

QC WORDNEWS

The Newsletter of the Verbum Dei Missionary Community of Quezon City



QC Community Joins Luzon Meet with Verbum Dei's 'Junta General'

August 28 was a special day for the QC community and the other Verbum Dei Communities of Luzon. They had a rare chance to meet and interact with key members of the "Junta General"- the General Board that shepherds Verbum Dei worldwide: Verbum Dei President Rodrigo Carizo, General Responsible for Verbum Dei's Female Branch, Antoinetta Vargas, General Councilor for Verbum Dei's Male Branch Fr. Jose Paolo, and General Responsible for the Married Couples' Branch, Alphonso Martinez.

The different communities presented their ongoing local activities and programs. Fr Rodrigo then talked about Verbum Dei Global. Sr. Antoinetta and Poncho shared about developments in their branches. Fr. Se Paulo then described Verbum Dei's experience in the recent World Youth Day. A lively open forum followed, and then an even livelier lunch and fellowship.

Mass was celebrated in the afternoon. The rite was made even more special by the formal discipleship commitment made by some members of different Luzon communities.





New Disciples

This year, Verbum Dei's 60th, the Lord of the harvest has sent more lay 'workers' into His vineyard. On Aug 28, several college students, young professionals, and adults from the Pansol-based Schools of the Word (SOW) made a formal year-long commitment as Verbum Dei 'missionary disciples.' The commitment rite was done during mass and witnessed by the Luzon communities and key members of the Verbum Dei General Board. On October 1, more adults from the SOW based in Christ the King Parish made similar commitments.

Who are Verbum Dei's missionary disciples? They are lay people who have experienced the fruits of journeying with Verbum Dei and feel called to grow more in their following of the Lord through the path of the Verbum Dei charism. After discernment and dialogue with Verbum Dei missionaries, disciples make a formal commitment for a year, and may renew that commitment yearly, and at some point, permanently.

Disciples commit to daily prayer with the Word of God, seeking a personal encounter with Jesus.



They also commit to having a missionary apostolate field where they can accompany others in the faith. They also commit to participating in 'revision of life' (a regular faith sharing within a small group of disciples). They are also asked to participate as much as possible in what is called the School of Apostles. This is a special Verbum Dei formation program which offers different opportunities for prayer, formation, training and spiritual accompaniment to help the disciples integrate faith and life—so that they too may eventually also help form others to be followers of Jesus and evangelizers.

John Allan Garcia, a college student, shares: "Because of Verbum Dei, my outlook on life changed, and they helped me see God's love for me and they also helped me to grow in my life ... so now I am one of the missionary disciples who can help even more people who are looking for God's love... "





Project of Life

The Project of Life was the first offering of the School of Apostles (SOA), a formation program that opened for Luzon communities in May. Disciples and friends from the QC community joined disciples and friends from Manila-Pasig and Tagaytay for these enriching monthly formation and prayer sessions.

From July to September, the focus was on making a personal project of life. The project of life is an important tool of the Verbum Dei missionary disciple. Doing a project of life helps the disciple discern the use of time and resources and gradually integrate the different areas of his or her life around an intentional following of Christ.

The project of life is a personal calendar and timetable. A lot goes into making it (and into revising it yearly, or as needed). That is why the SOA formation team led by Fr. Michael Cheong, Sr Amy Hernandez, and Sr. Angela Gomez led everyone on a 3-month journey of prayer, revisiting their personal history, examining personality traits and personal realities, analyzing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in the areas of prayer, mission, fraternal love and humility as well as different areas needed for wholistic growth as an evangelizer.

Darlene Badilla, a young professional, shares: "In making my project of life, I witnessed how God is truly guiding me. I realized that in every moment, He was there doing things to lead me in the life he wanted me to live. All the positive and negative events that happened in my life were a preparation arranged by Him, to help me become the best version of myself. My project of life helps me to somehow understand myself. I discovered new opportunities that I can use to strengthen my relationship to God and to others. I also uncovered new weaknesses where I need to improve .. Overall, my project of life is the testimony of God's love for me. He gives me hope for a beautiful tomorrow that awaits me."

College student John Allan Garcia said, "Life is a gift from the Lord.. So I told myself, no matter what mistake I made in my life, I will change it to a new story... as long as I am with the Lord."





