

A warm welcome to our very first issue of *Caritas in Mission*! This quarterly newsletter is inspired by the words of Pope Benedict XVI, "Charity is at the heart of the Church's social doctrine" (CIV 2).

Caritas in Mission highlights the social mission efforts of Caritas Singapore and its member organisations in Singapore in view of the "signs of the times". This newsletter sheds light on current social issues as well as opportunities where you and I, fueled by charity, can act to fulfil the Church's mission, which is also our mission.

This first issue helps us share with you about Caritas Singapore; where we serve and how we welcome people of all faith, not just fellow Catholics. The subsequent issues will bring you closer to the ground, highlighting the work done by our member organisations to reach out and serve people in need. You will also read about upcoming programmes and opportunities where you can respond by participating or volunteering.

The arrival of the European missionaries in Singapore in the 1830s marked the start of the Catholic Church's effort to the people in areas such as education, employment, outreach to the marginalised, spiritual formation, and many more.

Through *Caritas in Mission*, we hope that each of us will grow in mission-mindedness and solidarity with our brothers and sisters; continuing this relentless effort of service through the parishes, Catholic organisations, in the marketplace and through our daily witnessing as Catholics in society.

Together, we can increase the impact and deepen the desire to live out our social mission as a Catholic community!

Ms Janet Ang, Chairman, Caritas Singapore



"If I can help at least one person to have a better life, that already justifies the offering of my life."

– Pope Francis

A STORY FROM AGAPE VILLAGE



Mdm Lee*, 50, lives in a 2-room HDB flat with her husband and six children. Mr Lee has a history of substance abuse and domestic violence. Although Mdm Lee held several odd jobs, she barely earned \$1,000 a month. In early 2017, Mdm Lee was referred to Agape Village after a particularly bad domestic abuse incident. A social worker was assigned to Mdm Lee, and her care plan was developed through the collaboration of three member organisations. Regular sessions with a dedicated

**Details have been changed to protect the identity of the client.*

social worker from Catholic Welfare Services (CWS) improved Mdm Lee's parenting and communication skills and in turn, her relationship with her children. Mdm Lee was supported with interim financial assistance, food rations and a successful appeal by CWS to reduce her outstanding housing and utility bills. She found a listening ear in the befriender from Society of St Vincent de Paul. Mdm Lee and her family also gained access to subsidised medical and dental services provided by professionals at the Mount Alvernia outreach clinics at Agape Village.

Mdm Lee's situation and that of her family have improved. She has come a long way by taking that first step into Agape Village.



CARITAS IS CHARITY



Caritas Singapore is the official social and community arm of the Catholic Church in Singapore and the umbrella body to 25 Catholic organisations, known as member organisations (MOs). Together with our MOs and Agape Village, we offer an array of social services and programmes to various groups across the island; serving regardless of race and religion. We also advocate for the vulnerable, and offer faith formation programmes in parishes and beyond.

Caritas Singapore is a member of Caritas Internationalis, a global confederation of 165 humanitarian organisations and the National Council of Social Service.

AGAPE VILLAGE



An initiative by Caritas Singapore, Agape Village (AV), is a one-stop integrated social service hub. We seek to partner and empower the poor and the marginalised regardless of race, religion and nationality.

Officially opened in November 2015 by Archbishop William Goh, AV provides a unique model made possible by having 14 MOs under one roof. This promotes efficiency in response, facilitates collaboration, synergises and leverages on the myriad of expertise across the MOs to offer holistic care to the clients.

AV also works with other MOs, government agencies and community partners with the belief that together, we can serve better!



A UNIQUE CARE MODEL



An individual or a family in distress meets with our social worker at AV who works to understand their situation and needs. The family does not have to repeat their story or go around the island to seek different support and services.

An integrated care plan is developed for the family by the social worker in collaboration with other social service and healthcare professionals, within and beyond AV. They provide the required services and support whilst journeying with the family.

In partnership with the family, the care plan is implemented, periodically reviewed and fine-tuned, until the family is empowered to move forward.



SOCIAL SERVICE HOTLINE 8484 0008 (Mon–Fri, 9am–6pm)
Know someone who needs assistance? Help them reach out to us!

Icons made by Freepik from www.flaticon.com

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[AgapeVillageCaritasSg](https://www.facebook.com/AgapeVillageCaritasSg)

MISSION

To collaborate and provide leadership within the Catholic community in Singapore in fulfilling the Catholic Church's social mission especially for the most vulnerable in society

VISION

To be the visible sign of God's love for humanity demonstrated by Catholics living the principles and values of the Catholic Social Teaching (CST)



MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

FAMILIES, YOUTH & CHILDREN



Boys' Town is a one-stop youth centre helping children and youth from disadvantaged and disengaged families who may have faced hardship due to difficult situations. YouthReach engages vulnerable boys and girls facing a range of issues through developmental programmes and counselling.



Canossaville Children and Community Services offers a preschool and student care centre catering to mainstream, and children with mild to moderate special needs, giving priority to the most needy. The Child Development Unit provides psychological and counselling services for children and families.



Christian Family and Social Movement works towards building good Christian families, and assists all family members to live and fulfil their various roles in the family, work space, community and nation.



Family Life Society (FLS) promotes understanding and respect for family and family life. FLS is active in pro-life, parenting and school family education. FLS also runs a hotline and provides counselling for people in crisis.



