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Visit of the Princess of Belgium to La Salle Home, Sendai. La Salle Home was deeply honored with the presence of Her Excellency Princess Mathilde of Belgium when she came to visit us on 13 June 2012.

The Princess was part of a group from Belgium doing an official economic mission to Japan. Prince Phillip headed the delegation. However, Princess Mathilde also desired to see areas devastated by the Tsunami of 2011 and to visit an orphanage or a welfare home. In February the Belgian Embassy in Tokyo contacted La Salle Home to prepare for the visit.

At 11:40 of June 13, a Belgian press coach of 14 people arrived at La Salle Home accompanied by Director of Media Relations of Sendai to pave the way for the Princess. At 12:10, La Salle Home's President of the Board Mr. Masuzawa and several of the personnel were present to receive HRH Princess Mathilde and her entourage of ten people and proceeded to a conference room for a brief explanation and orientation of the welfare home. Her main interest was focused on the situation of the children during the days of the disaster. We were moved by HRH Princess Mathilde's concern about the safety and well-being of the children!

After the orientation she proceeded to visit the children. Because it was a normal school day, there were just four of the youngest residents present. 74 children of the welfare home were in school. Nevertheless, HRH Princess Mathilde stayed and played with them for about ten minutes before doing a tour of the facilities. At 12:40 we all met in our dining room because it was the expressed desire of HRH Princess to have lunch together with the kids. At the end of a 30 minute lunch each one of the four children, all of them not yet four years old, gave HRH Princess a bouquet and all together proceeded to the main entrance for the farewell at 13:20

What was initially planned as a 30-minute visit turned out to be a wonderful and very enriching 80-minute visit by the Princess. We are honored and deeply grateful. (Br. Rodrigo Treviño FSC, Director of La Salle Home and Sector Leader)

Fraternally,

Br. Edmundo L. Fernandez FSC

LEAD Provincialate, Hong Kong