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THANK YOU VERY MUCH

"The world has grown cold, it is for us Catholics to rekindle the vital fire which has been extinguished"

Blessed Frederic Ozanam

In the face of an unprecedented pandemic, we give praise and thanks to God for His unfailing love, care and blessings bestowed upon us all throughout this challenging time.

With the advent of the Movement Control Order, most of SSVP's activities were deferred including our Food Bank project (joint collaboration with Care for Creation Ministry), 50th Anniversary Charity Dinner, Samaritan Hope Home and visitation to the BECs.

We thank God that we were able to elect new Society board members at our 50th Annual General Meeting on 29th February 2020, just before the lockdown. This enabled us to form a strong COVID-19 support team who could provide tangible assistance to those in need on a person-to-person basis.

Newer members were elected to serve and special mention goes out to Sis Nancy Wong- our new Secretary and Bro James Prabagar – our Rumah Pengajian Xavier (RPX) Home Committee Chairman. A note of thanks and appreciation to both Bro Melvin Victor who served as Chairman for RPX and Sis Frieda Koh as Secretary, for the year 2019/2020. May they continue to inspire the younger generation to take up leadership roles at SSVP and to serve in faith, hope and charity.

We anticipate unemployment rates to go up post-MCO and the B40 group will take an even bigger hit in the coming months. Together with the Church, let us be more aware that poverty, suffering and loneliness



are present for many in our community, and reach out in love to those afflicted.

Heartfelt thanks to the Lost Food Project Foundation, Bangsar Village Grocer and Pitstop Community Café for their sponsorship in-kind, which helped the homes and Friends-In-Need (FIN) survive the difficult months.

Gratitude goes out to all our benefactors and donors who have contributed generously towards SSVP's works of charity, our RPX home as well as the COVID-19 funds.

Last but not least, thanks to all our sponsors for the **Sponsor-A-Child** programme as their sponsorship was timely to help operational and administrative aspects of RPX.

Sister Irene Sibert
President



COVID19 - A HELPING HAND

SFX's Care for Creation Ministry, together with the Society of St Vincent de Paul, Conference of SFX Church mobilised their joint resources to launch the **COVID-19 Emergency Support Project** on 20th March 2020. This was in response to the pastoral care letter from the Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur under Movement Control Order (MCO) dated 17th March 2020, which encouraged the lay faithful to support and care for the needs of the vulnerable, the elderly, the sick, those who are living alone and those who have been affected financially by this crisis.

The almost overnight response by the two ministers to help alleviate the sufferings of the poor and underprivileged was truly a testament of reaching out in love, regardless of race, creed or colour.

Starting out as a mobile food bank to deliver rations to the poor, elderly, sick and homebound, movement became limited due to the enhanced MCO.

The funds were instead credited into the beneficiaries' bank accounts for them to purchase basic necessities. The project has reached out to 99 households, benefitting in total approximately 300 people to date. Out of the total RM35,265 disbursed, 13% was released to support the migrant community via the SFX Migrant Ministry.



Home visits just before MCO was enforced

Category	# Households	RM
Aged	8	5,029
Handicapped	4	2,015
Medical Issues	4	3,100
Unemployed, lost income	82	25,037
Others	1	84
Total	99	35,265

Generous parishioners and donors came forward to contribute to the fund, as the number of recipients increased with the subsequent MCO extensions. The funding expanded to provide temporary financial relief to those who lost their income due to the prolonged MCO and those who were fired from their jobs. We pray that God will continue to use each one of us as his instruments as we see the face of Christ in the poor while reaching out to the less fortunate, poor and vulnerable.

SSVP MISSION RETREAT

U n i t e d w i t h C h r i s t , O n e B o d y , O n e S p i r i t

On 22 February 2020, SSVP went on a two-days formation retreat led by SFX Parish Priest Fr Norris Seenivasan, SJ, at Maranatha Retreat House in Janda Baik.

The retreat sessions were based on 'The Rule of the Society of St Vincent de Paul' where members are encouraged to comprehend and comply.

In his introduction Fr Norris said, "We go on a retreat to get away from distractions in order that we can better focus on God. It is the time of profound and prolonged prayer." It is not about the amount of good works that you do, but what is God calling *you* to do? Life is a personal journey that each person has to make.