Young Professionals

The Quezon City group of young professionals in Verbum Dei have been quite active and busy in the last few months. They have a weekly School of the Word and Rosary of the Word. They have also been receiving additional formation. Recent topics included Prayer, Revision of Life (a regular faith sharing among the more committed members), and fraternal correction.

Four of them took a big step this year and made formal commitments as Verbum Dei missionary disciples. These four now join other disciples in Luzon for the monthly School of Apostles, one of Verbum Dei's formation programs for committed disciples.



The young professionals have also been busy with their respective missions. Two of them (Gabs and Darlene) help the missionaries who work with the Pansol youth. Like older siblings, they offer their support to these young people in their faith journey, giving talks and facilitating sharing sessions as needed.

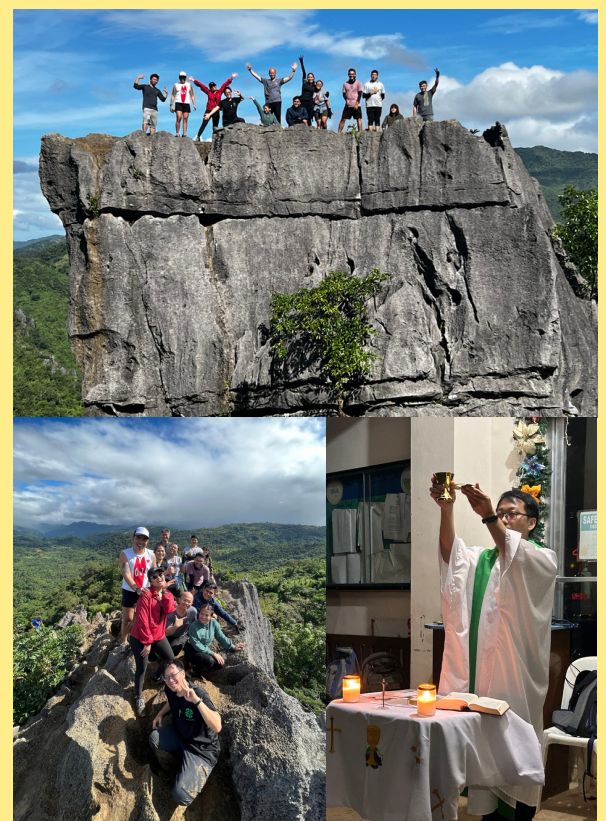
Three of them (Elaine, Cathy, and Jonnalyn) are now helping the missionaries and Pansol teens group run the little School of the Word for children.

Work-Life Balance

On November 12, the Verbum Dei Quezon City young professionals organized a hiking activity at the Nagpatong Rock Formation in Tanay, Rizal. The theme was "Work-Life Balance". The main passage was Matthew 22:21 "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God". Twenty (20) people (young professionals and *misioneros*) joined the event.

The activity began with a Mass. The hike itself, which started at 5:30am, was a bit challenging. Since it had rained the night before, the trail was muddy and slippery.

At one point during the hike, the group took a rest and listened to a talk by Gabs, a Verbum Dei disciple. He shared about being contemplatives in action especially in work places. He encouraged the young professionals to consecrate their jobs to God, to always try to bring the presence of God wherever they go. At the summit of the Nagpatong Rock Formation, participants had a breathtaking view of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range. Lunch, sharing, and giving of souvenirs and certificates ended this tiring but fruitful event. - By Darlene P. Badilla





‘Mangarap Ka!’: Vocation Jamboree

What is the dream of God for us and what is my part in it?

On Mission Sunday, Oct 22, 2023, the Verbum Dei Missionaries and the young people gathered together to discover the dream of God and His mission for each one of us.

We had a Eucharistic celebration, a talk, testimonies, panel discussions, dancing, and a song forum in this one whole day of dreaming together.

Misioneros, misioneras, and couple missionaries of the Verbum Dei Philippines inspired the young people to follow God and dedicate themselves to fulfilling His will.





G!

Jesus calls us "Follow me" and we say "G"!

