

My Square Meter in Motion

(Beach Clean-Up and Medical Outreach July 2019 in Davao, Philippines)

There are times when people from many walks of life hear me talk about a movable square meter. They listen in wonder, trying to decipher whether I am crazy, or I just woke up from the wrong side of the bed. Am I being funny? They think I am. They walk away shaking their heads, almost laughing.

There I am, left empty. Am I doing this wrong? How can I send a message across, that one doesn't have to go to mass every day, do multiple novenas, serve ministries in Church, and be chairs of any charitable committee to live a Christian life? The charism of the Cursillo Movement is not about that. It is about friendship with self, others and Christ in the midst.

Each cursillista is a movement. I am a cursillista. I am a movable square meter. Wherever I go, my square meter goes.

It was clearly manifested in the recent Medical Outreach/Beach Clean-Up project participated by 24 volunteers here and abroad. They were friends in the Hercules community, family members and members of the St Patrick Cursillo Reunion Team. Selfless use of time, talent and resources were best exemplified by volunteers delving into a year-long preparation; accepting in-kind donations, washing, cleaning, disinfecting and packing them in boxes to send ahead of time. Together we opened 14 balikbayan boxes, sorted them out into give-away categories such as children's clothes, canned goods, candies, pasta, beans, rice, adult shoes, trousers and tops. We gathered 100 food bags for the poorest of the poor, provided vision, dental and medical services, distributed 2000 eyeglasses courtesy of the Lions Club, fed 230 children, gave away 100 toothbrushes, 100 toothpastes, and 68 backpacks filled with school supplies. We worked with the Soroptimist club which provided local dentists and nurses to man the medical sector of the mission, including dispensing medications.

My square meter moved 18,000 miles away across the world to Davao, Philippines.

At this point, I was best understood through ACTION, not just TALK. No more smirks, confused wonder, walking away, and shaking heads, rather empathy to the needy, and the poorest of poor. But most of all, the gratefulness and appreciation in the eyes of the least fortunate and underserved, PRICELESS! The fulfillment in the hearts of the generous benefactors overflows with smiles and joy knowing that they were part of the movement, AWESOME!

More hearts were touched, more stomachs filled, more teeth cleaned, more blindness healed, and more disabled and elders clothed because of our selfless work. Little things done for others may not mean so much for the HAVES, but life-saving for the HAVE NOTs.

Our family, the growing number of volunteers, and I will continue the mission, stretching the square meter beyond measurable distance, hoping we make a dent in the pain, suffering and poverty suffered by many in our lifetime.

De Colores.

Sister Celsa Taraya