



Lenten Giving at SSVP

This Lenten season, SSVP Conferences across Singapore worked with the local Catholic community to extend help to the poor. The Conferences teamed with schools and parishes on various Lenten almsgiving projects. The following are some of the projects that were undertaken.

SSVP Conference of St Peter

The Church of Saints Peter and Paul (SPP) launched Project 51, an initiative for the spiritual family of the parish to draw closer to God. SPP provided resources and information for parishioners to embark on a meaningful journey of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during the penitential days of Lent. Parishioners were encouraged to set aside \$5 daily or drop every \$5 note they get during this period in the collection box placed in the church for SSVP's Friends-In-Need (FINs). As at 25 April, \$4,250 was collected.

SSVP Conference of SPP also launched a virtual "Lenten Wishing Tree" for parishioners to fulfill wishes made by their FINs as well as those from Our Lady of Lourdes. These wishes included electrical appliances, furniture, meals, befriending and prayers and almost all wishes were fulfilled.

Distribution of items started



SSVP Youth Team with Vincentians and FINs from SPP Conference.



in March and the national SSVP Youth Team joined SPP Conference members to help distribute them as well as to extend friendship to the FINs.

Said Adelaine Ng, president of the SPP Conference: "Our FINs were very happy to welcome the SSVP youths to their homes. The youngsters taught the FINs basic handphone skills while on their part the FINs shared their struggles and challenges."

The youths enjoyed the experience. Said Chloe: "Although there were some language barriers, we had very fruitful conversations with the FINs."

Added Karyn: "We had the opportunity to conduct Synod conversations with the Catholic FINs. During the discussions they shared their spiritual journey and life experiences. It made me realise that there is always something new to be learnt."

For Kyla, the whole experience was humbling. "I felt lucky to have

met Uncle Willy and to listen to his faith journey and the struggles he faces every day. It reminded me of the blessings I have taken for granted. He roams around on his wheelchair offering prayers and essential items to people. It was also very encouraging how God blessed him with so much hope and light to continue helping others even with his poor health condition," she said.

SSVP Conference of Holy Cross

Primary Level Catechists and SSVP Conference from the Church of the Holy Cross co-organised Open Our Hearts, God (OOH God!); a Lenten project to help children learn to give to others, especially to the needy in our community like SSVP's FINs.

For this Lenten almsgiving project, the children saved 20 cents a day for one month; \$6 in all. With this, they purchased items

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like milk, Milo and chocolates and dropped them off for distribution to FINs for Easter. The children also prepared a card with a special Easter message for our FINs.

SSVP Conferences of Holy Spirit and Risen Christ

These two Conferences joined forces and launched Share A Hope Project to help fulfill the hope of our FINs. This included lending a hand to help FINs move to new homes, say a prayer for special intentions, spend some time with the FINs as well as donating a meal or two and household items like a fan, pillow or washing machine. With strong support from parishioners, many of the “hopes” were quickly taken up.




Children from Church of the Holy Cross writing a special Easter message to be attached to their gift for our FINs.



SSVP Conference of Divine Mercy

In January, SSVP's Divine Mercy Conference launched “Project Grocery Drive”, an outreach initiative to get the parish community to donate basic necessities such as canned food, biscuits as well as toiletries for the residents living in a rental block on Pasir Ris Drive 6.

can make ends meet or pay the bill that is due. I have often admired the people in the news, going the extra mile to do something good for those in need. This led us to do something similar to help the needy.” 



The students of Hai Sing Catholic School also joined in the effort to donate the needed items as part of the school's Lenten project. Groceries were collected from parishioners on the last Sunday of the month over three months.



Groceries donated by parishioners from Church of Divine Mercy and students from Hai Sing Catholic School.



FINs have their Lenten wishes fulfilled in time for Easter!

Vincentian Thomas Ang, who headed the project, said he was inspired to start this after seeing the feasting during the Christmas period. Said Thomas: “While we worry about what to eat, where to enjoy our next meal or which latest gadget to get, there are many who worry if they

