

8 nuns in QC succumb to Covid-19

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EIGHT elderly nuns at a Quezon City convent where a Covid-19 outbreak was reported succumbed to the deadly disease, a spokesman for the congregation said on Wednesday. Sister Ma. Anicia Co of the Congregation of the Religious of the Virgin Mary (RVM) located in Barangay Kaunlaran, Cubao said the eight nuns, in their 80s and 90s, were already bedridden even before they were infected by the virus.

Co told Radyo Veritas that they belonged to the 62 RVM sisters who had tested positive for Covid-19 and were all staying at the convent's Saint Joseph Home, also inside its compound.

She said there were also 52 RVM personnel who tested positive for Covid-19, but most were asymptomatic.

"The personnel are still young, so they are on the road to recovery. Some sisters are moving from symptomatic to asymptomatic. Eight of the sisters, aged 90s and 80s, afflicted with Covid-19 returned home to our heavenly Father," she said.

Co clarified that the outbreak at the convent was not caused by the failure of its personnel and nuns to get vaccinated.

She said they had their first dose in May and June this year for the first group while the second group had it in July.

The eight nuns were not vaccinated because they were sickly.

"It was not the decision of the RVM congregation, nor the leaders, nor the Sister Administrator of the St. Joseph Home that they would not be vaccinated. The Sister Administrator actually followed up later for their vaccination, but it did not come soon," Co said.

Co thanked those who gave support to the institution, but she also warned the public against unscrupulous individuals who may use the congregation to solicit funds.

"The RVM Secretariat has received reports of solicitation of funds using our name. It was found out that it was a false account using the name of an RVM Sister. We ask our benefactors, alumni and friends who want to help to verify with the RVM Secretariat before they send any financial assistance," she said.

Quezon City Mayor Josefina "Joy" Belmonte placed RVM under special concern lockdown on September 14 following reports that 114 nuns and personnel tested positive for Covid-19.