

IN THESE PANDEMIC TIMES...

IT'S ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY PANTRIES!

GRACE UPON GRACE

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The number of COVID 19 positive cases has escalated very fast, especially here in Metro-Manila; but the affirmation of God's love with the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection was indeed greater than any sickness or death. If there is one thing people have to be thankful for in this global crisis, it is that it has awakened all of us, religious and lay alike, to the reality of poverty existing around us and also to the power of making ourselves available to become channels of blessings. Seeing all these, as consecrated persons, being blessed with the basic needs and well taken care of by a loving community brought about the desire to reach out and be of help to others. With the immensity of the problem, the question was where to begin?

Random people around the world started to offer their "five loaves and two fish" and the idea of putting up Food Pantries unfolded before our eyes. Many were fed and it did not take long before the concept reached the Philippines and the first local proponent called it "Community Pantry" where people may give whatever they can and get only what they need (*magbigay ayon sa kakayahan, kumuha batay sa pangangailangan*). Having the good news of kindness going viral in social media that fast, more than all the negativities was really a reason to say "It is the Lord!" It was April 21, 2021 when it was announced that what started as just an idea for SPU Manila to open its own Community Pantry was made real with the invitation to Sr. Ma. Evangeline Anastacio, our University President, from Barangay 697, where we reside, to partner with them to set up one.

There were some concerns, such as, how long could we sustain it? Where will we get enough resources to provide? Will it be risky, given the pandemic? How can we avoid abuses by the recipients? The questions kept coming with no loophole-free answers. But ours was just another classic case of "stepping out of the boat." Like other commitments, personal and more so communal, it could not be just one big "yes" in the beginning; we had to "make our yes mean yes." That very day we started the pantry that would cater to around 200 families of street-dwellers, vendors, some of our employees, taxi drivers, those living in Barangay 697 and even the neighboring barangays, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 to 10:30 AM.

It was truly a community effort. Even our student-Sisters who are busy with their online classes and the senior Sisters who have been advised not to be in the frontline for their own safety still got to be part of it all by preparing the goods to be distributed. Waking up to a long line of people as early as 5:00 in the morning was very disturbing but one could hear the Lord say "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat (Mt. 14:16)." We are in the best place to witness the full dependence on the Lord's providence seen in our less fortunate brothers and sisters and the overflowing generosity of all the people contributing to this pantry—Paulinian

alumni and past and present employees, not just from SPU Manila but also from other Paulinian schools, students, kind-hearted people in the barangay, and friends.



After more than a week, May 4, 2021, our neighboring state university, University of the Philippines Manila and its public service arm, the *Ugnayan ng Pahinungod* (Oblation Link) partnered with SPU Manila and Barangay 697 to open a pantry to serve the community on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the other side of the University from 9:00 to 10:00 AM. Indeed, God's ways are not our ways.



The following day, May 5, 2021, three metric tons of vegetables, which SPU Manila ordered directly from the local farmers of

Nagtipunan, Quirino Province in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry and the local government of Quirino Province, arrived and were distributed to the people and to the schools that placed orders through us. This benefited not only the recipients of the Community Pantry but also the local farmers, who are also challenged because of the pandemic. We are expecting a second shipment of five metric tons of vegetables to arrive within the week.



"Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given (John 1:16)." The experience of having the Community Pantry is yet another proof that God, who cannot be outdone in generosity, may not exactly need us but still uses you and me to help our brothers and sisters simply because He shares His mission with the ones He loves. No one knows how and when this COVID 19 pandemic will end, but people are growing more generous each day, more faithful each day. Some recipients also shared their widow's mite for the Community Pantry and even the farmers who supply the vegetables gave more than what was bought from them knowing it will go to the urban poor. Miracles are happening. It is pure grace.

IN RESPONSE TO THE GCQ STATUS OF THE NCR...

