



Singers from several top school choirs banded together to put up a one-time fund-raising performance.

UBI CARITAS ET AMOR, DEUS IBI EST FUND-RAISER FOR MERCY RELIEF

LEADERS: Mr Toh Ban Sheng, resident choral director of several school choirs, St Joseph Institution's teachers Adeline Tan and Tan Huiling.

SCHOOL CHOIRS INVOLVED: St Joseph's Institution Vocal Ensemble, Dunman Secondary School Choir, Catholic Junior College Choir, Raffles Chorale, Raffles Voices, Raffles Voices Alumni

WHAT THEY DID: The young performers raised more than \$11,000 for Mercy Relief with a 95-minute performance. They were practising for a combined performance for the Singapore Youth Festival when their choral director, Mr Toh, suggested the idea of holding a charity concert for Japan.

"In top schools, we can be too focused on results and can be disconnected from what is happening in

the world around us," he said. That led to the show's latin theme, which translates to "where charity and love are, God is there".

The entry fee per person was \$10, but a near 300-strong crowd forked out above and beyond \$10 for the performance. A group of Secondary 3 students from St Joseph's Institution helped raise another \$1,250 that night by selling bottled drinks for \$2 each.

Mr Edward Chiam, 18, a performer from Raffles Institution, said: "This fund-raiser was a good reminder that we should sing for love, not just for the sake of singing." Josephian Sebastian Timbul, 17, added: "To help others in need is in line with our values and responsibility as Josephians and human beings."

Mr Toh added: "What happened in Japan is a reminder we should not forget the fragility of life, even while we are pursuing excellence."