

## **March 8, 2010 - Chile – Support initiatives for the communities most affected**



**(ANS – Antofagasta)** – At dawn on Thursday, March 4, a truck loaded with eight tons of food, clothes, and different kinds of first aid equipment left the Salesian house of Antofagasta heading for the Salesian houses in Talca, Linares, and Concepcion. This is just one of the things the Salesian houses in the country are doing to help those most affected by the earthquake.

Led by the director of the community, Fr. Luis Rendich, and with the coordination provided by the pastoral team and two of the teachers, in just two days the Antofagasta house managed to collect a large quantity of foodstuffs and other help and send them to the needy houses.

The school at Iquique has launched a support campaign among the teaching and non-teaching staff, the students, and the priests to collect non-perishable foodstuffs and diapers to be packed up on March 8-9 and sent to the houses in the south.

The Salesian student and the youth centers in Copiapó, together with the diocese, are organizing support by collecting money and rice, the equivalent of 2 pounds per person. So far they have collected about 1,000 pounds.

The Salesian school in Puerto Montt began a campaign on Monday by which, by the next day, they were able to send to the Salesian school in Concepcion 37½ gallons of milk and 54 gallons of water to be distributed among the students' families.

The educational-pastoral community of San José Junior College in Punta Arenas, again with the diocese, will in these days have collections to help Pelluhue, one of the places most affected by the earthquake. The students' center and also that of the priests in the next few days will be organizing the collection of non-perishable foodstuffs.

During the week the evangelization center of the Salesian Alameda Educational Center with some of the local young people made collections among the workers, the families, and some institutions, especially of blankets, clothes, food, diapers, and toiletries.

The past pupils of Camilo Ortúzar Montt Junior College in Santiago began collecting foodstuffs, clothes, and first aid equipment for the past pupils and their families of the Salesian school in Concepcion, from the moment they got to know that some of these had lost their homes in the earthquake. A campaign of support has also been launched by Raul Silva Henriquez Catholic University.