"G" is a youth term for "game!" or "Yes." This year, the youth were invited in a special way to say yes to follow Jesus and to do whatever He tells us, as Mama Mary encourages us. To prepare ourselves for this "Yes" throughout the year, the Verbum Dei Quezon City Youth and Young Professionals gathered together in Los Baños, Laguna on August 26 and 27.



On Day 1, we began our assembly with a talk on "Responsibility" listening to Jesus Himself saying that if we want to follow him then we must deny ourselves and carry our cross daily (cf. Mt 16:24).

This was followed by a formation on the structure of our ministry, election, and appointment of the new core team (the youth coordinator and counselors), development of our new vision, mission, and goals, dialoguing in our open forum, and concretely planning our major apostolic activities for the year.



'Kwentuhan' with the Missionaries

In October, Verbum Dei QC started a podcast entitled "Kwentuhan (or Storytelling) with the Missionaries." The first guest was Fr. Filipe Vaz Pardal, and the second was Sr. Dolly Celeste Tan. The podcast is meant to help people (especially the youth) get to know the Verbum Dei missionaries better. Through these informal story-telling sessions, people can listen to different vocation stories, learn more about missionary life, and pick up valuable "tips" for following the Lord.

Youth & Young Professionals



On Day 2, we woke up early in the morning to hike on Mt. Makiling. It was an intense experience for all of us because some of us were first-timers, there were many obstacles along the way, and there was a sudden storm in the middle of our hike. Everyone participated actively, each one helping the other in any way that he or she could. Everyone was determined to reach the goal. It was an unforgettable experience for all of us. We learned a lot from it and overcame many things by the grace of God. We became a little "Synodal Church" (the last formation given) as we worked and journeyed together.

We ended the day celebrating our victory, the birthdays of Elaine (Young Professionals Coordinator), and mine at my mother's house which is in Laguna too. We will carry the fruits of our two-day camp throughout the year as we reach the dream of God for us and the Verbum Dei.



On the following day August 28, 2023, thirteen youth and four young professionals made their commitment to be Verbum Dei Missionary Disciples in the Mass celebrated by our President Rodrigo Carrizo. - *By Angelo Balsita (Youth Adviser)*



Youth & Young Professionals



“Follow Me”

The Verbum Dei Youth and Young Professionals of Pansol and Manila-Pasig had a three-day silent retreat at the Verbum Dei Retreat House in Tagaytay last August 11-13, 2023 with the theme "Follow me" (Mt 9:9).

The silence in the beautiful "hill" led the 25 chosen young men and women to a personal encounter with God. Seven (7) talks were given by different misioneras and misioneros and an extended time for prayer was allocated for a deeper and more intimate dialogue with God.

The overall fruits were the experience of being called by Jesus to follow him and the personal and communitarian desire to do so.

The summary of each talk was highlighted during the Saturday vigil activities. Special dynamics were held to show the relevance and practical application of each talk. The vigil ended with the exposition of the blessed sacrament. During the exposition, each participant experienced the warm love of Jesus.

The final talk, entitled "Mission" focused on the idea that each one's first mission is himself/herself. After a prayer period, participants shared their insights and fruits from the retreat.

Fr. Bong Guinoo celebrated the culminating mass. Here he said that the mission of following Jesus in our different realities of life will lead us to our fulfillment.



Youth & Young Professionals



“Beloved, Chosen, Sent”: Teen Silent Retreat

Beloved, chosen, and sent by God. Yes, you are! That's your truest and deepest identity. This was the “good news” that Verbum Dei sought to bring to 40 teens and youth in a silent retreat held on September 24, 2023, in Pandacan, Manila.

College students (Verbum Dei disciples) who have ‘adopted’ the teens as their apostolate, gave the talks.

Beloved. The first speaker, Camille, shared, “There’s someone out there who’s loving us without us even begging or asking for it, and that someone is God. You are loved by God.” She shared her moving testimony of being lost and found by God.

Chosen. In the second talk, Yemyem said, ‘You were chosen by God just as he chose the first apostles. He knows you and he sees your potential to be his apostle. He can see in you a talented and loving person and he wants to bring that out in you. He has so much trust in you that you can do great things in this world.’



