

NEWS

Tough times, tender hearts

Times are hard but the generous donors of Charities Week 2009 have shown that they can be tough on themselves as they are soft with their hearts

SINGAPORE – For many people, this year has been one filled with challenges as the global financial crisis continued to take its toll on the economy and jobs. Yet, amid the difficult economic environment, donations to Charities Week 2009 saw an increase, albeit a slight one, from that of last year's with a total sum of S\$4,488,132 raised.

The number of donation envelopes did fall slightly. But those who opened their wallets to Charities Week gave generously and even more than they did last year to help the poor and needy during these challenging times. Several donors gave in memory of their loved ones, making

Charities Week a special way to remember them.

"The response to Charities Week is indeed very heart-warming," said Stefanie Herman, Fundraising & Partnerships, Caritas Singapore. "Apart from donations, some donors even sent us their personal prayers for those less fortunate. Others wrote to share their own personal faith experiences. One donor who gave a S\$6 cash donation handwritten on the envelope: 'I would love to share more but as of the moment I can't. Will send more once I get a job. Hope this helps a little. Thanks!' I was touched by that note."

Indeed, donors have contributed to Charities Week in the spirit of solidarity, recognising that in these hard times, it is even harder for those who are dependent on financial assistance from these various charity organisations.

Some youth groups also organised fundraising events in support of Charities Week.

One such group is acts29, a youth missionary group. It organised a 30-hour FAST (For. Asia. Solidarity. Together) on Mar 7, 2009. The youth collected a total of S\$744 in donations for their efforts to fast during this period.

Another youth group from the Blessed Sacrament Church, held a series of fundraising activities during Lent at the parish which includes a charity auction and jumble sale and raised a total of S\$21,690.

Funds raised from the Charities Week 2009 campaign will support the work of Caritas Singapore and its member organisations such as the Catholic Welfare Services, Family Life Society, Catholic AIDS Response Effort, Morning Star Community Services, Marine Parade Family Service Centre, Roman Catholic Prison Ministry, and the Archdiocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People. □

DONATING TO Charities Week 2009



Parish	CW 2009 S\$	CW 2008 S\$
Cathedral of the Good Shepherd	27,217	30,447
St Joseph's Church (Victoria)	169,683	150,716
Church of Sts Peter & Paul	36,689	32,565
Church of Our Lady of Lourdes	21,803	11,350
Church of the Sacred Heart	23,534	29,200
Church of St Teresa	84,664	105,330
Church of St Alphonsus (Novena Church)	23,248	36,167
Church of St Bernadette	165,985	127,381
Church of St Michael	40,971	47,870
Church of the Holy Family	369,560	304,073
Church of Our Lady Queen of Peace	111,197	113,784
Church of St Stephen	41,483	32,525
Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour	256,873	287,361
Church of the Holy Trinity	209,148	192,264
Church of St Ignatius	544,384	553,782
Blessed Sacrament Church	138,679	194,224
Church of St Mary of the Angels	156,434	161,311
Church of St Francis of Assisi	43,130	37,295
Church of the Holy Cross	298,080	233,775
Church of St Joseph (Bukit Timah)	49,964	61,768
Church of St Anthony	38,436	22,631
Church of the Holy Spirit	307,135	273,177
Church of the Risen Christ	128,132	126,184
Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea	40,044	50,512
Church of Christ the King	163,048	113,675
Church of the Nativity of the BVM	85,522	65,232