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Faith in Action

Over the past few years, Vincentians in Selangor have made clear and concerted efforts to further our vocation by boldly embarking on various new initiatives, while continuing to preserve the rich teachings and traditions of our society as founded by Blessed Frederick Ozanam and his companions almost 180 years ago.

We have also gradually adapted with changing times and have accordingly guided our vocation within our noble apostolate in Selangor. By setting up service centres in the heart of the rural and urban poor areas, we have been able to reach out to these communities and journey with them. This journey of growth and more importantly empowerment, exemplifies Christ's own journey with and amongst the poor.

Journeying with these communities also means understanding their way of life, their social, spiritual and material needs and empowering them to attain these. In this edition of Praxis, we take a look at the works of two of our newest service centres.

Ozanam Service Centre, Sri Sentosa

The long awaited first Service Centre of the Society in Malaysia, the Ozanam Service Centre (OSC) Sentosa, was officially opened on 19 June 2010. The Centre was graced and officially blessed by Rev Fr Phillip Muthu, the Parish Priest of the Assumption Conference. This project, that is jointly managed by the Petaling Jaya Conferences of Assumption, St Francis Xavier (SFX) and St Ignatius (SIC), arose from the needs that have evolved from our traditional works of mercy with the poor in the outlying areas of Petaling Jaya and Kuala Lumpur, and in particular the former squatter settlements.

Our works, observation and studies have clearly shown that in order to enable and empower the poor living in such areas, and more specifically the single mothers, obtaining full time employment has been hampered by the need for them to look after the younger children. Addition with the setting of OSC, we have to date assisted with Welfare Aid applications, birth certificate and identity card applications, nursing home referrals, job placements, business start ups, SOCSO applications and cash aid. As of date, we have attended to more than 90 cases and have successfully resolved more than 40 of them.

It is evident that the setting up of the OSC in Taman Sentosa at Jalan Klang Lama, has also proven to be a point of referral of children to our Ozanam Homes and Conferences for other forms of aid. Likewise, the OSC Sentosa also attends to cases referred by SVP Assumption Petaling Jaya, SVP St Francis Xavier Petaling Jaya and SVP St. Ignatius Petaling Jaya. To resolve cases, the Centre works closely with local authorities, i.e. Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Malaysia, Jabatan Pendaftaran Negara Selangor, Pertubuhan Keselamatan Social (SOCSO) and welfare and charitable organisations.



Forewords

// Sisters and brothers, let us be honest with each other. How many times have we passed judgment on our children, our friends, their children, our priests, parishioners, BEC members, etc?

It is thus no surprise that our ingrained habit of refusing to 'look / remove' (at) the log in our eyes, but constantly wanting to 'look / remove' (at) the speck in the eye of the other person (Mt 7:5), extends to the very people whom we serve and **in whom** we are asked to recognize and see the person of our suffering Christ.

In fact, very often we tend to 'lord' over the weak and impoverished, often imposing our values in them forcing them to change or we won't render help - akin to asking them to remove the speck in their eyes first before we render support.

I know we mean well, but, we need to recognize that if our sole mission is to recognize our suffering Lord in the person of the poor and marginalised, then we need to:

- First of all recognize the person's Basic Human Right and Dignity as a Person created in God's image and liking. Lording over them deciding we know what is best for them, contradicts this fundamental right of a Person.
- Help empower them to break free of the social injustices that deprive them of their basic rights and equal opportunities.
- Adopt an approach that our Founding Father took, that is, to listen to their hearts and know their inner needs and thoughts. By doing so, we would walk and journey with them and only in so doing, would we have journeyed with our Lord.

Dear Vincentians in Selangor, we have done well over the years but, as we grow in strength in this noble Apostolate of ours, it is necessary that we approach our Vocation with an even greater desire to imitate our Founder who was selfless and completely obedient to God in His defence of our faith and our Mother Church by making Christ's love present amongst the very people whom he served - thereby becoming their servant rather than master.



Rev Fr Mari Arokiam
Ecclesiastical Assistant,
SSVP Archdiocese of
Kuala Lumpur

// Peace greetings to you!

It's wonderful to meet each of you once again through this edition of 'PRAXIS'. As we live up to our calling of serving CHRIST in the poor and downtrodden, may I encourage you to remain focused and steadfast to the call of our local Church which is "Discipleship Towards Mission".

