



(founded in 1957)
School of the De La Salle Brothers

ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL

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16/2018

7 March 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians

2018 Lenten VIA Project

As part of our Values-in-Action (VIA) programme for this year, our P5 Stephenians, staff, parent catechists and our Chaplain (Fr Charlie from OLPS) are bringing back our Lenten Project this year.

This year, we hope to collect good used clothes (including baby/infant wear) and stationery for the needy in the town of Penarrubia, a municipality in the province of Abra, located in the northern mountainous part of the Philippines. Penarrubia has a population of 6,544 people and comprises of 9 small villages which are underdeveloped. The people remain in poverty and depend on agriculture for a living.

Your donations will be sent to Penarrubia and a Catholic group, known as Hope Pray and Rise (HPR) will assist in the distribution. HPR is trying to empower and unite the people to come up with possible sustainable livelihood programmes to improve their economic situation. Stationeries (bags, pencils and pens, notebooks) collected will be distributed to the poor students in different schools and villages during the start of the school year. The good used clothes will also be distributed to the poor and needy of these villages. For more information about HPR, please visit their website at www.prayhoperise.org.

Although we know that many of you have done your spring-cleaning before Chinese New Year, you may want to take advantage of the upcoming one-week school break to work with your children to clear more good used clothes and stationery items from your homes for this project and perhaps even get your relatives/friends to participate. It will also be a meaningful bonding activity for your families as you contribute to this project.

You may bring the items for donation to our school from Mon 19 March to Thu 22 March. The collection point will be at our school lobby where big "bins" will be strategically placed for you to place your donations. Our Stephenians, staff and parent catechists will then take the next few days to sort out the items before packing them into boxes for shipment to Penarrubia. If you would like to donate towards the cost of transporting these boxes to the Philippines, please make a cheque payable to "St Stephen's School" and write down "Lenten VIA Project 2018" behind your cheque and have your child pass the cheque to his Form or Co Form Teacher. It is estimated that the cost of sending one box of items over to the Philippines will cost about S\$120. We hope to send at least 10 boxes of donations to them. In our inaugural Lenten Project in 2016, 9 boxes of donations were sent to the same municipality. Any excess funds will be used to purchase more stationery items for the children of Penarrubia.

We look forward to your support for our 2018 Lenten VIA project. God bless!

Yours in De La Salle


Thomas Koh
Principal