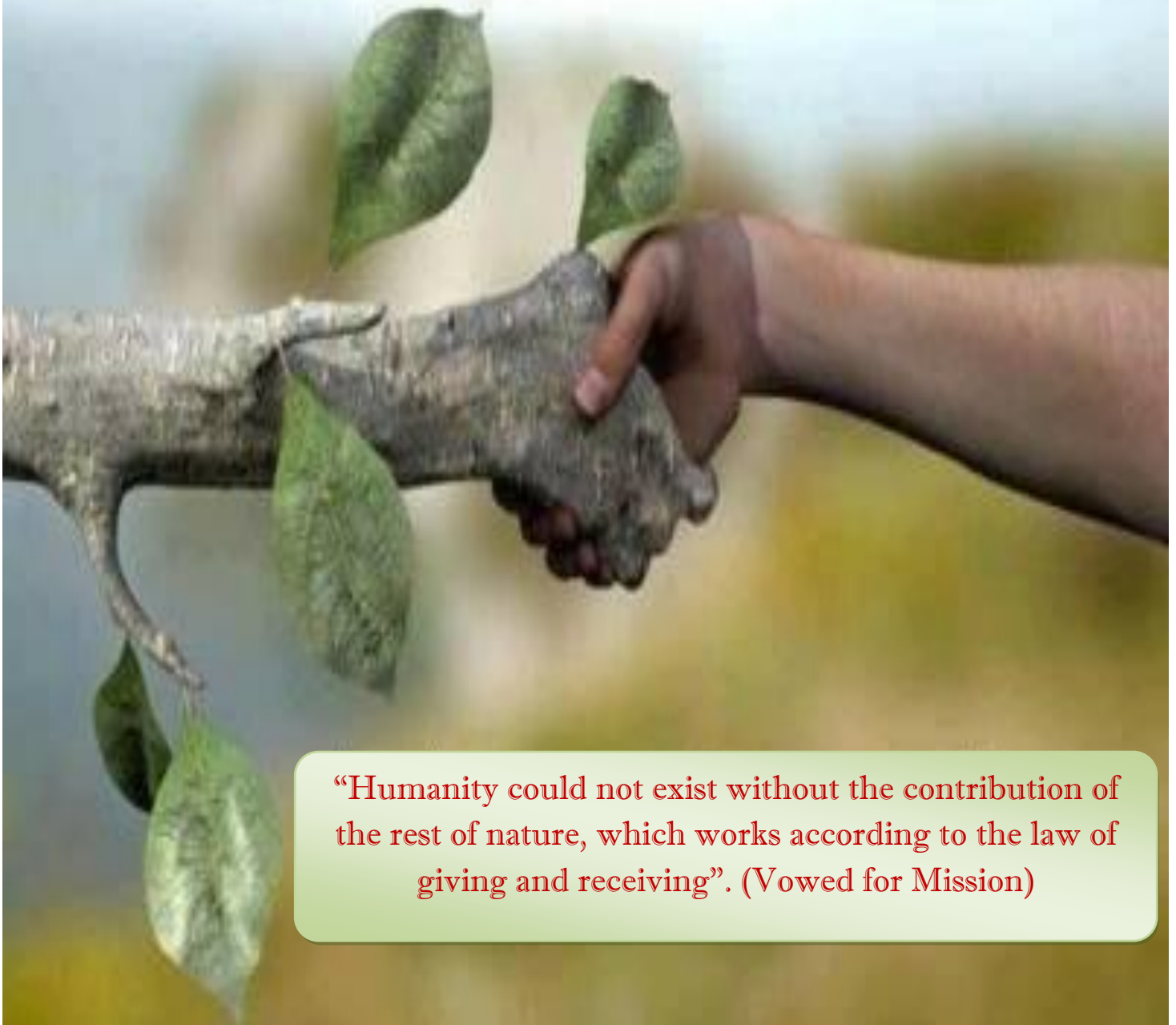


Kapatid



VOL: 51 NO: 2 HOLY FAMILY OF BORDEAUX: PHILIPPINES: Aug 2015

"The earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone." – Laudato Si-



"Humanity could not exist without the contribution of the rest of nature, which works according to the law of giving and receiving". (Vowed for Mission)

EDITORIAL

We are surrounded with “Urgencies” on every side. The challenges are numerous, new, unknown, and looks out-of-hand. We are shocked by the violence in the Middle-East, the ISIS threat and the insurmountable suffering imposed on people because of religion, the mass exodus of the people, uprooted and driven out of their homelands, the closure of borders, leaving the migrants and refugees homeless, hungry and without security.

We are dumb-founded at the crimes against human dignity, the incidents of abuses to women and children, the elderly and the vulnerable. We are shocked at the task of saving the Earth and the call to be co-creators in realizing the new heaven and the new earth.