As a pastor myself, I know from experience that the work of MISSION entails many struggles and challenges.

With all that is happening around the world and the door steps of our Universal and local Churches these days, the going seems to be tough with many new arising situations. But, as a disciple of Christ and more so as a Vincentian, the question we must ask ourselves is that, 'whether such situations are going to discourage our MISSION towards the poor or encourage us to seek the grace of the Holy Spirit within us more fervently in prayer and holy scriptures for an enhanced service.

Jesus himself has warned us about the conditions of Discipleship in the gospel of St. Mark and also in the gospel of St. Luke. His words are very strong and challenging "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Mk 8:34). Jesus here is very explicit about the struggles and challenges that one will have to face in life if one truly wants to commit oneself and become a true and faithful disciple of him.

He does not stop there but goes further to give us another teaching on discipleship in the gospel of St. Luke. Here, he speaks about the hardships of the apostolic calling. "Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his



Bro Raj Narayanan
President, SSSVP Selangor State Council

Our Ozanam Service Centres and the various projects (Homes, etc) are in a very small way a progression of our works of charity through the years.

Additionally, through the works of our Ozanam Service Centres, we are now presented with new opportunities by God to enter into a deeper relationship with Him vis-a-vis the poor and marginalised whom we meet.

As we learn and understand our works through the OSC's let us embrace the invitation of our Lord to spend quality time with Him by not only visiting the poor but, by taking concrete steps to empower them.

Let us pray that this renewed way of being a Vincentian in Selangor be a source of inspiration to other Catholics who wish to engage meaningfully with the plural Society, rather than be seen to be a group of people who just simply do good deeds, hoping to be rewarded with the ultimate gift of all - heaven.

I am sure most of us agree that in today's world and particularly with today's Youth, respect for each other and concretization of their faith in Action is relevant!

May God Bless us and keep us in His Love always (Num 6:24)! May we Praise and thank our Lord always for befriending us in the person of the poor and marginalised.

Humbly yours, //
Rajenthiran (Raj) Narayanan

head" (Lk.9:57-61). Jesus did not have a permanent address like all of us do. He was practically moving from place to place carrying out his ministry and MISSION that was handed down to him by His Father above.

This text challenges us to leave our comfort zones and go to the poor and marginalised bringing to them God's compassion and love. Our country is filled with thousands of migrants who have left their homes to find livelihood and refuge here and now.

Added to this are our own poor and marginalised who are also in dire need of material and human support love and care. Many a time they do not know where to go or whom to contact because they also know in their simple mind that JESUS has no permanent address for them to go and seek assistance. Thus, arises the call and challenge of setting up service centers in different cities and rural areas.

These new centers would have a permanent address and the many poor and needy who would need any form of assistance can find their way there and be helped in any little way. As Jesus himself said, "The least you did to my brothers and sisters YOU DID IT TO ME" (Mt.25:40).

Come let us unite ourselves and consolidate our individual gifts, talents, time, efforts and charisms and use it for the well being of every person and for the greater glory of God.

May Mary our Blessed Mother be our companion and together with the intercession of Blessed Frederick Ozanam and St. Vincent De Paul, let us journey together as "DISCIPLES TOWARDS MISSION".

With all my prayerful wishes and blessings.

My Soul Glorifies the Lord. //

Reflection

Much has happened around the globe as we embraced two main liturgical seasons this year. The wrath of the political unrests in the West Asia, the earthquakes in China, Japan and Myanmar, as well as the monstrous tsunami in Japan—which claimed too many precious lives and destroyed virtually everything in its path.

Amidst all of this, we are abuzz with the various political ongoings in the home front. More and more quarters are rising to seek justice and reform in current tides, in striving for a more just, peaceful and tolerant country.

As Vincentians, we should continue to unite in prayer and solidarity that we may attain justice and peace and persevere to rise up stronger than ever in Christ’s love and light, to take up our crosses and follow Him.

Let us take time to reflect on our lives and look beyond our perceived inadequacies to appreciate the mini miracles the Lord has granted us.

His Holiness The Pope aptly invites the faithful to “firmly orient our existence according to the will of God; that we may be freed of our egoism, overcoming the instinct to dominate others and opening us to the love of Christ”.

