



MISSIONARIES OF THE POOR

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

PHILIPPINES



In November 1993, Msgr. Leonardo Z. Legaspi, OP.DD, the Archbishop of the Diocese of Caceres welcomed Fr. Brian Kerr and Brother Maximo Medina, members of the Missionaries of the Poor (MOP) to open a mission house in San Rafael, Cararayan, Naga city where the then Mayor Jesse Robredo relocated more than one 1000 squatter families from the City to this Sitio San Rafael. The Two members of the MOP initiated the development of these relocated squatters. MOP offered education to the children and sponsored books and tuition for families that could not afford to send their children to school. The beautiful Nazareth Educational Center located in San Rafael Naga city is a beautiful prep-school for 200 poor children from the Sitio and neighbouring communities. MOP have educated over 3000 students in the past 18 years.

With the support of the local friends from Naga city and the Mayor of the city, the Missionaries of the Poor undertook an apostolate for mentally ill and disabled adults and elderly. The Divine Mercy Center is a full-fledged apostolate for 150 male and female residents who are permanently cared and supported by the Missionary Brothers and Priests. In 2000, a home for SPECIAL children was established and it is the only home of this kind in Bicol, especially offering services to special children from impoverished background. The Divine Mercy Home for children care for 40 children.

Missionaries of the Poor in the past 18 years have constructed housing projects for people and families that have lost their houses to fire, typhoons or other calamities; have supported spiritually and morally the poor throughout the region through religious education, liturgical services, marriage encounter programs, counseling, etc; have sponsored education for children, nutritional and medical services of all different levels and needs. The Brothers of the Poor have wedded a community relationship and trust with over 30 families that simply live on the City Dump - BALATAS Garbage dump site. The children of these families are educated and provided with medical and nutritional care. This way the families little income earned from scavenging can stretch to provide basic needs. This is also a way of breaking the cycle of poverty in these families.

A mission was also established in Cebu city among the squatters of Sawang Calero where over 3000 people live in poor conditions. The Missionaries of the Poor chose to live and serve the poor without cost and freely for the benefit of the poor and for the Love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Besides the services they offer, the brothers and priests of the congregation live a semi-monastic life There are 550 members all over the world and growing strong. They live an austere life in community and take the vow of poverty and obedience in the service of the Lord. There are several Filipino young men who have joined the Congregation to spread the Goodnews of Christ by living a life of simplicity and service. Their Spirituality (Motto) is to : JOYFULLY SERVE CHRIST ON THE CROSS (SERVITIUM DULCE CUM CRISTO CRUCIFIXO).

Cardinal Guadencio Rosales of the Manila Archdiocese has invited us to open a mission in Manila this year to spread our ministry and charism in his diocese. The needs are great and the struggles of the poor are even greater.

Missionaries of the Poor is bringing a Musical Concert to the Philippines from Jamaica. PRAISE HIM is a JAM REGGAE musical to be performed by extraordinarily talented musicians and singers from Jamaica. Imagine REGGAE in the land of CHA-CHA. The Musical concert is a way of raising the funds needed to sustain the projects that are existing in Naga City and Cebu city as well as to establish our mission in Manila. We need every support you can offer us to make the PRAISE HIM concert a great success as well as help the suffering poor communities.



*Prepared by: FR. CHARLES SUSIA, MOP
Jan.2011*

PRAISE HIM PHIL2011