

Spring/Summer 2003

***"Without prayer no faith
Without faith no love
Without love no service
Without service no joy, no peace."
– Mother Teresa –***

CHILD HOPE ASIA PHILIPPINES PRESIDENT VISITS ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO

The President and Executive Director of Child Hope Asia Philippines (CHAP), Ms. Teresita Silva, was in Washington, D.C. from March 23-28. Her visit was highlighted by a talk at the Lenten Soup Supper at St. Charles and a forum before the members and officers of the World Bank/IMF Filipino Association. Ms. Silva also paid a courtesy call to Fr. Creedon to personally thank him for the support received by CHAP from St. Charles Parish through Philippine Medical Mission (PMM). She was given the opportunity to express gratitude to the parishioners for their generosity at the March 23 Sunday evening mass. Ms. Silva also met with individual donors to extend CHAP's sincere appreciation for their generous spirit.

Ms. Silva met with representatives of several Philippine-American organizations in the area who have responded positively in extending assistance to the street children education program of CHAP. She also met with CrossLink Executive Director, Ms. Linda Cook, who offered to help out in seeking donors for first aid kits needed by CHAP's Junior Health Workers to administer to street children and their families. For more on CHAP, please visit their website at www.childhope.org.ph.



(L-R) Maricel Bretault, PMM Co-Chair; Gail Goodridge, Chair, St. Charles Social Justice Ministry; Angie Manuel, PMM supporter; Fr. Gerry Creedon; Tessie Silva, Executive Director of CHAP; and Rachel Roa, PMM supporter.

PMM APPROVES FUNDING: ONE STREET EDUCATOR

At its meeting on May 24, PMM members approved the funding of one CHAP street educator for one year. The Street Education Program of CHAP is crucial in mobilizing street children away from substance abuse and sexual exploitation. Street educators play a pivotal role in helping street children rebuild their sense of dignity and self-respect.

A MESSAGE FROM FR. GERRY CREEDON

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Philippine Medical Mission,

I am delighted to be able to offer words and encouragement as PMM enters its fourth year of programming on August 15, the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, the patron of PMM.

My amazement at the work of PMM knows no bounds. Through the dedication and energy of members and support from friends and our community, PMM has initiated numerous projects in three short years. PMM projects include helping equip a hospital for the poor in Manila, medical and surgical missions to remote areas, and health care and education for street children in Manila. PMM also supported four feeding centers for malnourished children and livelihood projects for their caretakers, nursing scholarships, a mobile clinic, and the building of a safe water well for a remote village in Mindanao. PMM works through established Filipino organizations like the Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission, Inc., the Religious of Notre Dame Missions, and ChildHope Asia Philippines, to ensure that programs are directly relevant and delivered appropriately.

The St. Charles community is blessed to be part of your extraordinary efforts. I am confident your energy and zeal for improving the health and welfare of Filipinos in need will continue to win PMM many more friends. I look forward to an even more productive partnership with PMM in the coming years. Please accept my blessing for the continued health and success of your ministry and the special people who make it happen.

Salamat po (thank you),



Gerry Creedon, Pastor, St. Charles

CROSSLINK INTERNATIONAL TO HELP STREET CHILDREN CLINIC

CrossLink International, Inc. has agreed to send medicines and supplies to aid the street children of ChildHope Asia Philippines in Manila. CrossLink is a non-denominational Christian Ministry that provides medicines, medical supplies, medical equipment and eyeglasses to persons in need in over 84 countries.

Since 2001, CrossLink has sent, through PMM alone, three 40-foot containers of hospital equipment, medicines, and supplies worth over \$250,000.00 to benefit the Foundation of Our Lady Of Peace Mission, Inc. (FOLPMI) "Hospital for the Poor" in Coastal Road, Paranaque, Manila. They have also helped PMM's Project in Kulaman Cotabato with the Religious of the Notre Dame Missions (RNDM).

For more information please visit their website at www.crosslinkinternational.net or you can contact them at info@crosslinkinternational.net.

IMF CIVIC PROGRAM AWARDS GRANT TO FOLPMI FEEDING CENTER FOR MALNOURISHED CHILDREN

Through a grant received in May 2002 from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Civic Program, the Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission, Inc. (FOLPMI) opened a feeding center in Barangay Sitio Puting Bato and Barangay Santo Nino, both in Navotas, Manila. Sixty pre-school children are served one full meal daily for one year. Their caretakers are provided livelihood training, nutrition education, parenting, and basic health care classes.