His Holiness reminds us to “recognise our weakness and to accept, through a sincere inventory of our life, the renewing Grace of the Sacrament of Penance, and walk resolutely towards Christ”. Let us Vincentians journey in Christ’s peace through our works of mercy and through prayer in transforming our faith into action - in empowering the marginalised at ground level.

photo

“Recognise our weakness and to accept, through a sincere inventory of our life, the renewing Grace of the Sacrament of Penance, and walk resolutely towards Christ.”

Corporate Social Responsibility & SSVP

In recent years, the Society has been blessed to have had the opportunity to collaborate with corporate society.

For one and a half-years now, the Society in partnership with the Village Grocer supermarket of Bangsar Village have been running a food collection pledge for SSVP run Homes called the *Community Chest*. The pledge has been generously supported by shoppers at the Village Grocer and Bangsar residents.

A shopping list of perishables which meets the needs of the various Homes is made available at the collection booth.

Shoppers who wish to donate these items will purchase them at the Village Grocer and place them at the collection booth. These food items will then be channeled to the RPX.

The inaugural launch of the Soccer Charity Carnival in April with the soccer section of the RSC opened an opportunity for 10 outstanding talents from the various Homes under the SSVP umbrella to join the RSC junior soccer development programme. This opportunity was offered by a private sponsor.

The ACE Group, an education based entity is a new partner which has come on board to collaborate with the Society in the area of education. The initial plan is for tutors from the Ace Group to provide free tuition to children in SSVP run Homes and three service centres — namely, OSC Sri Sentosa, Desa Coalfields and St Anne, Klang.



The Community Chest at the Village Grocer @ Bangsar Village



At the OSC Sri Sentosa and the Desa Coalfields Service Centre, plans are underway to provide free tuition in Science, Mathematics, English and Bahasa Malaysia to students in Forms 3 and 5.

In Klang, free English tuition will be provided to primary and secondary students of various ages.

The Society welcomes partnerships such as these and it is hoped that many more such corporations would come forward to collaborate as a means of giving back to society.

Ozanam Service Centre - Coalfields Sungai Buloh

The Ozanam Service Centre, Coalfields in Sungai Buloh is a recent addition to the SSVF family.

The estimated population in the area is 10,000 residents and extends to areas such as Saujana Glomac and Puncak Alam. The area where the Service Centre is located is surrounded by plantations, small holders, farmers etc.

OSC-Coalfields is located in a premise on a generous lease to SSVF for a token rental by a donor specifically for this project.

The Centre is used for the benefit of the rural poor and marginalised - specifically as follows:

- for prison related social work (the Sungai Buloh prison is located about 20 minutes away)
- as a library/study rooms for poor children in the surrounding area
- as a drop-in centre to assist persons in need of welfare aid, etc
- as a venue for computer classes
- as a Legal Aid centre
- as a venue for a free medical clinic

- as a facility to build BEC related activities

The OSC Coalfields is in the process of becoming a full Service Center catering to rural poor from agriculture sectors, whom have been displaced from the migration and/or closures of estate communities which they previously belonged to.

These communities often require access to new skills training to embark on new job roles as well as social activities (particularly the younger generation) for a sound work/life balance.

As a start, with the support of two volunteer teachers, we have started conducting English and Moral education classes to the children of the Surrounding community. More than 100 children and youths ages 6 to 18 are benefitting from these classes that we conducted every Saturday.

The Society also hopes to establish long-term youth programmes to keep displaced youths in the areas surrounding the service centre engaged in activities which they can excel in.

Sport is a great platform in which remains an attractive avenue for shaping character and building talent within a safe environment. We hope to introduce this element as an alternative outlet to youths who are not academically oriented.

The community work projected reaches out to anyone in need, regardless of race, religion or nationality.

The services offered will be rolled out on a step-by-step process depending on the availability of funds and the needs of the community.



New Developments and Programs at OSC Sri Sentosa

Now that the operations of the Centre has more or less settled in, the committee is embarking on further projects to help develop the community in the region particularly the poorer community, such as

- 1 The setting up of the Learning Centre where the Centre provides space and guidance to many of the weak children to study and explore their talents.
- 2 Football Coaching clinics - The objective of this coaching clinic is to gather the youth and young adults and importantly

to win their trust and confidence so that we are able educate the Youths on the various opportunities provided by Ozanam Service Center through Job Placement ,Vocational Training and etc. We also intend to conduct motivation classes, sessions on building self-esteem and confidence, Developing Positive Values in conjunction with this so that, as we befriend and motivate many of the people (especially the youths who have dropped out of schools or who are into social ills), we can help rebuild their self-esteem and confidence in

themselves to achieve their full potential. Discussions are already underway with a number of corporates to help support OSC's efforts in this by providing training opportunities for meaningful employment within the respective firms with fair wages and benefits.

