



THE HERALD

CHRIST THE KING PARISH GREENMEADOWS

Fr. Steve Zabala Announces New CTK PPC for 2019-2022

At the May 11 Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) monthly meeting, as promised, Fr. Steve announced his final choices for Parish Pastoral officers - Lay Coordinator, Assistant Lay Coordinator, Secretary and Treasurer - and ministry heads, Liturgical Ministry heads for the Worship Ministry, BEC Coordinator and village coordinators for the three year term 2019-2022.

It will be recalled that a leadership nomination process had been followed where all the PPC members and several other selected respondents, totalling 150, were asked to submit their nominations to the various positions to be filled up for 2019-2022. These nominations were summarized to arrive at a short list of nominees for each position which Fr. Steve then took as



Henry and Joyce Tañedo are the new PPC Lay Coordinator couple, while Worship Ministry heads Peter and Leila Banico concurrently take on the Assistant Coordinator role

input before making his choices. The 150 respondents had attended a Discernment Assembly, on the topic of Servant Leadership, that prepared them to nominate the r i g h t parishioners for the various positions. Fr. Steve then took a week of discernment

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Dads Bond With Daughters in 'May I Have This Dance'

The Family and Life Ministry held their first offering of 'May I Have This Dance?', a full-day bonding experience between fathers and daughters last March 24. A



brainchild of ministry heads Regie and Joanne Polancos with their core team, the Sunday event was participated in by 19 pairs of dads and daughters, the maximum capacity of the program.

first activity after opening prayers by Ryanna Polancos and welcome remarks by Regie Polancos was lunch – but lunch with very specific instructions. That is, fathers had to serve the meals to their daughters and vice versa. Which meant that dads - and daughters - had to ask

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CTK Mounts Flores de Mayo Flower Offerings and Summer Religion Classes

May afternoon showers also brought the Flores de Mayo celebrations at Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows, marked by praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the red rose offerings just before every mass, and the summer religion classes for the Libis children.



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Message From Our Parish Priest



Congratulations and blessings to our new set of PPC servant-leaders led by our couple coordinator Henry and Joyce Tañedo! (See complete list of PPC 2019-2021 on pages 3-4) Let us all offer our prayers to them (and to your parish priest) that they will make up a good team to make this parish vibrant and animated through relevant and meaningful pastoral programs and activities.

The new appointees are the PPOs, ministry heads, and village coordinators. As mentioned, the selection of these new servant leaders were done through a discernment process. Some active lay leaders discerned, from March 9 to 22, and submitted to me names from which I chose. They did not just submit names, they also wrote down helpful information as to the leadership profile of the nominee! From March 25 up to the first week of May, I made my own discernment on the list of possible leaders submitted to me. All throughout, I asked God to bless the whole process and grant me the wisdom to make the right choice.

I first made an initial list. When possible, preference was given to couples to head the position. I remember revising it several times before I started calling them one by one. The challenge is that almost all are qualified to be good leaders so that I was having a hard time choosing from a list of plenty. I prayed over it every time I tweaked the list. I asked more information from some people including the clergy, past and present. I placed substantial weight on the recommendations of incumbent leaders. I also tried to visualize how the lineup would work together as a team.

I made most of my calls during Holy Week. A few gently declined. But most

GLORIFY GOD IN OUR WORK

by Rev. Fr. Steven C. Zabala

of them said 'yes' immediately. (The "Holy Week ambience" worked!) Others asked for more time to pray over it. A few had anxieties accepting the job. Others volunteered other people when they were approached!

Thank you to this new set of servant leaders who said 'yes' to the call. There are 27 old faces and 23 new faces (counting couples twice). I am excited to work with this new team!

I officially announced the new set of PPC officers during the May 11 PPC General Assembly. There was no time to sit idly since a few days before the General Assembly, the new leaders were already asked to convene their core team and start crafting their plans and programs for the fiscal year July 2019-June 2020, with the help of the outgoing PPC leaders. From May 21-24, they presented their plans and budget to me and the PPO. On June 8, we will have a Parish Pastoral Assembly to finalize all plans and programs.

In the end, it is God that we want to glorify in our work. It is him who has called us to be here because he needs us for his beloved flock of CTK. Jesus said in John 12:26, "My father will honor the one who serves me." So, together, let us honor our Christ the King with our humble service!

The May 11 PPC General Assembly was also the last meeting of the outgoing PPC. My heartfelt gratitude goes to our former PPC 2016-2019 couple coordinator, Bert and Marie Anne Santos. Bert and Marie Anne's sincere and unifying leadership provided the PPC its much needed guidance and inspiration to deliver our pastoral services to our people. They have been very helpful in accompanying and guiding me as I started my work here as your new parish priest. I had my fears and uneasiness coming here, but like loving and protective parents bringing

their child for the very first time in school, Bert and Marie Anne made my entrance into this challenging parish a little easier.

To the rest of the PPC 2016-2019, I am truly impressed by your dedication, selflessness, excellence and availability in your parish work. That's not really surprising since many of you are also doing a great job in your chosen profession and career. CTK is truly blessed to be a recipient of your talent, time and treasure.

"We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thes 1:2-3)

To the new PPC team, together, with God's guidance, may we be able to provide a servant leadership that will truly animate our parish!

Our volunteers and leaders in the past have made this parish a vibrant one with their selfless and engaging leadership. I have met some of these pioneers. I have heard inspiring stories of how they worked closely with Msgr. Mora in starting this parish from scratch—building the community, forming the people in the faith, raising funds, constructing the church, and more. I am also edified by the many servants, some of them still active, who took over after Msgr. Mora's retirement to continue the parish's tradition of selfless service and generous giving, for God and for its people.

Let us honor these past servant leaders by providing the same engaging leadership that will benefit the larger parish community. Our parishioners expect this parish to make their lives meaningful and better as worshipping Catholics.

In the end, it is God that we want to glorify in our work. It is him who has called us to be here because he needs us for his beloved flock of CTK. Jesus said in John 12:26, "My father will honor the one who serves me." So, together, let us honor our Christ the King with our humble service! ■

Fr. Steve Zabala Announces . . .

before calling on his choices one by one.

Bert and Marie Anne Santos stepped down as Lay Coordinator. In their place, the former Assistant Lay Coordinator couple, Henry and Joyce Tañedo, took over. As agreed upon earlier, the position of Assistant Lay Coordinator couple would be filled by a current ministry head, and Fr. Steve selected Peter and Leila Banico, who retained their role as head of Worship Ministry, to act concurrently as Assistant Lay Coordinator couple.



Fr. Steve thanking all the PPC officers, ministry heads, and village coordinators who had served from 2016 to 2019.

Replacing David and Fely Ong as Secretary couple are Fred and Maan del Rosario. Maan had been village coordinator for Acropolis from 2016-2019. Bing and Elise del Rosario retained their seat as Treasurer couple.



Peter and Leila Banico retained their Worship Ministry position. Under the Worship Ministry, the following were

identified as liturgical heads – Trix Deleña for Lectors and Commentators, replacing Mel Novalde, Albert Cuadrante retained his EMHC head role, Francis and Alice Montinola took on the Music Ministry, replacing Benjie Mirasol, Tess Turingan for Greeters and Collectors replacing Jeanette Cagurangan, And Louie and Lei Abando for Altar Servers, replacing Louie Laudico.

The new Vocation Ministry in-charge are Louie and Lei Abando, replacing Louie Laudico (traditionally, the Vocation Ministry head also takes on the Altar Servers lead role). The Youth Ministry is now headed by Teenie de Leon and Mikee Malixi, replacing Louie and Lei Abando. The Young Catholic Professionals Ministry, just recently formed, is to be headed by Chino Quizon and Marian Macapanpan. The Mustard Seed Ministry will continue to be headed by Sonny and Mina Mejia. The Sunrise Ministry has new leaders, in the couple Louie and Nell Laudico, replacing Doy and Estrelle Lopez.

Formation Ministry will now be headed by Bet Montecillo, replacing David Ong. Regie and Joanne Polancos remain to

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Above, Fr. Steve gives the opening prayer for the May 11 PPC meeting which included both outgoing as well as incoming PPC Officers. Below, Lay Coordinators Bert and Marie Anne give their valedictory addresses. Right, Bert belts out a farewell song with Fr. Steve.



Fr. Steve Zabala Announces . . .



Meet the new faces in the Parish Pastoral Council - L to R, top to bottom: Bet Montecillo, Menchu Pascual & Mila Bangco, Marian Macapanpan & Chino Quizon, Teenie de Leon & Mikee Malixi, Trix Deleña, Tess Turingan, Alice & Francis Montinola, Leo & May Nitorreda, Teri Floro, Betsy Tenchavez, Sandy Abad Santos & Vangie Yam, and Ching Botero



lead Family and Life Ministry. Ditto with Catechetical Ministry, which will continue to be headed by Sheryl Coronel and Alma Yeh. The Social Services and Development Ministry will continue to be headed by Mila Bangco but now assisted by Menchu Pascual. Public Affairs Ministry will now be headed by Mon and Loung Cuartero, replacing Jing Alampay and Rene Montemayor. BEC, or Basic Ecclesial Communities, will still be headed by Eileen de Leon. The former Media Ministry, now called Social Communications Ministry, will now be headed by Rissa Kawpeng and Tessa Mangahas, replacing Bing and Elise del Rosario. The other new ministry, Urban Poor, will be headed by Ching Botero.

coordinators, assisted by Beni and Teri Floro, replacing Eileen de Leon and Dulce Barretto. Arcadia will continue to have Fe Flores and Lita Sembrano as village coordinators, Libis will have Ching Botero minus Jo Piyaw, and Corinthian Hills will continue with Paul and Dinah Uy. As of press time, the identities of village coordinators for Enclave, Ivory Court, and La Maison had not yet been finalized.

In a simple ceremony, Fr. Steve gave tribute to everyone who had served in the PPC as officers or ministry heads by calling each one, having their name flashed on screen, giving each one the miniature statue of Christ the King that is above our main altar with a personal inscription, and having a photograph

taken.

