

SISTERS OF ST. PAUL OF CHARTRES (SPC)

SPC RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS

Following are the responses of the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres (SPC)-Philippine Province to the call of the time and to the needs of the different sectors of our society in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected all aspects of our life.

PRAYER: Prayer has been and still is the first and foremost response of the SPC Philippine Province to this challenging time.

- Every local community has a scheduled daily Holy Hour for the intention of all people and various concerns related to COVID-19.
- The following prayers have been distributed to all SPC Local Communities by the Provincial Administration:
 1. a prayer booklet of different prayer intentions that are said after the song response during the Holy Hour;
 2. excerpts of correlated readings based on the Easter 2020 *Urbi et Orbi* Message of Pope Francis, entitled, “Contagion of Hope,” read during the daily Holy Hour;
 3. short daily prayers said at designated time of the day by different individuals or groups;
 4. different daily Mass prayer intentions for various people and concerns related to COVID-19.
- The Provincial Administration enjoined all local communities to join the Nationwide InterFaith Prayer Service on TV on April 8, 2020, to pray with Pope Francis during his Extraordinary *Urbi et Orbi* blessing on March 27, 2020 and his Easter *Urbi et Orbi*.
- All local communities have been given the following supplementary reading materials:
 1. Text of Pope Francis’ Extraordinary *Urbi et Orbi* message on March 27, 2020;
 2. Text of Pope Francis’ 2020 Easter *Urbi et Orbi* Message;
 3. Interview of Pope Francis by Austen Ivereigh;
 4. *An Easter Meditation on Life, A Christian Faith Perspective on the Coronavirus Pandemic* by Fr. Freddie Dulay, MDJ.

TO KEEP THE SISTERS INFORMED AND UPDATED, THE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION PERIODICALLY SHARES INFORMATION WITH SPC COMMUNITIES:

- **Time Magazine:** All Your Coronavirus Questions Answered
<https://time.com/5820118/coronavirus-questions-answered/>
- **SPU Manila Newsletter, Vol. XIII, No. 1-First Quarter 2020.** The entire newsletter traced the painful journey that the world is on – “**A World in Crisis – Part One: Covid 19**” (Background, Source and Spread of the Virus, Updates as of March 7, 2020, Key Developments, Preventive Measures); “**A World in Crisis – Part Two: COVID-19**” (Luzonwide quarantine, SPU Manila’s Response to the Quarantine); “**A World in Crisis**”

-Part Three: COVID-19 (Coronavirus Updates, Article published in *The Manila Bulletin*: “Filipino Doctors Have Died Fighting at Front Lines;” **“A World in Crisis – Part Four: COVID-19**” (Updates, Fund-Raising Campaign of US-based Paulinian Alumnae—“Support the Philippines – PPE: Personal Protection Equipment for SPC Hospitals; Appeal of Pilar Almira, SPUM HS ’70, President of Cardinal Santos Medical Center and Lourdes Hospital, who leads the 16-member Metro Pacific Hospital Holdings Group in dealing with COVID-19 cases. Lourdes Hospital has been designated the Group’s main COVID-19 referral facility).

SPC FORMATION MINISTRY

- Sisters in the initial and on-going formation, led by their Formators, are making face shields for the frontliners, both in government and private hospitals.



Batch 1 - 1,000 pieces of face shields were donated to Philippine General Hospital. The materials were given by a humanitarian group.

Batch 2 - 400 face shields and PPEs

- 200 – donated to St. Paul Hospital Cavite
 - 100 – donated to the Antipolo City Hospital System
 - 50 – donated to Clinica Antipolo
 - 50 – donated to the SPC Vigil House
- One bolt of cloth equivalent to 18 PPEs given to SPH Cavite

Batch 3 - 600 face shields

- 300 - donated to the Antipolo City Hospital System, Annex 1, 2, and 3
- 150 - donated to the Lung Center
- 50 - donated to the Manila East Medical Center
- 50 - donated to Clinica Antipolo
- 50 - for the use of the residents of Our Lady of Chartres Convent