AU REVOIR BROTHER THIBAUT

Why did I come?

Bonjour! My name is Thibault. A 23-year old graduate in corporate finance, I applied for the MEP (Paris Foreign Missions) volunteer programme as I wanted to give back to society. MEP assigned me to Rumah Pengajian Xavier (RPX)

under the auspices of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, SFX Church. I was initially surprised as I had no prior experience handling teenagers and thought I would be assigned to providing economic consultancy to NGOs or even old folks homes! I surrendered to God to guide my path and trusted His Plan for me.



I assisted the home administrator to help instil life skills, moral values and the importance of education - as best I knew. During my first three months here, the boys were occupied with school, tuition, mentors, counsellors and their timetable was packed.

And then Covid-19 hit us and we had to follow the Movement Control Order! I suddenly had many extra hats to wear and needed to be more hands-on helping the boys in their various needs.

Guiding light

I discovered my mission and felt more fulfilled in my role. With more time to understand and help each boy according to his pace of growth I felt humbled to be able to contribute to their upbringing. They

themselves had time to grow in friendship with each other and we got to learn about each other's background on a more personal basis. One of my biggest struggles was to keep them engaged in their studies. Without much knowledge of the Malaysian school syllabus, I helped out in Maths, English and devised

other ways to help tutor them so that they do not get left behind in their studies.

Adventure, Faith & Service

I want to thank God for the experiences that have made me grow spiritually and mentally and for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us and the opportunities He has provided for me to give back to society all the way here in Malaysia. I count my blessings for the time spent, and hope the boys will continue to grow into responsible and well-rounded adults who can contribute back to their families and society one day too.

For The Love of Jose's Mama...

Pada 28hb March, waktu pagi, saya telah dikejutkan dengan menerima panggilan talipon daripada keluarga saya di Kampung Sungai Laut, Kota Marudu, Sabah. Berita sedih mengenai rumah keluarga Bapa saya sudah habis terbakar dijilat api. Api itu terlalu cepat merebak dan dalam masa yang singkat, rumah kayu kami sudah hangus terbakar.

Walau bagaimanapun, syukur kerana mama dan adik perempuan saya serta keluarganya sempat melarikan diri dan menyelamatkan nyawa mereka. Tetapi



Jose mama's house being rebuilt

WELL DONE MALINI

There are many children who are deprived of basic needs like food, clothing, shelter, education, healthcare, protection and love. Statistics show children from low-income families face more educational setbacks and obstacles than those from higher-income families. Education and lifelong learning are important tools for breaking the cycle of exclusion, poverty, domestic violence and family breakdown.

Selvarani is a 46-year-old single mother to seven children. She operates a stall in a school canteen, working long hours to feed her family. Her children are aged 9 – 21 years old. Despite not having formal education herself, Selvarani realises the importance of education and has managed to enrol her children in school to provide them with a better foundation to grow up and have successful careers.

Her eldest is daughter **Malini**, who is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Hospitality Management at City University Malaysia. Malini shared that despite the financial hardships growing up, her mother instilled discipline and moral values in them and emphasised the need to focus on their studies and to become successful. She has been doing well at Uni, scoring 5As + 1 B with a GPA of 3.74 last semester.

“My mother is my best friend and pillar of strength. She is the rock for our family and I admire her courage and resilience to put my siblings and me through school despite the many challenges we faced. I hope to make her proud by excelling in my degree, getting a job and being able to help my family financially one day.”

SSVP has been assisting Selvarani and her family with monthly cash aid to help them make ends meet, provided some food rations and paid the children’s school bus fees. In addition, SSVP managed to find a sponsor for Malini, who is supporting her with a monthly education allowance of RM300.

“I am grateful to SSVP for all their help and support shown towards my family over the years. If not for them, we would not have gotten this far in life. They are always ready with a smile and a hug, welcoming us and making us feel like we belong. Most importantly, they always remind my siblings and me to continue studying hard so that we have a better chance of securing a good job and helping our loved ones move up in life. I will focus on my studies to honour my family, my sponsor and SSVP for their trust and faith in me,” shared Malini.



mother & daughter in front



Selvarani and her 7 Blessings

A TRIBUTE TO BROTHER HARRY

In March, 2020, our SSVP Conference lost a dear Vincentian, Brother Harry Lau who went back to the Lord.