The emotional highlight was the 'valedictory' address of Bert and Marie Anne Santos. Marie Anne talked about her near-fatal sickness and how she had viewed it as a sign to accept the offer of Fr. Bong in 2016 to accept the task of Lay Coordinator couple. Bert provided the compensating levity by singing 'Fill the World With Love', a song traditionally sung by Ateneans during their graduation baccalaureate mass. He was joined by Fr. Steve Zabala, who it turned out also did the remix for the minus one just a few hours before. ■



Most but not all of the village coordinators for 2019-2022 have been identified. For Acropolis, it will be Leo and May Nitorreda, replacing Maan del Rosario and Irene Robles. For Corinthian Gardens, Fe Pery and Linda Guanzon will be replaced by new kids on the block Sandy Abad Santos and Vangie Yam. Designated as White Plains coordinator are Melanie Aquino and Betsy Tenchavez, replacing Mel Novales and Jane Duque. Greenmeadows will have David and Fely Ong as village

The outgoing Parish Pastoral Council of 2016-2019 pose one last time in the front garden with the parish name in the background



Dads Bond With Daughters . . .

their daughters - and their dads - what food they like and the size of portions they wanted. And the dads had to eat lunch beside their daughters. The attendees were then asked to introduce themselves. Facilitating the whole program was Ilsa Reyes, an award winning motivational speaker, called to share God's healing love thru speaking. Ilsa is also a co-host for ABS-CBN's Salitang Buhay with Fr. Bel San Luis and Fr. Jerome Marquez. Ryanna also did double duty as the event's official photographer. The 19 pairs included the father-daughter teams of: Roel & Mahana del Castillo; Don & Liya Ferrer; Albert &

Chiara Gabinete; Win and Amanda Limwan; Marlon & Bea Magbag; Sonny & Alex Mejia; Mike & Mattia Morales; Raymond & Alessandra Oblepias; Quinto & Brielle Oreta; Louie & Isabelle Padrinao; Irwin & Kenisha Reyes; Sarge & Jodie Sarmiento; Eric & Aura Sison; Noel & Celine Tabernilla; Jessie & JM Tayaban; Mike & Kara Vedula; Nino & Margaret Mendoza; Red & Mandy Peneyra; and Jon and Chloe Cleofas.

The first non-meal activity was for each individual to draw on a piece of paper what makes them happy on one hand and what makes them sad, on the other but they first have to share these reflections with their partner. After completing their respective drawings, each father and daughter tandem were then asked to do a dance - hence the title of the event - it didn't matter if it was fast or slow, old or new, and then after the dance for both of them to explain the meaning of what they drew. The two most creative pairs in both the dancing and the sharing received a prize at the end of the event.



Left, Family & Life Ministry head Regie Polanco opens the father-daughter bonding 'camp'; right, Ilsa Reyes facilitating the program. Heart to heart sharing, below.

In the second activity, each individual wrote in a pink heart cut-out what they are grateful for in their father or daughter. Again, fathers and daughters had to huddle privately to first share what they were grateful for before writing them up. Then each pair presented to the group one at a time before placing their 'hearts' on a large manila paper sheet, with daughters' hearts on one side and dads' hearts on the other.



After their afternoon break, the dads and daughters were again asked to huddle privately to share their aspirations, that is, what are his-her dreams, what does he-she need, and

Dads Bond With Daughters . . .



Prizes are awarded to the two best father-daughter pairs for creative dancing and sharing



how can he-she help. Then fathers and daughters prayed for each other aloud. Ilsa then came back in to summarize the learnings from the day's event and talked through the next steps.

The bonding session ended with participation at the 5 pm Holy Mass where Fr. Jojo Gatdula, the president, asked the 19 pairs to come to the front where he explained to the congregation what had happened earlier. In front of everyone, the fathers presented their rosary tokens to their daughters and Fr. Jojo blessed the father-daughter teams. The dad-daughter teams also read the prayers of the faithful and did the offertory. It was a

nice and fitting finish for the day's bonding event.



Fr. Jojo Gatdula blesses the fathers and daughters during the 5:00 pm mass



CTK Gears up for Flores de Mayo . . .

Unlike previous years when the religion classes took the whole month of May, the Catechetical Ministry led by Alma Yeh and Sheryl Coronel decided to hold it for half a month, or two weeks only. And again, another innovation - the ministry decided to focus the classes on the lives of young saints, highlighting their virtues. With 20 saints and two saints for each session, they came up with 10 sessions. 70 children signed up for the Flores de Mayo classes.

The young saints included: St. Tarcisius and Maria del Pilar Cimadevilla (kindness); St. Justina and St. Cyprian (purity); St. Rose of Lima and Saint José Luis Sánchez del Río (abstinence); St. Kateri Tekakwitha & Blessed Adilo Daronch (patience); Nennolina and



Above, Joy Schallenberg leading the class last May 22; below, Jill Yu with the May 17 class



Gustavo Maria Bruni (liberality); Saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto of Fatima (diligence); St. Stanislaus Kotska and Blessed Imelda Lambertini (piety and obedience); Little Nellie of Holy God and Venerable Maggiorino Vigolungo (Marian devotion); St. Maria Goretti and St. Pedro Calungsod (faith, hope and love); St. Dominic Savio and St. Bernadette Soubirous (humility).

Another innovation was to fully use the Libis youth volunteers to lead the classes



for the 7-9 year old group, even while the adult volunteer catechists took on the classes for the 10-12 years old. These



included - Girl Valencia, Chit Doronila, Mary Jugo, Jill Yu, Christine Bernardo, Monette Najar, Joy Schallenberg, Jun Paclibar, and Jane Aldeguer. Though the ministry heads organized everything, on-the-ground coordination support was provided by Girl Valencia, assistant coordinator for the Flores de Mayo catechetical classes.

Libis youth leaders taking care of the younger set of participants



The Libis Youth volunteers were led by Hans Delmar and JP Garcia, the youth volunteer coordinators, and included: April Joy Alcido, Christian Galang Acebo, Christine Mae Capadocia, Don Alby Lumio Butol, Eunice Alfonso, Farida Tolentino, Ivann Christian Junio, Lex Pasco, and Manuel Borja.

Classes were Monday to Friday, from May 15 to May 28, from 1 pm to 3 pm. the lectures were followed by the praying of the rosary and snacks. ■

Greenmeadows 1 Kids Offer Flowers and Artwork for Mother Mary

Last May 18, with Greenmeadows assigned to do the praying of the chaplet, praying of the rosary, and leading the flower offering, GM village coordinator Eileen de Leon gathered some 25 kids from First Greenmeadows to do the flower offering.

To make the day more meaningful, Eileen partnered with Mustard Seed Ministry co-head Mina Mejia to give the children a little class on Mother Mary before the 6 pm mass. The children made cards for Mother Mary as well as their moms, since it was Mother's Day the Sunday before.



Above, Mina Mejia, head of Mustard Seed Ministry, gives a short class to the GM kids



Eileen said, 'I believe we made Mama Mary extra happy that day!'

The Chaplet leaders were Linda Tiuseco and Ana Fernando. Leading the praying of the rosary were G Mers Rowina Tan and Adette Uy.



CTK Celebrates Sacred Paschal Triduum

Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows marked the Sacred Paschal Triduum, the summit of the entire liturgical year, with great reverence, solemnity and meaning last April 18-20. CTK parish priest Fr. Steve Zabala and resident priests Bishop Raul Martirez, Msgr. Tony Mortillero, Fr. Henry Ferreras and Fr. Jojo Gatdula all participated during the Triduum celebrations. Three of these preachers shared homilies that resonated with profound messages for each day of the Triduum.

Holy Thursday: Overcoming hindrances to fulfilling Jesus' commandment of love

The Holy Thursday Chrism Mass was held at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Lantana, Cubao, the seat of the Cubao Diocese. At the special 6:30 am mass, the holy oils were blessed for

Msgr. Dan Sta. Maria and other priests after the mass.

Ferreras said that, in the end, Jesus' act of humility in the washing of his



Clockwise from top left: St. Salome, St. Nicodemus, St. Joseph of Arimathea, St. Peter, St. Veronica, St. Martha, the Sorrowful Mother (Madre Dolorosa), and the Santo Entierro (Holy Internment)



In the afternoon, Fr. Henry Ferreras gave the homily during the Evening Mass of

disciples' feet proved that only love can help us conquer all these hindrances.



The Diocese of Cubao's Chrism Mass at 6:30 am on Holy Thursday



use in the diocese for the next 365 days. It was also during the Chrism mass where all the diocese priests renewed their priestly vows. Despite 'Standing Room Only' beginning 5:30 am, several CTK parishioners attended. Louie Laudico and Benjie Mirasol were even invited to break bread with Bishop Honesto F. Ongtioco, Fr. Steve Zabala,

the Lord's Supper where he posed the question: What hinders us from following Jesus' commandment of love? Fr. Henry pointed out three obstacles - our preoccupation with worldly concerns, the hurts that continue to haunt and fill our hearts, and the sheer laziness to do the things that we ought to do for others. He highlighted the importance of strengthening one's prayer life in the face of challenges. Fr.

This year's 'twelve apostles' came from different sectors of the parish community. These were:

1. Anthony Yan – parishioner from Acropolis
2. Sands Songalia – Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion
3. John Paul Garcia – LOC Libis Scholar
4. Luigi Celis – Kagawad of Brgy. White Plains
5. Roland Roque – Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion
6. Jan Pasquin – Senior Altar Server
7. Louie Reyes – Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion
8. Hans Delmar – Knights of Columbus and Libis Scholar
9. Lupo Basilio – Lector and Young Catholic Professionals
10. Joe Gonzales – father of altar server JG Gonzales
11. Don Bulahan – parishioner from St. Ignatius
12. Tony Ong – parishioner from First Greenmeadows



CTK Celebrates Sacred Paschal . . .



After the mass, everyone proceeded to the Altar of Repose at the Divine Mercy Chapel to spend some moments of prayer. The Altar of Repose had been decorated in a way that evoked prayer and contemplation. Several groups of church volunteers and visitors who were doing the traditional 'Visita Iglesia' held vigil until midnight.

Good Friday: Confronted with the Faces of Death

The Community Stations of the Cross in the afternoon was held at 2pm inside the main church just before the 3pm Veneration of the Cross and Communion Service. Led by Fr. Steve Zabala, the place was filled with the faithful who reflected on the suffering and sacrifices of Christ, aided by the 14 brilliantly colored stained glass windows around the church.

Fr. Steve also gave a moving homily during the Good Friday service that centered on the different kinds of deaths Jesus had endured even before the crucifixion at Golgotha – the killing of the innocents by Herod, the plan of his fellow Israelites to throw him off a cliff, false accusations by his brethren, Judas' betrayal, Peter's denial and more. He likened these to the threats of 'death' that confront the faithful and clergy in the present time. He also reminded everyone that encountering the different faces of death is part of being a Christian, quoting Romans 6:3, 'Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?' Fr. Steve said that amid these daily experiences of deaths and persecutions, the best response is that of Christ's – **love and mercy**. Jesus remained faithful to this kind of love up to his last breath.

After the communion service, the faithful gathered for the Santo Entierro procession that wove through the streets of Greenmeadows subdivision. Church groups and the rest of the parish community accompanied the Santo

Entierro, the Madre Dolorosa, and the attendant saint images while praying the Holy Rosary.