Last September 30, PMM submitted another grant proposal to the IMF Civic Program for funds to open a similar program at the Aeta Resettlement area in the province of Zambales.

PMM APPROVES FUNDING: ONE SOCIAL WORKER

In April, PMM approved funding a social worker for the Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission, Inc. (FOLPMI). The social worker will facilitate the needs of direct beneficiaries of the feeding centers in Navotas, under the bridge in Paco, and the Aeta resettlement community and its livelihood component. This person will be responsible for submitting progress reports to PMM and its donor agencies regarding activities in the feeding centers and the Hospital for the Poor, particularly its emergency room.

FIL-AM ASSOCIATION OF MANASSAS AND GREATER DC AREA TO SUPPORT HOSPITAL FOR THE POOR

The association President, Mr. Danilo Lunaria, visited the FOLPMI "Hospital for the Poor" in February 2003. The association has agreed to "adopt" and provide financial support yearly to the Emergency/Out-Patient Unit of the hospital. For more information on how to become a member and find out about future events contact Mr. Lunaria at dlunaria@aol.com.

PMM GRANT WRITING TEAM SUBMITS PROPOSAL

After months of preparation, PMM's Grant Writing Team submitted its largest request for funds to date. On May 2, 2003, a proposal was submitted to the Development Marketplace, a grant proposal competition sponsored by the World Bank Group.

PMM requested \$125,000 to fund CHAP's Street Education Program in Metro Manila. If awarded, the funds will be used to expand CHAP's existing pilot program to include ten additional Street Educators and forty-five additional Junior Health Care Workers.

The expansion of the program will allow 2,500 to 3,000 street children in five cities of Metro Manila to receive alternative education on children's rights, protection against sexual abuse, dangers of substance abuse, basic health care, para-legal education, and literacy/numeracy.

[LATEST NEWS! PMM was notified that the proposal was selected as one of 186 finalists from 2,721 entries.]

NEWS FROM RNDM: UPDATE ON OUR MANOBO NURSING STUDENT



Corazon Ondong

The Religious of Notre Dame Mission (RNDM) is a PMM partner in the province of Sultan Kudarat, Mindanao in the southern part of the Philippines. RNDM's mission is to the Dulangan Manobo tribe in Kulaman Valley.

In March 2000, the first Manobo young woman graduated from high school. In March 2002, more Manobo girls

graduated. For several years, one of them, Corazon Ondong, had been saying she wanted to study nursing. She comes from an extremely poor but loving family who are proud of being Indigenous People of the Philippines even though this has meant marginalization in many aspects of life and loss of ancestral lands. The family income for a year is about 15,000 pesos or \$300.

Corazon is a young woman of courage and determination, with natural leadership qualities. After graduation, she was accepted at the College of Nursing at Notre Dame University in Cotabato City.

We are pleased to report that this spring, Corazon successfully finished her second year of nursing studies at the university. The standards at the university are very high, which makes us even more proud of her achievement. Upon completion of her studies, Corazon wishes to return to Kulaman to work for her people, particularly to care for women and children.

Your donations to PMM can help us support Corazon's education and other Manobo students who wish to pursue an education in health care. For more information about RNDM, please visit their web site at www.rndm.org.

FIESTA ORIENTAL STORE, FOREX CARGO, INC. AND MANILA FORWARDING CORP. TO SPONSOR RAFFLE

Managed by Mr. Egay Betera, Forex provides money remittance and shipment to main cities in the Philippines. For "specials" on rates and their pick-up schedule visit their website at <http://www.forexworld.com>.

Fiesta Oriental Store is a full service Filipino and Asian store owned and managed by Mr. Fred Sunga. It is located on 4815 N. 1st street, Arlington, VA 22202, and is open daily. The store has Filipino delicacies, music, movies, and gift items. For more information, call 703-516-9160.

Manila Forwarding Corp. also provides shipment to cities in the Philippines they have donated five shipping coupons for the raffle valued at \$520.

The raffle drawing will take place on 23 August 2003 at the St. Charles Library.