DONATIONS OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT OR PPE

- 25 PPEs donated to St. Paul Hospital Cavite
- 2 PPEs for Dr. Maan Alfonso Gabas of Clinica Antipolo
- 30 PPEs for Antipolo City Hospital
- 18 PPEs for Lung Center of the Philippines

The Sisters also prepare sandwiches for the frontliners of the Provincial Hospital Annex II in Dalig, Antipolo and military personnel in check points; give canned goods and rice to identified poor families in the partner community; seek out and give food and medicines to beggars in the streets; give food to the detainees in the Female Dormitory of Antipolo City Jail, prepare packed goods and rice for those who knock at the convent's gate—nobody leaves the convent empty handed; give PPEs or Personal Protective Equipment.

SPC EDUCATION MINISTRY

The Sisters of St. Paul have 40 schools in the Philippines. The responses of the schools vary according to their capacity, location, needs, and restrictions in their locality. Following are the responses of selected SPC institutions:

St. Paul University Manila (SPU Manila) in Malate, Manila

- SPU Manila opened its doors to the frontliners of the nearby Philippine General Hospital.



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- SPU Manila launched a nationwide campaign to provide PPEs for the frontliners in the SPCrun hospitals which have no access to Philippine government support. From the collected donation of Php646,750.00 from eight SPC schools and alumni, the school made PPEs for hospital frontliners. They were able to produce 450 washable and reusable coveralls, 1,500 head caps, and 1,500 shoe covers. The PPEs were donated to SPC hospitals in Cavite, Baguio, Cebu, Tuguegarao, Nueva Vizcaya, Surigao, Cagayan de Oro, Antique, and Bukidnon. 260 face masks were donated to the Bureau of Quarantine and Ospital ng Maynila. One box of alcohol was donated to Ward 3 of the Philippine General Hospital.
 - SPU Manila contributed food to the 140 people housed in DLSU and College of St. Benilde (four sacks of rice, one sack of detergent, bread, noodles).

- SPU Manila sent 200 pieces of canned goods to the *Batang Lumad*, who are housed in UP Diliman.

St. Paul College Makati (SPCM) in D.M. Rivera St., Makati City

- SPCM prepares complete meals for the frontliners who are on their way home. Trolleys of food are placed outside the school gate.
- SPCM has offered one of its buildings as haven for frontliners (First Responders and Relief Operations Volunteers of the Local Government Unit (LGU)-Makati City) who cannot go home to their families.
- The school cooks whole day meals, financed by Sts. Peter and Paul Parish. Hand in hand with the parish, the school distributes packs to poor families around the area that are not in the list of the local government.



The sisters and personnel cook for the first responders and relief operations of the LGUs of Makati City



Sisters of St. Paul College of Makati packing relief goods.

St. Paul University Surigao (SPUS)

- St. Paul Surigao has already given out 200 sacks to rice (1 sack each) to all its daily wage earners (about a hundred of them) plus Php 4,000.00.

- SPUS also gave 20 kgs. of rice each to 156 families of the Badjao community and 56 Mamanwa families.
- SPUS gave 10 kgs. of rice and canned goods to 23 families of a small purok.

St. Paul College of Parañaque (SPCP), San Dionisio, Paranaque City

□ Hapag ni San Pablo Feeding Program

1. From March 19 until March 27, SPCP gave free breakfast, lunch, and supper every day to fathers in two barangays—Purok 1 and P. Dandan—who had lost their jobs. There were 19 fathers who received the **Hapag ni San Pablo** daily. **Hapag** was able to feed 171 families.
2. The Sisters resumed the feeding program on March 30 to April 3 before they went on retreat. The recipients were 95 tricycle drivers in Purok 9.
3. The Sisters shared packed lunch with 65 doctors, nurses, and health workers of Our Lady of Peace Hospital on the Coastal Road.
4. The next schedule of **Hapag** is on April 25, 2020 for the 200 doctors, nurses, and other health workers of the Ospital ng Paranaque.