- 3 Self Help Projects - The objective is to identify skills and strengths of the individuals and to engage them in activities eg cottage industries that will increase their earning potential.

First Ozanam Service Centre Volunteer Team Meeting

The Ozanam Service Centre at Old Klang Road is now a year old. Being one year old, the Centre has seen more than 90 cases going through its doors. Realising the need for 'more hands' to help deal with the various issues faced by the people coming, a month long volunteer drive was held at the three churches of Assumption, St Ignatius & St Francis Xavier.

Announcements were made in the church bulletins and brochures on volunteering were placed in the church racks. Eight people responded and called up the Centre to enquire. As the number of responses was inadequate, invitations were also sent to the three BECCOT chairpersons of the three parishes and the local BEC chairpersons to attend a volunteers meeting on 20 September 2011.

Brother James convened the meeting and invited Sister Delia, President of the

Ozanam Service Centre Committee to brief the meeting on the role of the Ozanam Service Centre in catering to the needs of the urban poor in, and around Old Klang Road, and the challenges faced by the Centre thus far.

The new volunteers were also given a brief outline on the activities of the Society of St Vincent De Paul by the State Council President, Bro Raj.

In his address, he explained the nature and role of the Society, and touched briefly on the history of its formation by its Founder, Blessed Frederick Ozanam in France during the Industrial Revolution.

Bro James, the Vice-President then proceeded to introduce the Volunteers Handbook that was produced with the intention of guiding volunteers in the work of the Centre.

The handbook describes the various processes and documents involved in helping those who require assistance in obtaining Malaysian Birth Certificates, Malaysian Identity Cards, SOCSO membership and welfare assistance.

There was also a Q&A session where the new volunteers had the chance to enquire further on how the Centre coordinates its activities and the role of volunteers in this respect.

Following this, the new volunteers completed their applications to become volunteers at the Centre. The next meeting with the volunteers is scheduled to be held on 10 September 2011. At this meeting, volunteers will be assigned to cases and will take on coordinating roles for the various activities of the Centre.

Details on how to join us as a volunteer are available on the last page of this newsletter.

PANASCO Conference, Mumbai, India

PANASCO – 7 (Pan Asia Congress) was held in Goa from September 13 to 17, 2010. PANASCO is a gathering of members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, from the Asia and Oceania regions, comprising 27 nations. This event was organised by the National Council of India.

Vincentians met to share with each other their experiences in the service of the poor and the needy.

Through discussions and sharing they were able to understand the methods of working of each country and thus improve on their own methods of working. The overall theme for the concluded PANASCO was “Justice & Peace Will Embrace”.



The delegates who numbered around 400 Vincentians, also included many priests and nuns came from several countries like Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar, the Philippines, China, Hong Kong, Korea, the Kingdom of Tonga, Australia, New Zealand among others.

It was a melting pot of minds and hearts from around Asia and Oceania with one mission in mind — the upliftment of the downtrodden.

The days were chockablock with events that revolved around a topic for the day. This topic permeated all proceedings, beginning with Holy Mass that was celebrated daily by a bishop and concelebrated by priests from various nations while on the closing day the principal celebrant was Most Reverend Filipe Neri Ferrao, Archbishop of Goa and Daman & Patriarch of East Indies.

The Eucharistic celebrations of the opening day and the rest of the days were held at the beautifully inspiring Holy Spirit Church, Margao, while the closing day Mass was celebrated at the renowned Bom Jesus Cathedral in Old Goa. A truly moving experience!

The topics were delivered by renowned speakers in the field and dealt with various issues close to the Vincentian heart. The topics included our “social responsibility” as humans, Catholics and Vincentians, our “Vincentian spirituality”, the juxtaposition of “youth and experience” in our Society and our particular responsibility of working with people with “AIDS/HIV”.

