litong Roa (703-486-0992), or Fred Sunga (703-516-9160).
- **Philippine Fair 2002: Sunday, 9 June from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Pennsylvania Ave. (between 11th and 13th Streets) downtown.** PMM will share a booth with "Couples for Christ", "Alliance for Two Hearts" of Delaware, and the Filipino Ministry of NoVA. For questions, call Ed Tiong at 703-403-5624.

PMM WELCOMES NEW SPONSORS

Virgin of the Barangay, Inc. On 9 April 2002, Celia Coronado (PMM), Neneng Riguera (Filipino Ministry of NoVA), and Cecile Motus (National Bishops Conference for Refugees & Migrants) met with Mar and Cora Mendoza, MD, President of the Virgin of the Barangay, Inc. Based in New Jersey, this is a non-profit association whose main purpose is to spread the devotion of the Virgin of the Barangay and raise voluntary donations to support charitable organizations in the Philippines. The association committed support for the RNDM Kulaman project.

Little Quiapo Restaurant on 4807 N. 1st Street, Arlington, Virginia, agreed to help build a water well in Kulaman.

Speedy Chicken Place on 1026 King Street, Old Town, Alexandria, agreed to support the immunization project in Kulaman.

OUR VERY SPECIAL THANKS

<p>CrossLink International, Inc.; St. Vincent de Paul Society; Café Asia; Little Quiapo Restaurant; Forex Cargo, Inc.; Mr. Manny Tagle, Fairfax Realty, Inc.; Philippine Embassy; Fil-Am Association of Manassas; Virgin of the Barangay, Inc.; IMF Civic & Community Relations Office; IMF/World Bank Filipino Association; Manila Cafe Fiesta Oriental Store: Open Daily 4815 N. 1st Street, Arlington, VA 22202 (703-516-9160)</p>
