

Singapore archdiocese extends helping hand to flood-hit Pakistan

By Darren Boon

SINGAPORE – Caritas Humanitarian Aid Relief Initiatives Singapore (CHARIS) will be coordinating the Singapore Archdiocese's relief efforts for flood-hit Pakistan.

Stephen Phoon, CHARIS Executive Director, said that CHARIS would initially send US\$50,000 to Caritas Pakistan to help the country's flood victims. The money will come from existing funds and CHARIS has no intention to conduct any specific fundraising from the congregation for the Pakistan relief efforts, he said.

"In addition, we are making arrangements to ship 800 water filters and 10,000 blankets for the flood victims to Caritas Pakistan," Mr Phoon added.

Archbishop Nicholas Chia, in a message read out during the Aug 7-8 weekend, informed the congregation of CHARIS' efforts and urged the faithful that "as children of God, we need to pray and do our part for our brothers and sisters, no matter what nationality, race or religion, who fall victim to all these catastrophic events".

CHARIS was formed with the renaming of the Archdiocesan Crisis Coordination Team (ACCT); its role was expanded to include all overseas humanitarian work. CHARIS was officially launched on Aug 20.

If you would like to make a donation to CHARIS, please write a crossed cheque payable to "Humanitarian Aid Fund" and mail it to: Stephen Phoon, Executive Director, CHARIS, 55 Waterloo Street #09-03A, Singapore 187954. If you wish to donate to a specific cause, please write "Pakistan Floods" or the specific disaster behind the cheque.

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