

THE BISHOP OF MEATH



RECEIVED 25 MAY 2015

Mr Michael Tunney, Principal
Presentation Senior School
PO Box 8
Harbour Street
Mullingar
Co Westmeath

20 May 2015

Dear Michael,

Just a note to acknowledge receipt of cheque for €800 towards the Nepal appeal from the pupils and staff of Presentation Senior School.

Bishop Smith has already received almost €35,000 through this office which has been sent directly to Cardinal Pennacchio, Apostolic Nuncio to Nepal and India. In the next few months we would hope to receive photos and details from Nepal of how this money is being used and updates will be available on the diocesan website www.dioceseofmeath.ie

Bishop has asked that you extend his sincere thanks and appreciation to the pupils and staff of Presentation Senior School for their very generous gesture to the people in Nepal whose lives have been devastated by this natural disaster.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Irene Connaughton
Secretary



BISHOP OF MEATH



Responding to the Nepal earthquake disaster

If any parishes or parishioners wish to help the humanitarian response on the ground (providing food, medicines and shelter), Bishop Smith can ensure that 100% of the donations will go directly to the people in Nepal whose lives have been devastated by this natural disaster.

Donations can be sent to the Bishop through your local parish.

In recent days, Bishop Paul Simick, the Bishop of Nepal, described the crisis facing the people in the aftermath of the earthquake:

"The biggest challenge now is the time factor. All of us have to rush to reach out to the victims. It's already too late. If this is the state of affairs in the capital, you can imagine the suffering of the people in the remote areas."

At St Ignatius Church, the Bishop of Nepal visited local residents. He prayed with members of 15 Catholic families who have taken shelter in the church, including some injured and wearing arm slings. A dozen Hindu families also sought shelter there.

"We have no trace of five Catholic families. The road to their village is blocked. I am trying to reach them," said local Parish Priest Fr Anil Beck.

The same priest introduced the bishop to the family of 9 year old Michele Ghale who died when their house collapsed. The bishop also met her 4 year old sister Sujina Ghale, who was almost cremated when she was mistaken for dead. Sujina, with her bruised face, lay quietly as her mother, Chaju Ghale, recounted her daughter's escape.

"Affected people will die a slow death unless relief work is stepped up and well-coordinated. This is a moment of test for the church in Nepal to coordinate the relief and make use of the relief and disaster management expertise of the entire Catholic Church for the people of Nepal," the Bishop of Nepal said.

Mons. Paul Simick was ordained Bishop of Nepal last June by Archbishop Pennacchio, Apostolic Nuncio to Nepal and India who has close connections with Bishop Michael Smith.