



24 April 2016

Dear Sisters and Friends

Here we are with our second newsletter at the end of our two week workshop. It has been a time of deepening our learning and reinforcing the skills of project management, the importance of careful and strategic planning, in-depth needs assessment, budget preparation, monitoring and evaluation through to reporting. This has been gained through the sharing from the resource persons and from one another. We have strengthened our relationships with one another as a community of mission promoters, which has been an enriching experience for us all. The days have passed so quickly and before we realised it, the time has come for us to return home.

Last week we spent time preparing applications to Miseen Cara. We were so happy to speak with Carmel Terry our Miseen Cara RNDM Mission Development Officer via Skype from Dublin, where she answered our many questions and later followed up with more detailed answer by email. This past week Hans Wennink, consultant to our Congregation Advisory Board, shared his expertise and enlightened us about the project management cycle from the perspective of Porticus. We could not accomplish our missionary endeavours without the generous support of these, and other funding agencies, together with all our partners in mission. Hans helped us to see the importance of maintaining and updating rigorous province child protection policies for when we apply for funding. He accompanied some of us in the initial preparation of applications to Porticus. Hans was with us for more than a week and we prayed God's blessings on him as he took leave of us on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April.

Our RNDM resource persons, Catherine, Maureen, Smitha and Helen have shared with us their experience, expertise and ideas on various aspects of fundraising, solidarity projects, child sponsorship, the Christmas Catalogue, plus details relating to communication, transparency, accountability and responsibility to our funding agencies and our partners in mission.

We appreciate your close accompaniment through prayer during these two weeks. Gratitude is the language of the heart therefore we are grateful to the Team and staff of Balay Euphrasie for their wonderful hospitality and availability in attending to all our needs during our stay. We are grateful to Catherine and Maureen for their energy and passion for mission on behalf of the congregation. We pray God's blessings upon each of them.

We concluded our workshop with a beautiful multi-cultural Thanksgiving Eucharistic last night, followed by a delightful evening meal. Fr Pat Devlin SM (Marist) was our celebrant, having joined us the previous weekend for our Sunday Eucharistic Celebration. Fr Pat reminded us that like Paul and Barnabas in today's reading from Acts 14:21-27 *"they had been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now accomplished. And when they arrived, they called the church together and reported what God had done with them"*; we too will return to our provinces, ready and excited to share all that we have learnt here, re-energised in our passion and commitment to continue the missionary work begun by Jesus in our role as mission promoter. Thank you Fr Pat for joining us in this celebration of thanks.

We ask God's blessings to accompany us as we travel home to our respective missions.

***Blessings from us here in Davao***

