

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES OF RELIGIOUS AID
CENTERS IN CEBU CITY: THEIR RELEVANCE
TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

A Thesis

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University of San Carlos

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts in Anthropology

by

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to

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marcelina n. maceda

the pssc

the usc research and scholarship office

my respondents

my parents

my brothers and sisters

joseph fernandez

irran fernandez

joseph fernandez jr.

for their valuable help and inspiration

LST

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PREFACE

The war against social ills in society is as old as society itself. Social needs which have arisen and accumulated particularly in the post-war years have resulted in expectations on national and local governments to become more active in the interest of all people and to contribute more vigorously toward local development. The Philippines is no exception and has responded by setting up a host of governmental welfare and development agencies charged with the task of providing professional services not only to needy individuals but also to needy communities.

Despite the proliferation of governmental welfare and development agencies, social ills have not only persisted but also grown, making it evident that public agencies alone cannot cope with the task of ameliorating them. They need the assistance of private individuals and groups. In response to this need, voluntary organizations of various types have mushroomed and actively taken part in charitable and community development endeavors. Some of these organizations have as their aim the temporary amelioration of the conditions of the poor; others have focused their work on eliminating the root causes of social ills; some are concerned with individuals only, while still others have

devoted their efforts to community building. One particular type of private welfare organization is the church-supported one. In the Philippines, a predominantly Catholic country, most religious-based organizations are Catholic.

This study will attempt to see what kind of work some organizations perform in Cebu City, whom they benefit, and what their primary goals are. Most of all, this thesis will investigate the extent to which the work performed by Catholic welfare organizations fits into, or is part of, the national endeavor to build healthy communities. It has long been realized that social amelioration cannot be achieved through tidbit work of various individuals or agencies working independently of each other. Coordination of welfare and community development activities in the Philippines has been attempted through the government's national development policies. Is the work of Catholic aid centers in Cebu City part of this concerted effort, or does it proceed apart from it?