Sisters of St. Paul College Parañaque packing food



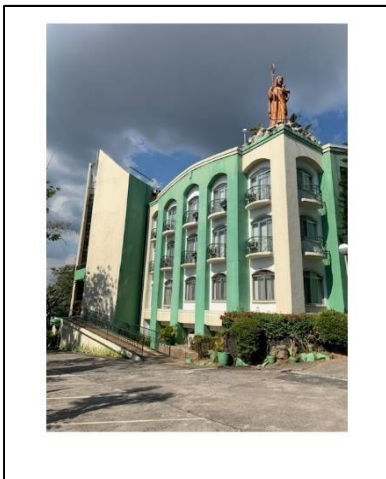
Recipients of the Hapag ni San Pablo Feeding Program

St. Paul College – Pasig, St. Paul Road, Barangay Ugong, Pasig City

- Distributing bottled water to frontliners – military men in checkpoints, police station, and nearby hospitals;
- Providing needed PPEs to alumnae frontliners in Medical City;
- Launching “Housing the Heroes” project by opening the Good Shepherd Center of Spirituality to the front-liners of hospitals in Antipolo City. This is a partnership project with the Citizen Corps PH, a team of St. Paul College Pasig alumnae who coordinate with hospital administrators in the area for the temporary housing of their medical staff. As

of reporting time, there are now 40 front-liners sheltered in the facility. They come from Clinica Antipolo, Antipolo Hospital System, and Antipolo City Hospital. Other alumnae send meals and other provisions for the front-liners.

- Continuing “Kalinga” fund campaign of the Student Coordinating Team for SPC hospitals;
- Keeping up “Tulong Paulinian” fund campaign of employees for the school’s outsourced personnel;
- Maintaining fund-raising campaigns of different groups of alumnae: Citizens Corp Ph, “Tulong-tulong Project Protect” (Batch 2011), and “Serve” (Batch 2012);
- Packing food packages for the families of students enrolled in the free school of SPC Pasig, the Fr. Louis Chauvet Foundation School.



SPC Pasig “Housing the Heroes”
Shepherd Center of Spirituality in
Antipolo



“Kalinga” Fund Campaign for
SPC Hospitals



“Tulong Paulinian” of SPC Pasig
employees for outsourced
employees

St. Paul University Quezon City (SPUQC), Aurora Blvd. Quezon City

- Provides 100 beds for the three shifts of Health Care Workers of St. Luke’s Medical Center □ Has donated money for PPEs, food, goods, etc.

Other Paulinian Schools in various parts of the country give packed food and groceries to frontliners, PNP, military personnel, and poor families in their locality and sew face masks for hospital personnel.

Paulinian Alumni have raised funds for PPEs and other needs of hospital and other health care facilities.

- An alumna of St. Paul University Surigao donated P100,000.00 to procure rice for the poor in Surigao.
- The alumni of St. Paul University Surigao prepared packs of rice and canned goods for the *traysikad* drivers, senior citizens, street cleaners, and garbage collectors.

- SPU Manila alumna, **Karla Reyes**, daughter of Aristocrat Restaurant owner, **Millie Reyes**, also an alumna of SPUM, class 1969, is one of organizers of the Front-Line Feeders Philippines (FFP), composed of doctors, restaurant owners, and NGOs, who mobilize food distribution to different hospital front-liners in Metro Manila and in neighboring cities. As of March 31, 2020, over the course of three weeks, FFP has served 51,392 meals to 41 hospitals, covering 17 cities in the Philippines.
- An alumna of Our Lady of Peace School, a diocesan school in Antipolo City, administered by the Sisters of St. Paul, gave P50,000 to the Sisters of the Provincial House for various needs and concerns related to COVID-19.
- **Pilar Almira**, SPUM HS 1970, President of Cardinal Santos Medical Center and Lourdes Hospital, leads the 16-member Metro Pacific Hospital Holdings Group in dealing with COVID-19 cases. Lourdes Hospital has been designated the Group's main COVID-19 referral facility. The Hospital Group is composed of 16 hospitals all over the Philippines. It covers eight provincial hospitals in Davao, Bacolod, Tarlac, Zamboanga, Bulacan, General Santos City, Butuan City, and Los Banos, as well as eight hospitals in the Metro Manila area.
- **Marilyn Abalos**, Chair of St. Paul Alumnae USA, has launched a fund-raising campaign for the Philippines: **SUPPORT THE PHILIPPINES: ST. PAUL HOSPITALS AND LA SALLE HOSPITAL**. St. Paul University Manila has launched a nationwide campaign to provide PPEs for the front-liners in the SPC-run hospitals which have no access to Philippine government support. US ALUMNAE CHAIR PLEDGE: Marilyn Abalos has pledged to MATCH dollar for dollar Paulinians' donations to St. Paul University Manila in support of SPC-run hospitals up to \$1000.



