

## Welcome

Greetings from warm Luzon! We are glad to be able to share our latest news to all our readers.



## Easter activities

We, the Verbum Dei Missionary Fraternity and Family are glad to share with you the joy of our experience during Holy week up to Easter Sunday. As part of our dedication to the Ministry of the Word of God, we have conducted recollections and retreats to the different places that catered all groups of people from teenagers, youth, working people and married couples. Indeed, it was a fruitful and meaningful journey of Holy for all of us as you can see the bright faces that brought by Christ Resurrection!



## Mercy in Silay

Various Verbum Dei disciples led an orientation for the Easter Triduum in Silay. The focus was on Mercy and Prayer. Talks and dynamics were held to help the participants deepen on the theme and enter more into the Easter experience!





## Entering the Holy door

On 13 April, the CTK SOWers had a "Holy door experience." Holy Mass, a School of the Word about the Good Shepherd, then a trip to 3 churches: Santo Cristo, Divine Mercy and finally the Immaculate Conception cathedral. Confession completed the requirement for a plenary indulgence. We also enjoyed lunch together and the time of bonding as a community. We were glad that Sr Malou and Sr Sol could join us!

## Summer outreach

"We want to help!" – as Carl Vincent exclaimed. He and the rest of the Youth from Tagaytay embarked to reach out and bring joy to the hearts of the physically challenged children at Bahay San Rafael-Home in Amadeo, Cavite last April 30 by singing, giving gifts, and feeding them.



## A fruitful encounter

The female missionaries from Australia, Taiwan and Singapore (ACTS) and Philippines had a very enriching encounter and fruitful formation with Magdalena Rodriguez, the Female Branch Responsible, and Liliana Gonzales in Tagaytay. Their stay from April 14 to 27 was spent with a time of retreat, branch meeting, formation, dialogues and fraternal bonding together. A timely visit also for the nomination of Gaby Rocha as their new branch responsible. We give thanks for all the self-giving of Luisa Mesina for the past six years.





## Recollection for workers

Tita Corito Declaro organized a recollection in honor of the Year of Mercy for her workers. Fr Vic and Fr Iwao gave inputs regarding the year of mercy. The pilgrimage also involved passing through the holy door of our Lady of Sorrows in Pasay City.



## Mercy poured out for you

Last March 24-27, 2016 almost 70 people gathered to prepare for Easter through the annual Verbum Dei Semi-Silent Retreat at Mary Ridge Retreat House in Tagaytay entitled "Mercy Poured Out for You." The encounter included the traditional practices of the church all in one retreat, including Veneration of the Cross, Stations of the Cross, the Way of Light and the Easter Vigil. Talks and testimonies were also given that helped attendees to enter in the solemnity of the season. A time of reflection enabled the participants to enter into the core of the event. After the Easter Vigil there was a fiesta that showcased the different talents of the participants. There it was clearly shown that loving God does not have to be always serious but it can also be great fun!!!



## Bulilit: My identity as a Child of God

Last April 16, 2014 we had our BBG (Bulilit and Barkadahan Gathering) with the theme "Identity". We usually group the participants into two: The Bulilits ages 6-12 years old and the Barkadahan ages 13-19 years old. 28 little souls came with excitement and enthusiasm to learn more about God. Through the talks, storytelling, songs, animations and games headed by their Ate(s) and Kuya(s) in Verbum Dei, which they really enjoyed, they came to know their identity as children of God. Bulilits also heard a message of God to them and were able to express themselves through art and drawings.



## Barkadahan: Discovering myself

The Barkadahan group was composed of 26 courageous young men and women who willingly participated in discovering their own selves. The activities, songs and videos were focused on dealing with their environment. The talk given by Ate Rafa (a youth disciple in Pansol) aimed to open the eyes of these young people to see the realities around them and know how to react as a teenager. Games and dynamics were focused on the differences of an individual. They were holding a piece of paper and asked to close their eyes. Only one instruction was given yet they ended up having different results on their papers. The main purpose of this session is to give the young people the insights and awareness that they all have differences. And that difference is what makes them unique. To encourage them to live their lives the way God wants them to live and not imitating those they see around them.







## Discussion with doctors of neonatal ICU

On May 5, James and Iwao went to Philippine General Hospital to share with the Doctors about decision making for sick babies who are critically ill. There were around 30 residents and medical students at the talk. The doctors shared how they faced challenging situations – families who cannot afford treatment and lack of medical facilities. Afterwards, Iwao answered some questions about how parents can cope with grief. It is great to do the mission in the world and on the hospital wards!

## Time of transition

In the cool and prayerful ambiance of the Verbum Dei Retreat House in Tagaytay, Percy, Melaine, Sara, Lisa and Rana participated in the Transitions Retreat & Formation facilitated by Rachel and Adriana. An avenue of prayer, sharing and dialogue was provided to integrate the period of change that they commonly experienced. It was a privileged time to reconnect with each another after being sent to different apostolic or student communities. The event culminated in various bonding activities where participants expressed themselves in art, craft, appreciative writing and playing team games.



## Receive the Holy Spirit

Celebrating Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the Church: Jesus invites us to make the Holy Spirit alive in us, in our everyday Christian life. The Holy Spirit works in us and guides us to the right path - rekindling in us the enthusiasm to develop our gifts and talents. To fan into flame our charism and preaching – and launch us to our mission. So let us ask the Holy Spirit, “Come!”



## Blessing of the House of Prayer

On a pleasant afternoon on April 1, 2016, Sr. Luisa, Sr. Malou and Sr. Sol signed the Contract of Construction together with the ECCruz Corporation. ECCruz Corp. will take charge of the retro-fitting of the Verbum Dei Apostolate Center in Pasig. We are happy and thankful for all their assistance to make this project a reality. And with such great delight we announce to you that the groundwork will start at the end of this month of May. We continue to knock on your generous hearts to help us make this project a reality for all people!



Take home words ...

“Come Holy Spirit, renew the face of the earth!”

We will begin the construction of our Apostolate Center on May 30. For more information about how to help or in-kind donations please contact Sr. Malou Tibayan (09336270957) or Sr. Sol Abala (09324290330).