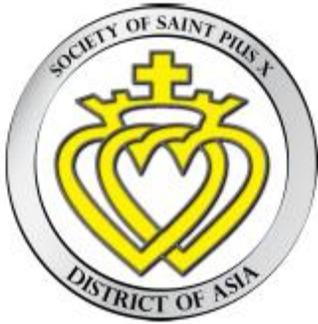


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Operation Yolanda note #8

February 15, 2014

From Yolly Gamutan, our chief nurse

Dearest Doctor L.,

Thank you for your kind mail.

Thank you for your offer to help with the patients. I have resorted to sending our patients to Médecins sans Frontières for the follow up management. They do not have medicines, we do. They see our patients' lab results and write prescriptions and the patients come back to me. If they order more lab tests, then I send the patients to whichever hospital has the test - this is the time consuming part, since time and time again the hospitals run out of films or reagents or whatever, so we need to be patient in going round and round till we find the one that has already replenished stocks and then we get a schedule.

There is still a long list of patients needing follow up but things are slow here and, alone, I really cannot do much. Today we discharged the patient who had below knee amputation. We had to go to Ormoc (100km) to get blood for his transfusion. And he had to go out to other hospitals for diagnostic tests. Hopefully next week we will admit the first case for thyroidectomy. Yesterday, the first case for surgical removal of tumor was deferred because the doctor wanted to rule out abscess so today we started the antibiotic treatment. There are two patients that we are helping to apply for Philhealth membership (medical insurance), but we have had to begin with their birth registration (these are adults so their birth registration takes a longer process and longer trips to their birthplaces which is anywhere outside Tacloban!) and each application has to go through the bureaucratic wait.

The mission has blessed so many people here. I hope I can already type all the updates regarding the patients needing follow up care so that the joys of the patients will also be shared by the doctors who cared for them. Many patients are grateful for the continued care and they are all asking me when the kind doctors are coming back. They actually miss their gentle doctors!

The catechism children who persist in coming to the chapel despite serious tests before allowing them to enter have finally warmed me up. Every morning they shout their new songs to the Blessed Virgin

Mary as they fetch pails of water from the school to their houses. Today they offered Valentine's cards and flowers to the Altar and I cannot help but smile at their open letters to God. They demand more and more stories of saints... I told them gory stories of martyrs and incorruptible, and saint Lucy plucking her eyes out to give to her suitor...and the little Chinese girl who was killed soon after she finished receiving the last Sacred Host that was scattered on the floor... they just keep begging for more. I hope I don't run out of files in my head. They want to receive Holy Communion soon and Confirmation too.. but I can't fast track their lessons.

Rosa Mystica Mission is getting popular. This morning a man who survived a vehicular accident came to the chapel. He asked for help to have his wounds dressed. While I was applying bandages he told me how he was urged by people who helped him up to go to our clinic for help. I hope one day they all will learn to come to the chapel for the Sacraments too. Some patients had been asking for the Mass schedule, but only God knows if these people will really make their way to the Mass.

God bless you and all the volunteers, Doc!

Yours in Rosa Mystica,

Yolly

Note from Fr. Couture

Many thanks to all those who have donated and who continue for the Philippines. There has been reports on the Rosa Mystica Mission of Jan. 18-27 in the French website:

http://www.laportelatine.org/international/communic/presse/asia/2014/rosa_mystica_140118/rosa_mystica_140118.php

And a photo album report at:

http://acim-asia.com/Medical_Mission_2014.htm

The above recent news of Miss Yolly show that medical follow-up has continued after the end of the Medical Mission on January 27 (which saw more than 3,500 patients in 8 days), and the conditions and logistics are still very difficult.

The building projects are also still ongoing, and will go on for at least another month. We should have fresh photos next week on our website (www.sspxasia.com).

As of today, we have received more than USD\$400,000 (295,000 EUR).

Of this, so far we have spent for the victims:

Php 3,300,000 (USD\$ 74,000; 54,000 EUR) on medical expenditures

Php 4,200,000 (USD \$ 94,200; 68,800 EUR) on the reconstruction efforts.

For the greater glory of God and the honor of the Immaculata!

Fr D. Couture