

Spring/Summer 2001

**"Every act of love
is a work of peace
no matter how small"**

Mother Teresa

CROSSLINK INTERNATIONAL TO SEND HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT

St. Charles Borromeo Philippine Medical Mission (PMM) is pleased to have the support of CrossLink International in helping promote basic health care in the Philippines. A non-profit organization, CrossLink provides medicines, equipment and supplies, eyeglasses (through Lions International) to developing countries and local clinics that serve the neediest. CrossLink acquires these from pharmaceutical companies, hospitals/hospices and doctors.

Organized from a Sunday School class at Columba Baptist Church in 1993, CrossLink is now supported by churches, foundations, and individual donors. To date, it has sent a total of \$18 million worth of medicines and supplies to 77 countries. Crosslink is licensed by the Virginia Board of Pharmacy as a distributor of proprietary medicines.

On 12 September 2000, Micheline Toussaint, St. Charles Social Justice Director, and Celia Coronado, PMM, met with CrossLink Project Director, Linda Cook, to discuss how the Philippines can receive assistance from CrossLink. On 4 March 2001, Crosslink sent a huge shipment of medicines and supplies worth \$11,000 to the Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission (FOLPM), a beneficiary of PMM. This shipment was done in collaboration with Northwest Airlines and PMM members Lloyd and Yael Celis.

In August of this year, CrossLink will send hospital beds, wheel chairs, operating tables, gurneys and other miscellaneous equipment to FOLPM. Crosslink and St. Charles Church will fund the shipment cost.

If you want to help or want more information, visit www.crosslinkinternational.net or call 703-534-5465.



In the CrossLink Pharmacy (L-R): Lloyd Celis, PMM Member; Bruce Geofrion, CrossLink Operations Manager; and Linda Cook, CrossLink Project Director

THANK YOU LETTER From Sr. Eva Maamo. SPC, MD, President, FOLPM To Ms. Linda Cook, Project Director, CrossLink International

Dear Linda,

On behalf of the women, children, and families we serve in Metro Manila and remote villages in the Philippines, please accept our deepest gratitude for your generous donation of medicines and medical supplies that we received on March 10, 2001.

May God bless you and all your endeavors.

Sr. Eva Fidela Maamo, SPC
SR. EVA FIDELA MAAMO, SPC, MD
President, FOLPM

James B. Reuter, SJ
FR. JAMES REUTER, SJ
Chairman, FOLPM

SR. EVA MAAMO AND FR. JAMES REUTER, SJ TO VISIT ST. CHARLES PMM

From 2-30 July 2001, Sr. Eva, Fr. Reuter, and Mr. Mar Salazar, of FOLPM will visit 11 cities in the US and Canada to promote the projects of the Foundation, and to raise funds for the "Queen of Peace Hospital". Located at Coastal Road, Parañaque, this hospital for the poor is now under construction. Sr. Eva and company is expected to be in the Metro DC area on 14-18 July. They hope to meet with CrossLink officials and the St. Charles Church community.

Their schedule is as follows:

July 15 - 9:00 am, Mass at St. Charles Borromeo Church
July 15 - 10:00 am, Meeting with Parishioners to discuss the Philippine Outreach Program at St. Charles Borromeo's Library
July 17 - 6:30 pm, Prayers, Sharing and Healing at St. Charles.
For more information, please call Celia Coronado at 703-524-1585.

From the Rev. Fr. Gerry Creedon Pastor, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church

Dear PMM,

I have been delighted by the quick progress made by PMM in identifying goals and acting on them over the past year. I believe that your action shows a great spirit of solidarity. I also appreciate the way you see your efforts at medical outreach related to the overall need for systematic reforms and to the empowerment of poor people. I am proud to be associated with your compassionate and effective mission.

In the Spirit!

Gerry Creedon
Rev. Gerry Creedon

PMM: A MICROSTRATEGY TO REDUCE POVERTY

Since 1993, the World Bank has consistently advanced the argument that "unhealthy countries are condemned to slow growth". There are two views that are equally true: [1] that ill health reinforces poverty, and [2] that poverty causes ill health. (The Economist:1999). It is in light of these arguments that PMM draws its dream and 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.