In the midst of uncertainties, our thoughts are nourished by the timely calling of Pope Francis through the Encyclicals *Evangelii Gaudium* and *Laudato Si*. It is a challenge to an immense personal and communal awakening to focus on our commitment to arouse in us a serious consciousness to assume as well as to resume our responsibility as Christians and as persons consecrated to God to be on God’s Mission. It is a call to go beyond cultural, and religious affiliations to respond in a more humanitarian, Christian and spiritual way to the challenges in the changing world.

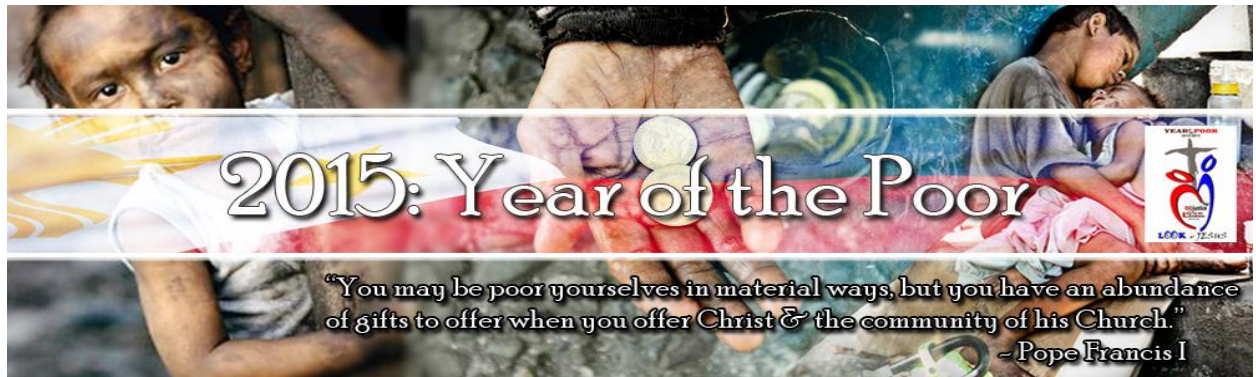
We are challenged ever more to take a stock of our priorities, our motivations, our leanings and interests, our sense of commitment and purpose of our calling, to realign them to live a life in keeping with our Charism and Mission Communion to become aware of the many threats to human and all of life. We are challenged to realign our apostolic action according to the signs of the times. In our desire to become a Gift in the changing world, the great challenge for us today is to move out of our comfort zones, of where we are now, daring to move inward in order to move out and to move forward.

The call for us is to move forward daringly and courageously to break the barriers that keep us captives and blur our vision to see the crying needs of our sisters and brothers. Let us allow ourselves to be transformed from within, knowing that the Spirit is always at work in us. Let us move towards those things that holds the truth about ourselves, our people and our Planet for our mission to be truly sacred, vibrant, relevant and pleasing to God, motivating us in tenderness and compassion to fulfil God’s vision of gathering All into One Family !

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Using the word "poor" means a lot of connotations and understanding and even guarantees good spirituality. When the collegiality of the Bishops declared 2015 as the "Year of the Poor" in the Philippines; the CBCP as a body gives all local Churches universal direction, something to commonly direct to lead and guide all celebration in all localities.

Direction to love the poor, direction to embrace poverty, and direction of the Church to be the Church of the Poor. This brings us back to the very papacy of John XXIII. He was the first pope to use the word "Church of the Poor" in his inaugural speech in 1962; picked up the word by the Asian Bishops Conference in 1970; then, eventually became the core message of the PCP II in 1991.

From the mind and heart of Pope John XXIII, now St. John XXIII, the word poor means and refers to those who have no opportunity to escape the inevitable degradation of powerlessness. The Church should proclaim to them the good news, that is, for Christ to have a concrete flesh on the poor. Proclamation must greatly involve experienceable meeting and discovering of Christ by those who have no powers. Those in the Church have the privilege to introduce Christ to everyone in need of Him.

The encyclicals of Pope John XXIII signals to challenge all the baptized; and the challenge itself calls for a deeper practice of the Christian faith cantering on the very disposition and attitudes of the individuals towards God, creation and neighbors. Thus, according to St John XXIII, this is the primary responsibility of being a follower of Christ, proclamation of His kingdom to the poor is highly essential.

Since time immemorial, becoming a poor is becoming a genuine Christian. Possessing a poor in the spirit is its highest measurement of one's spiritual maturity. The gospel of St Mark calls this as becoming children of God. Wisely putting that, God is the sole richness of an individual.

