

## Pontiff surprises (again), hugs street kids [&nbsp;](#)

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**Pope visits Fr Matthieu's abandoned, orphaned children in Manila, Philippines**, where there is many of

RSM's feeding sites. For over the last six years we have been providing food, medical supplies, clothing and shoes these same orphaned children!

Where for example we have been supporting and providing and donating to Fr Matthieu the delicious FMSC Manna-Pack Rice, which is a vitamin packed nutritious rice casserole meal for these orphans.

**Here is an exact excerpt of the news article from the Philippine Daily Inquirer as shown below.**

Some 260 children from the Tulay ng Kabataan (TNK) Foundation, an orphanage beside the cathedral in Intramuros, got the surprise of their lives when the Pope dropped by after a two-hour Mass for Filipino bishops, the clergy and the religious on the second day of his four-day apostolic visit to the Philippines.

The Argentine Pontiff, who has drawn the admiration of both believers and nonbelievers for his simplicity, also had a simple message for them—that they never forget they are loved by Jesus.

“These are very simple words but they are very meaningful because these street kids are like objects thrown into the garbage,” Fr. Matthieu Dauchez, executive director of the foundation, told reporters.

The French priest said he and the children were crying after the Pope’s brief visit, overwhelmed by his message and his gesture of love.

“When you tell to a child that you are loved by Christ, it’s very strong. But when you tell these to street children, it’s like telling them that your heart will be hurt again, maybe you are not loved by your parents, maybe you were rejected by your family but you know God is always with you,” he said.

Dauchez said the children had been told earlier that they would be waving at the Pontiff from the orphanage, a two-story facility on General Luna Street.

But a few minutes before the Mass in the cathedral ended, security officials informed him that the Pope was coming.

“Maybe he learned that there was a center here from (Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio) Cardinal Tagle, who knows very well and is very close to the foundation,” he said.

In a way, Dauchez had been expecting the visit.

The Pope had a penchant for unexpected gestures especially to the poor, the children and people with special needs. “I have been told that when the Pope sees the poor, expect anything. That’s what they saw in his visits in other countries,” he said.

“It was maybe 15 minutes but it felt like it was as fast as 10 seconds because we were full of

emotions and it was a wonder we were able to see the Pope,” Dauchez said.

Adrian Atis, 10, was the first to greet Francis with a hug when the Pope entered the facility and led him to the children who were equally eager to meet him and give him a hug.

Atis also delivered a message in Filipino to the Pope. He said: **“Beloved Holy Father, from the children of the streets, we welcome you. Your visit is meaningful because you represent Jesus to the poor. You give us hope. Thank you very much.”**

After his message, the Pope kissed him, the boy recounted. “I was very happy when I hugged him because this is the only time that I was able to hug a Pope,” said Atis.

The Pontiff looked a bit tired when he entered the orphanage, but his face lit up when he saw the children eagerly waiting for him, said Dauchez.

“It was very meaningful because it means that the Pope is not only bringing hope to the children but he is also drawing hope from the children... and that he was also ready to receive the lessons from the poor,” he said.

Dauchez said the Pontiff really took time to be with the children, blessing and hugging as many as he could.

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