Sent. Luis inspired us in the last talk by saying, “I feel that God wanted me to be here in front of you to be his voice, to be a light and guide, for you to feel his love. Don't be discouraged, don't be ashamed of your faith. The world needs it, the world needs Love so don't let negativity win. Therefore I urge you to Go! Go and preach the Word of God! for it needs action! The Gospel cannot be spelled without GO.”

Fruits. During the praying of the rosary, teens shared the fruits of their prayer. Jopay shared, “He (Jesus) is here right beside me ready to help me carry my cross, that is how I know that I am BELOVED, I am CHOSEN and I am SENT.” Alexis said, “I was chosen to be here, the Lord sent me to bring life to my beloved, akala ko isa akong failure yun pala meron ding mabuti sa akin.” (I thought I was a failure, but I discovered there is good in me.) Mikko on the other hand realized the call of Jesus to be a “good example” for many so that many will also live a better life in God. Truly, the Lord has blessed us with abundant fruits.

After the rosary, there was group sharing, an open forum facilitated by college students Luis and Deng, and a formation on the Bible, led by Bro. Gelo and Clariz). The retreat with a mass and dinner. And thanks to kind sponsors, each participant received a personal Bible!

Holy-ween!

On October 28, a quiet but colorful Parade of Saints processed through the streets of the Pansol neighborhood. The Verbum Dei community of Pansol—children, teens, college students, young professionals, and even the misioneros—went out dressed as saints, sending a quiet but riveting message that November 1 is a celebration of all saints: not a “Halloween” but a “Holy-ween.” “It was also a chance to view the saints as our leaders and examples,” said Elaine Solomon, who noted that a motorcade of candidates for the barangay elections was going on at the same time. “Kids were also following our parade,” she adds. “One child followed us all the way to the chapel—and is happily now joining our Kids’ School of the Word.”



Kids' SOW resumes

The little School of the Word for children opened again last July after a few months' break. . Around 20 to 30 children attend these Saturday morning sessions. Helping with the children's SOW has become the mission of the teens' group, with 3 of the young professionals providing supervision— and of course the misioneros guiding the team. One of the special activities for the children in October was the Parade of Saints. They learned about different saints, dressed up as saints, and had a procession around Pansol, together with the Verbum Dei community (see above).





Pansol SOWers at a special All Souls' Day mass on November 2

Fruit in the Spirit

"This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear (Mk 4:26-28)"

A slow, steady growth with patient missionary effort and the work of the Spirit. This is how it has been for the Thursday Tagalog School of the Word in Pansol. After some years now, the group has grown to about 65 regular attendees. "I like to think they come every week because they are receiving some spiritual nourishment," says Fr. Joseph "Jojo" David. "We give them the Word of God—and not much else." And people do come. Some of them arrive way before the 7:00 pm start time because they have to walk far through hilly terrain and want to do it before it gets dark.



The Thursday Tagalog SOW at the Verbum Dei House in Pansol

Last July they came even if the missionaries, Fr Jojo included, went away for a one-month retreat, and lay preachers (young professionals Sherwin and Gabs) gave the prayer guidelines. Fr Jojo says, "I guess they really look for the SOW— even if I am not around." Volunteer catechists, lectors, greeters and collectors from the parish also attend regularly. "They say they are always giving of themselves in their ministry in the parish, and the SOW is where they can receive personal nourishment," Fr Jojo says.

Fr Jojo also noticed that SOWers are now approaching him after the SOW to ask for confession and even counseling. "I don't offer it, but they ask. Some of them say they are moved by the guidelines and prayer. Some say 'I don't want to be seen always attending SOW and yet not amending my life.' Others say their problems and mistakes in life weigh so heavily on them that they need to be unburdened."

Many also volunteer to do things like clean and set up the venue. They also actively invite relatives and neighbors. While they have yet to preach in the SOW itself, Fr Jojo notes that they are eager to give testimonies during the weekly Rosary of the Word— which they also attend. A few have made formal commitments as Verbum Dei Disciples. "I have high hopes that someday, they will preach too in the SOW," Fr Jojo says. Right now, they are assisting Fr Jojo in running another monthly "outreach SOW" in the neighboring community of Kaingin 1. "The Spirit is working indeed," Fr Jojo says.



What fruits did these past few months of SOW yield?