Holy Saturday: Easter Joy – 'Mama, I won't let you cry again'



Service of the Light by Fr. Steve Zabala



The 'holiest of nights' started off with the Service of the Light at 8pm. Presided by Fr. Steve who also sang a specially-arranged Easter Proclamation or Exsultet, the beautiful liturgy highlighted salvation history through beautiful readings and moving psalms.

In his homily, Bishop Raul explained the parts of the Easter Vigil and related these to our lives – walking in the darkness of sin and needing Christ's light in the Service of the Light, the faithfulness of



Parishioners renew their baptismal vows



God despite the unfaithfulness of his people in the Liturgy of the Word, and the stark presence of the Lord in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. He ended with a though-provoking story of one who wallowed in the darkness of sin but experienced reconciliation and Easter joy with a promise to his mother, 'Mama, I won't let you cry again.'

While there were no newly-baptized during the vigil, the congregation witnessed a timely story of faith in the confirmation of architect Eithne Fajardo. Although baptized as a child, Eithne never had the opportunity to have her First Communion and Confirmation since she studied in a non-Catholic school. It was providential that one of this year's 'apostles', Anthony Yan, convinced her to take the sacraments. CTK catechist Sheryl Coronel adequately prepared her for the sacraments on Good Friday. Finally, 22 years after being baptized on Christmas day 1996, Eithne had her Confirmation and First Communion during the Easter Vigil, the holiest of nights, proving that grace indeed comes in God's perfect time.



Above, with liturgical ministers; below, with MBMG ladies who decorated the altar



After the vigil, the congregation had its usual festive **Salubong** rite wherein the menfolk gathered at the Acropolis gate with the image of the Risen Christ while the women met at the Giraffe Street area with the image of the Virgin Mary. The two images and ensuing processions converged at the parish church where hallelujahs, dancing and Easter joy filled the air. A simple agape followed in front of the Divine Mercy Chapel. ■

Fr. Manny Cruz Leads Holy Week Recollection

Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows held its Holy Week Recollection last April 20 from 9:30 am to 12 noon. Invited to facilitate was Fr. Emmanuel 'Manny' Cruz, Rector of the Immaculate Conception Major Seminary in Bulacan. Fr. Manny talked about the 'Call to Holiness in Today's World', which was also the subtitle of Pope Francis' third apostolic exhortation 'Gaudete Et Exsultate'.



What is the difference between 'happiness' and 'joy', Fr. Manny first asked. The answer is - happiness is about feelings and can be created by stimuli and fed from the outside, while joy is a conviction, a matter of choice, belief, and faith. As it comes from within, joy can be found, despite persecution. Joy is achieved through total surrender to God. According to St John Paul II, joy is rooted in the experience of being loved and forgiven by God.

Fr. Manny then asked - how do we distinguish 'temptation', or 'tukso' from 'trials', or 'pagsubok'? The answer was - temptation is from the devil while trials are from God. The devil tempts us because he is jealous of our mortality. As a fallen angel sent to hell, he is immortal, and being immortal, his sins are eternal; while we mortals are bound by time so we hope and we are forgiven. But why send us trials at all? God allows us to experience trials to make us stronger and to bring out the best in us. Trials purify our intentions and stamp out pride.

There are some events that can be both temptation as well as trial. Sickness, for example, can tempt one to be depressed; to be self-centered; to think only of one's needs; to be demanding; and to control others around you. But sickness can also be God's trial for us to know how sick people feel and for us to imbibe compassion.

The Call to Holiness is an invitation. But it is left to each of us to discern his or her path to holiness. Each of us is unique and hence we will all take different paths to

holiness. For example, we may be a devotee of St. Pio but we cannot imitate his life or copy his personal path to holiness.

We were all born with special gifts, per Fr. Manny. The church calls it 'charisma', or divinely-conferred powers or talents. Each man is given his gift by the Spirit that he may make the most of it. It is our mission in life to use our charisma in the service of others. God works through different men in different ways, but it is the same God who achieves his purpose through all of us.

We are called to be God's witnesses in different ways. We can be:

- Mystic, seeking by contemplation and self-surrender to attain unity with the Deity or the absolute.
- Contemplative, with a life devoted primarily to prayer, especially in a monastery or convent.
- Active, pursuing a worthwhile occupation or activity at a particular place or in a particular way.
- Loving, in a feminine way, that is, with the sensitivity needed in loving, compassion, and empathy that imitates the compassionate love of God.
- Loving, in a masculine way, like St Joseph, who gave support even in silence.

Fr. Manny then went through his personal list of 'what holiness is not':

- Seeking silence as a way to avoid interaction with others
- Wanting peace and quiet to have the opportunity to be idle and do nothing
- Seeking prayer while disdaining service
- Doing seemingly 'holy' things out of anxiety, out of pride or out of need to impress others
- Keeping busy and ignoring the need for occasional quiet, solitude, and silence before God ('heresy of action')

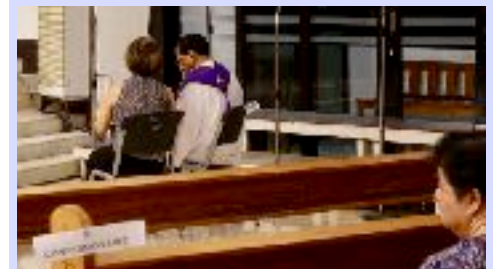
Finally, Fr. Manny reminded everyone that Holiness is a pilgrimage, a journey, not a destination. Stumbling along the journey does not make you less human, since each one's path to holiness is an encounter between one's weakness and the power of God's grace - 'misericordia hominis (misery of man), misericordia dei (mercy of God)'. So Fr. Manny's final admonition was - do not be afraid to set your sights higher; allow yourself to be loved by God; let yourself be guided by the Holy Spirit; and build up the church with your gifts! He ended with the reminder - **the only great tragedy in life is not to become a saint!**

Kumpisalang Bayan is Well Attended

Christ the King Parish's Kumpisalang Bayan was held from Holy Monday to Holy Wednesday, April 15 to 17, from 6:45 pm right after the end of the 6 pm mass, up to 8 pm.



On the last day, April 17, to accommodate the expected larger crowd, nine priests heard confessions, including Fr. Steve Zabala, Bishop Raul Martinez, Msgr. Tony Mortillero, Fr. Henry Ferreras, Fr. Jojo Gatdula, Fr. Jimmy Mathew, Fr. Rex Armenia, and Fr. Elvin Garuco.



Fr. Jojo Gatdula Facilitates EMHC Lenten Recollection



The Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion, led by Albert Cuadrante, held their annual Lenten Recollection last March 30. Fr. Jojo Gatdula facilitated, introducing several novel activities including 'Journey to Heaven', 'Pilgrim's Dance', and appreciation sit-downs. Aside from EMHC spouses, the Lectors and Commentators group was also invited.

The three-hour recollection was unique in that Fr. Jojo included interactive activities prior to starting with the recollection proper.



Journey to Heaven



In 'Journey to Heaven', participants were asked to try and figure out the right path



Pilgrim's Dance



set by 'God' (played by Fr. Jojo) to get from Earth to Heaven. This activity was meant to make participants reflect on different points and feelings they felt as they tried to navigate the correct path.

'Pilgrim's Dance' required the participants to line up, connected by holding each other's shoulders and performing the simple 4-step choreography of the dance, meant to emphasise that our pilgrimage here on earth involves the participation and support of one another.

The recollection proper expounded on the theme, 'With the state of the world today, was Christ's death in vain?' The obvious answer was 'no' and Fr. Jojo instead flipped this around and proposed that, given the current condition of the

world, the death of Christ has become more intelligible, meaningful and relevant.

The day concluded with another activity where EMHCs and LeComs took turns being blindfolded and members of the community were asked to approach the blindfolded ministers and tell them that their service to the parish was highly appreciated.



Fr. Nono Alfonso Facilitates CTK Easter Recollection

CTK had its annual Parish Easter Recollection last May 4, Saturday, from 10 am to 12 noon at the Divine Mercy Chapel, facilitated by Fr. Nono Alfonso SJ, the Executive Director of the Jesuit Communications Foundation. He was introduced by Formation Ministry head David Ong. With Easter as theme, Fr.



Formation Ministry head David Ong introduces Fr. Nono

Nono suggested that we ask God that we experience the Risen Jesus at work in our lives; that we find and recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our day-to-day affairs.



Fr. Nono divided the recollection in three parts.

1. Encounter

He noted that the liturgical readings during the Easter Season are all about the Lord's appearance. After rising from the dead, he appears to his apostles and disciples, restoring their faith and hope, which reflect our own

encounters with the Risen Lord in the here and now, in our own lives. When we look back on our lives, we realize that the Risen Christ has been very much a part of our lives, both in joys and triumphs as well as tragedies and misfortunes. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we recognize him in our past even as he journeys with us in the present and towards the future.



During the dozen times that Jesus appeared after having risen from the dead, Jesus always came as a stranger and in unexpected moments, even impossible circumstances. And each time, he restores hope, faith and love. It also turns out that Pope Francis' favorite word is 'encounter', with Jesus coming to our lives and we are changed forever.

He asked the retreatants to reflect – Have you experienced the presence of Christ in your life this past year? Who were the persons in your life who made you feel His touch and love?

2. Obstacles

Though Christ is always reaching out to us, we tend to erect barriers between him and us. Fr. Nono asked the attendees to reflect on the following questions: Is there a sense of death, a broken relationship, a dryness in faith, a dead-end in career that you need to lift to God so he can breathe new life into them? Are grief, intense negative emotions, or old habits preventing you from fully experiencing the newness of the Risen Lord?

In Mt 28:1-7, the angel's first words to the women were, 'Do not be afraid.' Are you afraid – afraid to love for fear of getting hurt, afraid to try for fear of failing, to commit because we might get lost? Fr. Nono reassured everyone that the Risen Christ heals our fears; after all, he conquered death.

3. Easter people

As followers of the Risen Lord, we are all called to be 'Easter People'. That is our mission. Fr. Nono asked everyone to reflect on four points:

- a. **Joy.** There is joy and exhilaration because the Lord has risen. He has conquered death so there is nothing to fear.
- b. **Love.** Do you consider yourself a loving person? Does the love in your heart enable you to see Jesus in other people, in the events and circumstances of your life?
- c. **Mission.** Despite their proven frailties and weaknesses, Jesus commissions Peter and the other disciples; and they will soon be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in the performance of their mission. Do we ourselves live with a sense of mission?
- d. **Community.** The mission of the apostles was to establish a community of believers, the Church. How are you contributing to building up your community and your church?



ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Fr. Nono Alfonso SJ is the executive director of Jesuit Communications, the media arm of the Society of Jesus in the Philippines. Aside from hosting radio shows in DZMM and Radio Veritas, he also produces TV shows, the most successful of which is Cardinal Tagle's Sunday morning show, *The Word Exposed*. In 2016, Fr. Nono also produced the biopic of the founder of the Jesuits, Ignacio de Loyola, the first Filipino film to be screened at the Vatican. Fr. Nono also contributes commentaries to the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*.

'Easterrific' Replaces Traditional Easter Egg Hunt

Exasperated with the traditional Easter Egg Hunt every Easter Sunday, which had little children scampering for plastic eggs in the small garden in front of the main church, the organizers decided on a new tack for 2019's Easter Sunday (April 21).

First, the organizers, a collaboration among the Family & Life Ministry headed by Regie and Joanne Polancos, the Youth Ministry headed by Louie and Lei Abando, and the Mustard Seed Ministry headed by Sonny and Mina Mejia,



decided to hold it indoors, at the Parish Formation Center, rather than outside. Second, they did the event three times, after the 7:30 am mass, after the 9:00 am mass, and after the 10:30 am mass. Third, they combined it with the Coffee after Church so that the parents of the little children would have something to do while their children played and won prizes. Fourth, though they still did the traditional egg hunt, they supplemented this with several other play booths - egg painting, coloring of bookmarks with religious Easter messages, and Following Jesus' Path. And fifth, unlike previous years when you got to keep the easter eggs you collected, children were only asked to collect a maximum of five eggs of different colors that they then traded in for their surprise prize and loot bag.

In the egg painting and the coloring of bookmarks, the children got to showcase their artistic talents. In the Following Jesus booth, children were asked to hop on stone paths that had virtues written on them, at the same time avoiding stones with negative qualities written on them. Father Steve Zabala gamely tried out this booth, trying very hard to avoid stepping onto the wrong stones, which was difficult given his bigger feet.

And following the successful formula of the Kingdom of Heaven Fair, CTK's 'Holyween' event, the children were also treated to lots of snacks - free popcorn by Acropolis village coordinator Irene Robles, free ice cream by the other



Acropolis village coordinator, Maan del Rosario, taho by Greenmeadows' Maling Gutierrez, Froot Boost juices by Mustard Seed volunteer Aileen Rodas, and Sweet Potato by Pagibig Sa Diyos' Henry and Joyce Tañedo.

A lot of people were involved in making the first staging of Easter-rific a success, aside from the heads of the three ministries. Decorations were handled by Aji and Angie Rualo and Jops Padrinao, all Family and Life Ministry core team members. The Polancos girls, Regina and Ryanna were also involved, with Regina taking the photographs while Ryanna took charge of registration. Since it just so happened that Family & Life Ministry was asked to organize the Coffee After Church (CAC) that Easter Sunday, the ministry also sponsored the CAC snacks.

Aside from the Abandos, the core team members of the Youth Ministry also got involved, including Teenie de Leon, Mikee Malixi, Earle Manucom, Althea Geronilla, and the two Abando boys Kyle and Gab.

The Mustard Seed Ministry volunteer teachers also came in force, to help with registration and to man the game

booths. This included: Kitchie Diaz; Alma, Ivy & Ella Yeh; Ben & Aileen Rodas with their two children Abrie and Branden; Vier & Justine Tajonera with their two young children Clea and Badger; Bernie & Tessie Bagaman, Mon & Frances Bernardo with their daughter Mishka; and the three Mejia daughters, Sam, Alex and Dani. The ministry's youth volunteers, on the other hand, had fun hiding the eggs for the kids to find as well as giving out the prizes in the redemption booth. These included - Lance & Nicole Macalalad, Kenn Gosuico, Nicky Maza, Lexy Juarez, Nicolas Te and Sam Lamorena. The four youngest Mustard Seed volunteers - Mishka Bernardo, Sam Lamorena, Clea Tajoneras, and Andrea Alzona were very charming and effective in inviting the parishioners to the Easter-rific event by greeting everyone 'Happy Easter' after each mass and leading them to the Parish Hall with their signs.

All in all, 167 children joined the 2019 edition of Easter-rific. It was truly a terrific Easter Sunday!



Mary Scholar Talks on the Virgin Mary in the Bible

Angelyn Dee, who has an MA in Theology from the Augustine Institute in Denver, Co., U.S.A., gave a Marian talk on 'The Bible and the Virgin Mary', organized by Formation Ministry last May 15. The talk took place from 7:30 pm to 9 pm at the CTK Divine Mercy Chapel.

She started with Adam and Eve in the garden with the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Adam and Eve were born without sin, but by eating from the Tree, Eve brought onto humanity the three scourges of - painful childbirth, mortality, and difficulty in looking for food. She then talked about the Virgin Mary, the only other female aside from Eve who was born without sin and she drew parallels between the old Eve of the Old Testament and the 'new Eve', that is, the Virgin Mary. For example, Eve invited Adam to commit the first sin; while Mary



was restored to us by Jesus and Mary in the form of Christ's Cross (as the new 'tree of life') and the Eucharist (as the new fruit that grants

immortality.) Jesus died on the 'tree of death' which by his dying becomes the new Tree of Life. Recall 'I am the Bread of Life. He who eats of this bread will have eternal life!'

As Christ neared death, he bequeathed his Mother to John. He had no other possession save her and he uttered the formal words of adoption, 'Woman, behold your son.' John himself was a symbol for all the disciples. Though he spoke to him when he said, 'Behold your Mother', Jesus was also speaking to everyone of us.

She then spoke about the Ark of the Covenant, the most holy of holies, that Moses, the greatest Jewish prophet, had made after coming down from Mt. Sinai with God's ten commandments. Here, she drew parallels between Moses and Jesus. For example, Moses came to deliver the Jews from the Egyptians. Jesus, on the other hand, came to deliver his people from sin.

The Ark, a rectangular wooden container made of acacia and covered in gold, carried by two golden rods carried by four men, contained not only the two stone tablets that Moses brought down but also manna that fell down from heaven, and Aaron's rod that budded. She described the space in the middle of the twelve tribes devoted to the 'tabernacle' which housed the ark that went with the Israelites as they traveled for forty years in the desert on the way to the Promised Land.

It was David who brought the ark to Jerusalem but it was Solomon who built

the permanent tabernacle, on the spot where the Temple Mount now lies, with a veil hiding the ark inside, the same veil that would later be rent asunder upon Christ's death on the cross. Since then, the word 'tabernacle' had been used to designate the area where God is present. Angeline posed the question - so where is the Ark now? Theories abound, she said - Ethiopia? Babylon? underneath the Temple Mount itself? or in a cave that only the prophet Jeremiah knew?

Aside from the comparison of Eve to Mother Mary, Ms. Dee also drew parallels between the Old Ark of the Covenant with Virgin Mary, the new Ark of the New Covenant.



Angelyn also pointed out that Sr. Lucia's last vision was of Christ on the cross with God above him. On Jesus' right, below the crucifix was Mary, with grace and mercy flowing down. At every mass, the boundary between heaven and earth is opened. Jesus comes down each time to nourish us with his word and his body and blood. At each 'heavenly' mass, God the Father pours down an abundance of mercy and graces like liquid crystal on the altar and onto the whole earth.

She noted the richness of imagery regarding Mary, Mother of God. But to Ms. Dee, the greatest of the images is the Lady of Guadalupe. In the 1531 image, Mary is depicted as an Aztec princess, and yet after nearly 500 years, the image is not faded at all. But the greatest miracle is how in the span of 10 years, 10 million Mexicans were converted to Catholicism, thus giving up their traditional rituals of human sacrifice in one swoop.

Ms. Dee recapitulated thus - Mary is the link between the Old Testament and the New Testament. She is the 'new Eve', the 'new Ark of the new Covenant, and the new Queen Mother. Therefore, all Christians should be devoted to Mary. ■



invites Jesus to do his first 'sign' at the wedding in Cana.

What some Bible readers don't appreciate, Angelyn pointed out, is that aside from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, the garden also had the Tree of Life. She deftly illustrated how Jesus and Mary set right and restored all the harmony that Adam and Eve destroyed by sinning. The tree of life and its fruits that give immortality that were taken from humanity when Adam and Eve were banished from the garden

Stewardship Author Narrates Her U.S. Stewardship Experiences

Mila Glodava, a Fil-American and best-selling co-author of 'Making Stewardship a Way of Life: A Complete Guide for Catholic Parishes', often referred to as the Philippine 'bible' for the journey to Stewardship, gave an enlightening talk to the Stewardship Committee and 'friends' last Saturday, May 18, at the Divine Mercy Chapel, from 10 am to 12 noon.



The book, a result of the successful pioneering journey of St. Thomas More (STM) parish in Englewood, Colorado, part of the Denver diocese, towards stewardship, was co-written by Fr. Matthew Kemberling, the parish priest who pushed for St. Thomas More to be a tithing or stewardship parish in 2000 when he took over as parish priest.

Mila informed the audience that in STM, they've divided their stewardship calendar into - Stewardship of Prayer, Stewardship of Time and Talent, Stewardship of Faith, Stewardship of Treasure, Stewardship of Vocations, and Stewardship of the Earth. Except for Stewardship of the Earth (celebrated on Earth Day), these are celebrated on a fourth quarter weekend.

The benefits of stewardship as a way of life include: the parish is a praying community centered around the Eucharist; liturgies are well-planned, reverent, and joyful; members and guests feel welcome; giving is cherished; celebrations are important (appreciation parties, feast days, anniversaries); evangelization and formation are the ultimate parish hallmarks; parishioners experience a personal conviction.

Mila gave focus on



welcoming and hospitality. First, she insisted that welcoming is the responsibility of all parishioners. First timers must feel they belong and are appreciated. The parish on the other hand offers opportunities to become involved in parish life, maintains and equips its facilities especially its parking and its signages, and possesses a 'can do' attitude.



Ms. Glodava claimed that by the time she and Fr. Matthew left in 2014, STM had given away nearly US\$5M to charities - shelters, charity hospitals, children's homes, Habitat for Humanity, etc. - at a rate of half a million dollars a year in the last five years. What was different was that at STM, they had only one month in the year when they talked about money, which is October. During three weekends, parishioners would make their annual offertory commitment and indicate these in specific tithing envelopes that served as a 'contract' with the parish. But in return, the treasure stewards expect transparency, with regular financial reports. The other revelation was that the parish did not collect at offertory during the weekday masses, to provide relief from donating on the weekend masses. She even postulated that if stewardship can take off everywhere in the country, the traditional arancel system of charging for sacraments still done by a few parishes can be fully abolished in all the parishes.

A natural fall-out from the authentic practice of stewardship as a way of life, argued Mila, was evangelization. When you get there, she said, the parish knows the faith, lives the faith, and shares the faith.