However, the present Pope in the name of Pope Francis has given us all the clearest direction on how to become the Church of the Poor. To be more austere Catholic Church; it should be poor and it's mission is to serve the poor. What the Church manifests would be an action towards the poor. We, as members of this Church, must do the same. Our priorities will be them - the poor according to the Gospel of Christ.

Besides, all the documents of the Church are words of assurances that the heart of the Church's concerns are the people at large, nobody is left behind. Church must and is always loyal to her mission -- proclaim the Good News to the poor.

Thus, is our universal, diocesan and parochial plan of actions still carry and manifest the essence of the Church of the Poor envisioned by Pope John XXIII and Pope Francis?

Fr. Benedicto Furo
(Priest Associate)

THANKS TO OUR HOLY FAMILY SISTERS!

Holy Family Sisters in our place Obrero – Bulan started the ‘Feeding Program’ for us children. On week days for four mornings they give us a glass of milk and snacks. Most of us are not so healthy and some of us are always sick. We are happy that we have something in the morning before going to school otherwise we do not have anything and we stay at home without going to school. On Wednesdays we have rice and soup with vegetables.



Monday to Saturday at six in the evening we the children from Obrero gather in our Chapel. Sisters teach us about Jesus... God

and God’s creation... in songs and stories. Then we pray the rosary together. We learn how to love Jesus, how to love others and how to love our creation. Sr. Cathy our new Sister teach us Catechism. We are so lucky Srs Subha and Bernie love us.



Last year Sr. Liezl was here in our place. I wish that she too will be back to tell us stories of Jesus again. I know God loves us all too.

Princes Roma Gito
Obrero Children’s Group – Bulan

“The Universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person’s face.”

Laudato Si - Pope Francis.



DEEPENING THE FAITH IN GOD

July 17-19 I was invited by the Our Father Parish Del Nartia to take part in a seminar on Parish renewal experience. The PREX experience was a very enlightening experience for me to know myself deeper and get to know who really I am. We were altogether 32 participants. It reminded me of my past especially the very sad, hurtful, and weakest moments in my life. It is a recalling and knowing who really I am, in what way I have to be strong that I need to change and let go of, for me to be healed.

I was struck with our first topic “The Road to Emmaus”. This experience reminded me of my three years being outside. There was an event of recognizing Jesus, for me to come back to the Holy Family through Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament whom I have not forgotten to visit. There I was enlightened to meet who Jesus is really for me. I realized the good and bad qualities I have in me hidden, which need to change in order to become more fully connected to God and to follow Him.



Here I experienced that I need to become truly a Christian and whom I have to value the people around me; neighbors cannot put aside for we need each other, my life is not meaningful without being challenged by others. Remembering the significant person who taught me on how to love God and give value to the teachings, of Jesus. Realizing all the experiences that I have encountered that made me a person - a truly Human person.

After PREX experience I felt light and happiness for I saw the hindrances that I need to give attention to for me to make efforts to change what I need to change to be more solid to choose life. I believe that I can because God has allowed things to happen and for me to know where on my part I need to change and grow more. In all what I have discovered about myself I want to say, ” I won’t give up any more for I believe in God. For I trust in the One who calls me.

Jean Marilag
(Contact Stage)

TRUE HAPPINESS



Happiness is a state that comes from within. It is a gift to everyone by our loving Lord. We cannot find happiness in material things. It is only temporary. Nowadays we find our satisfaction in the technology like twitter, Facebook, etc. Our happiness becomes limitless. In this world we need to look for ourselves happiness that can last long not just temporary like friends.

It is like the story of Alex that I read in the New York Times last July 6, 2015. She was lonely in her place in United States so she looked for friends through twitter that satisfied her life and made her happy. But without her knowledge one of her friends - an ISIS terrorist called and Alex made up her mind to change her religion.

I am not discussing on Alex changing her religion because each one has the freedom to choose. One can change her ways for her to become a better person. But in Alex's story she becomes unfaithful. It is written in the Bible we cannot serve two masters. In her own agenda she was testing God. This is part of our experience that when we are not firm in our faith, life becomes unsteady. We do know how to choose and what to choose, and sometimes we go astray.

Alex's life becomes complicated because of the friends she has chosen. We need to remember that God should be our First in everything. He will help us to be at peace and have inner happiness.

Happiness depends on the individual. Wherever we are we can be happy. Our happiness doesn't depend on other people. It will not guarantee that if we have friends we will be happy. Be happy of who we are and be happy with people around us. Let us search in our heart for true happiness. Let Jesus be our number one priority. Choosing brings all the happiness that we are searching for.