As it was the start of Covid 19 Movement Control Order, the family of Brother Harry Lau had to do with a simple wake and funeral service in Paul Miki funeral parlour of SFX Church. Members of the Conference could not gather together for wake prayers due to MCO but were fortunate to be able to come in small numbers to pay their last respects. Brother Harry Lau was a simple and humble person, despite his career achievement as a lawyer and retired Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police.

He had a keen interest on the welfare and discipline of lads at Rumah Pengajian Xavier (RPX), an educational home run by our Conference. As a member of RPX Home Management Committee he was present to help the lads grow in self discipline and looked into areas that needed improvements to ensure our objectives of setting up the home could be better achieved. Besides RPX, he also contributed his police expertise and skills to help enhance the security and safety of SFX Church.

As a former senior police officer of the Royal Malaysian Police Force, he was instrumental in organising a memorable visit last August to the Royal Malaysia Training Centre (Pulapol) in Jalan Semarak.



30 children from RPX and other SSVP homes namely Rumah Ozanam and Rumah Keluarga Kami, were fortunate to make the visit that exposed them to how Police Inspectors were being trained and the kind of disciplined lives they led for a year. The highlight of which was witnessing how criminal activities such as drugs pedalling and snatch thefts cases were handled by the police. Brother Harry Lau even secretly hoped that some of the children would consider a career in the Police force and serve the nation.

We lost a faithful Vincentian member and we pray -
*May The Soul Of Our Beloved
Brother Rest In Peace.*

OUR FRIENDS IN NEED

Through the COVID-19 Emergency Support Project (with *Care for Creation Ministry*) plus generous donations from sponsors & well-wishers, we managed to reach out to a wide group of recipients. Here are some of their stories:

Case 1

A former recipient of SSVP aid, Mr J is wheelchair-bound and faced financial difficulty when he could not go around peddling his stationery during MCO. A one-off aid was extended to him and since he lives in Rawang with his family, his case was referred to St Jude Rawang parish. His determination to earn for his family and be independent is admirable – he is now doing food catering to help sustain his household.

Case 2

A parishioner who is a tuition teacher and lives in Kuala Lumpur, lost his income when classes were stopped during MCO. He even tried online teaching but that didn't work either. Saddled with no income and a host of payment issues, he reached out to SSVP which provided three months of financial relief to help tide him over. Members are praying that he will be able to regain and secure enough students to continue his classes and have some semblance of normalcy.

RPX-Blessings In The Face of Adversity

Rumah Pengajian Xavier (RPX), like many others, was faced with challenges when COVID-19 hit. The boys, who were accustomed to school and after-school activities and sports, found themselves confined to the house. The Home Committee initially struggled with a lack of fresh groceries as food banks ceased services. Alternate plans were developed and most importantly, some semblance of school continuity for the boys to help them cope with their studies.

The boys' schedule was drawn up, starting out with household chores before sitting down as a large family for breakfast. They had to look for positive quotes and share what it meant to them. In the following weeks, they had to select newspaper articles and discuss the contents in the group – providing opportunities for the boys to have greater awareness on issues while increasing their knowledge. Study groups were formed with personal computer homework time. Group exercises were organized, gardening activities took place and educational movies were screened at night.



As the Movement Control Order (MCO) phases extended, the boys became restless and somewhat upset. Besides being cooped up, they could not meet with their loved ones and visitors were also not allowed to the home. To help them truly understand the situation, they were assigned to find out about the pandemic and its worldwide implications. While they still missed the organised learning sessions and mingling with their school friends, this assignment

helped them realise the COVID-19 impact and how social distancing played an important part in flattening the curve.

Fired up with renewed understanding on the situation, their study time became meaningful with teachers sending across homework to be completed. The boys learnt how to be more focused, independent, and took the initiative to find study materials from reputable educational sites and manage their self-study time.

The boys are back in school now and due to the tutoring and timetables they had to adhere to, they can adjust to the new social rules outside RPX. In fact, their classmates sought their help in understanding the homework as the boys did not let up their studying and thus could cope with the current syllabus at school.



