

**Fr. Charlie Timoney M.Afr.**  
**Sto. Niño Village, Cebu, The Philippines**  
**21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2013**

Dear Friends and Relatives,

**Typhoons change everything ! Even the timing of Christmas greetings.**

This is my usual seasonal missive but with two differences : It's unusually early and it's an appeal. I used to be shy about begging for money. No longer. This morning I visited San Remegio, a little village at the Northern tip of Cebu Island. Why there ? As a result of the typhoon it's parish has been twinned by the Archbishop, with the one we are attached to here in Cebu ( Holy Family ). The further north we drove the worse the devastation. They have no power – the poles seem to have snapped like matchsticks – and the communication towers are down. It was bad though not quite as flattened as Tacloban which is just across the sea . But many in this village are homeless and desperate. They have buried their relatively few dead. A long queue is lined up outside the parish offices - mostly women with children. And each day, I am told, they run out of foodstuffs. Have I not looked before into the hungry eyes of children and seen the desperate look on their mother's face ? The eyes still haunt me. I gave them \$600 for food and water from the M.Afr solidarity Fund. Shelter is and will continue to be another pressing need.

The roof of their Church has been ripped off - a place which would normally be a gathering place and a source of shelter for the homeless. ( We are hoping that a Parish in Verona will help with the re-roofing.) A lot of our funding will be channeled through our parish here and this will ensure accountability and fairness. Emmanuel has returned from Ormoc too to-day. That's on the other side of Tacloban, and he has contacts with sisters whom he knows there. He brought them medicine today. We will decide as a community how and where the money will be spent.

Many of you have been asking how we ourselves are faring and how you can help. We are all okay as are the relatives of our other Filipino White Fathers. Our students and ourselves have been packaging food parcels and sometimes distributing them. The leader of our community here is Coro Malugao and his people are from Bohol and they suffered from the earthquake a month ago. Our cook's relatives in Leyte have fared better than many but are now living under a roof temporarily repaired with makeshift tarpaulins. Will they spend their Christmas under plastic ? Living with our community here in Sto.Nino is a refugee family of six. They come from the hills above Tacloban where they lost everything. ( One of their children celebrates her birthday with me tonight and her son was seventeen yesterday (my birthday figures in reverse !). We are thankful for small mercies.

Yes, today I am seventy one ! Who would have thought that on my seventy first birthday I would be standing looking at the sky from the altar of a roofless Filipino church ? That I would then come home and unashamedly beg for money from my friends and relatives ? Typhoons do indeed change everything ! Thank you all for your generosity and have a happy and "sheltered " Christmas !

Fr. Charlie Timoney M.Afr.

You can help by sending a donation to either of the two accounts listed below.

A) Typhoon Fund, C/O Charlie Timoney, Sector Treasurer, Fr, Neil Loughrey,  
Missionaries of Africa, Cypress Grove, Templeogue, Dublin 6W

B) Missionaries of Africa, A/C NO. 4745-0306-75, Bank of the Philippines Islands, BPI Cebu Banilad Branch, 888 A.S. Fortuna, Banilad, Mandaue City 6014, The Philippines : Swift Code : BOIPPHMM

N.B. If you do send a donation please let me know the date sent and the amount through my email ([charlestimoney42@yahoo.com](mailto:charlestimoney42@yahoo.com)). I ask this for two reasons : Being a Charity we are subject to Government Audit and must account for all monies and secondly I would like to account to everyone for the way the money was spent. (The Bank here is also unnecessarily secretive about naming the sender. )

Photos from San Remigio, Northern Cebu Island. November 21<sup>st</sup> 2013