Public Affairs Ministry Teams Up With PPCRV for May 13 Election Watch

The Public Affairs Ministry led by Jing Alampay worked with the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, or PPCRV, the non-partisan non sectarian non-profit organization affiliated with the Philippine Catholic Church, working to ensure free, fair, and fraud-free elections in the Philippines. PPCRV had been the 'citizen arm' of the Commission on Elections since 2010. The PPCRV CTK chapter is headed by Augie Soliman, former CTK Public affairs Ministry head.

At the April 13 Parish Pastoral Council meeting, Jing Alampay, co-head of the Public Affairs Ministry, introduced the PPCRV then turned over the floor



to Augie Soliman who called for volunteers to man the polling stations on election day, May 13. Jing then promptly formed a Viber instant messaging group and kept adding names as people volunteered their services.

The first set of volunteers from Libis, St. Ignatius, and White Plains attended the diocesan PPCRV meeting in Lantana last



Above, Libis Elementary School; below, Acropolis Clubhouse



continued on next page

EMHC Visits Quirino Hospital for World Day of the Sick

In celebration of the World Day of the Sick, eight EMHC ministers led by EMHC Assistant Coordinator Manny de Leon spent the entire morning of April 6 ministering to the sick and elderly patients at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center (QMMC) along Katipunan. At each ward or group, the EMHCs prayed the Lord's Prayer before proceeding with giving Holy Communion to the Catholic patients.



After giving communion, the CTK Extraordinary Ministers gave away sandwiches and juices (200 of each) with prayer books, rosaries and scapulars. They also gave out 50 pairs of Andas mosquito repellent, one bottle for patient and one bottle for his 'bantay'. Finally, they turned over P126,000 in donation to the head of the QMMC Social Services Department, Ms. Rosita T. Pineda, and her assistant, Ms. Edna Cruz, Social Service Officer II.



The eight lay ministers who went to QMMC included - Allan Roxas, Robert Locsin, Anjoe Ramos, Reno Magadia, Manny de Leon, Louie Reyes, Irwin



Reyes, and Mon Acuin. The team left CTK at 8 am and finished at 11 am.

It will be recalled that the original World Day of the Sick was February 11. However, due to the measles scare, both Quirino and the CTK EMHC liturgical ministry agreed to postpone the event

until after the outbreak had been contained, hence the later visit date of April 6.

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Public Affairs Ministry Teams Up With PPCRV ...

April 28. Later volunteers were asked to join the CTK-PPCRV seminar-meeting last May 11, Saturday, two days before Election Day, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm., entitled 'Basic Info about PPCRV Volunteerism During Election'. Poll watcher IDs and t-shirts were also given out at the end of the orientation. Also distributed were posters, appointment letters, and a copy of the PPCRV prayer.



Above, White Plains; below, First Greenmeadows Clubhouse



Augie was supported by Joel Nava, another veteran PPCRVer who was taking the lead in White Plains and who covered the basic orientation points at the May 11 briefing. One of the things impressed on the volunteers was that polls open at 6 am and they were therefore requested to show up at the polling precincts before 6 am.

Breakfast, merienda, lunch, and dinner packs were provided for all volunteers as well as election inspectors. There were two reports of Vote Counting Machines (VCM) malfunctioning, one in Libis and the other in White Plains but these were quickly replaced. By end of voting, at 6 pm, all the volunteers had secured the 4th copy of the election returns that were intended for PPCRV.



At Corinthian Gardens and St. Ignatius



Parishes Gather for First Diocesan BEC Gathering: UsaD Pa

The first annual Diocesan BEC Day gathering, entitled BEC Ugnayan sa Diyosang Pamayanan, or UsaD Pa, last May 18 gathered over 200 BEC leaders and another 200 youth leaders from 24 different parishes of the Cubao diocese

This took all of the morning followed by lunch, with each diocese providing food for their own attendees.

The afternoon was spent on discussion groups, with the ten adults and the ten youth requested per parish facilitated separately, multiplied by the 47 parishes. This took about an hour, followed by the crafting of the Diocesan statement, during another hour, as the main output of the gathering.

The Diocesan BEC Statement said:

We, the delegates of the Basic Ecclesial Communities - Ugnayan sa mga Diyosang Pamayanan (BEC-UsaD Pa),

together with the Youth of the Diocese of Cubao, Family and Life Ministry, Vocations Ministry, Ministry of Liturgical Affairs, and with the special participation of the Social Communications Ministry, while guided by our Pastors, as a result of what transpired today here at the Siena Hall, Siena College of QC, on this Saturday, the 18th of May, 2019, would like to address the following statement to the Bishop of Cubao and to our respective Parish Priest:

We are gifted. We will strive to listen. We are capable of listening. When we listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, in any form that He may use, we grow and we are able to discern and become what he wants us to be. God's voice can be heard through Scriptures, through the Liturgy and religion, through our teachers and elders, through our parents and guardians, through our peers, through the different forms of media.

We will act. We are being empowered. We will continue to be a part of the faithful community. We will grow in the community. We will assume our place in

the community of disciples. We will be present and participate. We will be involved. We will be one with the community.

As we experience being a family under the fatherhood of the Bishop of Cubao, embraced and protected by the Church, we earnestly seek the intercession and guidance of the Immaculate Mother so that we may once more reconnect ourselves to the common mission of the Church to love and 'to become one body, one spirit in Christ'!

The day concluded with a Eucharistic celebration led by Vicar General Steve Zabala, who used the acronym KLS - 'know' your God, 'live' your God, and 'share' your God. He counseled that happiness and joy are meant to be shared; that God wants us to share Him with others. The closing remarks were delivered by Fr. Rey Hector Paglinawan, the Diocesan Minister for Youth.



Siena Hall was the venue for USA D PA, with over 400 attendees

at the Siena Hall of Siena College of Quezon City on Del Monte Avenue. Its first year's theme, given that 2019 is the Philippine Catholic Year of the Youth, was **KABATAAN: Kaagapay sa Pagpapatag ng mga Pamayanan.**

The full-day program began with opening remarks and orientation by Fr. Larry Garces, the Diocesan BEC Priest Minister. This was followed by the three-hour 'talk show', with Ms. Ilsa Reyes as main speaker, followed by five reactors who each in turn gave their 'reactions', namely: Fr. Rey Paglinawan, Ms. Anabel Gargante, Ms. Candy Pangilinan, Ms. Lian Rosal, and Bro. Edward Cometa. All the panelists agreed that the youth was the source of future leaders of the Church. What the elders lack in energy and joy, the youth fills; what the youth lack in



Ilsa Reyes was USA D PA's main speaker

patience, experience, and wisdom, hopefully the elders fill. A second point made was that the youth need our presence, our acceptance, our sensitivity, our approval, and our trust. Finally, there was general agreement that the measure of a true leader is if he is able to grow future leaders.



The Libis BEC delegation to USA D PA, led by Ching Botero, accompanied by CTK BEC coordinator Eileen de Leon and St. Ignatius Charito Barredo

Attending for CTK, aside from BEC Coordinator Eileen de Leon, were St. Ignatius village coordinator Charito Barredo, Libis BEC leaders that included Ching Botero, and half a dozen youth leaders. A Diocesan Meeting for Parish BEC coordinators was held a week before, on May 10, to prepare for the May 18 UsaD Pa, attended by Eileen de Leon, Lulay dela Cruz, Charito Barredo, and Ching Botero.



May 10 meeting of parish BEC coordinators to prepare for May 18 USA D PA

CTK Again Hosts Vicariate Assembly on DCPA 8, with Focus on Agendum 5: Engaging the Youth

CTK Parish Greenmeadows hosted the 2nd Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) Vicariate General Assembly for 2019 last May 6. Over 90 representatives from the seven parishes making up OLPH vicariate – San Roque (with the biggest delegation), Nativity of the Lord, Perpetual Help, Christ the King Greenmeadows, Our Lady of Miraculous

closing prayer; and Fr. Omer Prieto of San Antonio de Padua Parish.

In attendance for CTK, aside from Fr. Steve, were Lay Coordinator couple Bert and Marie



Johnny Liao presenting, with Fr. Steve listening intently, above. Below, the CTK delegation.

Anne Santos, Assistant Lay Coordinator Henry Tañedo, Secretary David and Fely Ong, Treasurer Elise and Bing del Rosario, BEC Coordinator Eileen de Leon, Stewardship head Benjie and Wins Mirasol, and Youth Coordinator Althea Geronilla.

Johnny Liao gave away copies of the DCPA 8 booklet so far prepared by his team containing action plan templates that can be adopted in whole or in part by the parishes and which he enjoined the PPC Lay Coordinators to share with their PPC members in their next meetings. He admitted that every parish situation is different hence every action plan by agendum could be different. The key objective was to bring in the different ministries to work together on each agendum.

Medal, and Transfiguration of Our Lord – came to hear additional details on Agendum no. 5: Engaging the Youth.

Johnny Liao from the Mt. Carmel Shrine and head of the Policies and Structures Secretariat gave the briefing, as what he did during the first Vicariate Assembly Last February 18. In attendance from the clergy side were Fr. Steve Zabala, CTK parish priest and event host who also gave the welcome remarks; Fr. Choy Garcia, Nativity of the Lord Parish, who shared his personal observation; Fr. Larry Garces, San Roque Parish who also gave his personal observations and



He clarified that the agenda planning will take place in the coming fiscal year to be ready for full implementation starting FY2020. For each agendum, the team consisting of different ministry representatives led by the agendum coordinator would define the objectives and draw up a parish agendum plan. The consolidated agenda plan would then be presented by the Lay Coordinator before next year's planning cycle.

After Johnny's discussion, he asked the representatives to huddle by parish and take 10 minutes to answer the following questions:

- ▶ What does this agendum mean to you?



Table discussion presenters, with Althea Geronilla presenting for CTK



- ▶ How do you want to do it?
- ▶ What are the ministries involved?

After the individual responses, he then asked the parish teams to huddle and review everyone's answers and then identify a rapporteur. For CTK, Althea Geronilla summarized the sentiments of the CTK representatives.



The next General Assemblies for the OLPH vicariate has been scheduled for June 17 to tackle Agenda 1 (Integrating Families into Parish Life) and 2 (Animating Parish Life). Agenda 3 (Renewed Witnesses of the Faith) and Agenda 4 (Human Dignity) will be discussed on August 12, and



October 14 is when the OLPH Vicariate gets to discuss Agenda 7 (New Media) and Agenda 8 (stewardship). ■



Fr. Choy Garcia, Nativity of the Lord Parish, and Fr. Larry Garces, San Roque Parish, give their personal perspectives.

CTK Priests Celebrate the Joy of the Priesthood

58 + 29 + 23 + 15.

