

Office of the Provincial
PHILIPPINE PROVINCE
SOCIETY OF JESUS

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TO BE POSTED

Subject: Appeal for Assistance to Victims of Typhoon Yolanda

In Father General's brief conversation with me shortly before I left Rome on 9 November, he conveyed deep concern and prayers for the victims of super Typhoon Yolanda ("Haiyan"). All our Jesuits are thankfully safe (though a few are still trying to establish contact with family members). But thousands of our people lost their lives; other untold thousands, their homes and properties. It has already been acknowledged that this typhoon is the worst this year, and perhaps the worst natural calamity ever to strike the Philippines. Some estimates put the death toll over 10,000. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council today reported nearly 2,900,000 families have been affected, some 24,000 houses damaged and major infrastructures devastated. Many parts of the Visayas still do not have electricity and communications, water, food, shelter and other basic necessities. Travel to and from some affected areas is still not possible.

The country still reels from the Zamboanga City siege and the earthquake that struck Bohol and Cebu a few weeks ago. Evacuees in those afflicted regions are still homeless, and yet now new cries arise from people suffering in other calamity-stricken areas. In view of this, I strongly urge all our Jesuit communities and institutions 1) to mobilize resources to assist afflicted areas, 2) to simplify celebrations, including Christmas parties, so as to be in solidarity with our people, and 3) to gather our constituents, partners and friends to reflect and pray over these events and discern what courses of action to take.

I had wanted the traditional Province gathering on 01 January to serve as the launching of our Bicentennial Anniversary of the Restoration of the Society. In the spirit of the times we are in, let us use this occasion to reflect and pray over these events and make them part of a gathering in solidarity. Curtailing pre-prandials and keeping to

a simple menu will free funds to assist typhoon victims. The Restoration of the Society calls Jesuits to rekindle a new spirit in response to emerging peripheries. Let us reinvigorate that spirit by reaching out to our suffering people and collectively and concretely address these new and pressing challenges.

Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan (SLB) through its Director, Fr. Xavier C. Alpasa, S.J., is coordinating all our efforts to assist victims of Yolanda.

- Funds can be transferred through its bank (BPI [Loyola-Katipunan Branch], Peso Checking Account # 3081-111-61, Dollar Account # 3084-0420-12, Swift Code: BOPIPHMM, Routing #: 021-000-21).
- Checks can be made out to *Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan*, Loyola House of Studies, Ateneo de Manila University Campus, Loyola Heights, 1108 Quezon City.
- The Philippine Jesuit Foundation (PJF) in New York also accepts donations. Please ask your contacts and friends to indicate in the memo “Yolanda Calamity Fund” to avail of the free service fee. PJF Donors can also earn tax credit for every donation made.
- Bank transfers in the U.S. can be made through our Merrill Lynch bank (Account # 176-04A01). Checks in the U. S. can be addressed to The Philippine Jesuit Foundation, Box 312, New York, NY 10028, through Fr. Victor R. Salanga, S.J.

I commend all these efforts, and all our suffering people, to your prayer.

Fraternally in Our Lord,



ANTONIO F MORENO, S.J.