



## Fr. Steve Formally Installed as CTK Parish Priest

Bishop Honesto. F. Ongtioco, head of the Diocese of Cubao to which CTK Greenmeadows belongs, officially installed Fr. Steve Zabala as the official parish priest of Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows last January 16 during the 6 pm mass at the main church. Though a Wednesday, the church was crowded with parishioners and well-wishers.



To recall, Fr. Steve had transferred to CTK last June 16 and celebrated his first mass on June 17. Fr. Steve was one of the last of the 47 parish priests to be installed. Some 40 priests from the Cubao Diocese witnessed the installation, including all three previous CTK parish priests – Bishop Ongtioco

(2004-2006), Msgr. Dan Sta. Maria (2006-2012), and Fr. Bong Tupino (2012-2018).

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## Camillus de Lellis Heart Relic Visits CTK

The incorrupt heart relic of Camillus de Lellis, patron saint of the sick, doctors, nurses, and hospitals, visited Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows last February 23, one of the stops in its two month journey throughout the Philippines. The relic arrived by a special van escorted by armed soldiers at 9:45 am and greeted warmly by several parishioners, including most of the Lectors and Commentators



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## CTK Gears Up for Lenten, Easter Triduum, and Easter Seasons



March 6, Ash Wednesday, kicked off the Lenten Season for the Catholic world. The previous day, March 5, the devout parishioners witnessed the ceremonial Burning of Palms to Ashes outside the Divine Mercy Chapel just before the 6 pm mass.

March 8, the first Friday of Lent, was the first Parish Way of the Cross, which would then be held every Friday thereafter during Lent, after the 6 pm

mass. For March 8, the sponsoring parish organization was the Parish Pastoral Council, with Lay Coordinator Bert and Marie Anne Santos coordinating. The five succeeding Fridays were assigned to the various ministries and mandated organizations:

**Mar 15** Public Affairs, Social Services & Development, Catholic Women's League, Knights of Columbus, Ladies of Charity, Buklod ng Panginoon, and

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# Message From Our Parish Priest

## CHOOSING SERVANT LEADERS

by Rev. Fr. Steven C. Zabala

In 1995, when I was still a deacon preparing myself for my eventual ordination to the priesthood, I wrote a deacon's prayer. A deacon, our priest-formator told us, is literally a servant (the Greek word for 'servant' being 'diakonos'). Priesthood therefore must always be understood as a life of service to God and to his Church. As soon-to-become priest, I knew (and boy, was I anxious and nervous!) that I would automatically become a leader (there was no choice!) in the Church community. Being a future leader, I had to remind myself that I am first of all a servant!



### Someday Soon: A Deacon's Prayer

Someday soon,  
We will become servant-leaders.  
We lead by serving,  
And we serve by leading.

Someday soon,  
We will continually be challenged  
To build a more participative Church.  
We become a Church by participation,  
And we participate because we are the Church.

Someday soon,  
We will be given 'powers'.  
We become powerful by sharing,  
And we share because Christ has empowered each one.

As we immerse ourselves into the ministry,  
May we never forget,  
As you always remind us, dear Lord,  
That the center is You.

Soon, we will become priests.

And someday soon,  
We will always remember  
That we are perpetually deacons ...  
Your servants.  
Amen.

A priest is a servant-leader and so are the many lay people devoting their time, talent and treasure to the Church. One blessing of being a parish priest is that I don't work alone as God's servant. God always sends fellow servant leaders for the shared responsibility of shepherding the parish.

This month, our parish will choose lay servant-leaders who will help me in running CTK pastoral activities. From March to April, our parish is having an important community exercise - the selection of the new set of leaders for our Parish Pastoral Council. The three-year term of the current PPC officers in the diocese, including ours, will all end in June.

Aware of the Diocese's push to have a synchronized pastoral planning cycle (July to June) for all its parishes, we hope to have the new set of officers by April since they will have to participate already in the initial ministry-based pastoral planning in May. Plenary planning will be held in June. Implementation of pastoral plan begins in July.

There are two popular ways of choosing the leaders - by election, where those who get the most votes automatically get the positions, and by appointment, where the parish priest picks the leaders he wants to place in the PPC.

'Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

Matthew 20:26-28

In our parish, as mandated by our Diocese, we are following a communal discernment process in choosing our servant-leaders. Discernment is best done in prayer as we are asked to see everything from the perspective of God and not just from our own human perspective. It is basically finding God's will for our parish. We ask not the servant-leaders we want but the servant-leaders God wants for our community.

Some key volunteers of the parish will discern and submit to me their nominees for the different positions. It is from this list that I will do my own discernment and choose the final line-up of PPC servants.

In my eight months of stay here at CTK, I

can honestly say that this parish is blessed with so many good leaders. While my immersion into this community is not yet that deep, I am simply amazed by what I see - there's excellence, dedication, and inspiration in the way these parish co-workers offer their services to the Church!

The nomination by the community is really valuable as it will provide me with more names to choose from, given my heretofore limited and shallow exposure to the deep membership of this community.

PPC coordinator Bro. Bert Santos pointed out that the new PPC should be aware of the recently launched eight pastoral priority agenda of the Diocese, of CTK's 40th anniversary this year, and of the 500th anniversary of Christianity in the Philippines in 2021. How will the new PPC behave pastorally vis-à-vis these items?

To add, the participants in the Discernment Assembly last March 9 submitted their suggestions on the improvement they want to see in CTK parish. Some of the highlights are: good and relevant formation programs, more interaction with different ministries and organizations, more support for stewardship, prioritize the poor, more vibrant youth, improve traffic flow after mass, and for priests - better homilies! I think the new set of servant-leaders will not run out of things that will keep them engaged!

These are exciting times in our parish as we discern and choose the servants who will lead and nurture the CTK flock. Will there be new faces? Will there be 'recycled' old faces? Both options are possible but at this point, we will follow where the Spirit leads us.

We are looking for true servant leaders. 'Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many' (Matthew 20:26-28).

Pray therefore for our community and your pastor. In this whole discernment process, Scripture reminds us to 'examine everything carefully' (1 Thessalonians 5:21) and to always 'test the spirit whether they are from God' (1 John 4:1). Pray that our final choice is God's choice!

# Fr. Steve Formally Installed . . .

Leila Banico, Worship Ministry head, was commentator for the installation mass. During the introduction, it was announced that 'We will witness the installation of your new shepherd, Fr. Steve. May Fr. Steve follow the example of Christ and serve this community with love. And may the community of this

your people, so that you may lead them to Christ who will strengthen all that you do. As a teacher of that faith, I ask you now to lead your people in the profession of faith.' To which Fr. Steve replied, 'I, with firm faith believe and profess each and everything that is contained in the symbol of faith' then

proceeded to lead the crowd in reciting the Nicene Creed. Bishop Ness then asked Fr. Steve to renew his ordination promises. This was followed by the signing of the document.

Then came the Entrustment to the Place of Baptism, Confession, Tabernacle and the Presider's Chair. The Bishop said, 'Fr. Steve, as the new shepherd of this



parish, join him with renewed spirits as we work together in the vineyard of the Lord.' Assisting Bishop Ness Ongtioco with the rites were Brothers AJ Barbadillo and David Glover. Reader was Trix Deleña, assistant LeCom coordinator while the Prayers of the Faithful was read by Mel Novales, LeCom liturgical ministry head.

After the Gospel, Fr. Jojo Simon, Diocese Chancellor, read the appointment letter for Fr. Steve. In the Profession of Faith, Bishop Ongtioco said, 'Remember, my brother, always be a loving father, a gentle shepherd, and a wise teacher of



Bp. Ness and Fr. Steve at baptismal font and tabernacle



community, you are entrusted with the places in which we celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism and Reconciliation, and also the key of the Tabernacle. May you be a loyal servant and guardian of the mysteries of Christ. In your service as a priest, the people of God will be born again through the waters of baptism, will be strengthened with the Bread of Life and the Word of God, will be renewed by the Sacraments and will be guided through faith, hope and love.' At the end of this, Bishop Ness Ongtioco then presented Fr. Steve, with



Fr. Steve greeted by fellow Cubao clergy and has special hug for Fr. Bong Tupino



Parish Pastoral Officers lead the Offertory together with Fr. Steve's brother Nerio



the words, 'My dear people of God of the parish of Christ the King, welcome your new shepherd, Rev. Fr. Steven C. Zabala. Let us give him a round of applause.' All forty other priests formed a queue to congratulate Fr. Steve. He then took his seat in the presider's chair and continued the celebration of the mass. The offertory line was composed of the PPC officers and Nerio, Fr. Steve's only sibling still stationed in the Philippines. Providing the choir music for the installation mass was Novo Conciertante.



Above, Fr. Steve gets ready to give communion while fellow clergy partake of the Holy Eucharist. Below, Novo Conciertante.



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# Fr. Steve Formally Installed . . .



The installation mass was immediately followed by a fellowship dinner held at the parish social hall, highlighted by a roast from Msgr. Dan. Though some of the priests left before the reception, Bishop Ness, Msgr. Dan Sta Maria, and Fr. Herbie Santos stayed throughout the evening.

Bing del Rosario acknowledged the different groups who had come to help

Conciertante, greeters and collectors, EMHCs, and the three lectors and commentators. He also introduced the different ministry heads as well as the heads of the mandated organizations and renewal movements – Stewardship, Lectors-Commentators, Catechetical, Mustard Seed, Youth, Family & Life, Sunrise, Social Services & Development, Vocation, Urban Poor, Public Affairs, Formation, Adoracion Nocturna Filipina, Apostleship of Prayer, Buklod ng Panginoon, Catholic Women’s League,



Before the Concluding Rites, Bert Santos, CTK Lay coordinator, delivered the parish’s welcome message to the ‘new’ parish priest.

celebrate Fr. Steve’s installation. These included those who directly participated – Mother Butler Mission Guild, Knights of Columbus, altar servers, Novo

Then Fr. Steve took the podium to deliver his response. As with the parish fiesta mass back in December, Fr. Steve again acknowledged the splendid work done by his predecessors, mentioned his brother who was in the audience, and recognized the parishioners of his former parishes – Sikatuna, Loyola Heights, and Lord of Divine Mercy. He also gave thanks to Bishop Ness for his trust and the mentoring he provided. At the end of the mass, as is traditional, the Diocese clergy posed for a group picture.

Fr. Steve’s installation was filmed by the Cubao Diocesan Media Ministry which did a live streaming on the diocese Facebook page.



Christian Family Movement, Couple for Christ, Diwanihan Kristiyano, Ladies of Charity, Legion of Mary, Life in the Spirit Prayer Community. He also acknowledge the ecclesial communities – Acropolis, Corinthian Gardens, Arcadia, & Greenwich, Corinthian Hills,



Greenmeadows 1, St. Ignatius, White Plains and Libis. Also acknowledged were Fr. Steve’s former parishioners from Sikatuna, Loyola Heights, and Lord of Divine Mercy.

Bing also gave special mention to Leila

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# Vicariate Youth Keep Vigil with Pope Francis at World Youth Day

The World Youth Day Vigil last January 26 to 27 drew 155 young people from the different parishes in the OLPH Vicariate. Fr. Steve gave his opening remarks remotely from Lake Tahoe, Nevada, Fr. Jojo delivered the opening prayer, and Pope Francis was on live stream early Sunday morning.

In attendance were nine different youth groups from: CTK, St. John Paul II Parish, Libis community, Our Lady of Perpetual



Fr. Jojo Gatdula delivers the opening prayer while Fr. Steve welcomes attendees via FaceTime while on personal leave in the USA



Help Parish, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish, Nativity of the Lord Parish, St. Paul's College

students, members of the Timothy Youth Ministry of Living Hope Prayer Community, and youth members of the Military Ordinariate. The biggest delegations came from the Libis community followed by St. Paul.

Registration began at 10 pm. At 10:45 pm, Fr. Steve, who was in Nevada for the annual family get-together, called in via FaceTime to give the opening remarks. Fr. Jojo was also present to personally greet all the attendees.

Then for the next hour, it was fun and games as hosts Louie Padrinao and Earle Manucom facilitated several games that had the groups passing a ball among themselves and running back and forth to put balls into cups. After the fun hour, it was time for the group photo.

A few minutes of rest was then followed by the zumba program where nearly all the young people went to the center of the floor to follow the dance moves shown on the screen, picked up from [www.LIVELOVEPARTY.TV](http://www.LIVELOVEPARTY.TV). Youth Ministry co-head Lei Abando personally joined in the zumba dance. Then the Timothy Youth Ministry band came on to entertain the audience with their upbeat and rousing religious songs that had some of the children clapping their hands and swaying to their beat. By this



time, the clock had struck midnight already.

Half an hour past midnight, it was time for the midnight snack, with sandwiches and goto served to everyone. Then at 1:30 am, the traditional Living Rosary was enacted. This was followed by



several performances by the vicariates, some of them impromptu. This was followed by an hour of 'jamming' until sleep-rest time was officially declared at 3:30 am.

The vigil keepers were officially awakened at 5:30 am for morning prayers followed by breakfast at 6 am.

Then at 7:30 am, the 'main event' started - the two-hour live streaming of the Vigil with Pope Francis in Panama City, Panama, as the Pope led the celebration of World Youth Day. Finally, at 9:45 am, Fr. Jojo Gatdula led the Closing Prayer, with the vigil participants dispersing immediately after.



In Panama, Tuesday January 22 was the Official Welcome for pilgrims. Pope Francis arrived on Thursday, January 24 where he delivered his welcome address. Saturday, January 26 featured the Walking Pilgrimage to the vigil site, with the Evening Vigil with the Pope happening that night. It was the Saturday Evening Vigil that was live-streamed on Sunday early morning to the Philippines. Representing the Cubao Clergy for the Youth of Cubao Diocese at the World Youth Day in Panama were Fr. Ronnie Santos, parish priest of CTK Project 7 Parish and Fr. William Garcia, parish priest of Nativity of the Lord Parish.