- Marilyn Abalos, Chair of St. Paul Alumnae USA, has launched a fund-raising campaign for the Philippines:

SUPPORT THE PHILIPPINES
ST. PAUL HOSPITALS AND LA SALLE HOSPITAL
PPE - Personal Protection Equipment for SPC Hospitals

- St. Paul University Manila has launched a nationwide campaign to provide PPEs for the front-liners in the SPC-run hospitals which have no access to Philippine government support. As of April 7, 2020, the Philippines' total number of cases is 3,764, 177 deaths, and 84 recoveries. According to SPU Manila President, Sister Evangeline Anastacio, SPC, "21 Filipino doctors have already died due to lack of protection. We are centralizing donations via SPU Manila...ordering the PPE and sending them to the hospitals."
- PPE stands for personal protective equipment. PPE means any device or appliance designed to be worn or held by an individual for protection against one or more health and safety hazards.
- St. Paul Sisters have provided PPE, such as suits, masks, gloves, eye protection, disinfecting wipes, booties, etc. to St. Paul Hospitals in Baguio, Tuguegarao, Nueva Vizcaya, Cebu, Iloilo, Surigao, Cagayan de Oro, Antique, Bukidnon, and Cavite. De La Salle Medical Center in Cebu is also administered by Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres (SPC).

From the US, to donate to SPC-Run Hospitals

Account Name: St. Paul University Manila

Bank Name: Bank of the Philippine Islands

Bank Address: Mabini, Manila

Account Number: 3694-0001-09

Swift Code: BOIIPHMM

Send your validated deposit slip to: <http://spumanila.edu.ph/contact/#email>

For more info, visit <https://www.spchcm.com/spc-hospitals>

"In silence, we work together to support our front-liners, whose bravery in facing the invisible enemy is beyond words. In prayer, we unite with the whole world in storming heaven to stop the spread of COVID-19. In sharing our time, talent, and treasure, WE HEAL AS ONE."-SPC

US ALUMNAE CHAIR PLEDGE: Marilyn Abalos, Chair of the St. Paul Alumnae USA, has pledged to MATCH dollar for dollar Paulinians' donations to St. Paul University Manila in support of SPC-run hospitals up to \$1000.

*** Send a copy of the receipt of your donation to SPU Manila to: spmausa@gmail.com. Double your donations! Give to SPU Manila!

FRONTLINE FEEDERS PHILIPPINES: **Food for the Philippine Hospital Front-Liners**

The Front-line Feeders PH team has organized a group of individuals—doctors, restaurant owners and NGOs—to mobilize food distribution to different hospitals in the Metro and in neighboring cities. As of March 31, 2020, over the course of three weeks, FFP has served 51, 392 meals to 41 hospitals covering 17 cities in the Philippines. Karla Reyes, daughter of Millie Reyes (St. Paul Manila HS 1969) of the Aristocrat Restaurant Family is one of the Front-line Feeders PH partners.

****From the US: You can donate via PayPay: info@swizzlemobilebar.com*****

For more info, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/FrontlineFeedersPH/>

"In times like this, it brings joy to our hearts to know that there are people who extend their help to our brothers and sisters.- FFP

METRO PACIFIC HOSPITALS: **16 Private Hospitals Caring for COVID-19 Cases**



Pilar Almira (St. Paul Manila HS 1970), leads the 16-member Metro Pacific Hospital Holdings Group in dealing with COVID-19 cases. Lourdes Hospital has been designated the Group's main COVID-19 referral facility. The Hospital Group is composed of 16 hospitals all over the Philippines. It covers eight provincial hospitals in Davao, Bacolod, Tarlac, Zamboanga, Bulacan, General Santos City, Butuan City, and Los Banos, as well as eight hospitals in the Metro Manila area.

