

Greetings from Macau!

As you are aware of the news from Myanmar. The 7.7 magnitude earthquake hit Myanmar. According to the news, more than 2,700 people have died and more than 4,500 have been injured, the figures for the death toll are expected to rise.

The city of Mandalay, the second largest city in Myanmar was hit. It is where our community of St. Martin De Porres serves the mission. Our brothers are safe.

Our brothers on the ground have sent us some reports. St. Martin De Porres community's buildings have suffered major structural damage, with cracks present in all four buildings, particularly in the mid-section. Due to the possibility of aftershocks, as reported by local news sources, all residents who were staying at the school were evacuated and spent the night outdoors. Our brothers have been sleeping outdoors. The damage is extensive in areas such as classrooms and bedrooms, rendering continued occupancy extremely dangerous.

Yesterday, our brothers, Fray. Paul Thu Reh, Fray. Michael Tony, and Fray. Gabriel Khun Ri met with the secretary of the Bishop of Mandalay Diocese to determine how the Order of Preachers (OP) could best contribute to the relief efforts. They were informed that medical assistance is a critical need. Consequently, they have been asked to organize a medical course under the auspices of the OP. However, procuring the necessary medicine is proving challenging, as supplies are being sold in limited quantities. They are therefore attempting to acquire these supplies by approaching multiple vendors. On the ground, our brothers are trying to help as much as possible. Please remember Myanmar in your prayers.

Thank you!

Fraternally,

Fray. Lawrence Thereh, OP.

OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO

Thank you!

Our sisters have no present mission in the city of Mandalay, where the epicenter of the earthquake hit Myanmar. The sisters are serving missions mainly in Yangon and Kayah state. From this natural disaster, they are safe together with the other two communities of our brothers.

However, the sisters together with our brothers who are serving the mission in Kayah state have endured the war for more than four years. Due to the war, they have to run from place to place with the people they are serving. Until now, they can not return to their convents. Currently, they are taking refuge in the forest with the people. At the same time, they are serving the people in the forest with the parish ministry and education for the children. The brothers and sisters are working together, especially for the educational needs of the children. This is the most needed for the young people in the forest. They have done a great job.

The brothers and sisters set up a temporary high school in the forest. The school is called St. Catherine of Siena. This year they have 187 students and 17 volunteer teachers. The students are from Grade 7 to Grade 12. With the help of the Province, St. Paul School Macau, and some donors from different places, the school has been running for three years.

This is a short report on the situation of our brothers and sisters in Myanmar.

Attached are some pictures of the school in the forest.

Thank you!

Your brother,

Fr. Lawrence