World Youth Day 2019 Panama followed World Youth Day Krakow 2016, which in turn followed World Youth Day 2013 Brazil. World Youth Day 2022 will be held in Lisbon, Portugal. ■



Fr. Ronnie Santos and Fr. William Garcia represent the Cubao Clergy in Panama City

# Parish Priest Bares 2019 PPC Leadership Selection Process

As of press time, Fr. Steve Zabala would have already received the results of the tabulation and summary of the nominations submitted by the current members of Parish Pastoral Council, plus some 70 other involved parishioners,



mostly core team members of the different ministries plus mass slot liturgical coordinators. This is part of the leadership selection process devised by Fr. Steve in consultation with the Parish Pastoral Officers, or PPO. Up for replacement after serving for the three year term July 2016 to June 2019 are the Parish Pastoral Officers (Lay Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer), the ministry heads (Worship, Formation, Social Services & Development, Family & Life, Youth, Children, Seniors, Vocation, Catechetical, Public Affairs, Social Communications, Urban Poor, BEC), the Liturgical Coordinators (LeCom, EMHC, GreCol, Altar Servers, Music), and village coordinators (for Acropolis, Greenmeadows 1, White Plains, St. Ignatius, Corinthian Gardens, Corinthian Hills, Ivory Court, Enclave, Arcadia-Greenwich, Galleria-Poveda-Eton, La Maison, and Libis).

The mandated organizations and renewal movements are not included since they internally 'elect' their leaders-coordinators using their own governance cycle. The Stewardship Committee was also not included since Fr. Steve would like to wait for the results of the Stewardship Assembly before making any move, and it was decided that the position of Assistant Lay Coordinator will not be nominated, rather, the position will be filled from among the ranks of the new ministry heads.

Included in the list of survey respondents drawn up at the PPO meeting were the four Parish Pastoral Officer couples, 21 ministry heads and head couples (not counting David and Fely Ong who are concurrently

Formation Ministry head couple and Bing and Elise del Rosario who are concurrently Media Ministry head couple, all of whom are part of the PPO), two ministry assistant heads, seven liturgical coordinators and assistant liturgical coordinators, the Basic Ecclesial Communities Coordinator, 18 village coordinators and coordinator couples, 16 heads and head couples of mandated organizations and renewal movements, 23 liturgical leaders (EMHC, LeCom, GreCol, Music), 40 core team members from five ministries (Stewardship, Seniors, Children, Youth, Family & Life), 10 still-active former PPC members, 10 parish office and sacristan staff, and seven past and present members of the CTK clergy, including former parish priests Msgr. Dan Sta. Maria and Fr. Bong Tupino.

The 150 potential survey respondents had been asked by Fr. Steve to help him select the next set of lay leaders of the Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows by responding to the leadership survey. The nomination form required the respondent to identify his or her candidates for one or more of the PPC positions needing to be filled up for the three year term 2019-2022. The nomination form allowed the respondent to identify as many as three candidates for the same position, ranked in order of preference, but also required him or her to state the reasons why the candidate was a good fit. The nominator had to identify himself and include a contact number in case Fr. Steve wanted some clarification.

But in order to ensure that the responses would be made in enlightened fashion, the PPO agreed that all respondents should first attend a discernment talk before being allowed to accomplish and submit the nomination forms. Several names were mentioned but a week later, Fr. Steve Zabala had firmed up on Fr. Anton Pascual, Executive Director of Caritas Manila, as the

discernment speaker, to talk on the topic of Servant Leadership. The Discernment Assembly was held on the morning of Saturday, March 9. Following Fr. Anton's highly-appreciated talk, Fr. Steve discussed the intricacies of the nomination and selection processes, then turned it over to Bing del Rosario to run through the duties and responsibilities of the different positions that needed to be filled up. The respondents were given one nomination form good for only one position but in case someone wanted to nominate for several positions, additional nomination forms were available with the administrative assistant.

Respondents were given until March 22 to submit their nominations. The forms were then collated and summarized by a small team of objective 'canvassers' from the diocese office, the results of which were then turned over to Fr. Steve. The plan is for Fr. Steve to take all these inputs, and for each position review the nominations, identify which nominations should be given greater weight, e.g., a ministry head recommending his or her replacement carries more weight than others, a Greenmeadows 1 resident recommending a person for village coordinator of Greenmeadows 1 carries more weight than someone from Acropolis, a core team member of the Sunrise Ministry recommending the next Sunrise ministry head carries more weight than the nomination of an EMHC for the same position, etc. Fr. Steve then goes through his own discernment process and draws up his first, second and even third choice for each position.

He then takes the month of April to get in touch with his candidates, starting with the Parish Pastoral Officers, then the Worship Ministry head, followed by the



# Caritas Manila Head Lectures PPC on Servant Leadership

Fr. Anton Pascual, the Executive Director of Caritas Manila and president of Radio Veritas, gave a well received talk, 'The Ultimate Test of Servant Leadership', to the Parish Pastoral Council and a few other non-PPC members last March 9. This was part of the Discernment Assembly that Fr. Steve required of all those identified to participate in the PPC leadership selection process.



Fr. Anton started by saying that everyone was there to 'learn, unlearn, and relearn'. He argued that we all needed to learn because only learners will be successful in our knowledge society. We also needed to unlearn especially when it came to fake news. And we need to relearn if only for the simple reason that our memories are good for only 72 hours before we start forgetting. This is the same reason why by April, most people have already forgotten their New Year's resolutions. This is the same reason why we need to keep reading the Bible as well, since we forget over time.

He argued that the concept of leadership is in crisis. As examples, he cited the collapse of the American economy in 2008, the PCSO head being sacked just a few days ago for corruption, the homosexuality and sexual abuse that had infested the Catholic Church. The world needs real leaders to move us forward. But not any kind – mankind needs authentic righteous leaders, which the Bible refers to as 'servants'. These 'servant leaders' are servants first and they lead in serving. To him, Christ was the model of perfect 'servant leadership'. The ultimate test, according to Fr. Anton,

is when you can answer 'yes' to these questions: Do those they serve grow as persons? Do those served eventually become servant leaders also?

Fr. Anton asked several rhetorical questions – after 500 years of Catholic Christianity, where are we now? Are we, as a nation, of one mind, one heart? (Acts 4:32). Do we pray, break bread, and reflect on the word of God together? Do we give enough, at least the 10 percent that the concept of tithing suggests? Why is it that the ones feeding us, the farmers and the fisher folk, comprise the poorest sector in the Philippines?

It is unfortunate that what is important to the world is achievement, acquisitions, and appearance. When our leaders pursue these three 'As', then they lose their moral compass and begin to stray as servant leaders. He cited Pope Francis, who said that 'authentic power is service. Whatever power or influence you have, use it for service'. The same thought is captured in Matthew 20:28 – 'Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as ransom for many.'

Fr. Anton talked through the five practices of servant leadership.

1. **Model the Way.** True servant leaders practice what they preach, walk the talk, keep their promises. True servant leadership is leadership by example. Fr. Anton mentioned that in a recent survey, the number one cited characteristic of admired leaders wasn't competence, ability to inspire, or being a visionary. It was 'honesty'. Credibility is the foundation of leadership, he argued, hence, we should look for 'ugali'.
2. **Inspire a Shared Vision.** Fr. Anton reiterated that true leaders begin with the end in mind (quoting Steven Covey). They envision and talk about the organization's future. When they do so, they use positive, energetic, upbeat language, making liberal use of metaphors, symbols, examples and stories. He cited the audacious goals of Bill Gates (a computer in every home) and Steve Jobs (your life in your phone).
3. **Challenge the Process.** Leaders question the status quo and keep asking, 'How do we improve the parish?' They do something each day differently so that you're better today than you were the day before. They always ask questions, they seek advice, they listen to diverse perspectives, they ask 'how we can do this better', and they get out of their

comfort zones. These leaders also accept that once in a while, when they take risks, they'll fail but they're secure in the knowledge that they've learned a bit more.

4. **Enable Others to Act.** True servant leaders are not one-man armies, they inspire others to work as a team ('we're all in this together'). They give trust, build trust, and earn trust by being logical, by being authentic, and by being empathetic. They listen, and listen some more. They get to know their members and show genuine concern.
5. **Encourage the Heart.** The servant leader affirms each one. They are appreciative of everyone's gifts and contributions. They make it comfortable to give and receive feedback. The words 'thank you', 'please' and 'I'm sorry' are part of their daily vocabulary. They find time to be present, both in tough times and in celebrations. They create a strong sense of community.

The Diocese of Cubao Media Group captured Fr. Anton's enlightening talk, which made it possible for it to be shown to others. The dozen or so invitees who failed to attend were met by Fr. Steve the following day, March 10, Sunday. These included the Sunrise Ministry heads and core team members who were on pilgrimage the previous day. Then the following week, Saturday, March 16, Fr. Steve organized a 'make-up class' for a dozen or so invitees who failed to make it last March 9 and March 10 for valid reasons – out of the country, sickness, family emergency – but were free on March 16. Both March 10 and March 16 groups were able to watch the video after which Fr. Steve discussed the process and PPC roles.

Fr. Anton completed his Philosophy degree from Our Lady of Angels Franciscan Seminary and his Theology degree from the San Jose Seminary which he followed up with a Masters in Development Management at AIM.

Awarded the Order of the Golden Heart by the Office of the President in 2010, Fr. Anton was also an AIM Alumni Achievement awardee in 2014. He received the Gawad Parangal Award from the Cooperative Development Authority for Most Outstanding Cooperative Leader in 2015. And the following year, the Junior Chamber International Senate Philippines recognized him as The Outstanding Filipino Awardee for NGO and Cooperative. ■

who had just finished their General Assembly.



At the 10 am Welcome Mass, Fr. Steve Zabala officiated, with Camillian Fathers Dan Cancino and John Paul Alvarado concelebrating. Fr. Steve, himself a Camillian seminarian for seven years before transferring to the San Jose Seminary of the Society of Jesus, spoke during his welcome remarks about how his Camillian upbringing had molded him into what he is now. He also gave a short biography of St. Camillus. After the



mass, Fr. John Paul also spoke. Then the entire chapel was open for public veneration.

The heart relic was later transferred to the main church at 4:45 pm in time for the 6 pm and 7:30 anticipated masses. Devotees were given a brief period between masses for their veneration and a significant amount of time after the 7:30 pm mass for the Public Veneration. The relic was finally taken away at 10 pm, after the Closing Rite, and headed for the St. Camillus Provincialate. As with the Veneration of the sacred relics of Padre Pio last September 7, 2018, people

lined up to venerate the relic, with a large percentage of elderly, noticeably frail or handicapped among them.

The parishioners joined in the prayer to St. Camillus:

O St. Camillus, you have said that 'the poor and the sick are the heart of God' and that in serving them, we serve Jesus the Christ. When I serve the sick, help me to see in them the image of Jesus. Give me a heart that loves, eyes that understand, words that comfort, and a faith that inspires them. When I am sick, enable me to transform my suffering into healing, my fears into trust, my discouragement into prayer, and to treasure each gift and moment God gives me. I ask this in Christ's name. Amen.



The relic, last brought to the Philippines three years ago in 2016, arrived last February 2 and the first stop was Terminal 3's VIP Lounge, where arrival rites and a two-hour long veneration was held, primarily for the employees of the Manila International Airport Authority. From NAIA, the relic was then brought to Our Lady of La Paz in Makati City to start the tour of Philippine hospitals and churches. The relic departs on March 31.

Among the hospitals to be visited during its two-month tour are - Philippine Heart Center, Lung Center of the Philippines, National Kidney & Transplant Institute, PGH, San Lazaro Hospital, Cardinal Santos Medical Center, and Pangasinan Medical Center.

Going outside of the National Capital Region, the relic proceeds to Malolos (Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception), Pampanga (San Fernando Metropolitan Cathedral), Dagupan (St. John Evangelist Cathedral), Baguio (Our Lady of Atonement Cathedral), then on to Southern Luzon (San Gregorio Magno Cathedral in Legaspi) Eastern Visayas via Calbayog, Samar (St. Peter and Paul Cathedral) and Palo, Leyte (Metropolitan Cathedral of Our Lord's Transfiguration). From there, the relic moves westward to Cebu, Bohol, Iloilo, and Bacolod before moving to Mindanao - Cagayan de Oro Davao Oriental, and Davao. Its last stop before it

is brought back to Rome, Italy will be the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Batangas City by the end of March.

The Diocese of Cubao, under Bishop Honesto F. Ongtioco DD was quite blessed that during the actual World Day of the Sick last February 11, the heart relic was at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral of Cubao, the seat of the Cubao Diocese.

The heart relic will have spent the most time in St. Camillus locations - St. Camillus Provincialate, St. Camillus Hospital of Mati, Daughters of St. Camillus in Cebu, St. Camillus Medical Center, St. Camillus College Seminary, Camillus Medhaven Home for the Elderly, and Camillian Sisters Kingsville.

Rev. Fr. Jose Eloja, provincial superior of the Camillians Philippines said, 'The visit of the incorrupt heart of Saint Camillus is a huge privilege and blessing. The patron saint of the sick, nurses, doctors, and hospitals is with us as an instrument for us to serve the Lord and the sick. The visit of his heart relic will also help strengthen the faith of devotees and the Filipinos.' On the other hand, Rev. Fr. Dan Cancino said, 'The Heart relic of St. Camillus is a symbol of God's compassion and mercy, especially for those who are sick, who are looking for comfort, in these times of suffering.'

The preserved heart relic, which first visited the country in 2013 as part of a pilgrim tour in celebration of his 400th death anniversary, arrived from its major shrine, the Church of Saint Mary Magdalene in Rome.