These are the number of years of joyful ministry that CTK's Bishop Raul Martinez (March 1961) Fr. Henry Ferreras (March 1990), Fr. Steven Zabala (March 1996) and Fr. Jojo Gatdula (March 2004) are marking this year.

During the Eucharistic celebration for the March sacerdotal anniversaries of these priests last March 23, a Saturday, Bishop Raul shared in his homily that he was brimming with gratitude for the gift of faith, love and sharing in the priesthood. He admitted that there were a lot of challenges in his 58 years as a priest and 36 years as a bishop, but he has found out that the way to remain in

ministry by unintentionally eavesdropping on a conversation between his father and a visiting priest when he was just in third grade. The parish priest was checking out the large Zabala brood and asked the Zabala patriarch which of his sons would be suitable for the priesthood. The priest spotted the precocious Steven, and asked, "How about that boy? Can he become a priest?" His father was quite skeptical saying that Steven was the least likely to be one because he is so 'makulit'. The young Steven overheard the conversation and the seed of vocation was planted in his mind. Much like the time when the prophet Samuel sought out and finally anointed the 'unsuitable' David, it was clear that God had handpicked whom He wanted as his future minister.

Fr. Steve mused that the most challenging period of his ministry so far had been his stint as parish priest of Our Lady of Pentecost Parish in Loyola Heights. 'It was daunting for a young priest like myself to lead a church-less, convent-less, property-less and money-less parish!' Fr. Steve recalls. In the end he overcame all the 'less' factors with faith - and a little humor - to form a strong and vibrant community and build a beautiful parish church.

The call to Fr. Henry Ferreras came in a different form - the sutana. Fascinated by the priestly garb, Fr. Henry said he fell in love with the sutana as a young boy and was as an altar server all throughout his elementary years. He confesses that his 29-year priesthood has had its peaks and valleys, the most challenging of which was in 2018 when two of his elder brothers died within six months of each other. 'I felt like something very valuable to me was lost forever', Fr. Henry confessed. The double loss made him realize that he had to let God take full control of everything. He remains an



educator, teaching Moral Theology at the Immaculate Conception Major Seminary in Bulacan.

Fr. Jojo Gatdula, the 'bunso' of the March jubilarians, had his calling at the young age of 12, spurred by what he perceived as a need of God's flock. 'I felt the need of the Church for priests to shepherd communities. As I grew older, the desire to respond to that need deepened and I felt God purifying my intentions,' recalled Fr. Jojo. Looking back, he said he felt the hand of God guiding him along the way. Despite this, things weren't always a bed of roses. 'I went through a renewal program at one time, and was on the verge of leaving my ministry in 2013 due to personal problems but I realized that it's not about myself but about falling in love with God. That insight kept me going,' Fr. Jojo shared.

So what will make these priests happy and inspired in their ministry in the years to come? Fr. Steve says he derives inspiration to continue his vocation from the community itself. 'When my ministry is able to help people spiritually, when their lives and their faith become better and deeper, when I am able to bring Christ to them, and they are able to see Christ in my priesthood - that inspires me,' he says. Fr. Jojo on the other hand, hangs on to a deepening prayer life to sustain him in the years to come. He



love with the priesthood is to be ever joyful. 'Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God. A joyful priest magnifies that presence by bringing a sense of joy in purpose,' said Bishop Raul.

Bishop Raul said that he recently witnessed this 'happy priest' attitude in the person of CTK's pastor, Fr. Steve Zabala when the latter spontaneously broke out with a rendition of 'Mr. Suave' during a meal at a restaurant. 'This is my idea of a happy priest! Happiness lies in the fulfillment of vocation,' enthused Bishop Raul. Strangely enough, Fr. Steve, the happy pastor, got the call to his

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Apostleship of Prayer Holds Lenten Recollection for Camp Karingal Jail Staff

Last April 12, the Christ the King Parish - Apostleship of Prayer sponsored a Lenten Recollection for the staff of BJMP (Bureau of Jail Management and Penology) assigned at Quezon City Female Dorm in Camp Karingal where AP-CTK has been doing apostolic work for the last fifteen years.

The recollection was held at CTK St. John function rooms A & B from 8:00am to 2:30pm.

Before the end of the session, Fr. Steve Zabala gave a meaningful talk about the 'Jordan' in our lives. He mentioned that when Jesus was at his lowest point, He went back to the place which made an

impact in his life most - not in Bethlehem where he was born, not in Nazareth where he spent his growing up years, not in Bethany where his friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus came from and where he spent happy moments with them. But he went back to the River Jordan to reflect because that was the place where he was baptized.

The recollection day culminated in the sacrament of reconciliation. Fr. Henry Ferreras and Fr. Jojo Gatdula, guest priests of

CTK parish, heard the confessions of the participants.

It's worth noting that Superintendent Elena Rocamora, QCFED warden, did not require the staff to wear their uniforms to make them feel that they were not on duty.



The group of twenty eight male and female force was headed by Superintendent Elena Rocamora. The recollection was conducted in Filipino and facilitated by Ma. Andrea S. Mendigo.

The first talk was entitled, 'Ano Ang Kahulugan ng Aking Binyag Bilang Katoliko?' The second talk was, 'Ang Banal na Puso ni Hesus at Ang Dalawang Debosyon.' Third was on 'Ang Pagiging Santo : Ang Pag-aalay ng Sarili Kay Hesus sa Umaga'. All three talks were followed by reflection questions.

The fourth and last talk, 'Ang Pagsusuri ng Budhi', was followed by a guided examination of conscience and preparation for Confession.



continued from previous page

CTK Priests Celebrate the Joy . . .

finds joy in assurance of God's unconditional love. Ever the educator priest, Fr. Henry feels joy whenever graduation time comes around. He says, 'Every graduation makes me feel fulfilled - it's an affirmation that I have done something relevant. This and the service that we do as priests make me happy and



very satisfied.' But Bishop Raul quotes a great doctor of the Church to reveal what makes them plod along in their ministry joyfully and tirelessly like the proverbial 'Energizer bunny'. 'To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek him is the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement,' he said, quoting Saint Augustine of Hippo. Joining the jubilarians in the event were CTK's Msgr. Tony Mortillero and Archbishop Tito Yllana, Papal Nuncio to Australia.

We continue to pray for our priests. Happy sacerdotal anniversary to the March 2019 jubilarians!

Greeters and Collectors Hold First General Assembly for 2019

The Greeters and Collectors Liturgical Ministry, led by Beth Monedero and Jeanette Cagurangan, held its first General Assembly for 2019, last March 24.

Their guest speaker for that morning was Ms. Rissa Singson-Kawpeng, radio personality, author and Editor-in-Chief of Kerygma Magazine, the leading



'Tongue', where she elaborated on how chronic gossip, cursing and lying ruins our relationship with God.

Confession with Fr. Jojo Gatdula followed the talk. Merienda was served afterwards.

Related to this, some parishioners might already have noticed that since March,



inspirational magazine in the country. The title of her talk was 'Taming Your



CTK Greeters and Collectors have been wearing a name plate on the left collar of their uniforms. Bearing their nickname and the CTK parish logo, the new tags quickly identify the GreCol and create a more personal environment since parishioners and other mass servers can now call them by their first names. ■

Fr. Steve, old and new PPOs, meet with Mila San Juan

Fr. Steve Zabala feted Mila San Juan, the CEO of The House Printers and former Worship Ministry head of Christ the King

Parish Greenmeadows - from 1995 to 2004 - at Livestock in Eastwood Mall for lunch last Tuesday, May 21.

interesting that in 2016, when Fr. Bong Tupino also hosted Mila San Juan, he brought along the outgoing PPC Lay Coordinator Louie Laudico, the incoming PPC Lay Coordinator couple Bert and Marie Anne Santos, and the incoming Media head couple Bing and Elise del Rosario.

Bing promised to set up a separate meeting between Rissa, Tessa, and Mila soon. Bing also promised to introduce Rissa and Tessa to Mila's right hand person, Cristy Policarpio.

Though Mila's plant is in Cainta and she now resides in Antipolo, a part of her heart will always remain with Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows. ■



Fr. Steve presented Mila a cake and a CTK paperweight token while Bing and Elise gave Mila a bouquet of flowers for her support in continuing to publish the quarterly CTK Herald for free during the three years that the del Rosario's were in charge.

With Fr. Steve were the incoming PPC Lay Coordinator couple Henry and Joyce Tañedo, the outgoing PPC Lay Coordinator couple Bert and Marie Anne Santos, the outgoing Media Ministry head couple Bing and Elise del Rosario, and Msgr. Tony Mortillero. It was

Unfortunately, the incoming Social Communications Ministry (the new name for the media ministry) heads Rissa Kawpeng and Tessa Mangahas could not attend so



PREX Youth Stages 25th Run

The CTK PREx Youth Group staged the 25th run of PREX Youth from Friday May 24th evening till Sunday May 26th evening. Entitled PRESS PAUSE, the annual event was led by PREx Youth stalwarts John Juat, Quino Sto. Domingo, and Abby Banico and had eleven participants.



with team leads Abby, Quino and John were their assistant team leaders Lupo Basilio and Thea Fernandez, while Ernest Quizon and Marian Macapangan served as advisers throughout the preparation for the weekend.

where they were presented to the community and blessed by the priest.

With this 25th run, the PREx Youth continues to grow as a vibrant CTK community. ■



Kicking off the PREx Youth 25, May 24th evening at St. John Room

The Batch 25 graduates included – Regina Carmela Basilio, Angellie Marie Bautista, Danielle Patricia Booth, Drake De Leon, John Ivan De Mesa, Jamie Eclarinal, Jason Eclarinal, Maria Cristina Naman, Lissa Nicole Quizon, Frances Rianne Reyes, and Pamela Adriene Soriano.

The team leaders invited speakers for the various topics about the Catholic faith. They also prepared a variety of activities to complement the talks and to get to know each other better. On Sunday, Batch 25 celebrated with a mass



YCP Ministry co-head Chino Quizon huddles with one of the teams



The 3-day PREx Youth retreat, open to all single youth ages 16 to 25, encourages young participants to renew their relationship with the Lord. Together

Fr. Steve and PPOs Review Preliminary PPC Ministry Plans

Recently, the Diocese of Cubao changed its fiscal year, from January - December to July-June. Consistent with this, all parishes had to do their full year planning in the April-May timeframe in order to have their plans ready for implementation by July 1. This despite nearly all parishes having completed their annual planning only last October-November.



Fr. Steve and the Parish Pastoral officers meet with Social Services & Development Ministry heads Mila Bangco and Menchu Pascual, together with heads of SSDM's implementing 'agencies'

After Fr. Steve announced the composition of the Parish Pastoral Council officers and ministry heads for 2019-2022 last May 11, Treasurer couple Bing and Elise del Rosario immediately sent out detailed instructions for planning and budgeting the activities of the ministries to the different ministry heads.