Fr Michael observes: “Missionary discipleship is demanding so it gave us a different angle to our reflections. I noticed in the listeners more missionary enthusiasm. People become more aware of their responsibility to become missionaries. Listening to the SOW sharing and to people I talked to one-on-one, I sensed this desire to know what to do to be a missionary, what it takes, and questions like that. Questions that maybe they had not asked before. So that is one fruit: awareness of maturing in the mission. Second, well— people felt challenged! This sense of ‘oh my, do I really have to do that?!’ But I think it is a good question, to take a step to know more about our faith, and to follow Jesus in our mission— not just as listeners but also sharers. Third, I have seen that there is more desire to preach the guidelines for prayer. That is one great fruit! People are offering to preach—people who have not offered to preach before!” Lay people have in fact been preaching at the SOW. Emy Abaya shares the fruit of her experience below.

Missionary Discipleship

For the past months, missionary discipleship has been the overall theme for the hybrid School of the Word (SOW) held at Christ the King Parish (CTK) in Greenmeadows.

Why the theme of missionary discipleship? Fr. Michael Cheong, FMVD, explains: “One reason was the readiness. Most of us in the SOW have been journeying for some time already, and missionary discipleship is surely a topic for maturity in being a Christian. That is one of the themes of Pope Francis. This is his main theme, that all of us are missionary disciples. Providentially, the Sunday readings at this time are from the Gospel of Matthew. The Gospel of Matthew talks about what it means to be a disciple. So having these two things combined, I felt it was very opportune to discuss missionary discipleship in the church—but according to the Gospel of Matthew.’

Five Loaves, Two Fish

Give the prayer guidelines at SOW? Me, a lay person? Daunting, yes, but as I prayed and worked on it, always asking myself: “is it enough?”, I found that the Lord’s grace truly abounds. I learned to focus on the main message and to discern which food to offer for the participants to savor. Like a parent preparing food for children, I asked the Lord to help me offer what is most nourishing and needed for the listeners’ growth. I find that when preaching, your desires are for the people who will listen and not for yourself.

I was helped by the reminder that all the work in preparing the guidelines was my “five loaves and two fish.” It is the Master who ‘multiplies’ everything in the peoples’ hearts and minds. I am humbled to be chosen to be a server of the best food- the Word of God. I know that if there is at least one person who is nourished then the mission is fulfilled. And I know that it was, because that person is me. -

by Emy M. Abaya



New Ecclesial Zone Responsible

Fr. Filipe Vaz Pardal was appointed this year as the new ecclesial zone responsible for the Philippines. He takes over from Sr. Amy Hernandez. The ecclesial zone responsible for shepherding the three branches (misioneros, misioneras, and married couples) and the Verbum Dei family in the Philippines, visiting and assisting the different local communities. Together with the Zone Board, which he or she heads and coordinates, the ecclesial zone responsible also discerns and charts the general directions that Verbum Dei in the Philippines takes during a set period of time.



Formation House

This year, Verbum Dei welcomed three young men to the pre-formation course for male missionaries: John McCaffrey from Australia, Chien Pham, and Tuan Nguyen from Vietnam. They join Hai Nguyen, also from Vietnam, in Verbum Dei's formation house. Having completed the pre-formation stage, Hai is now in the formation course proper. Bro. Darwin Capuras, a Filipino formerly assigned to Vietnam, joins Fr. Iwao and Fr Michael in the team of formators.



Feeding Program Turns Six!

On October 10 this year, Verbum Dei's 60th year, the feeding program in Pansol turned 6! Initiated by Fr. Filipe Vaz Pardal, with the generous support of Spanish and Filipino sponsors, the feeding program is ably run by volunteers, from the parish and the Verbum Dei community—with misioneros providing supervision. The team is a happy one, working together to do menu preparation, marketing, cooking, and supervising 39 children as they eat a nutritious lunch. The children's parents are to feed their children, too. The team also works to ensure that children receive regular medical and dental check-ups. School supplies are also provided for school-age children.



The first "graduates" of the feeding program have grown, and many of them now join the Kids' School of the Word.

