

Spreading the Gospel of Love and Compassion

"If we want to preserve our humanity, we must make the compassionate voice of religion and morality a vibrant and dynamic force in our polarised world." — Karen Armstrong

Karen Armstrong, an international bestseller author and a theologian, emphasized the importance of the compassion or the "Golden Rule" in our everyday living. Dalai Lama XIV also affirmed that "love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive."

The issue of reproductive health should not divide us as a people and a community of faithful. Reproductive health is "the state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes" (ICPD-POA). It is a human right and a requirement if we are to achieve our full human development potentials, worthy of God's blessings and promise.

In our country, the issue of reproductive health has greatly polarized the people. While the debate continues, we are confronted with everyday realities of life such as the worsening poverty situation, increasing population, and high maternal mortality rate. Nearly half of the citizens (48%) self-rate themselves as poor (SWS survey, 2010) and belonging to the dependent sector (19 years old and below). The rapidly increasing and high population (estimated to be 94 million in 2010 as projected by NSCB) creates so much pressure on country's very limited resources. The overly delayed reproductive health care services have already taken a heavy toll on women's health, which resulted in 11 women dying every day due to pregnancy and birth delivery complications. Of the 3.4 million pregnancies each year, 50% are unintended or unplanned and 1 of 3 of these ends up in abortion. Teenage pregnancies are also on the rise, which account for 17% of induced abortion cases. The specter of HIV and AIDs also loom with an increasing prevalence rate of 5-6 cases of HIV infection reported daily.

Given such signs of the times, what should we do? Who would then proclaim the Gospel of love and compassion to those who suffer, particularly the poor, the women, and the children?



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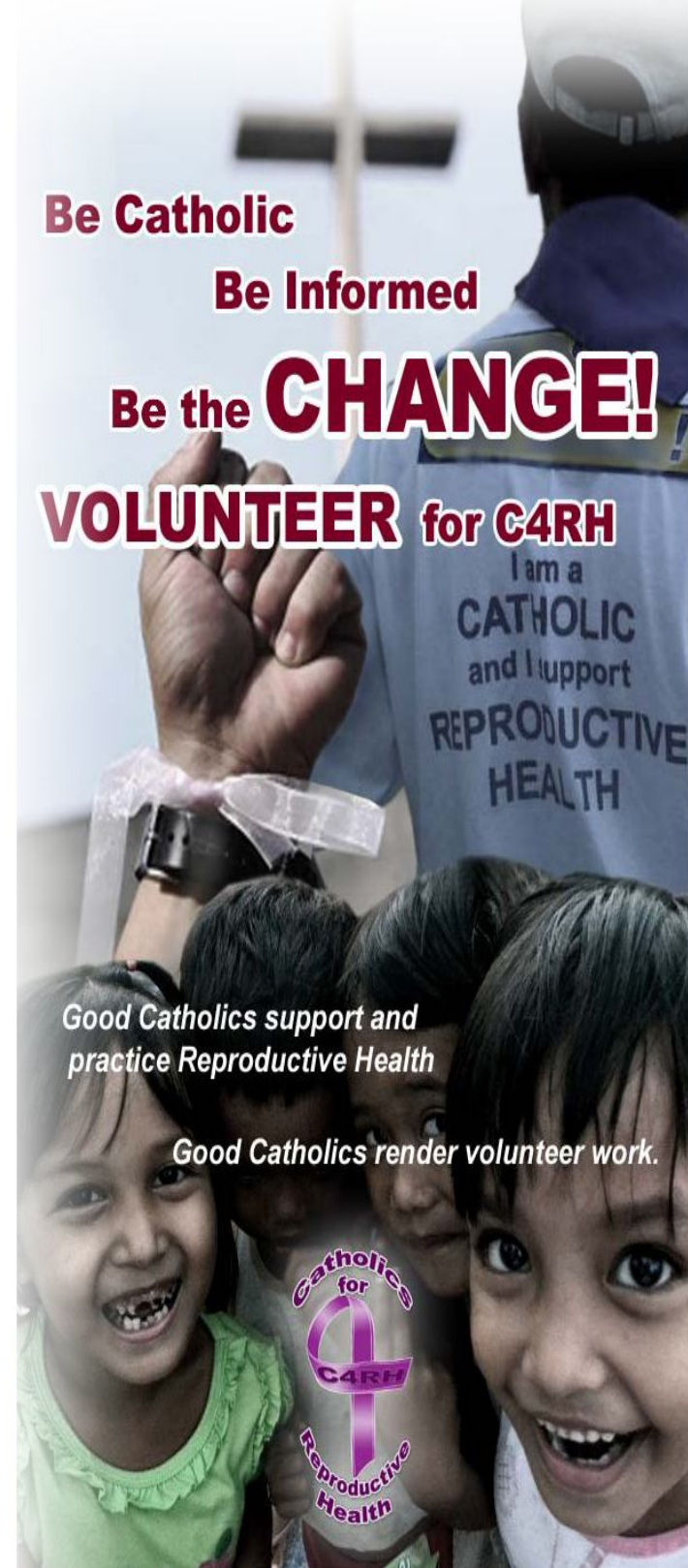
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Be Catholic
Be Informed
Be the CHANGE!
VOLUNTEER for C4RH