The ministry heads were given just two weeks to prepare their draft plans before meeting with Fr. Steve and the Parish Pastoral Officers to review the draft plans. Over a three day period, Fr. Steve and the PPOs met with:

Ministry head Trix Delena; Social Services Ministry heads Mila Bangco and Menchu Pascual together with Ladies of Charity's Tonette Arizabal, Catholic Women's League's Alma Yeh; Buklod ng Panginoon's Cita Pabillon, Christian Family Movement's Tisha Cruz, MBMG's Bet Montecillo, and Knights of Columbus' Cen Hernando and Chito Gomez; and Youth Ministry heads Mikee Malixi and Teenie de Leon.

May 22: Catechetical Ministry heads Sheryl Coronel and Alma Yeh; Formation Ministry head Bet Montecillo; Stewardship Ministry heads Benjie and Wins Mirasol; and Vocation Ministry heads Louie and Lei Abando.

May 24: Urban Poor Ministry head Ching Botero; BEC Coordinator Eileen de Leon; Sunrise Ministry heads Louie and Nell Laudico; Public Affairs Ministry heads Mon and Loung Cuartero; Social Communications Ministry heads Rissa Kawpeng and Tessa Mangahas; and Young Catholic Professionals Ministry heads Chino Quizon and Marian Macapanpan. ■

May 23: Mustard Seed Ministry heads Sonny and Mina Mejia; Worship Ministry head Leila Banico and LeCom Liturgical

Young Catholic Professionals Ministry Formed

Last March 30, the Parish Pastoral Officers group met with several young adults of the Youth Ministry - Althea Geronilla, Chino Quizon, Marian Macapanpan, and Faith - together with Youth Ministry heads Louie and Lei Abando to hear their proposal to form a new ministry - the Young Catholic Professionals Ministry, catering to 26 to 39 years old. After a bit of deliberation, the proposal was approved. One of the first activities was the 'Meaningful Priorities' talk by Fatima de Leon.



In the May 11 PPC meeting, Fr. Steve announced that he had selected the tandem of Chino Quizon and Marian Macapanpan to head the new ministry starting May 13.



YCP Ministry Kicks off 'Give Back Wednesdays'

The newly-formed Young Catholic Professional Ministry of Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows had another mid-month respite for young professionals last May 15, at their 'Give Back Wednesdays' monthly event.



Sharer for last May 15 was Kritzia Santos, who talked on 'Gratefulness and Living the Gospel in Our Everyday'. Unfortunately, a heavy downpour that started at 6 pm and never let up till 8 pm caused some youth who had signed up to take a rain check and only eight came.



Two key points stood out from Kritzia's sharing:

1. The more we practice gratefulness, the happier or more joyful we will be and this will affect our everyday life.
2. We always have to keep reminding ourselves that God meets up where we are at.



Sunrise Ministry Begins Visitation Program

The Sunrise Ministry, led by Doy and Estrelle Lopez, paid a courtesy visit to Boy Valencia of White Plains last March 28, as part of the ministry's visitation program. A visit to Luz Corpus followed.



CTK Adds Three New Altar Servers

The Diocesan Basic Formation for New Altar Servers took place at the Obispado, Lantana St., Cubao, the seat of the Cubao Diocese last May 18, from 8 am to 3 pm.

Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows had three new altar servers who attended the basic formation, namely: Addie Pantoja, eight years old, Addie's older brother Ennjo Pantoja, age eleven, and Carlo Canlas, 18 years old.

The three eager beavers will be commissioned on June 16.



Legion of Mary Celebrates 30 Years

The CTK chapter of the Legion of Mary (LOM) celebrated its 30 years with an inspirational talk by Fr. Bong Lo, followed by fellowship and a hearty

At the Divine Mercy Chapel, Fr. Bong confessed having known a number of LOM members in the early 80s while he was a Bacolod seminarian. He still remembered that LOM did house-to-house visitations, or 'Dalaw Tahanan'. He started his talk by saying that LOM was one of the most persecuted groups in Shanghai because it was considered a highly influential 'army of Mary'.

being tactless. 'Veritas in caritate', he reminded everyone, meaning, 'truth in love'. He advised that we should speak the truth in love and clarity, to say it at the right time, in the right place, and to the right people. On the topic of righteousness (breastplate), he said we should always do the right thing, but never be self-righteous. As for feet shod in sandals of peace, Fr. Bong quoted Romans 10:14-15, 'Blessed are the feet of those who bring glad tidings.' 'Peace,' he said, 'is the presence of Christ. Without God in our lives, there is only boredom and insecurity. And as for the 'sword of the spirit', he reminded the audience that 'man does not live by bread alone but by the Word of God.'



He then went on to quote Paul's letter to the Ephesians 6:10-17, 'Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil.' Christian life is a battle, explained Fr. Bong; it's certainly not a walk in the park.

The Recollection was timed perfectly by Fr. Bong Lo to finish at 11:15 which he followed with a Eucharistic celebration from 11:15 am to 12 noon.



lunch last March 26. Some CTK oldtimers may recall that in March 1989, the first Legion of Mary praesidium was established in Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows under Msgr. Jaime Mora by Priscilla Pacheco with the praesidium name of 'Mary Queen of Peace', with only four members. Just a year later, that praesidium gave birth to a second, the 'Immaculate Heart of Mary'. The Mary Queen of Peace praesidium is currently headed by Carol de Jesus.

The uniform of the Roman infantry at the time became the basis of the description, as follows: loins girt with truth (belt), breastplate of righteousness, feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace (sandals), shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit or word of God. Fr. Bong emphasized that being truthful (belt) should not mean



The Legion of Mary officers led by Carol de Jesus then invited everyone to the lunch at the Matthew-Mark Rooms. Taking care of the food was LOM past president Priscilla Pacheco who had put out the best spread of the Aristocrat restaurant for its members and the Parish Pastoral Officers who attended.

Carol expressed her appreciation for the Parish Pastoral officers who came in full force. 'You made our anniversary meaningful because you found time to join us in spite of your busy schedules in this 30th year of the Legion of Mary. It's so important to us that you understood the work we're doing for Mama Mary and for our community', she expressed. ■



Record Number of LOC Scholars Graduate From College

For the first time, Christ the King had a record number of seven college graduates who received their baccalaureate degrees this summer. Although they will have different graduation dates, all of them will have

and the Ladies of Charity.

► From **Jamille Macaraeg**, 'Marami pong salamat sa lahat ng tulong hindi lamang po sa pinansyal pati na rin sa mga aral na ibinahagi niyo po sa amin. Salamat po dahil hindi po kayo nagsawang magbigay ng kaalaman at tulongan

Scholar, I've learned a lot through the catechism in addition to all the lessons imparted by the ladies themselves. I truly believe I've become a better version of myself.'

► And from **Jay Baun**, 'Dahil po sa LOC, ang dami po kong natutunan sa kanila lalo na po sa catechism. Kung hindi po



graduated before the end of May. Four of the seven were introduced to the Parish Pastoral Council at the April 13 PPC meeting. The seven graduating college scholars included:



L to R: Angelyn Magsumbol, John Atienza, Andrea de Gracia

graduated before the end of May. Four of the seven were introduced to the Parish Pastoral Council at the April 13 PPC meeting. The seven graduating college scholars included:

1. **Jamille Joy Macaraeg, PUP, BSBA major in HRM minor in Service Management**
2. **Anne Shaine Gonzales, PUP, Bachelor in Banking and Finance**
3. **Ma. Angelyn Magsumbol, PUP, BS Tourism Management**
4. **Kim Andrea de Gracia, EARIST, BS Industrial Psychology (academic excellence)**
5. **Jay Lyndon Baun, Marikina Polytechnic, BA Technical Teacher Education**
6. **John Edmon Atienza, PUP, BA Marketing Management**
7. **Ronnel Balbuena, PUP, Bachelor in Banking and Finance**



L to R: Shaine Gonzales, Jay Baun, Jamille Macaraeg, Ronnel Balbuena

kami sa aming mga pangangailangan. I promise to continue giving inspiration and serve God with all my heart.'

► **Anne Shaine Gonzales** had this message, 'I'm so honored and very grateful to be part of the Ladies of Charity scholars family. Thank you so much for the support, love, and spiritual guidance.'

► **Ronnel Balbuena** also expressed his thanks. 'My educational pursuits would not be possible without your generous support. Throughout the entire eight years of being a Ladies of Charity

sa tulong at support ng LOC, hindi po kami nakapagtapos. Sobra'ng laki po nang parte nyo sa aming pag-aaral at hindi ko po makakalimutan ang lahat ng tinulong at tinuro niyo po sa akin.'

At least three of the seven graduates had already found gainful employment as of presstime. Shaine Gonzales is a Risk Management Officer at Royal Lending Investors Corporation; Ronnel Balbuena is now a Management Trainee at the Insurance Institute for Asia and the Pacific; and Jay Baum is with Stage Designs, in charge of Marionette Events.

With the exception of de Gracia, all of them are either from Bagumbayan or Libis. De Gracia used to live in Libis before her family relocated to Project 4.

All seven graduates had thank you messages for CTK Parish Greenmeadows

CTK congratulates all seven graduates! ■

CTK LOC Attends National Convention and Donates to Sorsogon, Naga Home for the Aged

The Ladies of Charity AIC Philippines held its 28th National Convention in Sorsogon City, Sorsogon, in early May, with the theme 'LOC and the Youth'. Several CTK chapter members attended the national convention, which included delegates from the LOC CTK Chapter.



The CTK chapter later visited the Home for the Aged in Sorsogon City, Sorsogon last May 6 and donated P200,000 plus earnings from their recent Dance for a Cause towards the repair of the center



house. The CTK delegation that visited the home included Auring Santos, Tess Fajardo, Buh Malonzo, Sonia Ongkiko, and Dei Ongkiko. Others in the CTK contingent were Girly Chavez, Udes Santos, Shirley Chua, Beth Monedero, Tonette Arizabal, Menchu Pascual, Myrna Castillo, Baby Bersuela, and Dolor Enriquez.

Our LOC ladies found time to check out the beaches of Sorsogon.



The LOC ladies also visited the Home for the Aged in Naga. Where the Sorsogon home had 29 lolos and lolas, the Naga one had only eleven, because for several months already, one lola was passing away each month.

LOC National President, and CTK LOC member Tessie Fajardo, had this to say, 'Our visit to Bicol region was so fruitful and fulfilling. We were able to visit the local LOC's different charity works, like the homes for the aged in Sorsogon and Naga and the weekly medical mission in Legaspi where they give free consultations and medicines, treating some 120 patients each time, mostly children. What's great is that the local LOCs teach the children catechism before the consultation.'