Infant Jesus Homes and Children's Centres serves children and youth, helping them grow in confidence, to become independent and responsible adults.



Montfort Care runs a network of programmes committed to improving the lives of individuals, families and the community facing transitional challenges.



Morning Star Community Services aims to strengthen and enrich family life through upstream, preventive and early intervention family programmes, workshops and counselling.

POOR, SICK & THE ELDERLY



Assisi Hospice provides compassionate, personalised and quality palliative care to adults and children with life-limiting illnesses through inpatient, home and day care services.



Catholic Aids Response Effort (CARE) provides care to people living with HIV/AIDS and their families. The team provides befriending services, counselling and support through various programmes.



Catholic Welfare Services (CWS) is the backbone of the Church's charity efforts since 1959. It conducts programmes to help the poor, destitute and those in need.



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) is committed to offer help to all those in need. Its core work are regular home visits, organising activities and case management through a social service office.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



Abilities Beyond Limitations and Expectations (ABLE) seeks to enable and empower the physically-challenged to live meaningful and independent lives by contributing to the community. ABLE also provides respite care to family caregivers.



Clarity Singapore is a mental health charity providing counselling services and conducting mental wellness workshops and talks.



Faith and Light Community reaches out to persons with intellectual disabilities and their families through friendship and activities.



Mamre Oaks empowers persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities to lead lives of meaning, with dignity and a sense of fulfilment through activities at its day activity centre.

MIGRANTS & OVERSEAS MISSIONS



Archdiocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants & Itinerant People (ACMI) looks after the pastoral needs of migrants in Singapore through casework, befriending, skills development and integration courses, and outreach programmes.



Acts29 Mission is a youth organisation committed to evangelisation through mission and dialogue, such as serving the poor in the "Payatas Dumpsite" of Quezon City, Philippines.



Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives, Singapore (CHARIS) coordinates the Archdiocesan response to disasters and humanitarian needs overseas.



Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an international organisation with a mission to accompany, serve and advocate for refugees and forcibly displaced people.

GUILDS & OTHERS



Catholic Business Network (CBN) brings together Catholic business owners, professionals and executives for the advancement of Catholic values and ethics in their work and to serve the broader community. CBN also offers career counselling and job matching services.



Catholic Lawyers Guild (CLG) provides mutual support and encouragement among lawyers for the sanctification of their professional work, as well as pro bono legal consultation, mediation and representation as needed.



Catholic Medical Guild of Singapore (CMG) examines social and ethical issues in the light of Church teachings, and conducts overseas humanitarian missions with other organisations.



Catholic Nurses Guild (CNG) an association of nurses promoting professional and spiritual growth of its members, participates in many Church activities to help the sick, elderly and persons with disabilities.



Mount Alvernia Hospital operates the Outreach Medical and Dental Clinic at Agape Village. The clinics provide subsidised primary medical care and dental services to the community, especially for the poor, vulnerable and marginalised.



Roman Catholic Prison Ministry (RCPM) offers befriending and spiritual support services for prisoners and their families during and post incarceration, through counselling and fellowship services that promote development.

EVENTS

24 –
FEB 06
MAY

Charities Week in all Parishes

This annual fundraising campaign during the Lenten season across all parishes is in support of the work of the charities under Caritas Singapore's umbrella.

To donate

- 📍 Drop the envelope at a parish offertory box / Mail the envelope to our office
- 🌐 caritas-singapore.org/donate

07
APR

Living our Faith in Community Workshop

This workshop provides existing communities with the tools to deepen their faith in daily life by living out the Catholic Social Teaching.

- 🕒 9.00am to 4.30pm
- 📍 Agape Village

To register

- ☎ 6338 3448
- ✉ formation@caritas-singapore.org

03
MAY

Free Haircut by Professional Hairstylists

Professionals spend their morning at Agape Village, providing free haircuts to the community.

- 🕒 10.00am to 12.00pm
- 📍 Agape Village

🔄 No registration required

15 –
16
MAY

Review of Life Workshop (2 sessions)

This workshop is an introduction to how we can use the methodology of reflection – “See, Reflect, Act” in real life situations and respond in a way that God is asking us to.

- 🕒 7.30pm to 9.45pm
- 📍 Agape Village

To register

- ☎ 6338 3448
- ✉ formation@caritas-singapore.org

02
JUN

Fully Alive in God's Love

This social mission event is aimed to help young adults discern their personal mission and learn more about the Church's efforts to help those in need.

- 🕒 10.00am to 5.30pm
- 📍 Agape Village

To register

- ☎ 6338 3448
- ✉ youngadults@caritas-singapore.org

21
JUL

Social Mission Conference 2018

Theme: Whole of Me, All of Us, One in Christ

This conference aims to inspire participants to raise awareness of issues in Singapore in the light of our Catholic Social Teaching on Integral Human Development.

- 🕒 9.00am to 6.00pm
- 📍 Catholic Junior College

To register

- ☎ 6338 3448
- ✉ smc@caritas-singapore.org

01
AUG

10th Caritas Singapore Golf for Charity 2018

This fundraising event is in support of Agape Village and the member organisations under Caritas Singapore.

- 🕒 11.30am
- 📍 The Singapore Island Country Club

For more info

- ☎ 6338 3448
- ✉ charitygolf@caritas-singapore.org



CONNECT WITH US

Wish to receive an e-copy of this newsletter? Write to us at marcom@caritas-singapore.org

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