By Shashi Peters
Conference of the Holy Family, Kajang

Volunteers Needed

OSC Sri Sentosa is looking for people who are able to assist the Society and its members in our works with the Poor living around the PJ/ Old Klang Road areas in the following areas

- Provide transportation to - clinic, hospitals, government ministries, and etc
- Assist volunteers or cases in emergency.
- Assist with OSC's projects
- Journey (check on progress and ensure well-being) and follow-up on cases assigned to them.

Volunteers would probably need to spend two to three hours per week in such services.

Formation & Training & the 48th AGM of the Selangor State Council

The State Council of Selangor organised a two-day formation program on the nature and spirit of the Society. It was held on 14 and 15 May 2011 at the State Council Office and culminated with the AGM on the evening of 15 May. This is the first time that the State Council has organised a formation session for the members of Selangor prior to the AGM, to promote a greater awareness of the need for us to come together, to pray, reflect and discern our Vocation vis-a-vis our Catholic spirituality and our Vincentian works. The Formation Program started on the morning of 14 May with Bro Raj Narayanan introducing the theme of the formation, "Nature and Spirit of the Society". The program was aimed at taking the participants through the rule of the Society as envisaged and desired by Blessed Frederick Ozanam, our Founder. It is designed to help members see the rule as a "Life-Giving" that will enlighten and empower us.

This was then followed by an enlightening brief by Bro Eddie Joseph- who spoke on the roots –the origins and the spirituality that gave birth to the Society. His second session focussed on understanding the role of the Society in the life of a Vincentian. After a short tea-break we had the privilege of Rev Fr Ravi Alexander OFM Cap who presented his thoughts on exploring the spirit of the Society. The spirit of the society was further explored by our Ecclesiastical Assistant, Rev Fr Mari Arokiam after lunch, and the first day session ended at about 5.00pm.

The next day, Bro Raj led the participants through a workshop session which expounded on practical challenges faced by Vincentians in living out their Vocation. Following this, Fr Mari Arokiam spoke passionately, invigorating the inspiration and motivation of Blessed Frederick Ozanam in founding the Societ. A short video on Blessed Frederick Ozanam and his challenges was also screened to further inspire the Vincentians present. The formation program ended with a thought provoking and stimulating Q & A session by both Bro Raj and Rev Fr Mari Arokiam. An evaluation of all the sessions was carried out and the consensus from the participants was that there should be more of such formation sessions, as they were both informative and spiritual.

The 48th AGM of the State Council of Selangor started at about 3.00pm on 15 May, after the formation sessions. It was well attended by the various members of all the Conferences in Selangor. National Council President, Bro Dunstan Dominic and Rev Fr Mari Arokiam were in attendance. Bros Francis Lai, James and Watson Peters were elected as the three delegates to the National Council. After a fruitful AGM, all members adjourned to a nearby restaurant for fellowship dinner.

In retrospect this year's AGM marked many new firsts. This signals new thoughts by the Society in Selangor as we strive to further strengthen our Vocation by deepening our spirituality and making ourselves more present and engaging ourselves more directly with issues of social justice and empowerment of the poor. Some of the significant firsts are

- i) organising a formation session leading to the AGM,
- ii) holding the AGM in one of our project centres. This year we had the AGM at the Ozanam Educentre/Kindergarden, a simple premise located in Taman Sri Sentosa which is also nearby our Ozanam Service Centre/State Council Office.



Turning Lives Around – Works of Ozanam Service Centres

1. We first met Thilaga (not her real name) around March of this year. She approached the Conference of SFX for assistance when was chased out of her home late at night by her sister and bro – in law with whom she was staying. She had no place to stay and we offered her temporary residence at our transit home. Over the next few days, our Service Centre Team led by Sr Delia, attended to her needs, providing her with much moral and emotional support. At the same time, she looked for a job that could set her to be independent and self-reliant. Within a few days, she managed to find a secure position with a firm. After about a further week of stay at the Transit Home, Thilaga sourced her own accommodation and is now happily working and at peace with herself.
2. If we speak about a story of riches to rags and back her feet once again, then Theresa (not her real name), would be a perfect example. Theresa was from an above average family and led a comfortable childhood. She has 3 siblings. After her parents had passed away, her relationship with her siblings eroded and she was eventually cut off from the family because they could not accept hectic social life. Her siblings controlled the assets and to be fair to them, they sold the properties and gave her share of the monies (more than 60k). She spent all her monies unwisely. She got married and one day she found out that she had cancer at an advanced stage. She received treatment from UH and in those trying times, her husband left her leaving her with their children. Her family members did not want to know her anymore. When we met Thilaga, she was desperately in need of support to turn her life around and in need of genuine friendship. OSC team members worked with her and helped her regain her confidence while at the same time, encouraging her to renew her spiritual life and growth.

