



利瑪竇社會服務
Casa Ricci Social Services

Largo de Santo Agostinho 4 - Macau - China

澳門崗頂前地4號

Tel: (853) 2859-1162

Fax: (853) 2893-1085

P.O.Box: 1166 - Macau

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*To dream, smile, love,
serve and
hope in the Lord.*

在主內：

梦想，微笑，
爱慕与服务；
并时时盼望。

Fr. Luis RUIZ went peacefully to the Lord on July 26, 2011, at 7:30 Pa.m. at Centro Hospitalar Conde de São Januário, Macau.

Early Days

Fr. Ruiz was born in Gijón, Asturias, Spain, on Sept. 21, 1913. He entered the Society at Salamanca, Spain, on Sept. 20, 1930, was ordained to the priesthood on June 7, 1945, at Xianxian, Hebei, China, and professed his last vows on Nov. 5, 1977.

After Fr. Luis Ruiz was ordained in Xianxian county, Hebei province and stayed there for several years, he returned to Macau for medical care in 1951. World War II had just ended and the people of Macau were suffering great hardships. Macau was flooded with refugees from nearby areas. On arriving to Macau, Fr. Ruiz immediately began to serve these poorest of the poor. He opened the door of the Macau's Jesuit residence -- Casa Ricci and started the "Ricci center for Social Services", now the Macau branch of Caritas. Since then,



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Fr. Ruiz was instrumental to set up the various charity institutions to take care the elderly, mentally challenged and even education of the social workers.

Life of Fr. Luis Ruiz, S.J.

1913 09 21	born in Gijon, Asturias, Spain
1930 09 20	entered the Society of Jesus, in Salamanca, Spain
1945 06 07	was ordained in XianXian, Hebei, China
1951	received final vow
60年代	arrived Macau to start Casa Ricci Social Services
1968	founded Asilo de Betania to serve the elderly homeless persons
1970	founded Asilo de Santo Maria to care for the elderly homeless women
1971	founded Centro Residencial "Arco-Iris" home for the retarded and handicap people
1974	founded Caritas Macau
1977 11 05	founded Asilo do Carmo to care for the elderly homeless people
1983	founded Cebtro de Dia Ilha Verde, an activity center for the elderly
1985	setup special education program at the CRAI for the mildly retarded children
1986	started to serve the lepers' patients in China
2004	founded HIV/AIDS terminal center in Hunan, China
2005	founded the Joy Children's home in Lufung, China
2005	started to help the lepers ih Vietnam and Burma.
2007	started to care for the HIV/AIDS orphans in China
2011 07 26	rest in the Lord

Start of Leprosy service

In 1986, Fr. Ruiz met an old priest in Jiangmen. He told Fr. Ruiz about an island (Dajin) that has a leprosy colony on it.

The inhabitants of this colony were abandoned and lived in miserable circumstances. Fr. Ruiz said that our work was to serve the poorest of the poor those who were in greatest need. That was the beginning of the rehabilitation work for the leprosy affected people. Fr. Ruiz brought food, vegetables, basic services such as housing, power, water and medical care to the people of Dajin island. But Fr. Ruiz discovered that was not enough as the patients were still missing something...love.



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He then invited some Catholic Sisters to go to live in the island to take care of the patients there and totally revitalized the leprosy community there. The people there now live in dignity and integrated into the society just like any other human being.

Upon being asked for help by other leprosy community in the north, Fr. Ruiz went to Yunnan and Sichuan to help establish other leprosy centers in remote areas deep in the mountains. The leprosy patients now have dependable drinking water and new houses. The assistance of the Sisters has alleviated much of their sickness and pain. With the support from the benefactors worldwide, he has helped more than 140 leprosy communities.

Education for the poor

Fr. Ruiz also considers the education of leprosy patients' children to be the greatest importance. He strives to provide non-discriminatory learning environments that will ensure a bright future for these children.

Because the children of leprosy patients suffer discrimination, taking them out of the leprosy community and bringing them to a place where other people don't know, Fr. Ruiz established "children home" where they are specially treated equal and protects them from psychological harm. The children have learning opportunities just like ordinary normal children and can live in a normal environment. At the same time, they also learned something more important from Fr. Ruiz -- love. In Fr. Ruiz's eye, these children homes have limited resources but boundless love can provide a door of hope and relief from the hardships of the leprosy villages.

Rehabilitation services for HIV/AIDS victims

The number of people with leprosy worldwide is now under control and is shrinking. Fr. Ruiz and Casa Ricci will continue to care for



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leprosy patients but at the same time he is turning his attention to AIDS victims. These victims suffered same kind of discrimination and lack of care as leprosy patients.

In 2004, He established a loving care center in Hongjiang, Hunan province so that these AIDS victims could live with dignity in a loving atmosphere when their bodies became weak and helpless. The children victims were given a right to equal treatment by the educational system and go out to live with other children.

Casa Ricci

Today, the CRSS found by Fr. Ruiz currently runs 50 programs distributed in 13 provinces in China with 64 Leprosy centers for a total of 4,000 leprosy affected patients, five (5) HIV homes with a total of 40 children, 300 HIV+ mothers/adult, 200 adults at risk of affecting AIDS, and 1500 students from poor families.

We count with your prayers and support to continue the mission to serve those in need to bring hope and happiness that Fr. Ruiz has started in China more than 60 years ago.

You can help us to continue these charity works in China by:

- Send a cheque to the nearest Society of Jesus location and ask for tax-exempted receipt: Australia, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Spain, United Kingdom, and U.S.A. ([click here for the list](#))
- Those in China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan can send us a cheque with addressee "Ricci Social Services Foundation" to our Macau office at Largo de Santo Agostinho 4, Macau SAR, China



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Quote of Fr. L. Ruiz S.J.:

"Nothing happier than to make people happy"

"We have to do everything we can when others are in need."

"Our work is to serve the poorest of the poor those are in great need."

"I am deeply grateful for the help of all our benefactors. It doesn't matter how much they donated. The important thing is that they acted out of great love and the desire to do good. We pray everyday for our benefactors. We ask the Lord to repay them for their generosity to the poor."

"You don't have to think too much. Just take things one step at a time and do the work at hand, God will take care of everything else."

"To Dream, Smile, Love, Serve, and Hope in the Lord."

"That's how it was. I didn't really have any plan. I just did the work that the Lord gave to me."

"Without the help of my fellow Jesuits, I could never have achieved so much. So I have a sense of 'unity'. With them, my work is their work, and their work is my work."

"That is what my life mean to me: As long as I can still move and serve others, I will keep on working. I never think about retiring."

Quote of Casa Ricci staff

"We all live together like one big family. Fr. Ruiz is a very good father to everyone. He is both a companion and a father."

Quote of AIDS patient

"Fr. Ruiz has helped us...He not only cares for our livelihood and our health, and also for our mental and spiritual welfare."