A dedicated priest, confessor, and miracle worker, St. Camillus founded the Clerks Regular Ministers to the Sick, known as the Camillians, and his followers cared and treated the sick as 'living images of Christ' and considered serving the sick as serving God. He was bestowed with the gifts of healing and prophecy. Born in 1550 in Chiatti, Italy, he died in 1614, and was canonized by Pope Benedict XIV in 1746. The religious congregation is still dedicated almost exclusively to caring for the sick. ■



# CTK Gears up for Lenten . . .

- Mother Butler Mission Guild, with Mila Bangco coordinating
- Mar 22 Stewardship, Legion of Mary, Adoracion Nocturna Filipinas, Couples for Christ, and Christian Family Movement, with Benjie and Wins Mirasol coordinating
- Mar 29 Family & Life, Youth, Mustard Seed, Diwanihan Kristiyano, with Regie and Joanne Polancos coordinating
- Apr 5 Catechetical, Formation, Life in the Spirit Prayer Community and Healing Ministry, Sunrise, with Doy & Estrella Lopez as coordinators
- Apr 12 Altar Servers, EMHCs, GreCols, LeComs, Media, Vocation, with Louie Laudico coordinating

Cross were celebrated at 8 pm except for the Libis community which had theirs at 5 pm. Acropolis was first off the block with its Way of the Cross conducted last March 11.

Holy Week will begin as usual with Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord this coming April 14, including the two anticipated masses of April 13. As tradition dictates, there will be two parts to every Palm Sunday mass – the Commemoration of the Lord’s Entrance into Jerusalem; and the Palm Sunday Mass proper, to celebrate the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus.

The first part will have an entrance song, the Presider’s Introduction, the Prayer of the Blessing of Palms, and the Gospel Reading, which is the account of the Lord’s entrance into Jerusalem. The second part will have the opening prayer, the Liturgy of the Word, the Readings, and the Gospel narrative of the Passion of the Lord, featuring the male lector as Pilate, the Presider as Jesus, the choir and congregation as the Jewish crowd, and the commentator as the narrator. Both parts will be at the main church. The only exception to the format is the 7:30 am mass of April 14 where the officiating priest will do the commemoration of the Lord’s Entrance into Jerusalem outside in the lower parking lot in front of the Divine Mercy Chapel followed by the procession to the main church.

celebrated in the Vatican and in all the dioceses worldwide. In the diocese of Cubao, this is held at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Lantana, Cubao, the seat of the Cubao Diocese. This special mass is concelebrated by the bishop together with all the priests in the diocese where the holy oils that will be used throughout the year for baptisms, sacrament of the sick, etc. are blessed and consecrated. The Chrism Mass is also the time in the year when all the priests of the diocese reaffirm their commitment to the institution of the priesthood and their vows of priestly service.

The afternoon of Holy Thursday, on the other hand, marks the liturgical end of the Holy Week once the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper begins at 5:30 pm. The mass marks the start of the short Sacred Paschal Triduum (or Easter Triduum). The Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper is marked by the reception of the holy oils blessed earlier in the morning, the washing of the feet of the 12 Apostles, the consecration of the communion hosts to be used the next day, and the noticeable lack of the final blessing.



The various villages also had their Way of the Cross, either on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, all officiated by Fr. Steve Zabala. All village Ways of the



Above, below, and right, photos from last year’s Lenten Season and Easter Triduum events



Holy Monday (April 15), Holy Tuesday (April 16), and Holy Wednesday (April 17) will be marked by the Annual Kumpisalang Bayan, or Penitential Service and Confessions, from 6:45 pm which is the end of the daily evening mass up to 8 pm. Penitents are advised to come on Monday or Tuesday so as not to create a long queue on the last night, Wednesday.

Holy Thursday is an extremely important day in the global Catholic calendar. In the morning is the Chrism Mass,

Immediately after the Thursday Evening Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is brought down to the Altar of Repose at the Divine Mercy Chapel for the Eucharistic Vigil from 7 pm to 12 midnight. The faithful are encouraged to drop by for even a brief period for adoration.

On Good Friday, April 19, the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord begins at 3 pm. The altar is bare and there is no entrance procession or entrance song since this is

continued on next page

# Full House in all CTK Masses for Ash Wednesday

March 6, Ash Wednesday, opened the 2019 Lenten Season, a season of fasting, prayer and alms-giving. It came much later than last year's Ash Wednesday which was celebrated on February 14, 2018 or even the previous year's, which was held in March 1, 2017.

away on Earth. As the priest or Eucharistic Minister applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God. Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's palm Sunday Mass.

The Lenten season is one of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

It was 'full house' at the CTK main church in all the masses, especially the 12 noon and 6 pm masses, with parking areas all filled up, including street side. Fr. Jojo Gatdula officiated the 12:00 pm mass and was assisted with ash imposition by a full complement of Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist, while guest priest Fr. Henry Ferreras presided over the 6 pm mass.



Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar and it takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday (40 days not counting the Sundays). It comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head, symbolizing the dust from which God made us and reminds us that life passes

continued from previous page

## CTK Gears up for Lenten ...

technically a continuation of the Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. The mass is marked by the veneration of the cross. As with the Thursday Evening Mass, there is no final blessing. The Good Friday service is followed by the procession of the Santo Entierro, literally, 'holy internment' and the Madre Dolorosa.

Holy Saturday, April 20, will see the all-important Solemn Easter Vigil at 8 pm,



the greatest and noblest of all solemnities and often referred to as the 'Mother of all Vigils'. This marks the culmination of the Easter Triduum. The Vigil is marked by several readings, the Service of the Light, and the Liturgy of Baptism. Just before midnight, the image of the Risen Christ and the image of Mother Mary meet in the 'Salubong' in front of the CTK Formation Center. Traditionally, the Risen Christ carosa starts from the Acropolis GreenMeadows gate escorted by male parishioners while the carosa carrying Madre Dolorosa starts from Giraffe Street, escorted by the female parishioners.

On Holy Saturday, the parish will sponsor a Lenten Recollection at 9:30 am. Holy Saturday's Recollection will be facilitated by Fr. Emmanuel Cruz.

The Easter Season begins with Easter Sunday, April 21, and will end with Pentecost Sunday, June 9. An Easter Recollection has also been scheduled on May 4, with Fr. Emmanuel 'Nono' Alfonso SJ as facilitator.

# PPC Kicks off CTK's Friday Way of the Cross

As part of its annual Lenten activities, Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows holds Way of the Cross devotion every Friday at the main church immediately following the 6 pm mass. The Friday devotion to the Way of the Cross is organized by the Worship Ministry headed by Peter and Leila Banico. The first Friday Way of the Cross was held last March 8, officiated by Fr. Steve Zabala and led by the CTK Parish



Above, Fr. Steve and Worship Ministry head Leila Banico at the 8th Station. Below, PPC members reading Scriptures and Meditation per station

that station, but which always ended with 'Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us.' The priest then blesses the family members and thanks them for their service before moving on to the next station, even while the Way of the Cross song is sung in the background.



Pastoral Council members.

The Sponsors of the other Friday Way of the Cross at the main church are:

- ▶ **March 15**, organized by the Social Services & Development Ministry, Public Affairs Ministry, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's League, Ladies of Charity, Buklod ng Panginoon, and Mother Butler Mission Guild
- ▶ **March 22**, sponsored by the Stewardship Committee, Legion of Mary, Adoracion Nocturna Pilipinas, Christian Family Movement, and Couples for Christ
- ▶ **March 29**, sponsored by Family & Life Ministry, Youth Ministry, Mustard Seed Ministry, and Diwanihan Kristiyano Prayer Group.
- ▶ **April 5**, sponsored by the Catechetical Ministry, Formation Ministry, Sunrise Ministry, and Life in the Spirit Parish Prayer Community-Healing Ministry.
- ▶ **April 12**, organized by the Media Ministry, Vocation Ministry, and the Liturgical Ministries of Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Greeters & Collectors, Lectors & Commentators, and Music.

CTK also scheduled the Way of the Cross in the different villages that make up the parish, all taking place at 8 pm except for the April 9 at Libis which was scheduled

for 5 pm. The village coordinators assigned 14 village families to each of the stations. The first village to stage its Way of the Cross was Acropolis, with Fr. Steve presiding.

The full village Way of the Cross schedule was as follows:

- ▶ **March 11**, Monday, in Acropolis Clubhouse
- ▶ **March 12**, Tuesday, in White Plains barangay grounds
- ▶ **March 13**, Wednesday, in Ivory Court and Enclave
- ▶ **March 19**, Tuesday, Corinthian Hills
- ▶ **March 26**, Tuesday, St. Ignatius
- ▶ **March 27**, Wednesday, La Maison
- ▶ **April 8**, Monday, Greemeadows 1
- ▶ **April 9**, Tuesday, Libis (at 5pm)
- ▶ **April 10**, Wednesday, Corinthian Gardens & Greenwich
- ▶ **April 11**, Thursday, Arcadia

For every station, the officiating priest starts with 'We adore you, O Christ and we bless you.' To which the crowd responds, 'Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.'

The lector reader assigned to the station then reads the Scriptures or Tradition passage. The designated family member reads the Meditation passages. After, the priest leader would lead the congregation in the specific prayer for

At the end of the 14th station, the priest leads the Concluding Prayers, culminating in '... bring back to life all Your faithful servants to be with Him in the eternal life in heaven...'

Most of the village coordinators staged a mini salu-salo for the village parishioners after the Way of the Cross.



Fr. Steve leading the Way of the Cross at Acropolis



# CTK Marks World Day of the Sick with Healing Service

In celebration of the World Day of the Sick, February 11, Fr. Manny Flores officiated the 6 pm mass at the main church and followed this up with the healing service immediately after. Parishioners brought their sick relatives and friends for healing of body, mind, and spirit. The World Day of the Sick also coincided with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

In his introduction, Fr. Manny implored the faithful to intone, 'Jesus, Son of Mary, have pity on us.'

Then, painstakingly, Fr. Manny whispered to each of the parishioners in the queue, then prayed over them. He also advised those who had already received the healing prayers to go to the altar to pray for a short while before leaving the church. As with the previous years, the event was organized by the Life in the Spirit Prayer Community and Healing Ministry. And as usual, the EMHCs were on hand just in case there were parishioners who would fall backwards or pass out, i.e., 'slain in the spirit'.

Meanwhile, in Kolkata, India, in his message for the 27th World Day of the Sick, Pope Francis urged believers to promote a culture of generosity, noting that the joy of generous giving is a barometer of the health of a Christian.



'Those who care for the sick and give of themselves with generosity and straightforward love - like St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta - are amongst the Church's most credible evangelizers,' he said.

In his message for the World Day of the Sick, celebrated on February 11, the Pope focused on Jesus's words to the Apostles: 'You received without payment; give without payment' (Mt 10:8). Just as life is a gift from God, he said, and cannot be reduced to a personal possession or private property, he said that 'caring for the sick requires professionalism, tenderness, straightforward and simple gestures freely given, like a caress that makes others feel loved'. He added, 'Your gift is much more than simply giving presents; it involves the giving of oneself and entails the desire to build a



relationship. Gift is a reflection of God's love, which culminates in the Incarnation of the Son and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.'

Established in 1993 by Pope Saint John Paul II on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes, a different city is chosen each year to host the World Day of the Sick. This year the choice was Calcutta in India and Pope Francis highlighted the figure of Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta as a model of charity who made God's love for the poor and sick visible. 'In all aspects of her life', he said, 'she was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defence of human life, of those unborn and those abandoned and discarded. She bowed down before those who were spent, left to die on the side of the road, seeing in them their God-given dignity'. The Pope upheld her further saying that 'she made her voice heard before the powers of this world, so that they might recognize their guilt for the crime of poverty they created'.



Describing her mission to the urban and existential peripheries as an eloquent witness to God's closeness to the poorest of the poor, the Pope said 'Saint Mother Teresa helps us understand that our only

criterion of action must be selfless love for every human being, without distinction of language, culture, ethnicity or religion'.

Pope Francis's message also praised the generosity of so many volunteers who, he said, are so important in health care and who eloquently embody the spirituality of the Good Samaritan. He thanked the many associations run by volunteers that are committed to particular fields of health care including those who promote the rights of the sick, raise awareness and encourage prevention. Noting that countless persons who are ill, alone, elderly or frail in mind or body benefit from these services, he urged them to continue to be a sign of the Church's presence in a secularized world: 'Volunteer work passes on values, behaviours and ways of living born of a deep desire to be generous. It is also a



St. Teresa of Kolkata will always be 'Mother' Teresa, says Pope Francis

means of making health care more humane.' The Pope also thanked Catholic healthcare institutions for their service, saying they are called 'to give an example of self-giving, generosity and solidarity and he warned them against the trap of simply running a business'.

Health, he said, 'is relational, dependent on interaction with others, and requiring trust, friendship and solidarity. It is a treasure that can be enjoyed fully only when it is shared. The joy of generous giving is a barometer of the health of a Christian'. Finally Pope Francis urged everyone 'at every level, to promote the culture of generosity and of gift, which is indispensable for overcoming the culture of profit and waste'.

Pope John Paul II initiated the World Day of the Sick in 1992 to encourage people to pray for those who suffer from illness and for their caregivers. The Pope himself had been diagnosed with Parkinson's a year before, in 1991, and it is considered that his own illness was impetus for his designation of this special day.

The CTK healing service lasted past 9 pm, given the huge throng of people wishing to be 'healed'. ■

# Fr. Steve Zabala Reports on CTK Stewardship Parish 2018 Performance

Fr. Steve Zabala used all of the weekend masses of March 2 and 3 to report on the use of stewardship donations for 2018. Fr. Steve officiated in all the masses and deliberately shortened his homily so he could spend 10 minutes to report on how the Parish Pastoral Council had used the stewardship funds.

