

The B.R.E.A.D.

UPDATES

July-August 2020

Benedictine Sisters set to action apostolate amid pandemic

It all started a few days after “enhanced community quarantine” or ECQ, the strictest state-enforced lockdown aimed at controlling transmission of the COVID 19 virus in mid-March 2020. Just as the Community of Benedictine Sisters Manila Priory was wrapping up preparations for the final phase of relief assistance for the survivors of the Taal volcano eruption in its mission areas in Batangas, one by one, homeless, locally stranded and new jobless individuals emerged in the premises of the Priory to beg for food and water.

As days passed, new hungry individuals and families continued to turn up and food from the sisters’ refectory shared with the increasing number of callers could no longer suffice. With the resolve to continue feeding the hungry and providing hygiene packs, the Priory decided to come up with a soup kitchen by making use of the remaining resources for the stalled relief mission schedules in Batangas and other available resources at hand.

In early July, the Priory, with its determination to face the tremendous challenge of co-existing with the coronavirus and hear people’s incessant cry for food, decided to sustain its apostolate for the hungry through the feeding activities conducted twice a week. It was also during this time when a more comprehensive response to the plight of the poor during the pandemic was recognized, hence, the project BREAD Amid COVID 19 or BREAD for short was conceptualized.

BREAD stands for **B**egetting **R**elief and **E**xpress **A**ssistance for the **D**eprived. The project offers ways which are more immediate, preventive, participatory and supportive in enhancing capacity building for those who are determined to be economically productive again even during the pandemic which health experts forecast to continue for quite some time until treatment and/or vaccine become available. BREAD aspires to meaningfully contribute to efforts geared towards alleviating the escalating hunger of the poor triggered by the COVID 19 pandemic in MBS mission areas in Metro Manila.

The project will undertake relief assistance through the soup kitchen and relief packs to facilitate immediate relief from hunger and risk of infection; health education to raise awareness on the pandemic, increase community involvement and participation in addressing the pandemic; and, capitalization assistance for small home-based or community-based income generating projects or enterprise.

Relief assistance paved way for the concept of the BREAD project; it has been undergoing since March 2020 and eventually became a regular activity conducted twice a week since July 22, 2020. It takes two forms: the soup kitchen which distributes ready-to-eat meal packs to individuals and relief packs intended for families. The relief activities are implemented by the community of sisters of the Priory who are grouped into three to ensure that all can participate. The groups alternately take charge of food preparation, packing of relief goods and the actual distribution.

Each group has a driver sister and a combination of young and old sisters to ensure that each member contributes her time, talent and effort.

Relief assistance is delivered either directly to the communities or distributed at the Chapel of St. Scholastica's College; the former has been temporarily called off due to the enforcement of the modified enhanced community quarantine since August 4, 2020 but will resume upon easing of the lockdown in the metropolis.

Generous support pour in for BREAD

Supportive friends' donations in cash and kind have greatly helped in sustaining the feeding activities and the distribution of the relief packs. To date, the pooled internal and external resources made possible seven stationary and two mobile distributions of relief assistance activities which distributed a total of 708 meal packs with bottled water and 179 family relief packs. Resource generation is continuing also for the other components of the BREAD project which have yet to start, the health education and livelihood assistance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS...

We gratefully thank all those who have contributed and expressed intention to support in fully realizing the objectives of the BREAD project.

WHERE DONATIONS GO...

Table 1: BREAD Relief Assistance Activities

GROUP	Date of feeding	Day	Area of distribution	# of meal packs	Menu (Meal pack+1 bottled water)	# of relief packs	Contents of relief packs	Remarks
1	22-Jul	Wednesday	SSC Chapel	57	Monggo with pork	25	2kg rice, milo, coffee, 5 assorted canned goods	GCQ
2	25-Jul	Saturday	OsmenaHway, Buendia, Macapagal Avenue, Roxas Blvd.	143	Pork Adobo	50	3-4 kls rice and 4 canned goods	GCQ
3	29-Jul	Wednesday	SSC Chapel	84	Chicken adobo & potato fries	25	same	GCQ
1	01-Aug	Saturday	ZobelRoxas, Makati, Paco Park, Quirino, Ospital ng Maynila,	207	Chicken adobo & luncheon meat	25	same	GCQ
2	05-Aug	Wednesday	SSC Chapel	100	Chicken lugaw with boiled egg	39	3-4 kls rice & 3 canned goods	MECQ
3	08-Aug	Saturday	SSC Chapel	117	Fried chicken & carbonara	15	same	MECQ
Total				708		179		

B.R.E.A.D. IN ACTION



OSB Sisters preparing food packs



Distribution of food packs to the homeless outside St. Scholastica's chapel



A sick homeless man along San Marcelino St. Manila



A homeless man smiling while eating his banana



Homeless Family



Mobile food distribution



Mobile food distribution to the homeless

