



Recuperatio et Sanatio

COVID-19 PASTORAL GUIDELINES

Our Pastoral Response to the Present Situation

Redemptorist Province of Cebu

**Presentation:
From the Ordinary Provincial Council and the
Secretariat of the Apostolate (APOSEC) of the Cebu Province:**

Attached is a document, entitled *Recuperatio Et Sanatio*- produced made mainly through the efforts of the APOSEC, with inputs from the communities and confreres. This document was prepared in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in an attempt to have a view on how we are responding **PASTORALLY**.

We are indeed in an unusual situation these days, with our usual pastoral activities now being very limited, and even suspended.

This document attempts to highlight the present practices and initiatives of the different communities. With this document, may we learn from one another in **CREATIVELY** responding to the situation.

We might have some limitations now in our ministry but may this not stop us from **CONCRETELY** reaching out to others. May we indeed not succumb to the temptation to just wait for things to die down and for things to get back to normal. While we are indeed in a crisis, this is also an opportunity.

The guidelines and suggestions here are not exhaustive, and this document is made respecting the context, capacity and resources of the local community. Ultimately, the local community is to be one to decide what to concretely implement as pastoral responses.

There may be differences in our implementations but may the values and priorities among us be common- mainly to contribute to the efforts of recovery and healing.

Salamat kaayo to the APOSEC, the communities and those who sent in their suggestions.

May the document be material for each community (perhaps in your meetings/sharings), as we continue assessing our pastoral plans in the coming weeks, or even months.

May we deepen our solidarity with the present plight of God's people.

To the Rectors, kindly distribute copies for your community.

Salamat Kaayo

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*“Look! I am bringing the city recovery and healing;
I will heal them and reveal to them an abundance of lasting peace.”*
- Jeremiah 33:6

Recovery and Healing are what we pray for and desire in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic that threatens not just our local communities but the whole world as well. And in difficult times such as this, the poor and the vulnerable members of our society suffer the most.

Amidst the threats and challenges brought by the COVID-19 contagion, we, as Redemptorists, place our hope and trust in God, who promised recovery and healing and an abundance of lasting peace to his suffering people. We are challenged at this time to remain “strong in faith, rejoicing in hope, burning with charity, on fire with zeal, [humble] of heart and persevering in prayer” (Cons. 20) and to seek new apostolic initiatives, to diligently pioneer new ways of preaching the Gospel, and to adopt new forms of missionary activities that correspond to our pastoral charity (cf. Cons. 15 & 16) so that we can truly be “*in Solidarity for Mission to a Wounded World.*”

In our efforts to respond to the missionary call to deny ourselves and undertake what is most demanding (Const. 20), the Ordinary Provincial Council, after consulting the different communities and upon the recommendation of the Apostolic Secretariat, presents this pastoral guide for Redemptorist Communities in the Visayas and Mindanao to help all of us in our efforts to respond to the challenges that confront us at this time.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Our initiatives and programs should be:

1. in accordance with the directives, protocols, and guidelines of:
 - a. the Holy See
 - b. the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) and the Local Ordinary particular to the place where our communities are located.
 - c. the World Health Organization (WHO), the National Government, particularly the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATFM-EID), Department of Health, health, and medical experts, and Local Government Units
 - d. Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) for those related to our staff and lay collaborators
 - e. other relevant agencies and organizations

2. in coordination with groups, institutions, agencies who are doing COVID-19 responses:

- a. Religious, Church, and Faith-based Congregations, Organizations, and Associations
 - b. Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines National Secretariat on Social Action (CBCP-NASSA) or with Diocesan Social Action (DSAC)
 - c. Non-Government and Civil Society Organizations
 - d. Local Government Units, and Agencies
3. a way to bridge the gap in the existing interventions and programs of the Philippine Government and its agencies.
 4. a pastoral response to the missionary priorities we have identified

Ad Intra

For Our Redemptorist Communities

We encourage the different communities to:

- celebrate daily Mass even without the physical presence of the lay faithful and offer it on behalf of those who cannot attend and for the whole nation
- devote time for Prayer, especially as a community (like Holy Hour or Eucharistic Vigil, Rosary)
- observe physical distancing and follow DOH protocols in our convents, churches, and public areas
- provide a disinfection room or a space to change clothes and disinfect before entering the house- especially those coming from sick calls, hospitals, quarantine areas
- position a footbath area in our convent, churches, or common areas
- regularly sanitize and disinfect our churches, convents, buildings, areas
- a confrere, who is not feeling well, should have the courtesy of isolating himself until he is cleared by a doctor that he is safe

Care for our Lay Collaborators/House/Parish Staff

We ask the different communities, depending on the quarantine status of the community, to observe the following guidelines concerning our regular staff and lay collaborators:

- flexible time, shortened office hours
- continue giving salaries and benefits (regardless of employment status and days of work)
- observe proper hygiene and physical distancing
- follow advisories from government and other authorities
- be given certification or proof of work for checkpoint purposes. (community quarantine status)
- be given financial assistance (it could be through the form of charity or early release of half of the 13th-month pay, or emergency loan)

For Non-Regular Staff/Workers

- Provide aid in cash, goods, or both

Ad Extra

For our Churchgoers, parishioners, people around us

In our continuous desire to minister to our people, we request all communities that we:

- continue opening our churches for people to pray (while observing physical distancing and health protocols)
- follow the guidelines issued by the Vatican, the CBCP or Local Diocese, and the Department of Health in the celebration of Sacraments and Sacramentals
- abide by all civil restrictions while seeking to be as pastorally available as possible
- follow precautions recommended by the health authorities when visiting people's homes, hospitals, prisons, and quarantine areas
- exempt our senior confreres from responding to sick calls and blessings in order to safeguard them from this dreaded disease

For Families in Need

- identify the most vulnerable (daily wage earners, PWD, single parents, pregnant or lactating mothers, elderly, informal settlers, quarantined individuals/families,) in our community/ parishes, and support them with provisions during the quarantine period
- in identifying the abovementioned priorities, coordinate with LGU, with our BEC leaders, and relevant agencies
- increase the monthly ceiling for charity fund for medical assistance and hospitalization
- provide financial and spiritual assistance for the families of COVID-19 patients
- coordinate with the local ordinary, LGU, other congregations, agencies, and DOH on possible programs that we could collaborate as well as explore linkages with those who have programs on COVID-19 responses while following the guidelines/protocols set by the LGU

- identify in advance spaces/buildings that we can offer to the government for the quarantine area, accommodations for frontliners, and refuge for the poor and homeless during community quarantine

Online Ministry

In our efforts to be pastorally available as possible, we thank those who have made the initiative to broadcast Eucharistic celebrations and other forms of prayers made available online for our people. We continue to support communities in their wonderful work of:

- Online streaming or radio broadcast of masses, prayers, and other liturgies and devotions
- Preaching Hope: giving the Catholic faithful messages of hope and not creating panic and despair
- And if a community does not have access to online streaming, they may share the online stream of other communities who are doing it already

Recommendations:

We urge the PCMO (Provincial Communications and Media Office) to:

- share the online masses of communities and help in promoting them
- promote our Redemptorist fundraising campaign and other online appeals for COVID-19 response
- Utilize our live stream masses as vehicles for fundraising or donation drive campaign

We also request the Finance Secretariat to look into the possibility of:

1. opening a bank account for the online campaign as well as explore other means of fund transfer like GCash, PayPal, PayMaya, and other electronic methods.
2. addressing, together with the Iloilo Community, the financial challenges our Retreat Houses are facing right now (Scala and St. Clements).

We also appeal to every community to:

1. explore possible ways and maximize local resources to support our COVID-19 pastoral response

2. apply for DOLE-CAMP, see appendix.
3. put on hold all repairs, improvements, and physical works/ projects, not just to save money but also to give priority to our COVID-19 response.

Through the intercession of Mary, Our Mother of Perpetual Help and our holy Father, Alphonsus, we pray that we may discern well in our pastoral responses as a community.

We also pray for the grace we need so that we may become more sensitive to the needs of our brothers and sisters- especially those who are most vulnerable. May we endeavor to contribute in carrying out what has been decided in the community in a spirit of self-sacrifice and love (Const 38.) and may we deepen our desire to respond to the call of the Redeemer, who alone can bring genuine *healing and recovery*.

With fervent prayer, I remain.

Your confrere,

Fr. Copernicus Perez, Jr, C.Ss.R.
Holy Redeemer Provincial Center
March 22, 2020

APPENDIX

On the dole- CAMP

DOLE-CAMP (Department of Labor and Employment COVID-19 ADJUSTMENT MEASURES PROGRAM), under the DOLE Department Order 209 series of 2020, is a safety net program that offers financial support to affected workers in private establishments that have adopted Flexible Working Arrangements (FWAs) or temporary closure during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It covers workers in private establishments affected by the pandemic from its onset in January 2020 until the lifting of the Stringent Social (Physical) Distancing Measures on Apr. 14, 2020, unless the same is extended by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases.

One-time financial assistance equivalent to P5,000 shall be provided to affected workers in a lump sum, non-conditional, regardless of employment status.

For more information, and for the guidelines and procedures, and for the application form, visit: <https://www.dole.gov.ph/covid-19-mitigating-measures/>

You may also contact DOLE Regional Offices here:

<http://ble.dole.gov.ph/index.php/web-pages/115-dole-regional-offices>