The Stewardship Committee had collected PhP 8.9M for 2018. Of this, 38% was turned over to the diocese as part of the CTK parish's long-term commitment to channel roughly 40% of donations as financial assistance to: a) diocesan catechists working in the public elementary and high schools, b) the poorer parishes in the diocese, and c) subsidy for seminarians. Taking out 4% as part of its regular evangelization talks and promotional expenses, the Stewardship Committee allocated the remaining 58%, or PhP 5.1M to the PPC as its pastoral fund.

Fr. Steve proudly pointed out that 68%, or over two-thirds of the pastoral funds went to the various programs and projects of the Social Services and Development Ministry (SSDM), based on the Treasurer's year-end report (enclosed). CTK's social action advocacies include scholarships for high school and college students, feeding



the very first UP graduate from the ranks of the CTK scholars.

Fr. Steve pointed out CTK's seniors ministry, a.k.a. Sunrise Ministry, as well as the various youth programs – PREX Youth, Mustard Seed Ministry for pre-communicants, Days with the Lord, etc. He also noted the various formation and evangelization programs, such as the School of the Word, sponsored by Verbum Dei, and Rediscovering Our Catholic Faith, sponsored by Couples for Christ. Fr. Steve made sure to mention that CTK has more than 150 lectors and commentators, more than a hundred Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, more than 25 greeters and collectors, 45 altar servers, and 25 choirs, making it one of the largest, if not the largest liturgical group in the diocese.

Another aspect of CTK parish life that Fr. Steve pointed out is that CTK stages 10 masses every weekend, aside from the daily and weekly village masses, plus hosts several weddings and baptisms on a regular basis. CTK is also the most welcoming parish, through its Coffee After Church program, where parishioners who drop by for coffee and snacks get to find out how they can contribute their time, talent or treasure in the service of the parish community.

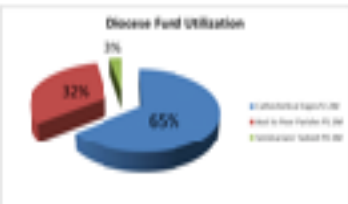
Fr. Steve acknowledged everyone's contributions in 2018, not only financially through regular collections, second collections, and steward donations but also for the time and talent of the many lay volunteers that have enabled the various social action and evangelization programs of the parish and the diocese. He thanked the

parishioners for being generous and being good stewards of the gifts that God had given everyone and giving life to the parish slogan, 'Stewardship As a Way of Life'. He encouraged everyone to continue to contribute in 2019, and remain steadfast Stewards for God. ■

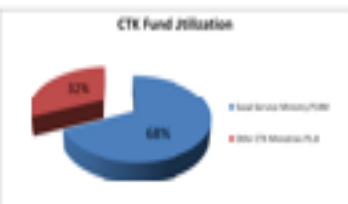
Stewardship Collection of P8.9M



Remittance to Diocese of P3.4M



Remittance to CTK: P5.1M



programs for the most malnourished public elementary school children, livelihood and skills training, medical and dental missions, prison apostolate, and catechism. For 2018, P2.3M was spent for financial assistance of the 150 or so scholars, under the aegis of Ladies of Charity and Knights of Columbus, the two implementing 'agencies' of SSDM for its scholarship program. Last year saw

Below, the CTK Treasurer's 2018 financial report

Parish Pastoral Council		
Cash Flow Statement from January 1 to Dec 31, 2018		
<b>SAVINGS ACCOUNT</b>		
<b>Sources of Funds</b>		
Beginning Balance, January 1		100,000.14
Stewardship Remittance	5,700,000.00	
Interest Net of Charges	(430.11)	5699,569.99
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5800,234.73</b>
<b>USES OF FUNDS</b>		
Catholic Women's League	124,099.05	
Ladies of Charity	2,360,854.05	
Apostolate of Prayer	121,343.00	
Building Pantheon	185,058.02	
Knights of Columbus	506,347.80	
<b>Total for Social Service and Development</b>		<b>3097,701.92</b>
Formation	123,303.05	
Children	12,553.75	
BEC	10,880.00	
Worship	165,955.20	
Youth Ministry	204,909.11	
Catechetical Ministry	164,201.50	
Public Affairs	-	
Vocations	73,514.00	
Family & Life	82,002.00	
Parish Pastoral Council	159,959.93	
Media	73,656.03	
Sunrise	136,614.65	
<b>Other Ministries Total</b>		<b>1827,549.61</b>
<b>Total Uses</b>		<b>5725,251.53</b>
<b>Excess of Sources Over Uses</b>		<b>87,483.70</b>

## CTK Stewardship Leaders Attend Asian Pacific Stewardship Conference

A total of 197 delegates, consisting of 68 priests, 117 lay persons and 12 bishops from 26 dioceses, 60 parishes and 10 religious congregations from the Philippines, USA and South Korea gathered for the First Asian Pacific Stewardship Conference in Alfonso, Cavite, Philippines from February 4 to 7.

The conference was sponsored by the International Catholic Stewardship Council and its local partner, Socio-Pastoral Institute (SPI) with the objective of deepening participants' understanding, appreciation and resolve to be good stewards of their churches, communities, and of the earth. During those four days, they generously shared with each other their individual uplifting, as well as difficult, pastoral experiences. CTK was represented by Stewardship Committee heads Benjie and Wins Mirasol while Ben and Linda Famador led an eight-person delegation from the Cubao Diocese. The Famadors and the Mirasols shared the 14 years of experience in running the stewardship program and fostering the 'stewardship



as a way of life' mindset in the parish. During the breakout sessions, participants traded and exchanged insights and know-how. The participants were also grouped into dioceses and asked to plan their stewardship activities moving forward.

Above, Ben Famador shares with assembly. Below, Cubao diocese delegates plan next moves. Right, delegates pose with backdrop.



In the plenary event, Bishop Broderick Pabillo, Auxiliary Bishop of Manila, gave the talk entitled 'Stewardship: A Call to Conversion'. Bp. Pabillo said that we take care of the gifts given to us by not allowing these to be wasted but by maximizing their use. He said, 'We are gifted that we may gift others, which gives rise to the theme of the 2021 celebration: Gifted to Gift.'

He summarized the 1992 US Bishops Conference pastoral letter which said, 'As Christian stewards, we receive God's gift gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them in loving justice with others, and return them with increase to the



Bishop Pabillo calls for conversion to Stewardship

Lord.' However, in his experience with SPI in promoting the spirituality of stewardship in the last 15 years, he had not found it smooth sailing selling stewardship even to lay leaders, priests and bishops. Bishop Pabillo argues that the solution is spirituality of stewardship. Spirituality promotes transparency and responsibility in our use of resources. So, priests and bishops will no longer see the money in the church as their money and therefore will be more transparent to the responsible members of their communities about the lack of resources of the parish.

He continued, 'Stewardship will also promote greater collaborative action in the Church. Since each of us is steward of the Church, we need to take care of it and provide for its needs so that that it can do its work. A parish priest in Manila who promoted the spirituality of stewardship a year ago and did away with the arancel system of charging for services got an unexpected boost when he noticed a old lady who is a vendor in the market regularly giving 500 pesos a month to the stewardship program. He approached her to thank her and to inquire on the reason of her generosity. She matter-of-factly replied, 'Father I try to give my share so that the Church can do its work of baptizing people, catechizing them and doing services to people who are in need.'

'Filipinos are very generous, said Bishop Pabillo. 'It is within our genes. We are especially generous when we see that what we give are properly used. The church will never lack resources and people who will help when they see that the church does its work well - good liturgies, clean churches and clean church surroundings, good music, good homilies - and has programs for the poor and the formation of people.'

'Being conscious that we are all stewards, everybody will feel responsible for each other and use their resources to support one another and not just for their own selfish and individualistic consumption. They will give more of their time to pray and to serve their neighbors. They will be more open to use their talents for the community. They will give regular support to their community so that it can do its work of reaching out to those who are in need. So stewardship will build up and sustain the Church of the Poor. With more people involved and with more contributions in terms of talent and treasure, more services can be programmed to reach out to the poor and those in the peripheries.'

The attendees concluded that:

- ▶ Stewardship is the key to the renewal of persons, communities, churches and the natural world;
- ▶ Stewardship is inextricably linked to evangelization and making disciples;
- ▶ Stewardship deepens in dialogue with peoples of other cultures and with the poor;
- ▶ Stewardship is more than about money but an incontrovertible part of it is sharing - out of love and justice - our material blessings with others;
- ▶ Stewardship is Discipleship.



They encouraged all Catholics to: be good stewards; teach stewardship to all who will listen; affirm aloud all observed instances of good stewardship conduct; denounce evil and sin, especially when committed by power; and actively participate in their local communities and churches as advocates of the common good.

In their official declaration, the delegates of the First Asian Pacific Stewardship Conference solemnly declared:

Let us build a Catholic Church that is imbued with the spirituality of stewardship. Let us build a Church that makes disciples who dare go to the margins of society to proclaim the Good News. Let us build a Church that lifts the poor from poverty and is marked by preferential love for the least and the lost. Let us participate in the breaking in of the Lord's Kingdom by sharing our blessings with one another, one gift at a time!

# Lecom Liturgical Ministry Holds First General Assembly

The Lectors and Commentators Liturgical Ministry, headed by Mel Novalles, under the Worship Ministry led by Leila Banico, held its first General Assembly last February 23 at the St. Matthew and Mark Rooms. Originally scheduled for 9 am, the schedule was rearranged to 8 am to accommodate the arrival of the heart relic of St. Camillus de

- ▶ The Lenten Recollections during the three days of the Easter Triduum (from Holy Thursday to Holy Saturday)
- ▶ The Easter Recollection scheduled for May 4
- ▶ The Marian talks on the four consecutive Wednesdays from February 27 to March 20, organized by



Lellis later that morning.



the Confraternity of Our Lady of Mediatrix of All Grace

Mel also went through the rules for acceptance of new LeComs this year. Candidates need to submit their document requirements by May 20, undergo initial formation and discernment at the parish, and attend the Basic Formation at Lantana, Cubao.

Mel reviewed the requirements for renewal: the LeCom must have attended at least one General Assembly and two accredited formation talks during the nine months from February to October 2019, must have attended the Lantana Renewal Seminar sometime in the third quarter, and must have been formally commissioned during the fourth quarter. As of February, the accredited Formation talks include:

- ▶ EMHC General Assembly, held every third Thursdays of the month
- ▶ EMHC Lenten Recollection scheduled for March 30 am with Fr. Jojo Gatdula as Facilitator
- ▶ BEC-sponsored formation talks every last Wednesdays of the month at 7 pm in Greenmeadows 1

The LeComs were reminded of the General Assembly schedule for 2019, after February 23: April 27, June 19 (Wednesday), August 24, and October 26. Except for June 19, the other assembly dates are all on Saturday, starting at 9 am.

As a final note, Mel Novalles reminded all the Lectors and Commentators that in the event that he or she cannot make it on his or her assigned schedule, it is his or her responsibility to look for a substitute and must not pass on this task to the mass coordinator nor to the LeCom officers. He noted that the Viber groups has made it easier for LeComs to look for their substitutes.

Leila Banico then took over to discuss the liturgical details of the Lenten and Easter Seasons.

Nearly a hundred LeCom attended this first General Assembly. ■

## 2nd Commissioning for 2019 Liturgical Ministers

The 2<sup>nd</sup> commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion or EMHCs was held during the January 13, Sunday, 10:30 am mass. A total of 15 additional EMHCs were commissioned. Earlier that day, at the 9 am mass, 42 additional lectors and commentators were formally commissioned at the 2<sup>nd</sup> commissioning of LeComs by Fr. Steve Zabala. This second commissioning was arranged to



make sure that the EMHCs and LeComs who failed to attend the the last one held last November 18 had another chance to get accredited for 2019. The 42 LeComs joined the 95 LeComs commissioned on November 18 plus the 12 new lectors commissioned a week earlier, for a total of 149 authorized 2019 lectors and commentators.



The three new Altar Servers helped by their parents to put on their albs, above



The following week, on January 20, at the 9 am mass, Fr. Steve Zabala commissioned three new altar servers: Gian Borja, Ramon Sison, and Luigi Sison.

# OLPH Vicariate Holds DCPA 8 Orientation at CTK

CTK Parish Greenmeadows hosted the first Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) Vicariate General Assembly for 2019 last February 18. Delegates totalled 110, with each of the seven parishes under the

detailed set of implementing rules, guidelines, regulations and suggestions around each of the eight agenda items. But this assembly was specifically to provide a general orientation. On April 8, Agenda 5 and 6 will be discussed at the Perpetual Help vicariate assembly, Agenda 1 and 2 on June 17, Agenda 3 and 4 on August 12, and Agenda 7 and 8 on October 14.

Among those spotted at the vicariate assembly were CTK PPC members Fely and David Ong, Maan del Rosario, Betsy Tenchavez, Mila Bangco, Lulay dela Cruz, and Bing and Elise del Rosario.

Before February 18 at CTK for the OLPH Vicariate, three other vicariates had already done their assemblies - February 12 by the San Pedro Bautista Vicariate; February 13 by the St. Joseph Vicariate; and February 15 by the

Holy Family Vicariate. Following CTK, the Vicariate of Sto. Niño Vicariate held its general assembly the next day, February 19 while the Vicariate of Sta. Rita de Cascia had theirs February 20.

vicariate, including CTK, sending from 5 to 20 PPC officers each. Specifically, San Roque sent 20, Nativity of the Lord 20, Perpetual Help had 19, Christ the King had 17, Our Lady of Miraculous Medal sent 16, and Transfiguration of Our Lord with 5 participants. Fr. Steve Zabala gave the Welcome Remarks while Fr. Larry Garces of the San Roque Parish delivered the Closing Prayer.

