

CHARIS appeals for donations to fund



Philippine villagers retrieving what is left of their belongings after the typhoon struck.

The Singapore archdiocese's umbrella body for overseas humanitarian aid has sent money and material assistance to help victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives, Singapore (CHARIS) says it has donated \$200,000 in emergency relief aid to Caritas Philippines and is in close contact with it to identify critical needs on the ground.

CHARIS has also donated \$10,000 worth of water filters to its affiliate, A Call To Share (ACTS), to send to the Salesian Sisters in Philippines for use in the disaster area.

CHARIS is now appealing for donations to its Humanitarian Aid Fund in support of such efforts.

Archbishop Goh has also released a message to Catholics in Singapore following Typhoon Haiyan. "As a Church, we are saddened by this loss of lives and massive destruction of property and livelihood," he said in the message. "The pain and anxiety is especially felt by us in Singapore because a very significant proportion of our Catholics hail from the Philippines, or have family and friends there."

The archbishop added that "it is important that we support and show

solidarity for our Filipino brothers and sisters in Philippines as well as in Singapore who are impacted". He urged all to "give generously" to the Humanitarian Aid Fund to support relief and reconstruction efforts.

An archdiocese-wide solidarity Mass for the survivors of the typhoon and the earthquake that hit the Philippines earlier will be held at the Church of Sts Peter and Paul on Nov 26 at 6 pm. Archbishop Goh will celebrate the Mass together with two Filipino priests. All are invited. A reception will follow after the Mass.

Several parishes and groups are also holding Masses to pray for the victims and collect monetary donations for the Humanitarian Aid Fund.

To donate to the fund, send a crossed cheque payable to "Humanitarian Aid Fund" and mail it with your name and contact information to: CHARIS, 55 Waterloo Street, #07-02 Catholic Centre, Singapore 187954. For more information on the fund and the Mass, contact Albert Lim (6338-0182) or email info@charis-singapore.org.

For the archbishop's full message, visit http://www.catholic-news.sg/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9427 □