

MOTHER TERESA CENTER:

While the Church is not specifically a voluntary organization that distributes food and clothing (such as the Red Cross, Rotary Club, and other known organizations), the impulse to reach out to others in need -- irrespective of their religious affiliation -- stems from the growth and development of our baptism. It is a consequence, a fruit of the growth and maturity of baptism, leading us to become more and more sensitized to the needs of others (especially the weak, the poor and the needy) within the social community. Such was the case last September when hurricanes hit the islands and also in numerable other occasions of outreach which we do that (thank God!) go by unnoticed.

Many times I have heard the false idea going around that people actually think that donated goods (food/clothing/monies/other...), would only be going to needy Catholics. Such misconceptions are usually dispelled all too quickly when people move themselves closer to the operations of the Catholic church. The **Mother Teresa Center**, for example, has already been reaching out to many persons who are not Catholic. And, the vast majority of students at Holy Family Academy (Catholic School) are not catholic; the same applies for the majority of students who are presently receiving support from the school's scholarship fund.

“Your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.” (Mt. 6:4). At **M.T.C.** no publicity is done; no taking of photos and hand shaking while bigger-than-life sized checks are being donated or while truckloads of goods are being delivered. The **Mother Teresa Center** operates in a very discreet manner, and vouches to protect the vulnerability of the needy. It is interesting to note that among the many persons who approach for assistance in desperate situations there are also a few with whom we rub shoulders on a frequent basis and one would never have realized that they are in such dire need.

The proceeds from the church **POOR BOX**, towards which we are all encouraged to contribute on a regular basis, are being directed to the Mother Teresa Center. I am immensely grateful to its administrators for their generosity, also in time and effort, and for the charity and love which they have extended in our name to all those who come in search of assistance. I urge one and all to please be generous towards this worthy cause. As you have often heard me say: *“The Lord will certainly not let himself be outdone in generosity!”*

May God bless you.

Fr. Peter