



Daughters of Wisdom

Women's Prison Ministry

— Metro Manila, Philippines —



“... I was in prison and you visited me.”

MATTHEW 25:36

Executive Summary

Description

This project seeks to ease the physical and spiritual suffering of female inmates at two facilities — the Quezon City Female Dorm and the Correctional Institute for Women in Mandaluyong. At both institutions, inmates are regularly denied access to basic necessities, such as personal hygiene items and medicine.

Purpose

To restore the dignity of suffering women by meeting their physical and spiritual needs during their confinement.

Location

Metro Manila, Philippines.



Cost

\$8,640 will supply supplemental food, medicine, reading glasses, bedding, toiletries and other necessities to approximately 300 inmates.

Highlights

NEED

- The Philippines' war on drugs has put an enormous strain on the country's prison system since 2016.
- According to the World Prison Brief, the country has been listed as having one of the most overcrowded incarceration systems.
- In the Quezon City Female Dorm, women who have been accused of a crime are detained until trial, sometimes waiting for up to seven years in this overcrowded environment.
- The Quezon City Female Dorm houses 1,100 women and the Correctional Institute for Women comprises 3,400 female inmates.

IMPACT

- Among the 4,500 Filipino women incarcerated in the two facilities, those who no longer have contact with or support from families or friends will be identified and given hygiene items, medical aid and spiritual nourishment.
- The sisters note whether the inmates' dorms are unclean or lacking ventilation and bring concerns to prison officials' attention. They have also donated ceiling fans and had them installed in the most crowded areas of the prison.
- Whenever it can be arranged, the sisters initiate one-on-one counseling and support group sessions in order to listen to the inmates' concerns and address spiritual needs.



Sr. Jean (left) and Sr. Liane (middle) outside the gate of the correctional facility with supplies for the inmates.

The Need

Women held in Philippine prison systems endure some of the harshest and most degrading conditions imaginable. Due to overcrowding, many prisoners feel lost and forgotten — with some waiting years before they can even stand before a judge. The way the prison mixes inmates creates dangers too. A Filipino woman who is arrested for a minor drug offense may find herself in the same cell as a woman who committed murder.

In most cases, the dire conditions these prisoners experience exceed a reasonable punishment for the crimes they are accused of committing. Dozens of inmates share one small cell and must sleep in shifts because there is not enough floor space. The women quickly become filthy, are underfed and often suffer from dehydration. The living spaces are also breeding grounds for diseases that can spread through the prisons like wildfire. Skin issues, infections and conjunctivitis pass from prisoner to prisoner in an unending and vicious cycle. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, these conditions have become even more critical.

Thankfully, faithful servants of Christ are aware of the hardships these unfortunate women face and have begun to provide relief from their suffering. For example, Sr. Liane Rainville of the Daughters of Wisdom is working with committed Catholics around the world to help those in greatest need. With your help, she and her compassionate team can provide these desperate women with food, water, bedding, reading glasses, hygiene items and medical care.

Please give generously today in support of this incredible work of mercy. **With your help, we can ensure these precious daughters of God are treated with dignity and can experience the unconditional love of the Lord.**



These women, deprived of liberty, are in need of their basic necessities. The donations they receive uplift their spirit, increase their self-esteem, and bring them hope and joy. We see this in their peaceful relationships with others and their gratitude and commitment to do good.



SR. LIANE - DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM



Join In This Work of Mercy

Jesus calls his people to love “the least of these” in his kingdom, and in Matthew 25, he reveals that those who show mercy to the imprisoned are actually demonstrating a love for him directly. The vulnerability of prisoners in the Philippines also makes this calling essential. Abandoned by almost everyone, where else can they turn for love and help but to us?

Sr. Liane and the Daughters of Wisdom are applying their limited resources to help some of the most desperate women in the Philippines, but they need our help to succeed. As we empower them, their faithfulness will give imprisoned women something to trust in. There could be no more vital mission for the Church or way for us to serve Christ through acts of mercy!



Romans 5:8 says that **“while we still were sinners, Christ died for us.”** Please join us in extending that same grace to those who remain in physical and spiritual captivity. These suffering captives are in dire need of food, water, medicine and basic necessities. They also need to know they are loved and valued by God. **Let’s work together to show them that mercy and restore their lost hope!**

Our Mission

We mobilize the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Good Stewardship

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.



The Chronicle of Philanthropy
The nonprofit world's No. 1 news source

Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2023, the close of our ministry’s fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.

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