

July 1, 2009

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. To better assist you, this aims to provide initial information about Fr. Fernando, guidelines regarding his possible visit to your parish and to answer frequently asked questions about Fr. Fernando's Healing Ministry.

Fr. Fernando Suarez is a member of the Companions of the Cross Community founded in Ottawa, Canada in 1985 (www.companionscross.org). Shortly after Fr. Fernando's ordination in 2002, it was apparent that he has 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 to assist him in this ministry.

News of Fr. Fernando's healing gift spread quickly and year after year since his Healing Ministry started, we have been invited all over the world celebrating healing Masses, rejoicing and witnessing the healing power of the Eucharist. We are humbled by the overwhelming present demands and requests for this ministry as numerous accounts of healing testimonials are continuously flowing and shared. Praise the Lord! Abiding by the Church guidelines, it became necessary for us to communicate clearly our policy to be of better service to you. 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, as well as the written permission of the local inviting Pastor. Without these, we will not be able to process your request/invitation.

Through prayerful discernment, since the beginning of his priestly consecration, Fr. Fernando is convinced that this gift of healing is for others especially for the poor. Inspired and moved 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, involved in an apostolate of 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, Housing Programs, and Medical and Dental Missions. Underway, is a project of building the Oratory of the Blessed Virgin Mary which will serve as an international shrine for pilgrims, center for evangelization as well as center for assistance for the poor. 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/Organizer and MMP.

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, products of our Livelihood Program, in addition to several CD's and DVD's of Fr. Fernando's talks, and reflections at a number of venues over the years of his ministry. We kindly request that tables be set up outside the church proper or in the church foyer so that anyone who would be interested and wanting to avail themselves of these items may do so at a reasonable cost, as proceeds from these, support our Livelihood Programs.

If you wish to invite Fr. Fernando and myself to your parish, we would appreciate if you could do the following:

1. Send us an invitation letter/written permission from the Parish Pastor or Priest in charge. When we receive this letter, we will attempt to notify you of a tentative date according to our availability.
2. After you receive our availability date, we will require a written permission/ letter of approval from your Bishop, requested by the inviting Pastor/Priest.
Please send both of these permission letters to the appropriate fax numbers listed below.
3. Once we receive the 2 permission letters, only then would we recommend for you to plan, finalize and publicly announce the event.

To clarify, as mentioned above, these are necessary requirements in compliance with the latest instructions from the Vatican regarding Prayer for Healing.

Again, we take this opportunity to thank you for your interest, prayers and support of our Ministry. God bless you all. 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: Paz Monteclaro Tel: 632-842-3772 email: phil@marymotherofthepoor.org

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)

(Contact Name, Tel. #, Fax #)

(Address of Church)

Pastor (Please Print)

Pastor (Signature)

Date of Pastor's Signature

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