



June 2008

Dear Friend in Christ,

Re: Healing Ministry of Fr. Fernando Suarez, CC (Companions of the Cross)

Thank you for your inquiry regarding inviting Fr. Fernando Suarez to celebrate a Healing Mass/Mission at your parish. This aims to provide clarification regarding Fr. Fernando's possible visit to your parish and to answer frequently asked questions about Fr. Fernando's Healing Ministry.

Fr. Fernando Suarez is a priest in good standing with the Companions of the Cross Community, in Ottawa, Canada. Shortly after Fr. Fernando's ordination in 2002, it was apparent that he had been blessed with the gift of healing. In 2005, he was assigned to work full time in a healing ministry. As a fellow priest in the Companions of the Cross, I was assigned by our community to travel with Fr. Fernando and help him in this ministry.

News of Fr. Fernando's healing gift spread quickly and in the last couple of years, we have been all over the world celebrating healing Masses and rejoicing in the healing power of the Eucharist. Due to the overwhelming response to this ministry, it became necessary for us to set a few guidelines. In accordance with the Church's 'Instruction on Prayers for Healing' issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 2000, we must receive the written permission of the Local Bishop for any events in his diocese. The written permission of the local pastor must also be obtained. Without these we are not able to accept, confirm, or advertise any events.

From the beginning, Fr. Fernando is convinced that this gift of healing is for the poor. That is why by the grace of God, while still in the seminary Fr. Fernando started a foundation called Mary Mother of the Poor (MMP) with a vision that it would serve the needs of the poor. Today, MMP is a non-profit, charitable foundation and apostolate helping the poor in countries like the Philippines, Canada, and Uganda. Currently, we have Feeding and Nutrition Programs providing lunch for close to 4,000 malnourished children, as well as Livelihood, Education Assistance, and Housing Programs, and Medical and Dental Missions. We have also started building the Oratory of the Blessed Virgin Mary which will serve as an international shrine for pilgrims. For these reasons, Mary Mother of the Poor Foundation relies solely on the support of the faithful. During every event, i.e. healing masses, parish missions, conferences or retreats, a love offering is taken up. This love offering not only provides for the Ministry of the Poor but also is the only means of support for the existence of the Healing Ministry. Prior to the event, we need to know how the financial support of the foundation will be handled based upon the policies of the respective diocese and the agreement of the pastor/organizers and the foundation.

For healing masses and parish missions, we request the inviting organization/parish or parishes to cover the associated travel expenses and be responsible for our accommodations while we are there.

We also bring rosary bracelets made in the Philippines which support our livelihood program. In addition, we also have several CD's and DVD's of talks and reflections by Fr. Fernando at a number of venues over the last couple of years. We kindly request that a table be set up outside the church proper or in the church

foyer so that anyone wanting to make a donation to Mary Mother of the Poor in exchange for a CD/DVD or rosary bracelet may do so.

We hope we were able to help you understand the process involved and answer a few questions you may have about Fr. Fernando's healing ministry. We believe that this ministry is truly blessed by God and we look forward to the possibility of visiting your parish.

If you wish to invite Fr. Fernando and myself to your parish, we would appreciate receiving an invitation sent to us accompanied by the written permission of the Local Bishop and a written permission of the local pastor as well. When the necessary documents are obtained, please complete the form below and fax a signed copy of this letter to ensure us that you are in agreement with the terms that have been laid out.

Once received, we will be able to consider your invitation and inform you of our availability dates. This letter will also be signed by Fr. Fernando, me, or a representative of MMP, and a signed copy will be sent to you.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information:

USA & Other Countries: Manny Abalos Tel: 815-262-1691 email: usa@marymotherofthepoor.org
Canada: Mary Sheridan Tel: 613-225-6212 email: email@marymotherofthepoor.org
Philippines: Greg Monteclaro Tel: 632-772-2190 email: phil@marymotherofthepoor.org

Thank you for your consideration.

In Jesus and Mary,



Fr. Jeff Shannon, CC

I have read the above information and accept the terms that have been outlined and would like to invite Fr. Fernando Suarez and Fr. Jeff Shannon to my parish _____
(Name of Church)

(Address of Church) (Contact Name, Tel. #, Fax #)

Pastor (Please Print) Pastor (Signature)

Date of Pastor's Signature

Mary Mother of the Poor (MMP) Representative (Please Print) Mary Mother of the Poor (MMP) Representative (Signature)

Date of MMP Representative's Signature

FAX both pages to: (815)397-4614 (USA/Canada/Other Countries); (632)772-2191 (Philippines)