

# Solidarity Mass held for those affected by Nepal quake

By Lorna O'Hara

Those who attended a special Mass for the people affected by the Nepal quake felt that it was important to show solidarity and be with those who are suffering.

After the May 10 Mass at the Church of St Ignatius, a 28-year-old Nepalese man told CatholicNews that a few of his colleagues' relatives died in Nepal.

The man who declined to be named also said that one of his ex-colleagues, along with his entire family, died in the disaster.

"Everything is destroyed. Those who have been directly affected need food and shelter and they will also need their houses to be rebuilt," he said.

During the Mass, Jesuit Fr Colin Tan said in his homily that

the Catholic Church is "in solidarity with you [the Nepalese community], your family members and your loved ones".

He also said that he "knew of a friend who was in Nepal [when the disaster struck]. Unfortunately, I have not received any news from him."

Fr Colin told the crowd that "God is planting a seed of love, a seed of compassion and a seed of solidarity to reach out beyond yourself" to help those who have been greatly affected by the disaster.

The church was packed and people were spotted standing along the aisles.

During the offertory, members of the Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives, Singapore, went up in pairs to offer up



Jesuit Fr Colin Tan accepting items which will be sent to Caritas Nepal by members of the Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives, Singapore.

baskets of various disaster relief items such as a lamp, a jerry can, a water filtration bottle and a tarpaulin sheet.

During the prayers of the

faithful, laity also prayed for the victims of the earthquake.

"The Mass serves as a reminder of the sanctity of life and the value of people coming together

to pray for the Nepalese community," said Ms Claudia Tan, 27.

Ms Rani Suppiah, who used to be a volunteer teacher in Nepal, agreed.

"I am happy that this Mass was held for those affected by the earthquake. It's the least that we can do," she said. □

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