I am a
CATHOLIC
and I support
REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH

Good Catholics support and practice Reproductive Health

Good Catholics render volunteer work.



Sowing the seeds. . .

C4RH aims to bring Catholics into full harmony with their faith and their right to reproductive health. C4RH believes that the Catholic faith upholds social justice and human rights; respects freedom and self-determination; promotes and practices fairness; and defends the sanctity and dignity of life and the value of individuals, of families, and children, especially the poor and marginalized. C4RH upholds the primacy of conscience and regards this as one of God's greatest gifts which we should use responsibly guided by our Catholic teachings of equity, social justice, love, and compassion.

Volunteer for Compassion Mission

Be informed.

Take a stand.

Lend a hand
for social development
and change.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of major movements for social change. The sharing of time, talents, and treasure (3Ts) are invaluable contributions to the realization of our vision of a strong fellowship of discerning and progressive Catholics.

We hope you will consider joining our cause.

Be a Compassion Missionary.

Be the change. Volunteer for C4RH.

Compassion Mission Teams

We invite Catholics to participate in any of the Compassion Mission Teams in whatever way they can. All abilities and contributions are welcome. Activities are varied and schedules are flexible based on the wide range of volunteer abilities and interests.

• Community Awareness and Education Team

- If you are interested in engaging the community folks in discussions on social issues, gender, religion, and reproductive health, this may be your team. Part of our mission is to encourage people to reflect on their situation and to rally them into collective action. Awareness-raising therefore becomes crucial as we conduct orientation workshops, facilitate conversations, moderate community meetings and planning sessions—all of which are designed to stimulate thinking on the social issues and encourage community actions.

• Public Information Team

- If you feel you could contribute more in getting our message across to the general public, then this team may be your cup of tea. We need to inform the our fellow *masang Pilipino* about how we can be good Catholics and still believe in reproductive health as a human right. You could take an active role in the development of information-education campaign (IEC) materials or in the media engagement as we explain that the progressive social teachings of the church that are rooted on the everyday lived experiences of the faithful.

• Resource Mobilization Team

- If you would like to participate in the important role of finding volunteers to staff our projects and linking us with sponsors to meet our goals, then you could join our Resource Mobilization team. Any additional contributions would go a long way in realizing our vision of a united and strong fellowship of Catholics living in harmony with their faith and their practice of reproductive health.

• Community Outreach Team

- If you would like to be part of community activities, then community outreach could be your team. The community will definitely need extra talents and able spirits in providing engaging activities for children, youth, mothers, and the elders—all of which are designed to help improve their total well-being. Check out with the C4RH Kaagapay Volunteer leaders for the schedules of community activities.

• Kaagapay Volunteer Leaders

- If you feel you have the dedication in guiding a team of volunteers, apply for our *Kaagapay* Volunteer Leadership Program. We will provide you with the knowledge and skills in becoming an effective C4RH volunteer leader and missionary for a progressive church of the people.