



RNDM Presence in the Philippines

RNDM Sisters established missionary involvement in the Philippines in October, 1987. Two pioneer Sisters coming from Bangladesh and India began work among the indigenous people, known as the Dulangan Menubo in the village of Kulaman in the southern island of Mindanao. This ministry, with its education, health and livelihood components, continues to this day. During the years that followed, the missionary endeavors of the Sisters have grown with eight Filipinas having joined the Congregation and other RNDMs from different parts of the world being missioned to the Philippines. For many years, too, the Philippines has also served as a place for formation and study for many RNDMs throughout the world.



The RNDM Philippines logo used on official letterhead integrates bamboo, a symbol of the Philippines, with the RNDM Emblem, signifying the flourishing of RNDM life and mission in the context of the Philippines.

RNDM mission activities in the Philippines are varied. RNDMs are active in ministry among the indigenous peoples, in inter-religious dialogue and peace development, in areas of health, education, social work, spirituality and formation.

RNDM Communities and Ministries in the Philippine Region

RNDM Regional House

18 Lantana Street
New Manila
Quezon City 1112
Philippines

The RNDM Regional House, Lantana community, located in Metro Manila is where regional leadership and administration is facilitated. Members of the community are also involved in ministries of

formation, spiritual direction and social work. Since its establishment in 2008, Lantana community has accommodated students of the region and from different parts of the congregation, availing of local opportunities to prepare the congregation's young sisters and leaders of the future. Their presence in their respective educational institutions is a way of sharing who we are as RNDMs in the Philippines, as is their weekly engagement in apostolic outreach among the urban poor. Other RNDMs, undergoing formation or renewal in various institutes in Manila, also become part of the community.



Lantana Community enjoying time together

A second house on the property, *RNDM Kanlungan*, also accommodates RNDM student sisters as well as lay people and members of other congregations who do not have local accommodation, and who board on a short-term basis, or while undertaking study programs of their own.

RNDM Ministry House

36B Marunong Street
Barangay Central
Quezon City 1100
Philippines

In 2012, a ministry community was established in Quezon City. Sisters in this community are involved in social work and livelihood development as part of *Kuya Center for Street Children*, as well as teaching at *Asian Social Institute*, leadership, mission promotion and facilitating immersions for local and international visitors.



Ministry among street children
at Kuya Center



Sambayanihan livelihood development
and training

RNDM Formation and Ministry House

Notre Dame University Compound
Cotabato City
Mindanao
Philippines

In 1991, the sisters established a community in Cotabato City, located in the heart of Central Mindanao, a place that has suffered decades of unrest and violence and is home to

a great number of poor, many of whom have been displaced from neighboring farm areas.

There the sisters began outreach among urban poor Muslims, Christians and Indigenous Peoples, as well as teaching in Notre Dame University and participating in local

Church and inter-congregational

activities. From 2006, RNDMs have also been assigned in *Bahay Maria*, a home for abandoned and indigent elderly, and, since 2008, a sister has been engaged in peace education, inter-religious dialogue and development work with internally displaced people of Pikit, Mindanao (1.5 hours from Cotabato City).



Peace education and interreligious dialogue



Ministry among indigent elderly and vulnerable adults in *Bahay Maria*



NDU Formation and Mission Team



Formation

The community was named as the formation house for the Region from 1995, and has regularly accepted local vocations. Sisters in initial formation participate in shaping a space of peace and harmony, and engage in pastoral outreach in the local community.

RNDM Delesan Kailawan Center

Senator Ninoy Aquino Municipality
Kulaman, Sultan Kudarat
Mindanao
Philippines

The mountains of Kulaman, Sultan Kudarat are home to the indigenous tribe known as the Dulangan Menubo, one of the poorest and most vulnerable lumad groups in Mindanao. Since their foundation in the Philippines, RNDM Sisters have worked to advocate on behalf of and provide opportunities for the Menubo people, developing programs in the areas of education, health and livelihood. Over the years, through the generosity of international and local benefactors, the Delesan Kailawan Center (the “home of the Good People”) was built, its mission to affirm, appreciate and respect the culture and traditions of the Dulangan Menubo while accompanying them in their journey towards self-determination.



Kulaman community



Facilitating a meeting with parents of children in Delesan Kailawan



Health monitoring and education in Kulaman villages

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PHILIPPINES CONTEXT

The Philippines is a strong democratic republic with a vibrant private sector and active civil society. In recent years, the government has been able to initiate a number of governance reforms.

Despite positive economic growth (5.1% over the past 5 years), however, poverty incidence in the Philippines remains unchanged, particularly in Lanao del Sur, Apayao, Eastern Samar, Maguindanao and Zamboanga de Norte. In 2013, national unemployment stood at 7.1% with a further 20.4% underemployed (DLSU); current figures are similar. Economic and social disparities continue to impede progress.

Indigenous People represent nearly 14% of the 100 million total population. They are among the poorest and most disadvantaged. IP settlements are remote without access to basic services, and are characterized by a high incidence of morbidity, mortality and malnutrition.

An estimated 1.5 million children are street children, vulnerable to drugs, health problems, summary executions, child prostitution, sexual exploitation, HIV/ AIDS.

A draft Bangsamoro Basic Law was presented in 2014 to establish a new Bangsamoro political entity in Mindanao and provide for its basic structure of government, in recognition of the aspirations of the Bangsamoro people. It was hoped that the BBL would secure a lasting peace, however the passage of the law was thwarted by a cease-fire breach in January 2015. Renewed military operations against Islamist militants (BIFF) in Mindanao, resulted once again in the displacement of civilians. In April 2015, the number of internally displaced persons numbered 53,000+.

In Cotabato City itself, lawlessness in the form of kidnapping, drug traffickers and guns-for-hire continues to be a growing concern.

The Philippines is considered one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, with impacts ranging from extreme weather events and periodic inundation to droughts and food scarcity. Most affected are those living in coastal communities and the urban poor (WWF).

Poverty exacerbates Filipino vulnerability to human trafficking. In 2013, an estimated 300,000-400,000 women, and 60,000-100,000 children were victims of human trafficking. 80% of victims are females younger than 18 years old (CNN).

The Philippines has made progress in diminishing the gender gap in education. Generally, as career options for women continue to expand, the number of women choosing vocations to religious life is declining.

Peter Minack, one of the teachers from Sacred Heart College, Oakleigh, Australia prepared a video of their immersion time in the Philippines Region. Following are two versions:

- 55 megabytes. Needs QuickTime. Good for phones, iPads, etc, but will work on a computer:
<http://dl.dropbox.com/u/48378098/Three%20Homes%20%283GPP%20352%20x%20288%2015fps%29.3gp>
- 112 megabytes. Needs QuickTime. Same format as you get on YouTube.
<http://dl.dropbox.com/u/48378098/Three%20Homes%20%28YouTube%20version%29.mp4>

**QuickTime is available free at <http://support.apple.com/downloads/#quicktime>*