Johnny Liao from the Mt. Carmel Shrine and head of the Policies and Structures Secretariat gave the briefing on the Diocese of Cubao Eight-Point Priority Agenda. It was clear from the answers to Mr. Liao's questions that nearly everyone in the audience was very familiar with the eight point agenda primer content. He revealed that a lot of diocese volunteers from the different parishes had been working on the priority agenda since the primer was released and that there was now a



Above, Johnny Liao delivers the DCPA8 orientation. Below, Fr. Larry Garces of San Roque Parish raises a point.



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## Fr. Steve Formally Installed . . .

and Peter Banico for the liturgy, Fely Ong and Marie Anne Santos for the food and physical arrangements, Chef Jessie Sincioco for catering, Beth Monedero, Maan del Rosario and Eileen de Leon for invitation and registration, Mila San Juan for the invitation printing, the Antonio family for the video wall, Henry and Joyce Tañedo for the poster printing, Benjie and Wins Mirasol for the ref magnet giveaways, and the parish staff.

It was unfortunate that the other 'roaster' for the evening, Fr. Bong Tupino, had to leave due to a parish emergency. After Msgr. Dan Sta. Maria had thoroughly roasted Fr. Steve, it was Fr. Steve's turn to get back at Msgr. Dan, which Bing appropriately labeled, 'Ang Paghiganti ni Fr. Steve'. It was a very pleasant - and funny - cap to a long but rewarding evening.





# Interview with Youth Ministry Head Couple Louie and Lei Abando

The CTK Parish Youth Ministry is celebrating the Year of the Youth in 2019, which is being launched by the CBCP. In celebration of the Year of the Youth, CTK's Youth Ministry, headed by Louie and Lei Abando, has planned several key activities for 2019.

The Herald had a chance to interview the Abandos in December 2018 about their 2019 youth ministry plans and projects. First, some background about the power couple. Louie and Lei got married in 2003, and in Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows



itself. Louie was 24 and Lei a young 21. Now they're 40 and 37, respectively. They had both been working at Citibank. As Lei told it, on a Saturday, Louie saw her in the elevator and discreetly noted which floor Lei had pressed. Lucky for him, he knew someone in Lei's floor and pretended to visit that person the following week. 'The rest was history,' said Lei. In their 16 years together, they've been blessed with two boys – Joshua Jyle who's now 15 and Gabriel Luwie who turned 11. Both children are currently studying at San Beda College, in Taytay, Rizal, which makes sense since the Abandos live in Cainta, Rizal. Though the Abandos have left Citi, they're still in the banking sector, with Louie a BDO Collections Manager under Credit & Collections while Lei is branch manager at Security Bank's Fort W City branch.

**Q: How did you get involved with CTK?**

A: We were invited by my brother, Regie Polancos, and sister-in-law, Joanne Polancos, to serve in the Parish. Louie signed up as EMHC and Lei as Lecom.

**Q: Was that your first time to be in Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows?**

A: No. When we started serving in the parish, we were already active members of the Diwanihan Kristiyano Prayer Group, one of the 27 groups under Pag-ibig Sa Diyos Catholic Community, and we held

our weekly prayer meetings at the Divine Mercy Chapel.

**Q: When Fr. Bong tapped the two of you for Youth Ministry, what was your initial reaction?**

A: Honestly, we didn't want to take the position but we can't say no to Fr. Bong. We felt it was too much for us to handle given the following reasons: 1<sup>st</sup>, we're already part of the Core group of Diwanihan Prayer Group; 2<sup>nd</sup>, we are already serving in the Parish as EMHC and LeCom; 3<sup>rd</sup>, we were new in our respective jobs at that time and still adjusting with the work load; 4<sup>th</sup>, Lei was also doing events at that time, organizing weddings, birthdays and the like; and 5<sup>th</sup>, not being parishioners might be an issue for some.

**Q: How do you view your assignment now?**

A: It's very challenging but when we do it right, we get a strong sense of fulfillment.

**Q: Regarding the CTK celebration of World Youth Day on Jan 26 and 27, do you plan to repeat the CTK program of July 30-31, 2016 when Regie and Joanne Polancos were in charge then?**

A: Yes. Most likely, the program would be the same, with minimal changes on some games and ice breaker activities. We plan to also live-stream the Pope's prayer vigil. We already invited Bukas Palad Ministry to do the worship concert. Hopefully, they'll be available on that weekend. We'll also do the midnight Living Rosary.

**Q: In 2016, there were 197 youth who attended. They came from the villages, Libis, St. Paul, plus the other parishes of the vicariate. How do you make sure you can get similar-sized attendance?**

A: We are already in coordination with the different Vicariate representatives and been inviting youth members from Libis and St. Paul and other schools. We have also made an announcement to our youth members as early as November to block off the date. We will start posting on social media after Christmas.

**Q: When do you plan to schedule the PREX Youth weekend? Who do you**

**plan to involve in the planning and organization?**

A: PREX Youth Weekend is scheduled April or May and will be headed by Ernest Quizon & Marian Macapantan. They usually assign a core group per year who will do the planning and organization. Hopefully, we get to invite 10-15 youth members to push thru with the weekend.

**Q: You're planning Youth Camps in April and November 2019. What will these look like?**

A: Ignite Hope Youth Camp and Retreat is a 3-day retreat based on the Life in the Spirit seminar. It aims to reawaken Catholic faith in young men and women ages 13-21 and inspire them to respond to God's call to know, love and serve Him. This activity is sponsored by the Timothy Youth Ministry under the Living Hope Catholic Charismatic Community and the CTK Parish Youth Ministry, where the youth and adults of both communities work behind the scenes to prepare for a meaningful weekend for the participants. We now look forward to our 15<sup>th</sup> camp in April 2019 and on an average find 25 young people answering His call each time. We continue to pray that the Youth Camp will continue to inspire the youth to choose Him above the temptations and alternatives, now more than ever, easily and readily available to this generation.

**Q: You also have a Parish Youth Day planned. What will that be about?**

A: Parish Youth Day is scheduled for August. The initial plan is to have a full-day event starting with a talk then praise & worship followed by games, battle of the bands, and performances from youth groups. We will also set up food and game booths mimicking a mini school fair. We intend it to be a day of fun and camaraderie of members amongst youth organizations under CTK. Target attendance is at 100 youth. We will give the final program soon.

**Q: I noted that you plan to link up with Timothy Youth Ministry of Living Hope Prayer Community in their every-Saturday Youth Prayer Meetings. Timothy already has a decent-sized group of 20 to 30 from St. Paul etc. coming over. Ditto for the August 11 Day of Sacraments. How do you plan to draw the Libis youth and the village youth to join? What's your target regular attendance outside of Timothy members?**

A: Ever since, our challenge is consistency on programs like the regular prayer

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# CTK PPC Celebrates Christmas with Fun-Filled Evening

In gratitude for their unselfish service to the CTK community, Fr. Steve Zabala invited the members of the Parish Pastoral Council and other members of



Fr. Jojo Gatdula gave the welcome remarks, including the prayer before the appetizing Christmas dinner.

Like last year, young and talented violinist Nicky Maza, a volunteer of the Mustard Seed Ministry whose dad Bong Maza is a Knight of Columbus as well as EMHC, gave a highly-applauded violin performance, starting off with 'What Child is This?' followed by 'Jingle Bell Rock', and then ending with her unique rendition of Ed Sheeran's 'Perfect'. This was followed by a dance number by the Youth Ministry dance team.



Above, Nicky Maza on the violin and Fr. Steve recognizing guard Roger Pacis. Below, youth ministry doing their dance number.

ministries, mandated organizations and renewal movements to the CTK Christmas party, held Friday evening, December 14, after the 6 pm mass. Like last year, the event was a resounding success as fun, laughter and good fun rocked the Social Hall of the Parish Formation Center. Organized by the team of Fely Ong, who took care of the food arrangements, Elise del Rosario who organized the program, Jean Francisco who contributed to



Above, Fr. Steve Zabala going solo. Below, teaming up with Fr. Jojo Gatdula.



Maan del Rosario, Irene Robles, and Teri Floro, who worked on the games, and Leila Banico, who took care of the invitations, the party was marked by song and dance performances, games, and raffle. Nearly 300 devoted servers of Christ the King Parish - lectors & commentators, extraordinary ministers, greeters & collectors, altar servers, ministry heads and core team members, mandated organization officers and members, renewal movement officers and members, village and BEC coordinators - were in attendance.



Emcee Louie Padrinao moderates the Hep Hep Hooray and HuLa Hoop games.



Fr. Steve gave a short message before giving a public citation to CTK security guard Roger Pacis. Last December 4, Beth Montecillo and Mia Peñaflor, both MBMG, counted the 6 pm mass collection. Later that evening, Mia realized that she might have left her handbag in the rectory, with the collected cash that was going to be deposited in the counting room the next day, plus her own cash and checkbook. So around midnight, Mia asked the guard to accompany her to the rectory because

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# CTK Lights Up for Christmas Festivities

The traditional CTK front garden Christmas tree was set and lit up on the first Saturday of Advent, December 1 in

belen tableau was changed to include baby



time for the 6 pm anticipated mass. At the same time, the altar was decorated tastefully with lighted lanterns, wreaths with Christmas point lights, and lace swags. The belen was also set up, with a pregnant Mary, Joseph and a donkey. Then at the start of the Christmas season on December 24 midnight masses, the

Jesus, a no-longer-pregnant Mary, the same Joseph, the three kings, angels, and additional stable animals. The belen

Below left, the belen tableau before Christ's birth; and below right, tableau after Christ's birth



nativity tableau was maintained until the last Sunday of the Christmas season, January 13. ■

## Traditional Midnight Masses Celebrated at Parish Church and Villages

The Christmas Vigil Masses last December 24<sup>th</sup> were held at 6 pm, 8 pm, and 10 pm and marked with significant drama. Celebrated by Fr. Steve Zabala,



bleamed image of the baby Jesus was helped up by the assisting deacon for veneration by the parishioners.



the biggest crowd, began with 'lights out' as a group of selected Mustard Seed children led the offertory, carrying lighted candles.

Some of the villages also celebrated their midnight masses. Acropolis had its midnight mass at 8 pm, presided by Fr. Jojo Gatdula. ■

The children, all dressed in white, then went up the stairs to light up the belen and, on cue, the church lights were turned on. Fr. Steve Zabala then blessed the belen. At the end of the mass, the



offered by the CTK Parish Pastoral Council and sung to by the CTK Youth Choir, the 10 pm mass, the one that drew



Fr. Jojo Gatdula celebrates the Acropolis Christmas Vigil Mass at 8 pm of December 24



# Fr. Kit Issues a Stewardship Call to Care, Dare and Share

Fr. Francisco 'Kit' Hernandez SDB was the recollection facilitator at the December 15 'Spirituality of Stewardship' talk organized by the Stewardship Committee for its last quarter formation talk.



Fr. Kit began the recollection by saying that here on earth, there are many temptations. But the Lord is always here with us. It's important to remind ourselves that we are only transients here on earth, that our final destination is heaven.

Despite our imperfections and weaknesses, he argues that our hearts were made for loving, for caring, for daring to be with others, for sharing. For most of the year, chances are that our hearts have been troubled and loaded with excess baggage. As we begin the Christmas season, we all need a change of heart. We need to have a holy heart, like Jesus. That means we should be willing to give fully, to be forgiving, to be more loving, to be more compassionate, to be more merciful, to listen well, to respect everyone, to love our neighbors, and to work for the common good and in the best interest of everyone.

Fr. Kit spent some time to talk about the stewardship of creation. He asked rhetorically, 'Why should and how do we show respect for Creation?' He answered that the earth and all life on it are part of God's creation. Hence we are called to respect this gift, that is, we are responsible for taking care of the world we live in and for sharing all the wonders and resources the earth has given us. We love God so we need to do everything to make this a beautiful world to live in. Fr. Kit is impressed with humble

homeowners who live by the maxim, 'Tapat ko lilinisin ko.' As stewards, we are caretakers of this earth, Fr. Kit asserted. Which is why he's fascinated that the Tagalog word for steward is - 'katiwala'.

He bemoaned the continuing damage to the environment. 'The changing environment prompts us to stop and think about how we live on our planet. We are called to adopt new ways of living, as Pope Francis highlighted in his encyclical: On the Care for Our Common Home,' said Fr. Kit. 'Unfortunately, it is the world's poorest communities who are most affected by changes to our planet. We must care for the earth and its



resources,' he added. In the encyclical, Pope Francis criticized consumerism, irresponsible development, lamented environmental degradation and global warming, and called on all the people of the world to take 'swift and unified global action'.

As stewards, we need to share our time, talent, and treasure. But in order to share, we need a happy

heart. Fr. Kit ran through the five faith qualities that a steward should possess:

1. **Personal.** His relationship to God must be meaningful, intimate, and deep.
2. **Reasonable.** His actions and thoughts must be rational and understandable.
3. **Committed.** The steward must have his priorities correct, should feel a sense of responsibility, and be obedient to God.
4. **Living.** The steward's soul and faith must be alive, growing and dynamic.
5. **Apostolic.** He must be imbued with a firm belief that he was sent to save, to serve and to share.

He ended the sharing as he started it, playing the Kenny Rogers song, 'Someone Who Cares,' since he thought the words contained so much meaning, in reference to Christ and the Church ('someone') and his relationship to each of us (the 'you' in the song):

Someone who cares, someone who dare to love you; someone who thinks enough of you, to always be willing to share. Someone who gives, someone who lives inside you, someone who'll be strong beside you, through all the days that you live. Someone who dreams of being in your mind tomorrow, sharing your joys and your sorrow, helping you see what it means to be loved.

