

## MESSAGE

Together with my heartfelt greetings on this event is my sincerest congratulations to all the community leaders in various fields of endeavour who will be recognized for their selfless and untiring dedication in service. Hospicio de San Jose in Ayala Bridge, Manila, Philippines, joins you in spirit and gives thanks to Almighty God for the gift of persons that you have been to society.

Since its foundation in 1810, Hospicio de San Jose has stood as a beacon of hope and succor for persons in poverty situations from the “womb to the tomb”, from “infancy to old age” . Its walls have provided refuge and safety for those who have been relegated to the margins of our society. It is the first charitable institution in the Philippines, a forerunner of social work and have been an exemplar of compassion and charity, demonstrating the Filipino people’s boundless capacity for extending a helping hand to those in need.

It has been managed by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul since 1865. Truly, God’s most beloved- the children and the youth, the persons with special needs, the elderly and those who find themselves in crisis situations, especially the abused and trafficked women and children and the homeless people have been welcomed and have regained their basic human dignity in the process of being served within this “Haven of Hope”.

On the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the presence of the Sisters, Hospicio was granted a Level III Accreditation Status by the Department of Social Welfare and Development for all its four major programs, hence, making it a “Center of Excellence”. As such, it also enjoys a “donee status”. Hospicio de San Jose is a testimony through the years of God’s Loving Providence. He continued to sustain its needs and services through numerous donors who give from their “widow’s mite” or from their surpluses. Hence, Hospicio was able to serve persons in the “peripheries” for the past 207 years. There is still a lot to be done for these least brethren of ours. Hence, Hospicio has launched certain projects this 2017 to better the lives of the people under their care and to achieve financial and food sustainability:

- **Sponsorship of a child or an elderly:** A donation of \$100. on a monthly basis can already provide education, food, etc. to a child and medicines and food to a special child or elderly, psycho-therapy and healing sessions for the abused children. The sponsor may choose a particular category he/she wishes to provide for.
- **Sponsor a house for a homeless family:** A lot of street families line up the pavements and parks of Metro Manila. They are invited to Hospicio for formation and a hot meal three times a week. Some of them are prepared for livelihood through skills training. Now, homes are slowly built in a DC property in Bulacan, prioritizing families. Calamities, disasters and the war in Mindanao has increased the number of street people in the urban cities, hence, the never-ending problem of homelessness. Hospicio has finished 10 housing units which have been occupied and have 24 units more waiting for sponsors.
- **Food Sustainability:** through organic hog-raising, organic vegetable gardening, chickens, ducks, turkeys, goats ( all in Bulacan property).

- **A Multi-purpose pavilion for the Street People** – to provide a place for the feeding, formation sessions and emergency “night shelter” for the homeless.
- **A Livelihood and Skills Training Center** which will provide short courses in Baking, Cooking, Housekeeping and other skills to equip the unemployed heads of families, especially women, with skills for income generation activities.

For the readers whose hearts have been touched by our appeal and desires to sponsor a particular project, you may contact us through this email address: [mospg.evidente@gmail.com](mailto:mospg.evidente@gmail.com) or call (063-2-7342366)

As the promise of a brighter tomorrow motivates us in this time of resurgence, we will need partners to cascade the fruits we now reap along the straight and righteous path. Let us work hand in hand to improve the lives of persons in poverty situations so that our dream of a more humane, more equitable society will be realized within our lifetime and sustained through future generations.

Sr. Maria Socorro Pilar G. Evidente, DC  
Administrator  
Hospicio de San Jose  
Ayala Bridge, Manila