Donations for medical and hospital supplies, as well as food, to the Hospital Group can be given directly to Lourdes Hospital in Sta. Mesa, Manila in the Philippines.

From the US, to donate to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital for the Hospital Group:

Bank: Union Bank of the Philippines

Account Name: East Manila Hospital Managers Corp.

Account Number: 131660000019

Account Type: Dollar Account

SWIFT Code: UBPHPHMM

For more info, visit <https://www.mphhi.com.ph/our-businesses/our-hospitals/>

- "By designating a hospital within the Group to be the main referral facility for PUM/PUI and COVID infected cases, we are aligning our efforts with the government to address the pandemic," Atty. Pilar Nenuca Almira, who currently heads both the Our Lady of Lourdes and Cardinal Santos Medical Center, said.

SPC - HEALTH CARE MINISTRY

The Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres administer 13 hospitals in the country, seven owned, one co-owned, and five administered. Five of these hospitals are in Luzon (Dasmariñas, Cavite two, Baguio, Tuguegarao, and Aritao, NV); four in the Visayas (Cebu City, Dalaguete in Cebu, Iloilo City, and Antique; and four in Mindanao (Surigao City, Cagayan de Oro, Maramag, Bukidnon, and General Santos City).

Following is the report on the measures and interventions of the 13 hospitals of the Sisters of St. Paul in response to the COVID-19 crisis:

A. NATION-WIDE

All our hospitals abide by the mandates imposed by the Department of Health to all health care facilities based on the capability of resources in terms of:

1. Preparedness: Awareness, Flow of Communication, Cooperation, and Collaboration
2. Availability and Inventory of Resources: Manpower, Materials and Supplies, Physical Set-up
3. Protocols and Procedures of Patient Care Management: Implementation of Covid-19 Algorithm
4. Accurate Recording and Reporting of Cases
5. Referral System

B. HOSPITAL-BASED

In SPC owned and administered hospitals, services to the lost, least, and last begin with the patients and stakeholders under our care. As the saying goes: **CHARITY begins at HOME!**

1. Direct patient care of COVID patients ensuring full safety of PPE to assigned frontliners
2. Free meals and accommodation for frontliners, including during their quarantine period after patients are discharged as negative.

3. Support a meal-cost out from a family budget: All personnel (institutional and outsourced) are beneficiaries of free meals while on duty; to include PNP personnel on checkpoints near the hospital who are also given one meal during the 8-hour shift instead of a rationed meal given them but on salary deduction.
4. Remuneration for staff on quarantine. Hazard pay given to front-liners.
5. Food and grocery items shared with families of staff who are unable to go on duty due to lockdown restrictions in their barangays/towns,
5. Financial assistance for pregnant staff who are not allowed to go on duty; minimal amount given by some hospitals to all personnel.
6. For the hospital staff with difficulty in reporting for duty due to lockdown, the following are given:
 - Free accommodation within the hospital premises. Some of them who are in dormitories are 'prejudiced' by their dorm mates every time they come from duty.
 - Free transportation to and from duty for all staff.
7. In close coordination with the declared COVID-hospital (government-based) in the province, we accommodate all non-COVID patients referred on charity service recommended by attending physicians and assessed by the hospital social worker with the following benefits:
 - a. free ward accommodation and professional fee
 - b. 100% discount on diagnostic and laboratory procedures
 - c. NBB (No Balance Billing) scheme of PHIC, which is supposedly affordable only in government hospitals.

The above supporting measures are implemented to decongest patients in the COVID hospitals and maximize utilization of material and manpower resources needed to care for confirmed COVID patients.
8. Resource sharing of medical and food supplies with government and other private hospitals in the locality.
9. Sewing of PPEs and face masks given to hospital staff and out-patients on dialysis.
10. Lectures on COVID 19 given by Sisters and employees in the medical field to the clergy.
11. Recitation of *Oratio Imperata* for COVID-19 Prayer by all hospital personnel every change of shift.
12. Daily Holy Hour in the Sisters' convent.