Liezl Esteves
Sauyo Community



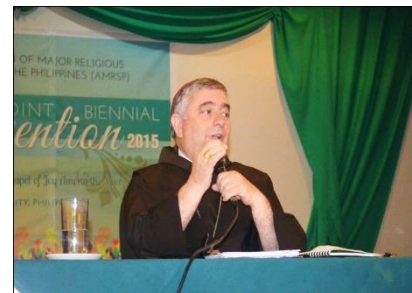
The theme: “Prophetic witnesses of the Gospel of Joy Among the poor” “Go into the world” (Mk 16.15)... and go forth to the existential peripheries... (Pope Francis)
On this Year of the Consecrate Life and the year of the Poor, One hundred and forty (140) men and women religious coming from one hundred and

twenty five (125) member Congregations of the Association of the Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines (AMRSP) blessed with the presence of Archbishop Jose Rodriguez Carballo, OFM, DD, of the Vatican's Congregation for institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, gathered together in Cebu City from July 13-17, 2015 to reflect on the theme “**Prophetic witnesses of the Gospel of Joy among the Poor**”

The aim was, to look to the past with **gratitude**, to live the present with **passion** and to embrace the future with **Hope**. The aim of the Consecrated life provided us the ground for our authentic reflection and examine on how as leaders of the Congregation live our Mission of Leadership.

The opening Liturgy highlighted the unveiling and blessing of the Icon of Jesus of the poor which was painted by Bro. Jaazeal Jakosalem of the Augustinian Recollects. The Icon was blessed by Pope Francis himself during His visit in the Philippines. The icon presents Jesus in the traditional kamiseta (shirt) with various symbolisms. This Icon stayed with us throughout our Convention reminding us the purpose of our gathering in this Convention, and our response to the challenges of Consecrated life today in the Philippines/Asia from the perspective of the poor and the marginalized and care for the Creation.

The key note address of Arch Bishop Jose Rodriguez Carballo, OFM spoke with passion on how Consecrated men and women in the Philippines can be prophetic witnesses of the Gospel of Joy among the poor. Arch Bishop also shared; the importance of authority in Service in the Leadership. Authority in Latin ‘to make grow’. He challenged us as leaders, to help the members to grow as integrated persons, our Icon should be good pastors:



To know the sheep by name to feed

To cure the sick, pay individual attention

To defend from wolf –challenge

This is a sacred ministry: spend time listening to individual. More than ever consecrated life faces lot of loneliness. The quality of listening will help animation. He also spoke about Formation –animation-vocational discernment and future thrust. He summarized his sharing with five key words.

GRATITUDE, PASSION, HOPE, GOSPEL AND PROPHECY.

We were led by the facilitator of this Convention in the small group sharing to recall our experience as a leader entrusted with the Mission of leading and stewarding our Congregation towards fidelity to the Charism and the Mission in the church- to look to the past with gratitude. They post a question for our reflection and sharing, *what are you most grateful for and disappointment and regrets?*



“To live the Present with Passion” for God, for the church, for the world, for the congregation, the question we need to ask ourselves as prophetic witnesses of the Gospel of Joy....

Are we challenged by the Gospel in our daily living and the decisions we make daily,

Do we put His words in to effect in our lives, becoming experts in ‘**Communion?**’

Journeying together as Association we focused our attention in scanning the horizons of our life as AMRSP what signs and hope we could see and what will be our direction?



The testimonials and Exposures on pastoral accompaniment of people living in Dumpsite area, Pastoral care for victims of human trafficking, Justice and peace and integrity of creation ministry are organized by SVD. Exposure to the Eco House and talk on a Call for climate justice and Philippines political situation, widen and deepen both our knowledge and experience of the situation of people in poverty. The two talks grounded us in reality and challenged the action the Association and Congregation urgently need to take.

As prophetic witnesses of the Gospel of Joy among the Poor, we commit to;

As AMRSP and member Congregations of AMRSP:

- evolve structures of care to better serve our missions and advocacies through collaborative partnership with men and women associations; local ,regional and global networks of religious organization; with interfaith churches/religions, government agencies, the local church, national and international NGOs through the use of social media.



As AMRSP:

- To develop sustained and continuing formation on Laudato Si towards achieving a collective understanding and eco-spirituality that is contextualized in our congregational Charisms and advocacies on the environment, climate justice, disaster and risk-management, good governance, anti-corruption an peace building.



As AMRSP Congregations;

- Create strong and active JPIC desk in all religious congregations, in partnership with ecology networks and stakeholders like the Global Catholic Climate justice movement, and groups with similar initiatives prioritizing partnership with grassroots an youth movements capable of actualizing their faith-life ethics for mature and transparent governance and sustainable environments.



Sr. Vivian Fernando
Sauyo Community



SIMPLE BUT VERY POWERFUL ...

“In 1987, a 74-year old rickshaw puller by the name of Bai Fangli came back to his hometown planning to retire from his backbreaking job. There, he saw children working in the fields, because they were too poor to afford school fees.

