



## Yakap-Eskwela Project A Well-spring of Hope for Yolanda Survivors

Five (5) months after super typhoon Yolanda wrought destruction in Central Visayas, SSC-Manila relief operations have now moved on to rehabilitation and recovery efforts. Mindful of the urgent call to respond towards normalization of life of the poor in Tacloban after the November disaster, Sr. Mary Thomas, OSB, SSC-Manila President, spearheaded and organized the adopt-a-school program aimed at assisting public school children and teachers get back to their classrooms and start their regular teaching-learning interactions.

Hence, on January 19-21, 2014, the 5<sup>th</sup> [Oplan-Yolly@st.scho](mailto:Oplan-Yolly@st.scho) team led by Sr. Mary Thomas, OSB accompanied by S. Regina David, OSB, Dean Becky Marquez and Prof. Aurora Lumibao travelled to Tacloban and distributed relief goods and at the same time conducted initial consultations with the school principal of Tanauan II Central Elementary School, Palo, Leyte and the parish priest of the community to assess their needs where assistance can be extended. Seeking for financial and moral support, Sr. Tammy invited the Benedictine community to generously provide support to this project Yakap-Eskwela which has become a consortium of Benedictine Colleges in Metro Manila – SSC-Manila, San Beda College- Alabang, San Beda College-Mendiola and San Beda College-Taytay.

Having solicited sufficient donations from generous benefactors and donors for the project, the 6<sup>th</sup> team of a huge contingent composed of 24 administrators, faculty, staff, and alumnae headed by Sr. Tammy and S. Celine Saplala, OSB flew to Tacloban for the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Yakap-Eskwela project of the consortium of Benedictine Colleges in Metro Manila held on March 28, 2014 at Tanauan II Central School. The signatories of the MOA were Sr. Mary Thomas Prado, OSB, SSC-Manila President, Sr. Celine Saplala, OSB, Yakap-Eskwela Project manager, and Ms. Elena Latoza, Principal, Tanauan II Central, Fr. Ronel Taboso,

Parish Priest of Tanauan, and Mr. Wilbert Namoc, representative, San Beda College, Alabang. In addition, the group distributed a principal's kit, teaching tool kits for teachers and school supplies for all the students. Likewise, the school was given tables and chairs, balls, stuffed toys among others for its use.

Rising from ashes to a well-spring of hope for the teachers and children of Tacloban who lost so much from the devastation of super typhoon Yolanda, we have high hope that Yakap-Eskwela project will expand its reach to other schools in Central Visayas who are in dire need of immediate rehabilitation and recovery. Moreover, we continue to call on generous-hearted people to rally behind the completion of the SSC-M housing and resettlement project, dubbed as the "Sambayanan ni San Benito," for the homeless survivors of typhoon Yolanda. In sum, we invite all to join forces with the Scholastican community to embrace the adopt-a-school and the resettlement projects that in all things God may be glorified.

By: Sr. Rosalina Fajardo, OSB