We found out that she was good at handicrafts and we supported her build a simple business in making handicrafts out of stones and helped strategize a market for her to sell her handicrafts. Since the first sale of more than 300 RM, Theresa has not looked back and is now very much self-sufficient and now takes a more positive approach in her life. Her cancer seems to have ‘subsided’ and she is rebuilding a life for herself and her children. She keeps in touch with the members of OSC Sri Sentosa as she now looks to relocate herself to a slightly better environment and to be able to provide better for her children.



Visit by Members of the SSVP International Council



In July, Brothers John HY Lee (Vice-President, International Council General), Joseph Pandian (International Territorial Vice President-West Asia) and Thomas Tan (Territorial Vice President-East Asia & Oceania) made an official visit to Malaysia.

Their visit was on an invitation by the Malaysian National President during his recent attendance at the International Council General (ICG) Executive Board meeting in Dublin, Ireland for them to attend the National Council AGM in Kuching, Sarawak.

On route to Sarawak, our visitors paid a courtesy call to the Archbishop of Kuala Lumpur, Bishop Murphy Pakiam and had a fruitful discussion on the work of the Society in Malaysia. Our visitors also witnessed first hand how SSVP Malaysia works within the Malaysian realities on the ground, through their visits to a number of the SSVP project sites in the Klang Valley, organised by the Selangor State Council.

These included the Dialysis Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Second Chance Community Home Rumah Ozanam Batu Arang and Rumah Keluarga Kami, Kajang.



Soccer Charity Carnival @ the Royal Selangor Club



Kinrara assemblyman Teresa Kok MP (third from right) launching the event along with the organising committee and representatives of the RSC

In April, eight homes under the Ozanam Foundation umbrella were brought together for fun-filled day through the inaugural Royal Selangor Club (RSC) soccer charity carnival in Kuala Lumpur.

The organising committee was headed by SSVP's Brother Raj. Other sports sections of the RSC worked hand in hand with the organising committee and were very helpful in offering their assistance to organise the carnival.

The event was aimed at raising funds for the homes under the umbrella to engage the services of a children and youth development psychologist for the children under their care.

150 children aged between six and 18 were invited to the carnival to discover their potential in football and netball—two very popular games played in schools locally.

The children picked up good pointers from the coaches present at the event at the football clinic. These coaches have helped the RSC run a coaching clinic before they went on to gauge their strength in the football and netball competitions.

Young footballers from the club's junior soccer development programme also joined in a friendly tournament comprising several age-groups.

The current football programme has 350 young player training up to four times a week under the guidance of 12 qualified coaches at the RSC.



Following this event, a sponsor has indicated its willingness to offer the opportunity for 10 outstanding talents from the homes to join the RSC junior soccer development programme.

As for the children aged below six, they had a great time at the club's swimming pool with play along games organised specially for them.

Other fun activities arranged for the children were the bouncy castle games, face painting and even a vintage car parade.

The organising committee hopes that this will be an annual affair in a bid to continue to contribute to the homes.

The children need sound guidance and preparation to face the challenges of adulthood. It is therefore vital that we continue to provide our love and support in starting them out on the right track by through similar initiatives.

A net total of RM39,000 was raised at the Carnival. This figure is not inclusive of the in-kind donations and sponsorships received which were valued at RM30,000.

To make this inaugural initiative more meaningful, 10% of the funds collected was channeled to the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, while the remaining 90% was channeled to the Ozanam Foundation.



The children participating at one of the activities

* Pictures taken from StarMetro article 13 April 2011

Join Us As a Volunteer!

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The Society of St Vincent De Paul is an international not-for-profit Catholic organisation. Our members comprise passionate lay volunteers from all walks of life and creed, whom work towards empowering the poor and marginalised to be self-sufficient.

We also strive to promote their human dignity by:

- Ø regular visits to our project homes
- Ø establishing service centers for the urban poor
- Ø providing temporary homes for the abandoned and rejected - and thereafter assist with reconciling the same families
- Ø resolving and challenging systems that cause social injustice