PASTORAL MINISTRY

The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Paul runs seven Pastoral Centers located in Cardinal Santos Medical Center in San Juan City, Bagac in Bataan, Nueva Era in Ilocos Norte, Bicol Sanitarium in Cabusao, Camarines Sur, Culion in Palawan, Iloilo City, and Pagadian City.

- In one community, when the Sisters pray in the parish church with only the priest and the Sisters in attendance, a loudspeaker is used so the faithful in the neighborhood can follow the Mass and other prayers.
- The Sisters coordinate with Church lay leaders regarding the distribution of goods for the poorest of the poor families of the parish.

- The donation of Php14,000 from two children was shared with the frontliners in the parish.
- The Sisters have decided to cook only one viand daily to be in “literal’ solidarity with the poor.
- The Sisters share medicines and grocery items with the poor families in the parish.

SPECIAL APOSTOLATE

St. Paul Center for Renewal (SPCR) in Alfonso, Cavite (A retreat house)

- The Sisters opened their doors to the family of their staff members who sought shelter with them for fear of the virus because their health is compromised in their small houses. Since there are children, the Sisters take time in giving them catechism lessons, reading, writing, and art. The Sisters also share some of the produce of their vegetable garden to their guests.

FINANCIAL HELP:

- To different beneficiaries through the AMRSP
- To different beneficiaries through the Religious Discernment Group
- Php50,000 donation received by the Sisters of the Provincial House from a private individual was distributed to the following:
 1. Php 10,000 for the IPs in the mountains of Tanay, Rizal
 2. Php 10,000.00 for a parish in Montalban c/o Fr. Jeffrey Santos
 3. Php 10,000.00 worth of grocery items to 25 families of blind people in Antipolo
 4. Php 20,000.00 food packs good for two weeks for the Antipolo City Hospital System Annex 2
- Php 100,000.00 donation of St. Paul University Surigao for frontliners, care of Sr. Ma. Evangeline Anastacio, SPC of St. Paul University Manila
- Cash donations were given by the following SPC schools to procure PPEs:

St. Paul School Balayan, St. Paul School San Rafael, St. Paul School Buug, St. Paul College Makati, St. Paul College Pasig, St. Anthony School of Maticao, St. Paul University Surigao, St. Paul University Manila, St. Paul University San Miguel, Bulacan, and St. Paul University Quezon City

FINANCIAL HELP/REMUNERATIONS FOR OUR OWN EMPLOYEES

Due to the lockdown, SPC schools have come up with schemes to help their employees who cannot report for work. Following are examples of schemes employed by our institutions:

- Release of the regular salaries of the college faculty in April;
- Release of the vacation pay of the Senior High School (SHS) teachers who have satisfactorily served for at least two years;
- Release of a special remuneration equivalent to one-half month to SHS teachers who have satisfactorily served for one year;
- Application of unused leave credits for regular Academic Non-Teaching Staff, Office Staff, and Maintenance Personnel who are not able to do their work at home;

- Release of the DOLE-CAMP subsidy of Php5,000 to qualified employees.
- One SPC school gave the full salary of its employees during the Expanded Community Quarantine Period. The first-year probationary teachers who are not yet qualified to receive summer pay were given Php5,000 assistance.
- One SPC school's assistance to its 88 outsourced personnel affected by the Expanded Community Quarantine consisted of Php1000 each, one cavan of rice, some canned goods, and additional P2,500 each delivered through Palawan Express.
- Another SPC school remits the salaries of its faculty and staff via ATM every 15 days during the lockdown.

All the forms of assistance that we have extended so far are so little compared to all the blessings that we have received and continue to receive from God. This is the time to discover the “hero” in each one of us. As Pope Francis says in his homily during the Easter Vigil Services at the Vatican:

“How beautiful it is to be Christians who offer consolation, who bear the burdens of others and who offer encouragement: messengers of life in a time of death! In every Galilee, in every area of the human family to which we all belong and which is part of us—for we are all brothers and sisters— may we bring the song of life.... May the hearts of those who have enough be open to filling the empty hands of those who do not have the bare necessities.”

Sister Lilia Thérèse Tolentino, SPC
Provincial Superior
Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres