

Greetings

Greetings to all our dear friends. Many thanks for all your support and we hope you enjoy reading about some of our recent activities.

Looking ahead in 2017

All the missionaries in the Philippines (misioneras, married couples and misioneros) gathered for 3 days of formation. We had sessions on our Directories (practical guides of how to live our consecrated life) and on Vocation promotion and animation.



Fr Rene from the SDB gave us a whole day of formation with helpful topics on human aspects of our religious life. A fruitful and enjoyable time was had by all and it helped point the way (see photo) and look ahead in 2017!

A house of prayer for all Peoples

Verbum Dei Apostolate Center, Palatiw, Pasig City marked its official Blessing and the Consecration of its Altar and Tabernacle on January 14, 2017. It was presided by Fr. Jimmy Montecillo, OAD and concelebrated by our misioneros-priests. It was indeed a day of joy and continuous thanksgiving to God for all His Goodness and Providence through concrete people in making this dream “A Home for His Word” become a reality.



Yet the work does not end yet!!!! We now invite all of you to take on the challenge of making this place a House of Prayer for all peoples (Isaiah 56:7). Verbum Dei needs you so that this Apostolate Center may become both efficient and effective and become as fruitful as God desires it to be.

Why do we want to be confirmed?

Last February 5, four youths in Tagaytay received the Sacrament of Confirmation together with hundreds of others at the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. They received this sacrament because they want to grow in their faith in Jesus. They were prepared during six months in Verbum Dei ending with a special retreat.

One recipient writes "It was a very beautiful experience. We felt very special since two of us also received our first Holy Communion and first confession in the same day that we were confirmed. We can affirm, and confirm, that the sacraments are the greatest treasures we have ever received!"



Seminar on Spiritual Accompaniment

Jeanne and Lowry shared their expertise to us on the important theme of accompaniment and spiritual direction. A one day seminar was held in Pansol on February 25. The inputs included various modalities of accompanying others, how to offer spiritual direction, challenges and pitfalls, as well as helpful guidance on how to discern and make life decisions. The seminar was very enriching and we want more!

Caring for medical staff

On 13 January 2017, Dr Jeanette organized a session at Manila Doctors' Hospital with the Verbum Dei missionaries (Fr James, Fr Bong and Br Jojo) on "Spirituality in the Workplace." Those who attended were Doctors, Section heads, Nurse and persons from Human resources. Those who care for others need also to take care of themselves as Pope Benedict reminded us "Man cannot always give love, he must also receive." The Verbum Dei have been invited back to MDH for a follow up activity during Lent.





Welcome, JulieAnne!

I'm Julie-Anne Ntege, I was born and raised in London, UK. My parents are from Uganda, a small country in East Africa. In London, I was raised in a traditional Ugandan home, I believe that I am a product of two diverse cultures. In June 2016 I graduated from Southampton University, UK with a degree in Philosophy and Politics. I currently work in Uganda as a Teacher and Mentor for a Japanese NGO named Ashinaga.

I met the Verbum Dei community in Southampton, whilst studying at University. I have attended several Verbum Dei retreats which have provided the perfect environment to encounter the living God. For example, in 2015 I took part in a Verbum Dei organized pilgrimage from Rome to Assisi. Also, last year I attended the Verbum Dei pre-encounter in Győr, Hungary and then the World Youth Day in Poland. I'm here in the Philippines to experience Verbum Dei in a different country, to live and pray with the different communities, and to continue to discover where in the world this journey with God shall lead me.

Missionary Family for all Peoples.

The Verbum Dei Family in Luzon gathered on February 19 to listen to the fruits of the symposium of the Verbum Dei Missionary Family held last January in Medellín, Colombia. The Philippine delegation was composed by Lordie and Ronan Capuras—married disciples from Cebu, Mau and Jess Baja—missionary married couple based in CDO, and Gelo Balsita—lay disciple from Manila.



Bringing together Verbum Dei members, both consecrated and lay, from the five continents to pray and share their experiences and insights in living out the Verbum Dei mission, the symposium marked an important moment in our history and traced the path by which the Holy Spirit may guide us for the years ahead.