TRAVEL NOTES

Some members of PMM visited FOLPM and share their thoughts on visiting Sr. Eva for the first time.

Nick Tongson (November 2000)

The ground was muddy and the sky was dreary but Sr. Eva's smile was a constant sunshine to everyone she greeted. This short, petite woman greeted me affectionately as if we had met many times over. She introduced me to her world of compassion, caring, and love for the less fortunate. Sr. Eva introduced me to men and women who believed in her vision and gladly championed her cause. We went to squatter areas where she provided the children with a place to go to school and other downtrodden sections of Manila where she provided medical help and dispensed her endless supply of smiles...

Lloyd and Yael Celis (4 March 2001)

It was such an honor to deliver two huge boxes of medicines and supplies from Crosslink to Sr. Eva. It gave our trip a more important meaning. During our brief visit, Sr. Eva brought us to the hospital for the poor, which is under construction, located in Coastal Road, Parañaque. The sight of the hospital strengthened our commitment to support PMM's dream to promote basic health care in the Philippines.

THE NEW PMM LOGO



Sarah Culbertson, a senior Graphic Arts student at Marymount University, designed the PMM logo and the text layout were provided by David DePerro and Ramola D, President of Whole Concepts, Inc. All are PMM volunteers.

PROFILE: THE PHILIPPINES

- Population: 80 million
- 47% below poverty level (UNDP, 1999)
- \$1.66/day per capita income (UNDP, 1999)
- No medical insurance plans available
- 1.7 doctors/10,000 (World Bank, 1997)

PMM SPONSORS AND FRIENDS

- **Feed the Hungry, Inc.** visited and distributed food, dry milk, and clothes to the children of FOLPM's feeding centers in Metro Manila last January 2001. Maricel Bretault is PMM's liaison with Feed the Hungry, Inc. **For information, call Maricel Bretault (202-623-7964).**

- **Filipino Ministry (FM) of Northern Virginia (NOVA)**

**Friday, 10 August 2001
7:00 p.m.
Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) auditorium
Annandale Campus**

FM NOVA is a lay volunteer ministry that aims to integrate the Filipino community into the larger church, to enrich and deepen the faith life, and to strengthen the Filipino values and traditions. The FM NOVA will sponsor a Filipino musical show, "Handog: The Gift of our Story", in collaboration with the Archdiocesan Filipino Choir and Dance Group of San Francisco on August 10 at the NVCC auditorium, Annandale Campus. Part of the proceeds of the concert will go to PMM. **For information, call Ed Tiong (703- 403-5624).**

- **Fiesta Oriental Store**

**PMM Raffle
Saturday, 18 August 2001
3:00 p.m.
St. Charles Church Library**

Fiesta Oriental Store will sponsor the raffle for the second time. Prizes at stake are a one-week stay in Boca Raton, Florida; a DVD player; tickets at Kennedy Center and Wolf Trap; and many, many more. **For information, call Gilda Ordoñez (703-528-8372).**

OUR VERY SPECIAL THANKS

**Feed the Hungry, Inc.
World Bank & IMF Filipino Assn.
Home Depot at Seven Corners
Kinko's at K Street, Washington, D.C.
Fil-Am Assn. of Manassas & Greater D.C.
Trader Joe's at Leesburg Pike
El Pollo Rico at Washington Blvd., Arlington, VA
And to all PMM Volunteers and Friends**

Fiesta Oriental Store
4815 N. 1st St., Arlington VA 22202
(OPEN DAILY) 703-516-9160

HOW CAN YOU HELP PMM?

- Donate over the counter medicines like Tylenol, Cough Syrups, children's vitamins, cotton, alcohol, etc.
- Volunteer your time. We need grant writers.
- Contribute any amount payable to St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church (PMM) – all donations are tax deductible.
Call Grace Holden (703- 536-0844)