

Familyfest 2005 ... *to the Pope for the family*

Housing project: “One family, one house”

From Cebu (Philippines) around the world

Supporting subscriptions to the project will be launched during the Familyfest 2005 - Contributions can be made through text messaging

Cebu, Philippines – a city of shacks in the metropolitan suburbs - a common scene in poverty-stricken quarters of many other cities in the world. Cebu is the launching pad of a project called “*One house, one family*,” currently being implemented by New Families, and which will be launched internationally during the Familyfest 2005.

Ten houses have already been built in **Cebu**, thanks to *Un Raggio di Luce* (“*Ray of Light*”) *Foundation of Pistoia* (Italy). The goal is to build at least **200 houses**. Successively, the project will operate in countries struck by the **tsunami**, such as **Bang Nai Si** village in southern **Thailand** (where 10 houses are currently under construction) and the fishing village of **Arugambe** in eastern **Sri Lanka**, where a rehabilitation project of the whole village, inhabited by 156 fishermen’s families, is under study. Plans are also being made for a housing project in the poor suburban quarters of **Cochabamba, Bolivia**.

These projects aim to help families get out of the inhumane conditions in which they are living and have a dignified dwelling; in the process, the project’s beneficiaries regain hope and dignity and the underprivileged sector is better integrated in society. **Housing construction is made possible through a fund nurtured by aid from outside – and this will be promoted during the Familyfest – as well as by the contributions of the very same families being supported by the project - and this is the novelty.** The families being benefited pledge to give a monthly contribution, which is symbolically added to the supporting subscriptions, thus creating a “**virtuous circle**” that would allow the construction of housing locally as well as in other parts of the world.

Project cost for 10 housing units in Cebu:

Plot: 1.200 x 10.98 sq. m. = €13,200; documentation and taxes: €3,050; construction materials and labor for two blocks of 5 apartment houses = € 70,000; furnishings (folding beds, cabinets, kitchenware) €375 x 10 = €3,750 for a total of 90,000 Euros.

Contributions can be sent to Bank Account No. 888885 of Associazione Azione per Famiglie Nuove, Banca Intesa: CIN T ABI 03069 CAB 05092.

From April 15-22, contributions of €1 can also be sent through cell phones by text messaging to no. **46211** for WIND clients and no. **44770** for TIM clients.

It all began at Bukas Palad

The initiative, “One family, one house” started with a group of families of a slum area in Manila (Philippines), where for 20 years now, the social center “Bukas Palad” (“Open Hands”) has been operating. The Center currently serves 1,000 families. It has worked a deep social transformation, imbuing dignity and the possibility of progress to its beneficiaries, who in turn, have become active workers of the project. In 2002, the Philippine government recognized the Center with an important award for “*its determination in experimenting with novel and successful initiatives in the service of the poor to combat social inequality*.” Bukas Palad, as a humanitarian program presented to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, put into light that “*homeless people can become a living community.*”