Building the Kingdom

In the middle of cement, sand and construction materials, the Word of God is being shared at Nemar Lumber and Hardware, in Batangas City and Vicmar Construction Company, in Calaca, Batangas. A group of workers showed their hunger for hearing the Word of God and so missionaries from Tagaytay community hold the monthly SOW right where they are. As they share how their lives are being transformed through prayer, once again we experience the power of the Word in building up each life.



Stressed no more!

The PLM campus ministry in which Sr. Adriana serves organized a half-day seminar on stress management. The goal was to share to the students on how to manage and hopefully reduce stress. A big crowd of quite stressed students attended. Fr. James gave a talk, and celebrated a mass along with Fr. Iwao. The advice of Pope Francis was also shared on how he handles stress "I don't know how I do it, but I pray: this helps me a lot. I pray. Prayer helps me; it's being with the Lord." Thanks Pope Francis for that good reminder!

Welcome back, Cecilia!

Hello Po! Ako si Sr Cecilia Teo, a Verbum Dei missionary from Singapore. Some of you might find me familiar since I was living before in Pandacan, Manila for 5 years. In 2013, I graduated with a Bachelor of Sacred Theology from the University of Santo Tomas and in the same year I made my perpetual vows. I was later assigned back to Singapore and then to Costa Rica to learn my Spanish. I must say I had a very good experience in Costa Rica (located in Central America) learning both a new culture and a new language. The people of Costa Rica are very warm and welcoming just like you in the Philippines. God is good and faithful. Whatever He asks of us, He also provides enough grace, strength and wisdom for adapting to a new culture. I had a wonderful experience trying to preach and give retreats in Spanish. Having a music ministry that provides Spanish songs was another challenging but fruitful experience. Now I am once again assigned back to the Philippines. You can't imagine how happy I am to be back. I am living in the Pasig Verbum Dei Apostolic Centre. I am sure we will have more time to share when we meet face to face. You are most welcome to visit me in Pasig! I am just a phone call away!



“Go forth to a land I will show you” (Gen 12:1)

In the spirit of missionary expansion, the community of female missionaries in theological studies recently moved house. Formerly residing at Dapitan area, Q.C. you can now find them in Pandacan. They enjoyed their time there and are thankful for all the people they met and the assistance they received, especially the help of Mrs. Letty Ignacio who generously allowed them to use her house for the last three years. They are now settled in to Pandacan and their apostolate is up and running. We wish them well on this new stage of the journey.


Upcoming activities:

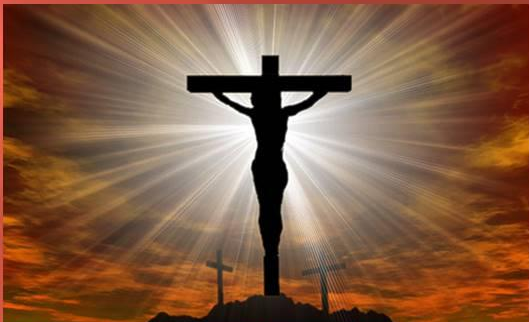
JOIN OUR ACTIVITIES!

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| YOUTH HIKING Mountain of Salvation, Batulao, Batangas February 26, 2017 9am – 4pm | SENIOR CITIZEN LENT RECOLLECTION March 19, 2017 9:30am to 4:00pm Verbum Dei Catholic Center of Evangelization Tagaytay City |
| WORKING GROUP LENTEN RECOLLECTION March 12, 2017 Verbum Dei Catholic Center of Evangelization Tagaytay City | HOLY WEEK REREAT April 13-16, 2017 Verbum Dei Catholic Center of Evangelization Tagaytay City |

CONTACTS:
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 *Holy Week Encounter*



"Do as I have done: Live and love without limits" (cfr John 13)

When: April 13 (1pm) – April 16 (1pm)
Where: Verbum Dei Catholic Center of Evangelization, Tagaytay City
Age: 15 and above
Rates: Dormitory 2100, Room X 4 per person: 2500, Room X 3 per person: 2650
Room X 2 per person: 2800
Contact: The Verbum Dei missionaries: 0942 359 3515, 0920 494 2427, 0922 843 3991
Deadline of Registration: April 7, 2017