Fr. Kit is a Don Bosco Salesian and currently the Economer of the Don Bosco Seminary in Paranaque. He graduated from UST with a BS Chemical Engineering in 1981, worked for PNOG as a research engineer till 1988, then entered Don Bosco to pursue his bachelor's degree in Sacred Theology, graduating magna cum laude. He then followed this up with a bachelor's degree in Philosophy, graduating in 1992, again with magna cum laude honors. ■



# Family & Life Ministry Launches SSA Series with Courage Talk

January 20 saw the CTK Family & Life Ministry stage the 'Pastoral Accompaniment for Persons Experiencing Same Sex Attraction'. The talk was given by Brother Edwin Valles, President of Courage Philippines, a Catholic apostolate for persons experiencing same sex attraction, from 10 to 12 noon at St. Luke Room.



Brother Edwin began by addressing the concept of 'identity'. He began with obvious truths, e.g., 'every person is a child of God, made in his image and likeness'; 'one's sexual attraction is only a part of who they are and not the basis

for their identity'; 'ergo, persons are to be loved.' He also argued that all persons have sinful inclinations but they are never the person. The Church rejects sinful actions but sinners are always invited to God's mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The first thing to do is to listen to their stories, Brother Edwin advised. It is not enough for the pastor, the parent or the concerned elder to tell the person experiencing same sex attraction to stop committing homosexual acts but to also help them heal from their underlying cause. The second prescription is to offer true friendship. This includes being a positive gender role model, affirming their masculinity or femininity, and offering real connections.



Brother Edwin is flanked by Family and Life Ministry heads Regie and Joanne Polanco and FLM core team members

Religion is the third leg. 'The person with SSA should be introduced to God and made to experience that the Word of God is alive in their lives,' Brother Edwin prescribed. The concerned elder should help them grow in Sacramental Life. And if they already have devotion, it can be used as a platform to deepen in faith and grow in virtue.

And the fourth and final component, according to Brother Edwin, is the universal call to chastity. Self chastity can free a person from being a slave of his passion and appetite and help avoid having to lead a double life. More importantly, it should be pointed out that all sexual acts outside the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman is not in accordance to God's design and intent.

The opening prayer was delivered by Edwin Bernardo, closing prayer given by Aji Rualo, and emcee chores handled by Louie Padrinao. Fr. Steve Zabala took time off from his busy schedule to give the Welcome Remarks.



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## Parish Priest Bares 2019 PPC . . .

liturgical coordinators, then the other ministry heads, and finally the community coordinators. Once his first (or second, if the first one refuses) choice for Lay Coordinator confirms acceptance, he will then confer with the new Lay Coordinator his choices for the other PPO positions before calling on his first choice candidates for the other PPO positions. Once all his choices for PPOs have confirmed, he then moves to his ministry head choices. Once the Worship Ministry head has confirmed acceptance, Fr. Steve will confer with the new Worship Ministry head his choices for the Liturgical Coordinator positions before calling on his first choice candidates for the liturgical coordinator positions. The last group that he will call on and confirm acceptance will be his choices for village coordinators. The full set of new PPC

members for 2019-2022 will then be announced.

The new ministry heads will not be wasting much time. After their confirmation, they need to form their core teams if appropriate and start planning their July 2019 to June 2020 activities. They will be aided by the Treasurer's report on projects accomplished and budget expended for the first four months of 2019 as well as the projects planned and budgets approved for the second half of 2019. Hopefully, the previous ministry head and core team can assist during the planning meetings. Then during the week of May 20 to 25, the new PPO and Fr. Steve meet separately with the different ministries to review their first draft of plans and budgets. The plans will go through

several iterations until the Fr. Steve and the PPO are satisfied with the proposed projects and activities and that the budget requested is in line with resources. The 'draft final' set of ministry plans will then be presented en banc to the PPC on June 8, three weeks before the start of the new fiscal year. The three-week period allows further iterations of the plans and budgets based on final feedback during the weekend planning conference.

Because of the Diocese of Cubao Priority 8-Point Agenda, the parishes are required to identify Agendum Coordinators beginning this coming fiscal year. It was agreed at the PPO meeting that for the meantime, some ministry heads will be assigned concurrently as Agendum Coordinators.

# Scholars Ponder on Theology of the Body and Christian Anthropology

The CTK Family and Life Ministry held a talk for the Ladies of Charity scholars last March 2 on the topic, 'The Theology of the Body and Christian Anthropology'. Guest speaker was Bro. Rollie de los Reyes, Adviser for Courage, Philippines, a Catholic apostolate for persons experiencing 'same sex attraction'. Kuya Rollie is also a licensed teacher and registered guidance counselor working at UP Diliman and a confessed 'Bosconian youth at heart'.



on a child, that child remembers the pain in his heart and soul.

3. The deepest need of every person is love. Unfortunately, a body and spirit that is scarred, abused, and traumatized will be like a cup with holes – it will leak and never get full. No matter how much love is poured, the love never keeps.
4. The opposite of love is use. He quoted St. John Paul II who said that things should be used, but people should be loved. Rollie then asked the audience, 'do you use or do you love your parents, your siblings, your friends?'
5. We all need to know real love from imitation or false love.
6. We are created either male or female, both in body and spirit.

From there, Rollie went to Christian anthropology. He explained to the children that God gave man three things – free will to decide, reason to think, and a sense of wholeness. He also argued that only when a boy loves God and a girl loves God and when they love each other, that their love will last. It was St. Catherine of Siena who said, 'Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.' He also pointed out that a man and a woman complement one another. The male person is the sword, the one who thrusts, while the female person is the one who bears, like a deep cup or vessel. The male is the leader, the female the receiver, responder, and nurturer; the male is the strength of God, the female is the beauty of God. The male challenges himself, 'Do I have what it takes?' while the female challenges herself, 'Am I beautiful?'

Brother Rollie ended by going through sections of the Catechism of the Catholic Church that dealt with sexuality, chief among them being – 'sex is sacred', and 'there is no unity in man to man relationships nor in woman to woman relationships'.

Over 120 Ladies of Charity scholars attended the event. ■



Rollie started his talk with a quote from Pope Benedict XVI: 'Look at the face of the other – discover that he has a soul, a history and a life. That he is a person and that God loves the person.'

Any discussion on theology, according to Rollie, starts with Michelangelo's 'Creation of Man', one of the panels on the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican. It illustrated Genesis 1:27, 'God created man in his image, in the divine image he created him.' He then went on to enumerate six lessons:

1. Each person is composed of body and spirit. Without spirit, you have a corpse. Without a body, you have a ghost.
2. Body and spirit are intertwined. What you do with the body, you do to the spirit. For example, a parent lays a hand



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## Interview with Youth Ministry . . .

meetings. It's hard to get a speaker if we don't have confirmed attendees which is always the case. That's why the idea of joining Timothy's regular prayer meetings and exploring a long-term partnering came to mind. The only thing we need to focus on is inviting and promoting the said activity.

**Q: Will CTK continue to send delegates to the vicariate-sponsored youth activities, e.g., sports league, planning, etc. Will there be a regular team who will go to attend on behalf of CTK Youth?**

A: We have not yet discussed about forming a team for vicariate activities. But we have Althea to represent CTK in all the meetings. When there are scheduled activities such as sports league or planning, the core team and some of the Libis members participate.



**Q: Will you continue to team up with Family & Life and Mustard Seed to collaborate on the Kingdom of Heaven Fair, Easter Sunday Egg Hunt, etc.**

A: That is correct. For 2019, we will be taking over the planning on Easter Egg Hunt as it has been previously handled by Days with the Lord.

**Q: A problem that has always bedeviled CTK is how to draw greater participation from the villages. We seem to get a lot of participation from Libis because of the youth leaders in place but no similar enthusiasm exists in the villages. How do we change the situation?**

A: What we have planned to do next year is to come up with consistent activities for the youth. We feel that if we have regular prayer meetings in place and fun and interactive activities, youth from the villages will be more enticed to join and invite their friends. We want to show the village youth through our activities that they can still be cool and have fun while serving the Lord. ■

# Greenmeadows BEC Tackles Bible Basics

Every last Wednesday of the month, the Greenmeadows 1 Basic Ecclesial Community (BEC) group headed by Eileen de Leon, sponsors a formation talk at one of the function rooms of First GreenMeadows clubhouse. The first BEC formation talk was held last January 27 at the GM1 Clubhouse. The facilitator invited by BEC head Eileen de Leon was Msgr. Alex Amante, who talked on the 'Authority of the Church'. Msgr. Amante is parish priest in the diocese of San Pablo, Laguna and former Vicar General for the San Pablo Diocese. He took his doctorate in Sacred Theology at the University of Navarra, Spain.

For February 27, the formation talk was delivered by Fr. Francis Eugene Fadul Adefuin on the topic, 'How the Bible Came to Us'. The talk attracted 20 participants, predominantly from Greenmeadows 1 but with a few from the

presently taking up his Master of Legal Studies in Civil and Canon Laws at the Graduate School of Law in San Beda University, Manila. He is the current president of the National Association of diocesan Chancellors and a member of the Archicofradia Universal del Apostol Santiago. The speaker was introduced by Henry Sy of the Defensores Fidei Foundation, who began by saying that he and Fr. Eugene are into 'Apologetics', which is involved with explaining the faith and not, as most participants thought, about apologizing, given that Catholics are notorious for being the least knowledgeable about the Bible, compared to the other Christian sects.

Henry set the stage for Fr. Eugene's talk



neighboring Acropolis and White Plains.

Fr. Eugene, an Opus Dei scholar, is currently Chancellor of the Diocese of San Pablo and the personal secretary of Bishop Buenaventura Famadico. Fr. Eugene completed his Licentiate in Biblical Theology at the Universidad de Navarra in Pamplona, Spain and is

by saying that 'the Bible is actually a tremendously complex set of books, written over a span of many hundreds of years, by people with very different cultural backgrounds, different languages, and different world views. Certainly, the Holy Spirit inspired each of the Bible's authors - but that does not mean that the personality or the

knowledge of each was overwhelmed by God or that the individual ceased to exist while he was writing. So to ascertain the meaning of so much that is found in scripture, we must seek to understand the assumptions, the perspectives, the languages and the customs of the authors. Only then can we begin to come to an appreciation of the depths of the books we know collectively as the Bible.'

Fr. Eugene first differentiated Protestant vs. Catholic beliefs. While Protestants consider that Scripture alone, or 'Sola Scriptura', is the supreme authority in religion, Catholics believe that in God's supremely wise arrangement, sacred **Tradition**, Sacred **Scripture** and the **Magisterium** of the Church are so connected and associated that one of them cannot stand without the others. Working together, each in its own way, under the action of the one Holy Spirit, they all contribute effectively to the salvation of souls (Catechism of The Catholic Church, No. 95).

While in the Church we greatly venerate the sacred **Scriptures**, the Christian faith is the 'religion of the word of God,' not of 'a written and mute word, but of the incarnate and living Word', in the words of St. Bernard of Clairvaux. Consequently, the Scripture is to be proclaimed, heard, read, received and experienced as the word of God, in the stream of the apostolic **Tradition** from which it is inseparable (Verbum Domini, 7).

'Tradition' was first received into the Church by the Apostles who heard it from the Savior's own lips. These men, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, handed on by 'oral preaching, by their example, and by their ordinances, what they themselves had received.' It was the Apostles and others associated with

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## Greenmeadows BEC Tackles . . .

them who, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, committed the message of salvation to writing.

Thus, in order to access the fullness of truth, that is, the deposit of faith given the Church by Jesus Christ, one must consult both Tradition and Scripture. The Gospel is both God's unwritten and written word, not, rather, simply the written word only.

Further, the spiritual authority of the Catholic Church Christ is just as integral and inseparable from the fullness of truth as is Tradition and Scripture. For without the **Magisterium**, or teaching authority, of the Church, the fullness of God's revelation cannot be maintained on earth in its integrity. Classic examples are the concepts of the Trinity and Purgatory that are not found in Scripture.

A major difference is in the number of books that make up the Hebrew, Protestant and Catholic beliefs. The Hebrews have 24, the Protestants have 39, while the Catholics have 46 books. Fr. Eugene also noted that there is a whole spectrum of Bible translations in the marketplace, some good, some very bad. Some translations have been very literal while others have been very paraphrasing. 'The translator is the traitor' is an Italian saying which applies

Luther had excluded the Book of Maccabees because it talked about life after death, which he didn't believe in, as well as the mention of faith with good works - Protestants believe it is only faith.

He also mentioned that the Bible has continued to evolve over the course of two thousand years - for example, verse and chapter numbers were added only in the 1400s.

His most important advice to the audience was - study the Bible. Studying the bible has the purpose of strengthening our faith (allegory), teaching us how to act (moral) and creating our destiny (anagogy). To help in the Catholic's study of the Bible, he distributed a study plan - the Daily Scripture and Catechism Devotional - to those present.

During the Open Forum, several questions were asked to the satisfaction of all who attended. Among questions asked and advise given were: 1) Not to accept invitations from the other faiths to join them in their Bible studies, since not only do they use Protestant versions but these are ruses to convert you to their faith; 2) that the proper response to allegations that Catholics worship idols which is forbidden in Scripture is that idols are images we create for ourselves



very well in this case, since the original material were in Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic; English translators with a less than perfect knowledge of these languages would understandably fall short. The New American Bible, approved for use in the Roman Catholic dioceses of the Philippines, the United States and a few other predominantly Catholic countries, lies in the middle of the spectrum. There are many reasons why certain books had been excluded from the Protestant versions of the Bible, Fr. Eugene explained. For one, Martin

(Baal, fertility gods, etc.) while Catholics have representations of real people who lived before us and who we wish to remember as we pray; and 3) In answer to comments about the Bible not approving repetitious prayer, as what Catholics do when they pray the Rosary, Fr. Eugene defended the Catholic faith by arguing that the real meaning of the original Hebrew phrase was 'do not utter senseless phrases', not 'do not repeat', as some Protestant translations have included. He also cited 'Psalms' which repeat phrases in the text. ■

## PPC Celebrates Christmas . . .

she was going to look for her handbag. The guard asked her the color of the bag and whether it had a checkbook, to which Mia replied that it was blue and yes, it did have a checkbook. That was when the guard, Roger Pacis, revealed that he found the blue bag along the driveway and it had been run over several times before he could pick it up. Mia was so relieved and she thanked the guard profusely. And because of guard Roger Pacis' vigilance and concern, the PPC officers recommended a special citation which Fr. Steve unhesitatingly endorsed.