SPU Manila issues new guidelines

TO: All SPU Manila Employees
FROM: Sr. Ma. Evangeline Anastacio, SPC
University President
SUBJECT: Work Arrangements effective May 15 to 31, 2021
DATE: May 14, 2021

Dear SPU Manila Community,

The government has announced that the NCR will be under General Community Quarantine (GCQ) with heightened restrictions from May 15 to 31, 2021. In connection with this, the Vice - Presidents of the different divisions must coordinate with their middle managers on the list of employees who will be allowed to report onsite (faculty, NAP and ANTS) or will follow flexible work arrangements (combination of WFH and physical reporting). The said list of approved employees who can report onsite or will have flexible work arrangements must be submitted to the Human Resource Services for proper coordination with the Health Services and General Services. Employees are advised to coordinate with their immediate head for their work assignments. The following units may operate on a 50% capacity: Health Services, ICT, Finance, Registrar, Marketing, Admissions, General Services, and maintenance staff assigned in the different units.

Employees may avail of dormitory facilities and transportation services at a minimal cost. Interested employees may coordinate with Ms. Bing Morado and Ms. Hyacinth Tudor for dormitory and transportation concerns.

SPU Manila received 300 boxes of KN-95 masks from one of our PhD Education students from China. Therefore, the University will provide every employee one box, which can be claimed through the Finance Services.

Below are the following health and safety protocols that must be observed at all times:

1. No face mask and face shield, no entry.
2. Face masks and face shields should be worn at all times, even inside the offices.
3. Social and physical distancing of at least one meter or two shall be observed at all times.
4. Stay-out employees are encouraged to bring extra clothes, to change into once inside the campus.
5. Work areas should be cleaned and surfaces disinfected before the start of work, during, and at the end of the workday.
6. Frequent handwashing with soap and water and using alcohol-based disinfectants shall be mandatory in the workplace and are encouraged to be practiced at home.
7. Sharing of personal items between employees is strongly discouraged to prevent possible transmission of the virus.
8. Shuttle service will be provided by the University at a minimal cost (gasoline expenses), following the designated pick-up and drop-off points and corresponding time schedules.

9. Once inside, except in cases of emergency, employees are advised to stay in their offices throughout the day. All are required to bring their own food provisions to avoid trips to nearby eateries.
10. Unless included in the list of those who are allowed to work onsite, no other employee—whether faculty, academic, non-teaching, or office staff—will be allowed to enter the campus.
11. Employees who intend to report but are not in the list submitted by the Office of the VP of their division must submit a request letter to their VP for approval, duly endorsed by their respective Unit Heads. The approved request letter must be submitted to the HRS before the intended work schedule via email (*abautista@spumanila.edu.ph*).
12. Face to face meetings inside the campus are strictly prohibited until May 31, 2021.
13. Staggered meal schedule must be observed.
14. Eating alone in your workplace is highly advised.
15. Sharing of food is not allowed.
16. Only employees without symptoms are allowed to report to work.
17. Should an employee have even mild symptoms, he/she should call in sick and rest at home.
18. The Health Services should also be informed for proper medical advice and monitoring.
19. Accomplish E-triage one day before reporting to the campus.
20. Deliveries are not allowed.
21. For better air circulation in the offices, air conditioners should be turned off for at least one hour two times a day and doors and windows opened.
22. Only the Pedro Gil Gate will be used for the entry and exit of all employees.
23. Inter-office transactions must be done through phone calls. However, if there is a need to physically go to the concerned office, as much as possible, face-to-face transaction must be limited to five to 10 minutes.

Please be guided accordingly.

PAULINIAN EDGE HOLDS WEBINAR

Paulinian EDGE (Excellence through Digitized Education) held a webinar on “Feasibility Studies and Business Research” on 14 May 2021.

Resource speaker at the webinar was Dr. Mary Grace Leongson, Dean of the College of Business and Management.



CONDOLENCES

The Paulinian Family condoles with
 Geo Christian Molina (BM) on the death of his grandfather
 the family of Teresita Gomez-de Sequerra (HS 1949).

