

Nova churches as vaccination centers

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The **Quezon City local government** yesterday expressed its gratitude to the Diocese of Novaliches for allowing the use of its parishes as inoculation sites ahead of the arrival in the country of the Covid-19 vaccine. The Diocese of Novaliches, led by Bishop Roberto Gaa, expressed its willingness to allow the city use of its facilities as vaccination sites.

City officials said, “The city is very grateful to the Diocese of Novaliches, especially to Bishop Most Rev. Fr. Roberto Gaa, for letting us use their parishes’ facilities for our Covid-19 vaccination drives. Since the community quarantine was implemented, they have been closely working with us, and they do whatever they can for our city.”

“With some of our residents expressing hesitancy to be inoculated, the strong support and active participation of the church in the government’s vaccination drive will definitely help raise the confidence and trust of our people in vaccination,” they added.

The diocese also agreed to use KyusiPass, the city’s contact tracing application, in their parishes to help the city in its contact tracing efforts.

Fr. Tony Labiao Jr., Novaliches Vicar General, said, aside from the facilities, the church will also help the city in mobilizing its parishioners to take part in the city’s vaccination drive.

“The diocese is always willing to help the city, especially if it is for the common good of the community,” Labiao said.

In Novaliches alone, there are 15 big parishes that the city can utilize when the vaccination drive takes place.

“Once our parishes are utilized as inoculation sites, we assure everyone that we will comply with the Department of Health’s standards to ensure the safety of our citizens and health workers,” city officials said. The QC local government has been working side by side with the Diocese of Novaliches in ensuring good governance, as well as in the city’s community drug rehabilitation program.

Some of its parishes served as the city’s payout sites during the distribution of its Social Amelioration Program-Kalingang QC.

In July, the city also partnered with the diocese in utilizing a 5,000-square-meter unused land in Novaliches as a model community farm as part of the city’s food security program.