

STELLA MARIS CHURCH MINISTRIES

The Soup Kitchen Ministry

Twelve years ago, the Franciscan Missionary Sisters ("The Blue Sisters") saw the need to establish a Ministry in response to the needs of our elderly poor brothers and sisters living in the Grants Pen and surrounding communities. This Ministry was officially launched on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2002. Since the inception of our "Table of Love" Soup Kitchen the number of participants has grown immensely. To date we have approximately 80 regular participants and 40 shut-ins whom we serve a hot meal. We serve meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Before each meal we usually share the Scriptures, Prayers and experiences. At various times, we have individuals who come and share their expertise and talents. The meals are prepared and served by generous, dedicated volunteers, both young and old from our Stella Maris Convent and Church. Our local and overseas benefactors allow our Ministry to function.

For the past 25 years, we have held a special Christmas Treat for all who participate in the programme and other needy persons in the surrounding communities. At this treat we have a Concert followed by a sumptuous Christmas Dinner. To end off the day, each person receives a Christmas package to take home.

The F.M.S. "Table of Love" Soup Kitchen is, as its name suggests, a Ministry born of the love of Jesus, reflected in the Spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, and is a lived experience of our Franciscan Congregation.