There were several games conducted by game creators Teri Floro, Maan del Rosario and Irene Robles. The first game, Merry Christmas Cheer, was a variation of Wowowee's hit game Hep Hep Hooray. The third game, Christmas Carols Galore, was conducted by table, and involved each table singing a different Filipino carol until all the songs were exhausted and the last table to sing won. Clearly, the game hit of the night was the hula hoop pass-along game, Up Down Over and Under, where three teams, forming long lines of 15 each, passed the hoop under and over through every person in the team. Fr. Steve even joined the game. Emceeding the games were Louie Padrinao and Althea Geronilla.

A special song number medley was provided by Fr. Steve Zabala, which was followed by a song by the clergy tandem of Fr. Steve and Fr. Jojo Gatdula, also a singer in his own right.

The second and last dance number was by the core team of the Sunrise ministry, dancing to a pasa doble tune.



The food was good, the games were all highly entertaining, and the song and dance numbers were memorable - nothing else was needed for a CTK Christmas party. Fr. Steve formally closed the evening by thanking everyone who came and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. ■



# Talk Series by Confraternity of Our Lady of Mediatrix of All Grace

For five consecutive Wednesdays, starting last February 20, the Confraternity of Our Lady of Mediatrix of All Grace organized Marian Talks, from 7 pm to 9 m at the St. Matthew-St. Mark Rooms. There were more than 100 attendees in each of the five talks.

## FR. JOJO ZERRUDO

The second talk was last February 27, on 'Spirit of the World', given by Fr. Jojo Zerrudo, parish priest of Holy Redeemer Parish and chief exorcist for the diocese.

Fr. Jojo began by asserting that those under Satan's influence, or 'the spirit of the world'



begin with the first step of aspiring for wealth. After accumulating wealth, they then seek honor and public accolade. After obtaining accolades, next comes the deadliest which is the sin of pride.

The devil, i.e., this mortal and material world, is full of guile in his ways, continually deceiving and coming in many forms, usually beautiful and attractive. His temptation spares no one. No state of life, no place is exempted – even cardinals are now being exposed to have sinned, some sinning even inside the sacristy.

On the other hand, the spirit of Christ, as taken from Ignatian teaching, comes from a lowly, simple, humble place, directly opposite to that of the 'World'. The spirit of Christ starts in poverty, both the spiritual and material kind, which is the opposite of wealth.



Next comes the openness to contempt and insults, opposite of honor and acclaim. The last is total humility, opposite of pride.

This is the reason, according to Fr. Jojo, why Jesus sent his disciples to spread His word to all over the world – so that His teachings may be preached to all, regardless of their station in life. He cited St. John of the Cross who said,

'It is necessary to mortify our appetites.' All of the attachment to 'earthly creatures', such as wealth, fame and idolatry are displeasing in the eyes of God. Attachment to such 'creatures' makes a person equal to that 'creature'.

## FR. JOCIS SYQUIA

Last March 13, in the fourth of the series, the featured speaker of the Confraternity was Fr. Jose Francisco 'Jocis' Syquia, who talked on the topic 'Knowledge of Mary'.

One would understand why the country's foremost exorcist would be the speaker of choice on the topic of Mama Mary when one reads one of his interviews as follows: 'I went to the Blessed Sacrament and I really prostrated myself and I asked for the protection of Mama Mary. I told her that I wouldn't be able to continue this ministry of helping others if I continued to be bombarded with all these (the Evil One's) retaliations. I placed myself as sincerely as I could into Her hands and Her protection. After that all the harassments stopped.'

A true believer, he supports efforts for people to learn about Mama Mary not just for information but also for formation, which leads to transformation. He highlights how for centuries, Mary is one of the greatest forces in history, a key player not only in keeping Christianity alive but helping cultures to flourish.

Fr. Syquia cites the book 'The Marian Option' by Carrie Gress where various instances show how Mary has played a major role in major geopolitical shifts. She is indeed the most powerful woman who ever lived, above all the saints and angels.

Fr. Syquia highlights how John gives two key places to the Mother of Jesus in his gospel: Cana where Jesus officially starts his public life with his first miracle, and the Cross, the flow of blood and water, the final sign, where Jesus ends his public life. Mary was the only person to be present with Jesus at his 'birth' and his earthly death.

Through Mary, we go to Jesus as Jesus came to us through Mary. She always points to Jesus and leads us into His unquenchable mercy. Many Protestants still reject Mary's exalted status within Catholicism and worry that honoring her will put her on par with Jesus. The anti-Mary movement promotes a culture that is self-absorbed and creates one's own values and standards which flows from the flesh and values of the devil; seeks independence from all legitimate authority; and attacks motherhood and virginity.

Sister Lucia dos Santos, one of the three children who witnessed the Marian apparitions at Fatima writes: 'The final battle between the Lord and the kingdom of Satan will be about Marriage and the Family.'

The daily ways in which this battle could be won include, among others: praying the rosary; consecration to the Virgin Mary; visiting a Marian shrine; filling the home with beautiful Marian artwork; praying the Novena to our Lady Undoer of Knots; praying the Angelus; wearing the Brown Scapular and the Miraculous Medal; being aware of Mary's constant presence; and practicing Marian virtues.

Acknowledging that the defeat of Satan on earth has always been through unique intercession that only Mary can offer, Fr. Syquia enumerated signs of demonic infiltration as follows: generations with sin and bad luck; blockages to God's blessings and graces in the family; outbreak of paranormal and psychic phenomena; sufferings that are not crosses anymore; diabolical obsession and possession; very strong and persistent temptations; increased and intense anger, murder, suicide, mental illness; series of freak accidents; and obstinacy and addiction in the family.

He wrapped up his presentation on battling demonic infiltration by suggesting: going as a family to sacraments – hearing mass and going to confession; praying together; family



devotion to Mary and the saints; prayers of command over children, home and office; devotion to the Angels, Archangels and Guardian Angels; blessing the house regularly; charitable works of mercy as a family; offering God sacrifices and penance as family; offering masses for the protection and deliverance of the family; and removing occult paraphernalia from homes.

The St. Matthew-St. Mark Room was filled to capacity and all participants stayed till the end when blessing of sacramentals such as water, salt and oil was done by Fr. Syquia. The enlightening formation talk hopefully will lead the listeners to transformation.

The talks lead up to the total consecration to Jesus through Mary on Consecration day, March 25, which is the Solemnity of the Annunciation of Our Lady. ■

# Fr. Steve Celebrates First Birthday in the CTK Parish

Last March 6, Fr. Steve Zabala, CTK's parish priest, celebrated his birthday with an early morning birthday mass at 6 am, followed by a light breakfast reception at the



rectory veranda. It was Fr. Steve's 52<sup>nd</sup> birthday. His birthday is actually on March 5, but he decided to hold it a day earlier so it wouldn't conflict with the Ash Wednesday masses.

followed, attended by nearly a hundred CTK and former parishioners of Fr. Steve.

Concelebrating with Fr. Steve at his birthday mass were CTK priests Bishop Raul Martirez, Msgr. Tony



Mortillero, and Fr. Jojo Gatdula, together with guest priest Fr. Henry Ferreras, former parish priest of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, and Msgr. Dan Sta Maria, former CTK parish priest (2006-2012) and recently-retired Vicar General of the Diocese of Cubao.

A breakfast reception



# Fr. Bong Tupino Installed at Holy Sacrifice Parish in UP Diliman

Fr. Bong Tupino, former CTK parish priest, was the last of the Cubao diocese priests to be formally 'installed'. The installation mass was done at the UP

Holy Sacrifice Chapel last January 27, a Sunday. As with the Installation Rites of Fr. Steve Zabala eleven days earlier, it was announced that 'We will witness the installation of your new shepherd, Fr. Bong. May Fr. Bong follow the example of Christ and serve this community with love. And may the community of this parish, join him with renewed spirits as we work together in the vineyard of the Lord.' Assisting Fr. Bong was Brother Mark Puruganan.



shepherd of this community, you are entrusted with the places in which we celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism and Reconciliation, and also the key of the



After the Gospel, Fr. Jojo Simon, Diocese Chancellor, read the appointment letter for Fr. Steve. In the Profession of Faith, Bishop Ongtioco said, 'Remember, my brother, always be a loving father, a gentle shepherd, and a wise teacher of your people, so that you may lead them to Christ who will strengthen all that you do. As a teacher of that faith, I ask you now to lead your people in the profession of faith.' To which Fr. Bong replied, 'I, with firm faith believe and profess each and everything that is contained in the symbol of faith' then proceeded to lead the crowd in reciting the Nicene Creed. Bishop Ness then asked Fr. Bong to renew his ordination promises. This was followed by the signing of the document.

Then came the Entrustment to the Place of Baptism, Confession, Tabernacle and the Presider's Chair. The Bishop said, 'Fr. Bong, as the new



Fr. Bong with CTK well-wishers at UP Bahay ng Alumni



Tabernacle. May you be a loyal servant and guardian of the mysteries of Christ. In your service as a priest, the people of God will be born again through the waters of baptism, will be strengthened with the Bread of Life and the Word of God, will be renewed by the Sacraments and will be guided through faith, hope and love.' At the end of this, Bishop Ness Ongtioco then presented Fr. Bong to the crowd, with the words, 'My dear people of God of the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, welcome your new shepherd, Rev. Fr. Jose Tupino III. Let us give him a round of applause.' The Cubao priests in attendance formed a queue to congratulate Fr. Bong. He then took his seat in the presider's chair and continued the celebration of the mass.

Reception followed at the UP Bahay ng Alumni.

# Candles Blessed at Feast of Presentation of the Lord

Monsignor Antonio Mortillero led the traditional Blessing of Candles last February 2, a Saturday, as the parish celebrated the Feast of Presentation of the Lord. LeCom Beth Monedero kicked off the gathering with the introductory reading.



them when they need Christ's intervention such as in times of illness or bad weather.



Ten minutes before the 7 am mass at the Divine Mercy Chapel, Msgr. Mortillero led the blessing rites even as late parishioners scrambled to put down their candles on the blessing table before Msgr. Mortillero sprinkled holy water. He also said the following prayer:

Oh God, source and origin of all light who on this day showed to the just man Simeon the Light for revelation to the Gentiles, we humbly ask that, in answer to your people's prayers, you may be pleased to sanctify with your blessing these candles, which we are eager to carry in praise of your name, so that, treading the path of virtue, we may reach that light which never fails.

The primary candle was then lighted, with parishioners sharing the candle flame among themselves until all parishioners were carrying a lighted



candle. Msgr. Mortillero then blessed the crowd, said, 'Let us now proceed back to the chapel to continue our Eucharistic celebration' and then led the congregation to the chapel where he began the mass to celebrate the Feast of Presentation of the Lord.

That same Saturday afternoon, February 2, Fr. Rex Mananzan also presided over the Lighting of the Candles before the 6 pm mass.



The Presentation of the Lord is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included as part of the liturgy. Christ is the light of all nations, the 'light of the world', as well as, in the words of Simeon, 'the light to enlighten the Gentiles', hence the blessing of candles on this day. The faithful then take them home and light

# Greeters and Collectors Hold First Catechism Class

The Greeters and Collectors liturgical Ministry held its first catechism class last December 30, 2018 at St. John C Room. The GreCol group is headed by Jeanette



Two weeks earlier, on December 18, the same liturgical group had its own Christmas party, with their regular catechist Ms. Nini Ramos as their special guest.



Monedero as adviser. The intent is to have monthly catechism classes for the Greeters and Collectors' Liturgical Ministry for 2019.

The inspirational message was given by Fr. Steve and the catechism talk was delivered by Ms. Nini Ramos who talked about the Holy Family and the Lady of Guadalupe.



Cagurangan as Lead Coordinator, Marites Turingan as assistant Coordinator, Narcing Malatuba as Treasurer, Cora dela Cruz as Secretary, Cathy Botero as Assistant Secretary, and with Beth

# Ladies of Charity Mounts Home Care Livelihood Project at Barangay Libis

The Ladies of Charity mounted its first livelihood program for 2019 last January 23 at Barangay Libis. 25 Libis participants attended the first day of the seminar-workshop, held at the Libis Barangay Hall. The program would continue every Wednesday and Friday, whole day from 8 am to 5 pm, until the end of March. Like most of the livelihood programs of the LOC, this is being held in coordination with TESDA and the Quezon City Social Services and Development Division.



care; basic life support; checking vital signs; medical terminology; aging process and nutrition; and medication administration.

The Libis course takers even found time to

accompany the Ladies of Charity to the Anawin Nursing Home to bring joy to abandoned lolos and lolas.



The home care sector is largely supported by several foreign governments, which aims to help people

age comfortably in their own homes. As a result, it is a booming industry with many job opportunities available. Working in people's homes also means you'll be out and about all day, with flexible hours and the freedom to work when it suits you. Graduates may even go on to specialise in other areas, such as care for the aged or the disabled. Best of all, graduates enjoy a satisfying career helping people live in the comfort and familiarity of their own home.

Students learn to take a patient's vital signs, give medication, change dressings and help with exercises. Home health aides assist older, sick or disabled adults in hospices, other home health agencies or a client's home. The course covers basic nutrition, safe patient transfer techniques, infection control, basic life support and medical terminology.

