

THE BISHOPS FOUNDATION

Newsletter



Fire Disaster

No doubt many of you read or saw on TV that there was a fire last week in an informal settlement called Plastic View near Moreleta Park in Pretoria. Five people burned to death and 300 shack (families) were burned to the ground. All together 1,600 people were left without a roof over their heads. When I spoke to one of the relief coordinators she told me that there was a magnificent response in terms of clothes and food from the public but that they were short of toiletries and kitchen ware. So in the name of the **Foundation** I went on a shopping spree with Geraldine Hedley our accountant for pots, kettles, frying pans, mugs, spoons, bins, Vaseline, tooth brushes and toothpaste to the value of R25,000. Women are so much better at this kind of thing than men.



We delivered it to the donation reception center where a great team of gentlemen and ladies were sorting clothes into men and women, boys and girls, shoes into different sizes, packing parcels to see that everyone got the same. It was like a military operation. Have a look at some of the photos. The man in the photo with me is Michael Rai of the Pretoria Knights of Da Gama who provided the transport for us, from the wholesalers to Moreleta Park. The lady is an unknown volunteer.



What is important is that reading and hearing of the disaster, or only learning about it now as it was a local rather than a national disaster, **you were a participant** in bringing some relief to those families in distress. God bless you all for your support of the Foundation. Spread the word and encourage others to get involved. Fr. Barney



From the desk of Father Barney McAleer