Their joy at being able to meet and speak with their friends and teachers again is inexpressible. They are taking the 'new norm' in their stride and have successfully adapted. The boys are now longing for the day when they can meet up with their loved ones and be embraced in their arms. Through the grace of God, all things are possible.

Lord, whatever may come my way I trust You. I know You are always there and will never give me more than I can handle. Jesus, I do trust in You. Amen!

Brother James Prabagar
RPX Home Committee Chairman

MIRACLES DO HAPPEN

Imagine being told that your heart is only functioning at 28%!! That was my reality. As a mother to a four-year-old child, it was an absolute shock to hear the news and I feared for my son's life.

I was admitted to the Interventional Cardiology Ward at PPUM. I underwent both electrocardiogram and echocardiogram procedures and was diagnosed with Decompensated Congestive Cardiac Failure (CCF) with my heart functioning at only 28%. I then had a fainting spell which indicated it was Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) in cardiogenic shock. After a CT Coros scan, I was advised to undergo an angiogram and potentially angioplasty, to help my heart function better.

After many rounds of negotiation, I managed to obtain RM5,000 from Jabatan Kerja Sosial Perubatan, Pembangunan Masyarakat PPUM for the angiogram procedure, but was short of RM5,000 needed to undergo the procedure. I was desperate and sought several avenues for a fighting chance of survival. God made a way for me and SSVP SFX Church PJ came through for me with the support of their donors and

members and I could afford to undergo the angiogram procedure. By God's grace, not only did the procedure go on without any complications, I was also not required to undergo an angioplasty. Following the procedure, I was then diagnosed as having '*non ischemic dilated cardiomyopathy*' and need to be on medication for the rest of my life due to my genetic predisposition.

As the angioplasty procedure was not required to be done on me, I managed to obtain a refund of part of SSVP's financial assistance given to me, from PPUM. SSVP has generously used the balance refund to help with my monthly medication bills.

I am not out of the woods yet, but I want to give praise and thanks to Almighty God, for the many miracles HE has given me throughout these times of uncertainty. God will make a way, when there seems to be none. He works in ways we cannot see, and He has made a way. I pray that God will continue to bless the good works of His servants at SSVP.

Ms. Lim.



OUR FRIENDS IN NEED ... continued from Pg. 5

'Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God'

Hebrews 13:16

Case 3

An elderly lady who should be enjoying her twilight years found herself saddled with a great grandchild toddler and an infant grandson when their parents abandoned them. The additional mouths to feed made her anxious and her neighbours took pity and tried to provide food from the little they had. When SSVP arrived at her doorstep bearing food items, she burst into tears giving praise to God for answering her cry for help. Her first words uttered were "*Jesus panggil you mari. Kalau bukan Jesus panggil, you tak akan mari*" (*Jesus brought you here. If Jesus did not direct you, you would not have been here*). This elderly lady gave witness to her faith that day, and the visiting team went home with renewed conviction that God will never abandon any of us in our hour of need.

Case 4

A single mother with three young children was just embarking on a food stall business in Subang Jaya when the Movement Control Order (MCO) was implemented. All her preparation and even the flyers she had printed went up in smoke. She could not pay her monthly flat rent at Pangsapuri Rakyat (PPR Flats) and was unable to buy basic provisions to feed her children. SSVP provided temporary financial relief for three months and referred her case to PIHD of St Thomas More Church for subsequent assistance as it is within their jurisdiction. She was grateful for the lifeline and is looking for ways to earn for her children.

For The Love of Jose's Mama...continued from Pg. 3

semua dokumen yang penting dan barang keperluan tidak dapat diselamatkan – semuanya hangus terbakar. Bah perpatah; *Berat mata memandang berat lagi bahu memikul*, yang dihadapi oleh mama saya. Setelah rumah kediaman mereka terbakar, kesusahan mereka pula lebih teruk kerana perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP or MCO) oleh kerajaan akibat Covid19. Tambah lagi, kampung saya jauh sangat dari Pekan Kota Marudu. Mereka terpaksa tinggal di sebuah pondok kecil yang *usang* (old and decaying). Walaupun pondok kecil itu sudah buruk kami bersyukur pada Tuhan Yesus Kristus kerana ada juga tempat tinggal.