Living in the Embrace of the Trinity

By Fr. Michael Cheong, FMVD & the Word News Team

Every year without fail, the Verbum Dei Fraternity (made up of 3 branches: the priests and brothers, the sisters, and married couples with special bonds to Verbum Dei) go on a month-long retreat. The retreat this year (Verbum Dei's 60th) was held in July. It was facilitated by Verbum Dei president Fr. Rodrigo Carrizo, current ecclesial zone responsible for the Philippines Fr. Filipe Vaz Pardal, and the former ecclesial zone responsible for the Philippines, Sr. Amy Hernandez. Fr. Michael Cheong shared audio reflections on the fruits of this retreat. Here are some excerpts:

The fruit of the month retreat was a renewal of my own consecration to God as Holy Trinity. I think that was the focus of the retreat and a move also of the whole Verbum Dei Fraternity to bring us all back to our consecration, its significance in the world, in the church— and to living it with more enthusiasm, with a renewed understanding of its place in the church. The focus was more on the persons of the Trinity. Our consecration is not just about activities, it is not just about doing a mission, it's about being consecrated to someone, to persons, to a relationship with these Divine Persons. They are the reason for our lives. I would say even the sacrifices that we make are because they are real. God is real! He is truly Father, He is truly Jesus the Redeemer. He is really the Son of God, He truly became man, and that love of His captivates our hearts, and it's so real that you can experience Him today. And the Holy Spirit is the One who makes that relationship possible and makes it real for us. These 'theological concepts', if you like, became real again in the retreat.

Praying with the consecration to the Father, one definite highlight was the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15: 20). The gestures of the Father when he sees his son when his heart is filled with compassion alone when he looks at us when he is so moved that he runs to us with that assurance, to reach out to us in so many details of our lives, the unconditional acceptance that we feel in that embrace, and that tender kiss he gives that shows how special each one of us is to Him... Sometimes we feel so lost, we don't know how to place ourselves in our difficulties, all kinds of challenges, not understanding our vocation sometimes—and when one preacher invited us to “Just let yourself be held by the Father” ... Wow I tell you, we had testimonies from missionaries of that moment! For some, I'd say that was THE retreat: staying in the embrace of the Father.

We also prayed with the consecration to Jesus as the Son. One highlight was the meditation on St. Thomas. I can only describe it as 'the Jesus who seeks us out.' We prayed with Thomas after the resurrection, the initial discouragement, doubts, darkness, questions, the rebelliousness even... and how Jesus came for him--like the Father, but more like a friend, a brother, an equal who is so near and always concerned for us. In our low moments, when we feel we have failed and we feel ashamed and perhaps rightly so, Jesus says 'I am coming for you again. I want you to test me, to touch my wounds. You are still my friend, still the one I called, still my witness. I will keep coming for you even if you go far away from me. "

Praying with the consecration to the Holy Spirit, the fruit for me was having that “wow” again about being consecrated to God. Vita Consecrata, no. 104, says: “Those who have been given the priceless gift of following the Lord Jesus more closely consider it obvious that He can and must be loved with an undivided heart and not merely certain actions or occasional moments or activities.” Is it really “a priceless gift to follow Jesus more closely”? It was so beautiful to experience in the retreat that the answer is yes! After all these years, looking back at the price of this vocation, the sacrifices, the sufferings even, I would never exchange it still. There is nothing of higher value than to follow Jesus in poverty, in chastity and in obedience ... this God, who never stops projecting our lives toward immense possibility—not only for ourselves, but also for the people of our world who need to see a God who is real and who really cares about them as well, and who wants to elevate their lives towards an existence they could never imagine.

Lights from a Missionary Life



Fr. Greg Morgan from Australia came to the Philippines in April and May to go on retreat. The Wordnews Team had a chance to speak with him and get precious insights from his extraordinary missionary life.

Fr Greg has been a Verbum Dei missionary for 36 years. His journey began in Spain, where he went for studies, and like many missionaries, had to struggle with studying in Spanish. He was then sent to Colombia--during the time of the infamous drug lord Pablo Escobar--and then to Venezuela. He returned to Spain, left for Ireland where he studied for 3 years, and returned to Spain for 2 more years of study. He was then ordained a priest in 1995, at the age of 30. After ordination, he was sent to the US to work with Latin Americans. It was a huge apostolate, he remembers, and says "Boy, it was tough." He stayed there for three years. From 1998-1999, he was sent to Cebu in the Philippines. After that, he was assigned to Rome, where he worked with groups coming for the 2000 Jubilee, as well as for World Youth Day. He then studied again for a year. Then at the request of Fr Filipe Vaz Pardal--then the general superior of Verbum Dei's male branch—he served as vice-superior of the male branch. After this, he became Verbum Dei's administrator general. When his term ended in 2009, he went to Germany where he pursued studies for a doctorate in philosophy. He was then assigned to Italy. From Italy, he went to Australia, where he has been doing missionary work for almost 10 years.