Bai returned to Tianjin and went back to work as a rickshaw puller, taking a modest accommodation next to the railway station. He waited for clients 24 hours a day, ate simple food and wore discarded second-hand clothes he found. He gave all of his hard-earned earnings to support children who could not afford education.

In 2001, he drove his rickshaw to Tianjin Yao Hua Middle School, to deliver his last instalment of money. Nearly 90 years old, he told the students that he couldn't work anymore. All of the students and teachers were moved to tears.

In total, Bai had donated a total of 350,000 Yuan to help more than 300 poor students continue with their studies. In 2005, Bai passed away leaving behind an inspiring legacy.

If a rickshaw-puller who wore used clothes and had no education can support 300 children to go to school, imagine what you and I can do with the resources we have to bring about positive change in our world!”

Sr. Bernie De Silva W
Bulan Community



A MISSION: A JOURNEY IN SEARCH OF SELF AND GOD

Priesthood is one of the great gifts God has given to humanity. It is a call to minister to God's People in every situation: seasons, races and cultures. It is a life in service to God and his people. And in this gift of priesthood is a process of being and becoming, there is a need to discover and re-discover oneself in the immense and beautiful world of ministry and service. In the reflection I made during my fifth anniversary, I have noted and told myself that **“Five Years will tell you that Ministry is not yours but God's and Priesthood is never yours but Christ's.”** Indeed, as priests we only participate in the priesthood of Christ and our ministry is also a participation in the ministry of God's walking amidst His people.

Twenty One years in the ministry offered much awareness and affirmation that the life of the priest is “walking with God's people”. Through this walking with God's people one can learn more the beauty of one's vocation amidst the so many vocations in the vineyard of the Lord. This Walking is the time when you can be yourself learning the pains and joys of your friends and companions and sometimes you discover that their pains and joys are also yours. The degree that you have walked with the people will also determine the degree that you will be accepted as one of them on the way. And it is when people accept you as one of them is the time that you become for them a priest of Jesus Christ.



Twenty One Years in the ministry will also present you new realities in life as human persons and as a minister. There had been so much changes in yourself that sometimes the busy schedules and involvements in different ministries and activities cover up and when not attended will lead you to seek a life that you find comfortable with and pursue it and sometimes fight for that “comforts” in your life. (To others this goes early in their ministry in less than five or ten years, they seek already for their comfort zones in the ministry)

We all know that as Catholics, our lives is a MISSION, a mission entrusted by God in Jesus Christ as witnesses of God's Love and Goodness. And we grow and appreciate more this mission when we know and understand better ourselves as persons, as human beings and as Christians. And seeking for our own comforts zones is not part of this mission. This is also what my friend: A Priest – Mentor, reminded me when I was planning and choosing for the options for my ministry. Here I wish to share our chat on this:



My chat:

January 09, 2014

Hello Fr. Andrei, I have celebrated my 21st Anniversary to the Priesthood last September 12, 2014. At this time I Am planning for my next term and since I have options for a sabbatical year or other ministry, I am considering an option to work with you in the ministry for the seaman/migrants –different from parish ministry which I have been for 21 years, another option is missions either for Italy with schooling, or Sri Lanka where I develop friendship with our group of diocesan priest Associates of the Holy Family of Bordeaux. Twice I have been in Sri Lanka, a beautiful place.

His reply:

Dear George. I am not surprised that after 21 years in the parish ministry you think of another challenge. Before making a final decision it's important to line up the pros and cons of different types of ministry. Indeed the maritime ministry can be very meaningful because there are so many Filipino seafarers sailing the oceans. Going to another country entails of course many different aspects of which language is crucial to function well in another non English speaking country. I hope that whatever choice you make, is not “running away” from your present duties or from yourself. A thorough discernment is necessary. Cordial greetings.

His words caught my attention that: “I hope that whatever choice you make, is not “running away” from your present duties or from yourself”. This gave me some time to discern and focus on my intention for a new form of ministry. And from my own discernment I know clearly that my intention is not “running away” from my present duties and from myself.



Reflecting on my situation, I have seen that I have no reason to run from my duties and responsibilities for I loved and enjoyed much my parish life. I loved and am happy with the groups that I helped organized, especially the SAPYM, THE SCOUTS OF ST JOSEPH, and THE ASSOCIATION OF ST. ST JOSEPH. Also I am happy to belong to the Holy Family Priest Associates with all the Family Activities both in National and

International gatherings. I have enjoyed every Parish assignments and Diocesan Commissions that I belonged to. I am happy and I am becoming comfortable with my life and ministry.

It is in this situation that I decided for a new challenge in my life: a new form of ministry, a Mission Work. And from the different options I have laid for myself sea-migrants ministry with my friend Fr Andrei, Studies in Rome and Sri Lanka Ministry along with Priest Associates, I ended up here in Diocese of Dodge City, Kansas, USA where there is a ministry cooperation program with our Sorsogon Diocese.

It has been one year that I am a missionary priest here in Dodge City Diocese in Kansas, USA. Indeed this has been a whole new world for me, a world where you do not have your “comforts” and begin again your life in a totally new context. The only things I hold into are:

1. This has been my choice;
2. I am doing something for our Diocese of Sorsogon,
3. Follow the Will of God.

I remembered my remarks to my colleagues, members of the Parish Pastoral Council and to my parish priest that “I thought that I am assigned in USA but I felt like in Mexico for our language used during the meetings is Mexican Spanish”. Adjusting to the English language which I seldom use for twenty one years and learning the new language Spanish through Books and Internet is indeed a great challenge. I was not even a month old in this new assignment when I was asked to preside the Spanish Mass, even with fully air-conditioned Church I was sweating throughout the liturgy.

During this year, I have realized that ministry is not about seeking our own comforts but more so in following the Will of God for me. I have always hold to my realization that ministry is God’s, we are only called to participate in that ministry. In this sense, we have indeed to present not ourselves but to present God to all the people we meet. And this can only be done when we have Faith in God and understand His Will for us.

Going to Mission is actually a journey inside of us, finding in ourselves what we hold dear for our lives. Going to mission is a journey to self-understanding and hoping to find God as the One we hold dear in our lives.

I have realized there are so many things that we have to learn in life and likewise to learn about ourselves. With our weaknesses and frailties, we are also so majestic and boundless when we accept and understand more ourselves. When we can be happy with ourselves, we can share that happiness to others and that happiness leads us to the greater happiness that we seek who is God Himself.

Going to mission is more than just doing some things or ministry for others, for the parish or for the people, rather going to mission is the “unloading” of your experience with God and sharing them with people that you meet. And this is also the beauty of the priesthood when you can present Jesus to the people as their bread of life for Priesthood is more than being comfortable with the Clerical Shirts, more than presiding in so many liturgies. Our priesthood is only the participation in the priesthood of Jesus Christ for priesthood is not ours but Christ’s.



When we can realize and accept that ministry is not ours but God’s, that is: His continuing presence among us in love and mercy, and also realize that our priesthood is nor ours but Christ’s- His Sacrifice of Love, then wherever we may be, we will not be hindered or cowed by fear for we know that we respond to the call to participate in the ministry of God and in the priesthood of Christ, just like what the prophets ,the apostles, and saints has done in our Church.

**Fr. George Fajardo
(Priest Associate)**

Young Asian Holy Family Seekers Session in Sri Lanka

Before leaving for the session everything was ready. We were prepared by Sr. Ida. She guided us to do all our reflections. She even took a lesson regarding mission. Everything was ready, presentations, things to bring. Besides, I was so excited.



Though everything was ready still there was a bit of anxiety in me when I reached the place. The very first day experience of being together was amazing. I felt I was being welcomed through the dance, procession and the prayer. Little later we introduced ourselves so interestingly. As usual because it was the first time seeing each other there was a bit of hesitation to take initiative for some and on my part as well. The orientation was given this very day.



The experience of sharing's and interactions strengthened me and made me courageous in taking risks. Practically it helped me to go in front hold the microphone and share something. It was the very first time in my life that I had that much of courage to raised questions and followed in the discussion.

We first listened to one another as we shared individually our personal stories. It was then brought to the big group. It was so enriching I would say because each one's story was unique. The more I listened to their stories, the more I became open and understanding. The more I shared my own story, the more I felt I am one with them.

It was a great opportunity that I got to listen to all the representatives of our family. Their sharing's reminded me that we are all equal and united towards our goal, the Kingdom of God. Additional to that great experiences were those various comments, questions and suggestions coming from the sisters, in charge and Formators.

“Be who you are wherever you go. Preserve your identity”. These I remember as part of my learning growth in life. After days of reflection we had a time to enjoy and relax outside; singing, dancing, eating etc. All those reminded me that no matter where we go, whatever we do, I should take care always of my identity. Yes, we all have the right to enjoy yet we need to be responsible too. To enjoy in a right way, in a right time and in a right place.



Being discerning Holy Family woman on mission, we dare to respond to the needs joyfully in our context. I believe having this in mind and with perseverance this will help us achieve our action plan and goal.



I am so glad to be part of Young Asian Holy Family Seekers. The experience was so enriching as well as challenging really felt being welcomed in the family. I am looking forward to make happen the fruits of our shared and combined works and reflections.

I am carrying with me the fruits of openness to express my desire, to share to all what I have received the humility to learn from others and the positive outlook in life. Thanking everyone who made the session meaningful and fruitful, to those who supported in every way possible and to all your endless prayers.

Cathy Estavillo
Bulan Community

WHAT A DIFFERENCE

Filipinos have deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We expressed it through the traditional folk religiosity, activities like Flores De Mayo, Santa Cruzan and Patronal Fiestas. This year activity is made in the context of BEC where people around nearby villages are welcome to participate. The purpose of this activity is to promote and propagate the Marian Devotion to the children and the youth. And also to promote the Family spirit choosing Reyna's with Mary's titles around the village going to the other villages. This tradition involved everybody young and old alike in prayer and

song while in procession, reflecting the life and virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is the first time we did this activity going and coming to nearby villages with our Patron Saints, it was a tiring journey but I was happy to experience because the family spirit is very much alive. We became close to the people became aware of their situations, difficulties and needs specially their spiritual growth. As a Holy Family Lay Associate I felt in a very significant way I was able to experience Being Family.

Mrs Edith Encinares
Lay Associate - Rizal

GOD SENDS ME...

I tried my best to think what news I will write about to 'Kapatid' and after a while this is what came to my mind. All is about our Holy Family Feeding Program where we Lay Associates are fully involved. It was not only feeding the children there is more than that. Our Program is such that it extends to touch the parents and their families. We thank God for inspiring us to work for the spiritual needs of our people.

I am very happy to be part of the program in supporting the Sisters in all possible ways that I can. Though I have many concerns in my own family I take this part to share my mite to uplift the lives of our people. I am happy because the children and parents are very active especially during their parents meeting. Yes, this will help not only to nourish their good health but also their spiritual side.



At every meeting inputs were given on different topics like malnutrition, how to take care of good health, parenting, spirituality of parenthood, about the bible and family prayer. I know all the parents are happy and they enjoy the program. The day we had the introduction to the Bible parents were so excited to know more about it and amazing they even expressed they need to have a Bible at home. Because that's where they/we learn the love story of God with His people.



I am glad that I am one of the members of Holy Family of Bordeaux. I learnt and know how to become helpful, compassionate, and humble and so on. This is God's plan and call for me to be actively participate in building God's Family where we are placed.

Mrs Norma Gocoyo
Lay Associate - Bulan



I had the opportunity to participate in the forum on 'human trafficking' and Migrants in IFRS last July. It was participated by different congregations. This forum highlighted the case of Mary Jane Veloso who was a victim of trafficking. This gathering provided us with opportunity to show solidarity to demand justice for her.

Before the testimony of her mother, there were some speakers who explained about the status of the government in working her case and those who are victims. They explained clearly the real meaning of trafficking. Trafficking is not only what we know about it for reasons of prostitution.

It is also about those persons who are forced to do something below their dignity even in a short distance. The great concern here the safe guarding of the human dignity of each human person.

After listening to the talks it made me to think how vast the needs of our people. They are crying for justice. It opened my mind and widened my knowledge about it. There are urgent needs that invite us to dare to respond to the needs of our people. We can start in a small scale through visiting families, to know the situation.

In my ministry of education I can begin to give awareness to the parents of children in our Day Care Center. Our monthly meeting and family visits will help them to educate to become aware of what is happening in their own family, neighbour and society.

Indeed participating in such meetings will help us become aware of the needs of the people and it will teach us how to deal with it. Participating is not enough. The most important thing is the implementation, so that we can prove on the saying "meeting, meeting nothing happens". Let us wake the world by waking up helping one another to say and to act "**No more Human Trafficking**"

Liezl Esteves
Sauyo Community



To you our dear Sisters!

- ✚ October 18th –
Sr. Catherine Coonghe
- ✚ November 22nd –
Sr. Scholastica Leon
- ✚ December 28th –
Sr. Sesu Mary Kulandaysamy

A big "Thank You!" to all who have contributed Articles to "Kapatid" and whose untiring effort and the support enabled us to share the life and mission present and active in our Unit we appreciate you!

Our next issue of 'Kapatid' will be in December. We would like to request you to send your contribution by or before November 30, 2015.



Family Events.....

May 05-31, 2015

Our TP Sisters Sr. Catherine Estavillo and Sr. Liezl Esteves participated in the Asian Young Seekers Session held in Wennappuwa – Sri Lanka from May 5-18. Sr. Ida Joseph participated in it as the Unit representative.

Both Srs. Catherine and Liezl had the opportunity to have an exposure Program in Colombo and Jaffna. They returned on May 31. Sr. Ida Joseph stayed on for her Home Holidays.

May 05-06, 2015

After the visit of Animation Sr. Ana Maria Alcalde – Superior General and Sr. Kinga Bartos – the General Secretary visited the communities in Sorsogon. They were accompanied by Sr. Maria Goretti Peries, arrived in Legaspi Airport and was met by Lay Associate Marione Naldo and was accompanied to Rizal Community.