Saya dan semua ahli keluarga tidak putus putus berdoa, kami persembahkan kepada Allah Bapa Di Syurga supaya semua dapat diringankan juga tabah menghadapi dugaan yang berlaku. Berkat doa kami sekeluarga dan juga doa doa daripada saudara saudara semua. Pelbagai derma dan sumbangan yang datang seperti barang keperluan asas dapat meringankan beban mama Jose.



After the fire, this photo of Mother Mary and Jesus was found intact



Almost completed

Saya, George Jose Jiun, bagi pihak keluarga mama, saya ingin mengucapkan Terima kasih, kepada saudara dan saudari yang murni dan ikhlas hati menghulurkan derma dan sumbangan. Saya dan keluarga mama saya juga amat bersyukur kepada Tuhan. Dengan sumbangan itu, dapatlah mama saya membina semula sebuah rumah kecil di tanah kebun sendiri untuk tinggal.

Ucapan terima kasih yang tidak terhingga ini juga kepada saudara Francis Lai serta umat umat SSVP St. Francis Xavier diatas kesudian mereka yang tidak terputus putus menghulurkan bantuan dan sumbangan kepada mama saya.

Akhir kata, saya dan keluarga, semoga kalian semua sentiasa diberkati oleh Tuhan Yesus Kristus. Amin.

Salam Damai Kristus,
George Jose Jiun



Part of a charred Bible verse that Jose and his family members believe "brought many kind souls to support and help rebuild the lives of his mother, sister and her family.

"Our Help Is In The Name of The Lord Who Made The Earth & Sky"

SSVP MISSION RETREAT...continued from Pg.2

Fr Norris briefly went through SSVP's history. The fact that it has survived for 170 years shows its effectiveness in its vocation to serve the poor, marginalised and all who suffer. *And who are the poor?* These are persons who have no option to choose and are rejected by society. It is important to realise that emotional and spiritual suffering are often more acute than material poverty.

Personal contact with the suffering is the distinctive characteristic of Vincentian Spirituality. Home visits to the poor express what is most intimate in SSVP's commitment. Fr Norris hopes that more SFX parishioners will interact directly with the poor.

Vincentians were also reminded that our service must always be balanced and not all-consuming, that is, we must nurture our family life and friendships. This enables us to bear with each other's failings. Presidents at all levels of the Society should endeavour to be servants because a dominating leader will de-motivate people and ultimately, harm the Society.

At our final brainstorming session, many points of interest were brought up including a need to care for our sick and elderly. Fr Norris has come to realise that many SFX parishioners are home-bound, disabled, elderly and alone. There is also a need to care for the caregivers themselves.

President Irene Sibert mentioned that Blessed Frederick Ozanam was a young man when he first founded SSVP but these days most SFX parishioners think of the Society as a 'retirement club'. She stressed the need to change this mindset, "it's time to become a happening society" and encourage the younger generation to join our mission. Members agreed that a paradigm shift is needed in terms of empowering the poor. Some of the earlier projects started by SSVP did not succeed - what went wrong? How can we better motivate FINS (Friends In Need) to become independent and bring it to the next level. The PICHA project and Caring Moms Facebook group were pitched as examples of how to empower others to become financially independent.

Retreat session ended with Mass and our sincere thanks to Fr Norris for his guidance and companionship.





HELP US TO GIVE BACK TO THE NEEDY/POOR

Title _____ Company/Organisation/Mr/Mrs/Ms _____ Date : _____

Full Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Handphone _____

Email _____

I would like to support and make a contribution as per below :

- Enclosed Cheque/Bank Draft/Money Order for RM _____
made payable to **“YAYASAN OZANAM SSVP”**
- Bank transfer for RM _____ to **CIMB BANK**
Account No. 8003392720, Account Name : YAYAYSAN OZANAM SSVP
*(*Please whatsapp a copy of bank-in slip to +6017 2961213 for tax exempt receipt)*
- I need more information on how I can donate/sponsor/volunteer

*One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the
LORD and He will repay him for his good deed*

Proverbs 19:17



*Giving is not just about making a donation,
Your small change can transform a young person's life*

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* We provide tax exemption receipts for donations above RM50, please
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