Program coursework includes: introduction to home health



Home Care students take time off to entertain the abandoned lolos and lolas at Anawin



## LOC Brings Joy to St. Martin de Porres Orphans

Last February 16, on the occasion of Chef Jessie Sincioco's birthday, the Ladies of Charity team trekked to Angat, Bulacan

to assist LOC member Jessie in serving lunch to more than 150 orphans of 'Bahay at Yaman ni San Martin de Porres'. The Ladies of Charity also donated a small amount to the orphanage, which is headed by Fr. Boyet Gutierrez.

Jessie Sincioco is one of the most well-known chefs in the local culinary world and had regularly volunteered her



Chef Jessie in white shirt with heart symbol with president Tonette Arizabal, Terri Floro and other LOCs give a check to Fr. Boyet.



services for special parish occasions. It will be recalled that she was handpicked to cook for His Holiness Pope Francis during his four-day visit to the Philippines in 2015. She continues to run Top of the Citi in Makati, Rockwell Club, and Chef Jessie Grill at The Grove.

# Catechism Ministry Calls for Volunteers; Issues 2019 Catechism Class Dates

The Catechetical Ministry released to the Lectors and Commentators liturgical group the draft catechism class dates for 2019 last March 8. The draft still has to get Fr. Steve's approval.

The bulk of the workload is with the CTK scholars under the wings of Ladies of Charity and Knights of Columbus. The new school year starts in June so the Grade 7 to 9 and the Grade 10 to college schedules for Basic Catechism start on June 1, 2019 and ends March 29, 2020. Both groups meet separately with our

DATE	TIME	LESSON
JUN 1 Saturday	10:00am - 12:00pm	Year Begins The Summary of the Whole Gospel The Seven Pillars Final Catechism Parents Day
JUN 23 Sunday	9:00am - 11:00am	Evolution History Part 1 From Genesis to Birth of Jesus
JUL 8 Sunday	10:00am - 12:00pm	Evolution History Part 2 Jesus' Ministry Passion, Death and Resurrection
JUL 21 Sunday	9:00am - 11:00am	Jesus Christ: The Person and the Mission of Jesus
SEP 2 Sunday	10:00am - 12:00pm	Mary, Mother of the Son of God: Mary in Dogmas Marian Devotions: The Holy Rosary
NOV 3 Sunday	10:00am - 12:00pm	4 Last Things: Death, Judgment, Heaven, Hell
NOV 24 Sunday	9:00am - 11:00am	Parish/Youth Advent Recollection To take the place of Catechism Class
DEC 30 Sunday	9:00am - 11:00am	Parish/Youth Advent Recollection To take the place of Catechism Class
JAN 4 Saturday	10:00am - 12:00pm	The Church in God's Plan People of God, Body of Christ, Temple of the Holy Spirit
JAN 27 Sunday	9:00am - 11:00am	4 Marks of the Church
FEB 3 Sunday	10:00am - 12:00pm	Sacraments and Sacramental Action and Sacramental
FEB 24 Sunday	9:00am - 11:00am	Six and Seven 7 Capital Sins 7 Virtues

DATE	TIME	LESSON
JUN 1 Saturday	10:00am - 12:00pm	Theological Virtues Faith, Hope, Charity
JUN 23 Sunday	9:00am - 11:00am	Cardinal Virtues Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, Temperance
JUL 8 Sunday	10:00am - 12:00pm	Living as Disciples of Christ Loving one another as Christ loved us
JUL 21 Sunday	9:00am - 11:00am	Conscience Catholic Moral Decision Making
SEP 2 Sunday	10:00am - 12:00pm	Philosophical Law of the Church The Law in Scripture and in the Church Resolutions Original and Spiritual Acts of Manly
SEP 23 Sunday	10:00am - 12:00pm	The Ten Commandments Part I First 3 Commandments Fourth Commandment Fifth Commandment
NOV 3 Sunday	10:00am - 12:00pm	The Ten Commandments Part II Sixth and Ninth Commandments Theology of the Sixth Vocation to Chastity and Battle for Purity Love between Husband and Wife
NOV 24 Sunday	10:00am - 12:00pm	Parish/Youth Advent Recollection To take the place of Catechism Class
DEC 30 Sunday	9:00am - 11:00am	Parish/Youth Advent Recollection To take the place of Catechism Class
JAN 4 Saturday	10:00am - 12:00pm	The Ten Commandments Part III Seventh and Ninth Commandments Diversity of the Church Poverty of Heart, I Want to See God
JAN 27 Sunday	9:00am - 11:00am	The Ten Commandments Part IV Living Witness to the Truth Universal Appeal Use of Social Communication Media
FEB 3 Sunday	10:00am - 12:00pm	Communion in the Eucharist: Communion Blessed Sacrament: Eucharist Form and Elements: Eucharistic Canonization Eucharistic Celebration: Eucharist, Eucharist How to Protect Yourself Against IC

CTK volunteer catechists on the first Saturdays, from 10 am to 12 noon, and

fourth Sundays, from 9 am to 11 am, with Grades 7 to 9 using St. Matthew-

DATE	TIME	LESSON
15-Jun	9-11 am	Reflection on the Significance of the Holy Trinity Doctrines on the Holy Trinity
26-Jul	9-11 am	Reflection on the Significance of the Holy Trinity Doctrines on the Holy Trinity
17-Aug	9-11 am	Reflection on the Significance of the Holy Trinity Doctrines on the Holy Trinity
27-Sep	9-11 am	Reflection on the Significance of the Holy Trinity Doctrines on the Holy Trinity
18-Oct	9-11 am	Reflection on the Significance of the Holy Trinity Doctrines on the Holy Trinity
18-Nov	9-11 am	Reflection on the Significance of the Holy Trinity Doctrines on the Holy Trinity
21-Dec	9-11 am	Reflection on the Significance of the Holy Trinity Doctrines on the Holy Trinity
18-Jan	9-11 am	Reflection on the Significance of the Holy Trinity Doctrines on the Holy Trinity
18-Feb	9-11 am	Reflection on the Significance of the Holy Trinity Doctrines on the Holy Trinity
21-Mar	9-11 am	Reflection on the Significance of the Holy Trinity Doctrines on the Holy Trinity

Mark Rooms and Grades 10 to college using St. Luke Room. But both groups join up every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays for the Bible Catechism classes, drawn up from June 15 to March 21, from 9 am to 11 am.

In addition, the Catechetical Ministry released their tentative schedule for the second half of the Flores de Mayo Catechism classes for Libis youngsters age 7 to 12. From May 13 to May 24, since it is the Year of the Youth, the catechists will be talking about the Young Saints, such as St. Maria Goretti, St. Pedro Calungsod, St. Dominic Savio, St. Bernadette Soubirous, St. Maria del Pilar Cimadevilla, etc.

DATE	DAY	TIME	LESSON CHILDREN
5/13/19	Mon	1-4pm	St. Maria Goretti and St. Bernadette
5/14/19	Tue	1-4pm	St. Dominic Savio and St. Bernadette
5/15/19	Wed	1-4pm	St. Bernadette Soubirous and St. Maria del Pilar Cimadevilla
5/16/19	Thurs	1-4pm	St. Bernadette and St. Bernadette
5/17/19	Fri	1-4pm	St. Bernadette and St. Bernadette
5/18/19	Sat	1-4pm	St. Bernadette and St. Bernadette
5/19/19	Sun	1-4pm	St. Bernadette and St. Bernadette
5/20/19	Mon	1-4pm	St. Bernadette and St. Bernadette
5/21/19	Tue	1-4pm	St. Bernadette and St. Bernadette
5/22/19	Wed	1-4pm	St. Bernadette and St. Bernadette
5/23/19	Thurs	1-4pm	St. Bernadette and St. Bernadette
5/24/19	Fri	1-4pm	St. Bernadette and St. Bernadette

Ministry co-head Sheryl Coronel sounded the call for the catechetical volunteers, and LeComs Tessa Mangahas and Joy Schallenberg immediately volunteered for specific classes. Sheryl and co-head Alma Yeh are confident that they can get enough volunteers to fill up the slots.

## BEC Takes Root in Libis

Basic Ecclesial Communities or BEC is taking root inside the Libis community!



CTK BEC coordinators for Libis, Ching Botero and Jo Piyaw, working with Overall BEC Coordinator Eileen de Leon, successfully launched a weekly BEC Libis Bible sharing every Saturday at 4 pm.



The first was last January 26 at the home of one of the 'tokhang reformists'.

## Volunteer Xavier Students Visit CTK

Volunteer Grade 9 students from Xavier School were welcomed and oriented about the CTK during their initial visit last February 24. Accompanied by their CLE Department head Mary Mesina, the 24 students will be involved with Mustard Seed or Coffee After Church greeter assignments in the coming Sundays during the summer. The process was a repeat of the previous Sunday when a smaller group of Xavier School

themselves talked about the passage that struck their hearts the most and what actions might they take towards that end in the future. This was organized by Mina Mejia to provide the volunteers with a feeling of parish participation, fellowship, and experience in working in small teams. The volunteer group was welcomed by parish priest Fr. Steve Zabala.



students together with girl student volunteers from Poveda and St. Paul similarly paid a courtesy call on Christ the King Parish. At the February 16 meet-up, Mina Mejia, head of CTK Children's Ministry a.k.a. Mustard Seed Ministry, gave a slide show-based presentation to the child volunteers which briefly covered the history of the parish, how the Parish Pastoral Council is organized, the physical map of the parish, the parish staffing complement, a brief background of the parish priest, the different areas where youth volunteers can help, and CTK as a Stewardship Parish. She also introduced a short reflection time during her talk.

The same February 16 process was followed on February 24, but in addition, the children were grouped into 3s, 4s or 5s, during reflection time where the student groups reflected on the CTK Stewardship Prayer and among

The contact was made by Xavier School through CTK Vocation Ministry head Louie Laudico.



## CAC Snapshots from January & February 2019



January 6, sponsored by the BEC



January 13, (two photos above) sponsored by Ladies of Charity and Apostleship of Prayer



January 20, sponsored by Mustard Seed and Youth Ministries



February 3, sponsored by Stewardship Committee



February 17, sponsored by Knights of Columbus

## San Jose Seminary Receives PPC Donation

At the February 16 Parish Pastoral Council meeting, the CTK Vocation Ministry, headed by Louie Laudico and Anna Lagman, presented Peter Banico,

touched and our spirits enriched and inspired by your continuous generosity to San Jose Seminary. We raise our voices in supplication as we lift you and your family's aspirations, hopes and concerns to our loving Father in heaven.'



In the same PPC meeting, Fr. Steve talked to the PPC members about the leadership nomination process that he had designed, in consultation with the Parish Pastoral Officers. He also elaborated on the timeline for the revised annual parish planning process. ■

Worship Ministry co-head and Executive Director of San Jose Seminary, a check for P50,000 representing the ministry's donation towards the board and lodging for one semester for one seminarian. This had been one of the approved projects of the Vocation Ministry for 2019.

A week later, the Vocation Ministry received an acknowledgment and thank you letter from Fr. Renato Repole SJ, Rector of San Jose Seminary. In the letter, Fr. Repole said 'We are deeply



## PPC Lunch Treat for Parish Staff

The Parish Pastoral Council officers expressed their appreciation for the services of the parish staff during the past year by treating them to lunch at Comida China along E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue last January 12, right after the PPC January monthly meeting.



Feted were the office staff, the maintenance group, the rectory staff, and the altar servers.

Seated with Fr. Steve Zabala and Msgr. Antonio Mortillero were - Lay Coordinator couple Bert and Marie Anne Santos; Deputy Coordinator couple Henry and Joyce Tañedo; Secretary couple Dave and Fely Ong; and Treasurer couple Bing and Elise del Rosario. ■



## From the Editors

Hard to believe that your Media Ministry team has just completed 12 quarterly issues of The Herald!

Preparations for the 2nd quarter 2019 issue will be done by the new Media Ministry team, the head of which will be appointed very soon by Fr. Steve Zabala, after consulting with his constituents.

In this issue, we feature Fr. Steve Zabala's formal installation as parish priest of Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows. In his op-editorial article, Fr. Steve talks about Servant Leadership and how he's been blessed with servant leaders volunteering their services in his different parish assignments. We also write about the leadership nomination and discernment process that the parish will undergo in late March and early April.

2019 is the Year of the Youth. It is therefore fitting to feature the World Youth Day Vigil at CTK which had as its climax the live stream of the evening vigil with Pope Francis in Panama City, Panama. We also have the interview with the Youth Ministry head couple Louie and Lei Abando, who are also completing their three-year assignment.

The Catholic world kicked off the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday. Thus we have articles on this year's Ash Wednesday, Way of the Cross, and the full schedule of the Lenten season, Easter Triduum, and Easter season.

Fr. Steve gave a 'State of the Parish' talk, covering all of 2018, in all the masses last March 2 and 3. He carried a tradition that Msgr. Dan Sta. Maria first instituted.

The parish does an enormous amount of formation-related talks and it is hard to cover them all. But we did cover the Stewardship's quarterly 'spirituality of stewardship' talk by Fr. Kit, the Greenmeadows BEC talk on Bible basics by Fr. Eugene, two talks on same sex attraction given by Bro. Edwin and Bro. Rollie from Courage Philis., and two of the four talks organized by the Confraternity of our Lady of Mediatrix of All Grace, by Fr. Jojo and Fr. Jocis.

We had cut off our 4th quarter 2018 issue on December 13 so we weren't able to cover the PPC Christmas party, which we belatedly feature in this issue. Ditto for the Christmas Vigil masses.

As we approach Holy Week, the editors wish all the parishioners and CTK church goers a blessed Lenten Season ahead!

**Bing and Elise del Rosario**  
Media Ministry In-charge