The Lay and the Priest Associates of Rizal and Sorsogon had a short program with Sr. Ana Maria Alcalde and made it meaningful with the renewal of their Commitment and merienda in Filipino style.



May 07-09, 2015

Sr. Ana Maria Alcalde was welcomed by Bulan Community, the Lay Associates and children of the locality.

A program was organized to meet with the Lay Associates which was a very fruitful

One with the Renewal of Commitment, sharing, get to know each other, entertaining with Filipino culture and giving her a taste of Filipino merienda. The children of the locality surrounded her and entertained her in all their innocence and cuteness.

Sr. Ana Maria was accompanied to the Airport by the Bulan Community on May 9 after a fruitful visit to the PBN Family in Sorsogon.



May 23, 2015

Bulan Community had the 1st meeting with Parents of the Beneficiaries of the Feeding Program. Our gratitude goes to the PBN Foundation that opened new avenues for ministries among the marginalized in our locality.

May 24, 2015

The First Malungay Tree planting in Barrio Tarumata in Bulan through the efforts of the Holy Family Environment Program organized by the Sisters and Lay Associates of Bulan.



June 11-12. 2015

The Temporary Professed Sisters Catherine Estavillo and Liezl Esteves had their Recollection on June 11 in preparation for their Renewal of Vows. June 12 on the Feast of Our Lady of All Graces they renewed their Vows during the Eucharistic Celebration in Rizal presided by Fr. Benedicto Furo our Priest Associate. Two of our Lay Associates Albano Estavillo and Elna F. Banzon renewed their Commitment.



July 13-17, 2015

Sr. Vivian Fernando Unit Leader participated in the AMRSP Joint Biennial Convention held in Cebu City. The theme for the Convention was – “Prophetic Witness of the Gospel of Joy among the Poor – and go forth to the existential peripheries”... Pope Francis.

June 14. 2015

Srs. Catherine Coonghe and Josephine Coonghe left for Germany for their Holiday Home. We wish them a pleasant time with their Families.

June 15. 2015

The milk and Feeding Program in Bulan sponsored by PBN Foundation and initiated by the Sisters in Bulan started today. The children ranged from age 02-12 a selection of most deserving cases.

August 04. 2015

Sr. Ida Joseph returned after her Home Holidays.

August , 2015

The AWRES (Association of Women Religious in Sorsogon) core Group met in Rizal for their meeting to plan for the coming AWRES Assembly.

August 21, 2015

The Holy Family Environment Group in Rizal engaged themselves in Mangrove Restoration and undertook Bakawan Planting in the coastal area of Rizal.



August 22, 2015

The 28th Inter-vocational Meeting was held in Rizal and was participated by the Leadership Team of the 3 Vocations and the Lay Associates in Training for future Leaders.

The theme was: “The Poverty Situation in the Philippines” facilitated by Lay Associates Team.



August 23, 2015

The National Committee of Lay Associates had their regular quarterly meeting with the Theme – “The comforting Joy of the Gospel”, a reflection on Pope Francis Encyclical “The Joy of the Gospel”.



September 02-29, 2015

Sr. Josephine M.G. Coonghe is participated in the Spirituality Session in Martillac; Prayerful union with all the participants at the feet of our dear Founder.

September 05, 2015

The Association of Women Religious in Sorsogon (AWRES) had their recollection in Rizal with Fr. Thomas Banyag as the preacher and presider of the Eucharistic Celebration.

Thanks to the Rizal Community for the welcome and hospitality shown and shared.

September 12, 2015

The Sauyo Community in the Diocese of Novaliches participated in the 1st Diocesan Congress on Consecrated Life. The theme “Wake up the world” was a challenge to the participants both Consecrated Men and Women.

September 12, 2015

The Diocesan Bible Ministry Coordinators’ meeting was attended by Sr. Bernadette De Silva and the Lay Associate Albano Estavillo from Rizal and Rosania Gito from Bulan.

September 18, 2015

Sr. Ida Joseph shared with the Unit Leadership and Formation Team on the meeting with the Unit Leadership Teams and the Formators Teams of the Units of Colombo, Jaffna, India, Pakistan and Philippines with the GLT members Srs. Kumudinie and Jeni at Wennappuwa – Sri Lanka on May 19 after the Asian Young Seekers Session.

September 18-22

Fr. Benedicto Furo (Priest Associate) participated in the “ Council of the Family” meeting- Rome



September 19, 2015

The Formation Team met to prepare the annual report of the formation team for the Unit Assembly and to attend to matters regarding TP Sisters’ On-Going Formation and the program for Jean Marilag the Pre-Novice.

“Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good and making a new start”. - Laudato Si -