Reflecting on this remarkable journey that took him across continents and cultures, he says: "What I've learned is, wherever you are sent, say yes. Because you may not see it, but it is the best thing for you. The Lord knows. Sometimes we choose the easy road. The Lord says it's a narrow gate and a hard road. Sometimes we have to go through that narrow gate and that hard road. I look back now and I realize how much I gained..."

One of the places he said "yes" to was Cebu, Philippines. "It was one of the greatest adventures of my life," he said. "And I really loved it...There was so much we were just discovering... And it was a growing time." He learned a lot. "I learned a bit of Cebuano. I realized that even if I could not speak it perfectly, the fact that I made such an effort to learn the language, the more I struggled to say things in Cebuano, I realize that that made an impact." It was also here that he learned to run his very first School of the Word.

He was also taught patience. "The Philippines is one of those places where you learn patience, because things just do not happen quickly..." He also remembers the Philippines for "the beautiful way of life, the simplicity of the Philippines ... Their being able to smile no matter how difficult the circumstances may be."

Reflecting further he said, "What I have learned is that there are many ways of skinning the Catholic cat. I have also learned that it's a very different thing working in a church that is growing, and one that is dying... You have to use different methods ... So working in Africa is a very different thing from working in the Philippines or in South America. You've got to really learn to read the signs of the times... That is why for us Verbum Dei missionaries, we talk about the capacity for adaptation. You've got to have the capacity for openness, the capacity for adaptation ... You can't expect the people to adapt to you. You've got to change for them, learn their language, learn their way of thinking, and look for ways of making inroads for the Gospel. Let Jesus build bridges."



Fr. Ismael sharing at the October 22 Vocation Jamboree

A Visit from the General Superior

This October, Fr. Ismael Barros, the general superior of the male branch of Verbum Dei, made a brief stopover in the Philippines en route to Australia. During his stay here, he spent time with the young men in the pre-formation and formation courses, and with their formators. He also spoke to the misioneros about the upcoming 2024 Verbum Dei Congress. Verbum Dei holds this international congress every 6 years, with participants coming to represent the Verbum Dei communities around the globe. Fr. Ismael was also able to take part in some of the activities of the youth apostolate here—like the Vocation Jamboree and activities to prepare for entering into campus ministry.



Fr. Ismael (in black) giving formation



Fr. Ismael (in black) at the formation house



Above: Fr. Ismael with misioneros and formands

THE QC WORDNEWS TEAM

Advisers: Fr. Filipe Vaz Pardal, FMVD & QC Apostolic Council

Coordination & Editing: Stella Deriquito & Emy Abaya

Contributors: Emy Abaya, Darlene Badilla, Bro. Angelo Balsita, Fr. Michael Cheong FMVD, Fr. Joseph David FMVD, Fr. Iwao Ikegami FMVD, Fr. Vincent Guinoo FMVD, Fr. Filipe Vaz Pardal, FMVD

Photos: Darlene Badilla, Bro. Angelo Balsita, Fr. Filipe Vaz Pardal, Fr. Michael Cheong FMVD, Fr. Joseph David FMVD, Fr. Iwao Ikegami FMVD, Fr. Vincent Guinoo FMVD, Elaine Solomon, Emy Abaya, Judy Tan, Bro. Tuan Nguyen

Layout: Stella Deriquito, Emy Abaya & Kyle Abaya

FOR INQUIRIES:

Verbum Dei Catholic Missionaries
58 Pansol Avenue
Barangay Pansol, Quezon City
email: verbumpansol@gmail.com

To learn more about the Verbum Dei missionary community in the Philippines:

visit verbumdeiphilippines.com or follow us on Facebook.