CTK LOC Responds to Diocese Fire Victims

Three different fires struck Quezon City simultaneously last April 30, with all three fires in different parishes of the Cubao Diocese. Several CTK parishioners responded to the call for help from the diocese, among them the CTK Ladies of Charity, who distributed 70 packs of rice in 10-kilo packs to the fire victims of Church of the Nativity and 30 packs to the victims of Transfiguration Parish.



CTK Holds Rummage Sale

The Ladies of Charity, or LOC, had their first Rummage Sale of the year last weekend of March 30 and 31. Parishioners had been encouraged to donate clothes, shoes, bags, books, appliances, toys, etc.. The rummage sale was in its regular spot just outside the CTK Lingap Center beside the Divine Mercy Chapel. The expressed intention of the rummage sales is to generate funds for the various charitable projects of LOC, only some of which are picked up by the Parish Pastoral Council.



Public Affairs Ministry Conducts Seven Habits Workshop for PNP Region 3

The Public Affairs Ministry, headed by Jing Alampay and Rene Montemayor, conducted the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People Workshop for the Philippine National Police of Region 3 in Pampanga last April 16.



Jing Alampay, Rene and Consie Montemayor pose with the senior PNP officers

Facilitating the one-day workshop were the husband and wife tandem of Rene and Consie Montemayor.

Greenmeadows 1 Stages Way of the Cross

The First Greenmeadows Homeowners Association hosted Fr. Steve Zabala for the Village Way of the Cross, held last April 8.



Fr. Fred Narvasa, Fr. Jojo Gatdula Facilitate Kasambahay Lenten Recollection



Recollections, the day was capped by confessions at 3 pm and a eucharistic celebration at 4 pm.



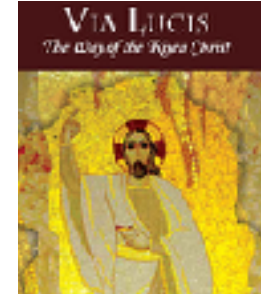
The Catholic Women's League sponsored the annual Lenten Recollection for Kasambahays and Drivers last April 15, facilitated by Fr. Jojo Gatdula in the morning and Fr. Fred Narvasa in the afternoon. 36 household help attended.

As with previous Kasambahay



Parish Observes its First Via Lucis

Last May 31, at 6:30 pm, after the last mass celebrating the end of Flores de Mayo, the congregation stayed to do the Via Lucis. For the first time in its liturgical history, CTK Parish Greenmeadows conducted the Stations of the Resurrection, also known by the Latin name Via Lucis, or Way of Light, which encourages meditation upon the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and other episodes recorded in



the New Testament. Fr. Steve Zabala personally led the rites, with Worship Ministry head Leila Banico taking on the commentator role.

The Way of the Risen Christ complement the Stations of the Cross or Via Crucis (the term Via Lucis is intentionally reminiscent of this), our traditional Catholic devotion commemorating the Passion of Jesus. To recall, the final Station of the Cross is the burial of Jesus. Though this constitutes a logical conclusion to the Via Crucis, many Catholics had regarded it as an unsatisfactory end-point to meditation upon the Paschal mystery which culminates in, and is incomplete without, the Resurrection. In the summer of 1988, Father Sabino Palumbieri of the Salesian University in Rome proposed the creation of a new set of stations, centred upon the Resurrection and the events following from it all the way to Pentecost, so as to emphasise the positive, hopeful aspect of the Christian story which, though not absent from the Stations of the Cross, is obscured by their emphasis upon suffering. The first major public celebration of this devotion was in 1990, after which it gained greater currency.

In December 2001, the Vatican under Pope John Paul II officially commended the Via Lucis – *'The Via Lucis is potentially an excellent pedagogy of the faith. Using the metaphor of a journey, the Via Lucis moves from the experience of suffering, which in God's plan is part of life, to the hope of arriving at man's true end:*

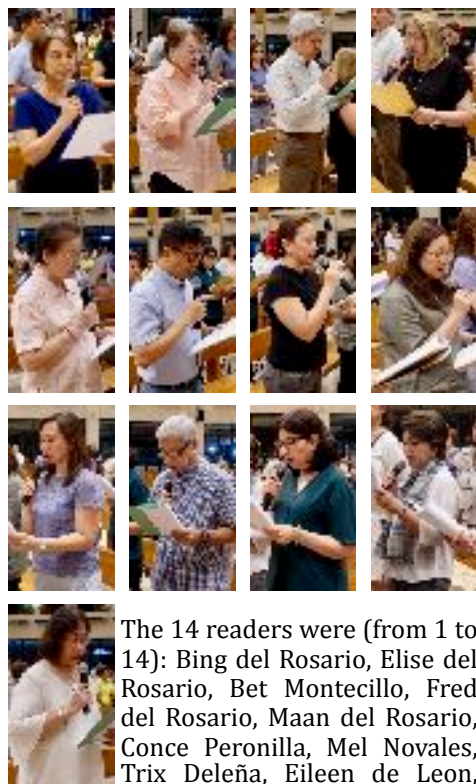
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Parish Observes . . .

liberation, joy and peace which are essentially paschal values. It is a potential stimulus for the restoration of a culture of life which is open to the hope and certitude offered by faith, in a society often characterized by a culture of death, despair and nihilism.'

The 14 stations include:

1. Jesus Rises from the Dead
2. The Disciples Discover the Empty Tomb
3. The Risen Lord Appears to Mary Magdalen, Apostle to the Apostles
4. The Risen Lord Appears on the Road to Emmaus
5. The Risen Lord is Recognized in the Breaking of the Bread
6. The Risen Lord Appears to the Community of Disciples
7. The Risen Lord Breathes Peace and Gives the Power to Forgive
8. The Risen Lord Strengthens the Faith of Thomas
9. The Risen Lord Eats with the Disciples on the Shore of Tiberias
10. The Risen Lord Forgives Peter and Entrusts Him to Feed His Sheep
11. The Risen Lord Sends the Disciples into the World
12. The Risen Lord Ascends into Heaven
13. Mary and the Disciples Keep Vigil in the Upper Room for the Spirit's Advent
14. The Risen Lord Sends the Holy Spirit



The 14 readers were (from 1 to 14): Bing del Rosario, Elise del Rosario, Bet Montecillo, Fred del Rosario, Maan del Rosario, Conce Peronilla, Mel Novales, Trix Deleña, Eileen de Leon, Leilani Reyes, Peter Banico, Buh Malonzo, Ellen Manasala, and Tessa Mangahas. ■

From the Editors

It's time to say goodbye, as this Media Ministry team signs off after three years and 13 quarterly issues later. Replacing us is the highly-qualified duo of Rissa Kawpeng and Tessa Mangahas. Rissa works with Bo Sanchez and the Kerygma Group as Editor-in-Chief of Kerygma, the country's leading inspirational magazine while Tessa Mangahas works for CNN Philippines and the Araneta Group. Rissa and Tessa called for a first organizational meeting with the 2016-2019 media team last May 13. In that meeting, Bing



Left, Rissa Singson-Kawpeng; right, Tessa Mangahas

del Rosario committed to continue to help as an on-call photographer while Leila Banico committed to remain as e-display board manager to organize the weekend slide displays for a few more months until the new ministry heads can assign a permanent in-charge. Bing and Elise recommended several names to become regular members of the new Social Communications core team - Bing, Fred del Rosario, Regina Polancos, Lulay and Agnes dela Cruz as official photographers; and Wins Mirasol, Joanne Polancos, Albert Quadrante, Manny de Leon, Cita Pabillo, Eileen de Leon, Louie Laudico, Althea Geronilla, and other parishioners to be named later as official correspondents. Wins Mirasol and Althea Geronilla were present at the May 13 organizational meeting.

The new leaders have grand plans for the Herald, the website, our Facebook presence, including homily podcasts and live streams of special masses and liturgical celebrations. We, the outgoing heads, wish them all the best for the next three years.

Our farewell issue includes arguably the most important piece of news, which is the appointment of a whole new Parish Pastoral Council team for 2019-2022. The husband-wife team of Henry and Joyce Tañedo, former Assistant Lay Coordinator, is the new PPC Coordinator Couple. They're supported for the next three years by a mix of old and new faces, including Rissa and Tessa for the former Media Ministry, now called Social Communications Ministry. Also in the news is the full set of liturgical celebrations around the Sacred Paschal Triduum. We also include the moons-in-alignment March sacerdotal anniversaries of Fr. Steve, Fr. Jojo, Fr. Henry, and Bishop Raul. There were a number of formation talks, recollections, and Marian

discussions - after all, this was the Lenten season. What struck us was the exceptionally high quality of these talks - from Fr. Nono Alfonso, Ms. Angeline Dee, Fr. Manny Cruz, Fr. Bong Lo. We just had to cover as many of them as we could.

There were a couple of diocese and vicariate events as well - the Vicariate General Assembly where we discussed Agendum no. 5, 'Engaging the Youth'; and the first General Assembly by the diocese on Basic Ecclesial Communities, or BEC, called, 'USaD Pa', held at Siena College.

We had a number of interesting youth-focused events. In place of the traditional Easter egg hunt, we had the Easter-rific, an innovative Holyween-like festival. We had the trailblazing 'May I Have This Dance', a father-daughter half-day bonding project. For the first time, we had a record seven CTK scholars, under the coordination of Ladies of Charity, who graduated from college. You'll read their heartwarming expression of thanks to the parish and the LOC. 2019 is the Year of the Youth and as if in response, the parish approved the creation of the Young Catholic Professional Ministry, carved out from the Youth Ministry, to cater to the 26 to 39 age bracket. We feature on of their very first programs, 'Give Back Wednesdays'. The CTK PREx Youth also switched into high gear with 'PRESS Pause', its 25th run.

May was election month and so our Public Affairs Ministry sprang into action to partner with the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, or PPCRV, for the election watch. And as usual, the CTK Ladies of Charity continued to make regular news.

It's been a great run for this husband and wife team. We thank everyone who has contributed to this issue. Co-head Tessa even wrote two of the articles herself - on the Paschal Triduum and the four priests' joint sacerdotal anniversary. Other contributors of photos and text were Angie Rualo, Albert Quadrante, Eileen de Leon, Beth Monedero, Manny de Leon, Sheryl Coronel, Leila and Abby Banico, Althea Geronilla, Louie Laudico. We especially thank Mila San Juan, CEO of The House Printers, and her right-hand person Cristy Policarpio, who continue to print the Herald for free, even though Mila is no longer technically a parishioner.



And we are comforted by the knowledge that our replacements will do even better. ■

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