

MANILA PRIORY NEWSLETTER

St. Scholastica's Priory
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A Promise Kept / A Dream Come True

On December 6, 2013, almost a month after super typhoon Yolanda struck, Sister Raphaela Handler, OSB, appealed for help in behalf of the Divine Word Hospital (DWU), Tacloban. She appeared on TV in a fund raising show of Ein Herz Für Kinder in Berlin, Germany. On the spot, Mr. Joe Kaeser, CEO of Siemens Germany pledged to give an ultra sound and an X Ray machines. Sister Raphaela, a Medical Doctor by profession, knows that a CT Scan Machine will be more beneficial. She approached Mr. Joe Kaeser after the show and requested to exchange the two items with just one – a CT Scan. To this request, Mr. Joe Kaeser could not readily reply YES or NO!

Negotiations between Mr. Juan Miguel Tan, Senior VP for Siemens Healthcare Philippines and Sister Sarah Gocela, OSB then Divine Word Hospital Administrator generated the actualization of the DWH's dream of having a new CT Scan. On June 25, 2014, Ms. Elizabeth Straudinger-Leibrecht, Executive VP of Siemens Healthcare Asia Pacific, representing Mr. Joe Kaeser, Mr. Juan Miguel Tan and other officers from Siemens graced the blessing of a new Siemens CT Scan Machine. The machine was blessed by Archbishop John Du, DD, Archbishop of Palo. Mother Adelaida Ygrubay, OSB, Prioress of St. Scholastica's Priory-Manila, some members of DWH Board of Trustees, members of DWH Executive Committee, the communities of the Society of the Divine Word and the Missionary Benedictine Sisters and some guests were present to witness the memorable event.

The blessing of other new donated equipment such as the fluoroscopy machine donated by Caritas-Barcelona, the pediatric and nursery equipment donated by Ein Herz Fur Kinder, a 2D echo machine donated by Missio-Austria and various laboratory equipment funded through donations received by St. Scholastica's Priory – Manila were done simultaneously by different SVD priests present. In addition, the newly repaired Station 4A and a new Station in the ground floor of the St. Benedict's Building and the newly acquired digital mammogram were also blessed.



REBUILDING LIVES IN DWH from the Human Resource Department

Hand in hand with reconstructing damaged structures and replacing broken equipment, the Divine Word Hospital Administration also gave priority in rebuilding not only the houses but also the lives of its employees.

“God Does Not Disappoint Us In Our Hope: Befriending The Places of Pain in our Lives” was the theme of this year's golden jubilee retreat held at St. Scholastica's Center of Spirituality in Tagaytay attended by 231 DWH employees and Doctors. The retreat was planned, designed and scheduled to help the employees cope and move on after their traumatic and painful experiences brought about by the ravages of super typhoon Yolanda.

Scheduled on all four weekends of March, 2014, the retreat was facilitated by Brother Ed Verdadero and co-facilitated by Sister Pauline Trivino, OSB and Sister Mary Bernard Lansang, OSB alternately. The inputs and reflection sessions were tailored to let the employees realize and experience God's presence in such pathetic circumstances of varied losses.

Dr. Susanna Ida of the Out Patient Department asserted that “The retreat was a great help to all of us. First, we got to go to a beautiful place (Tagaytay), a respite from the destruction we saw around us. It's a debriefing too because we got to express our pains, fears and anxieties and were comforted and consoled by each other and the facilitators. But most of all, we were spiritually strengthened and renewed - giving us new courage to move on, new hope that our life could get better and trust that God will see us through these difficult times.”

By: Sister Ana Maria Raca, OSB

