



THE HERALD

CHRIST THE KING PARISH • GREENMEADOWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

02 / Parish Profiles

03 / Sacred Space

04 / Word that You Speak

06 / Beatitudes

07 / Sunrise

08 / Seen Zone

12 / First Church

13 / Faith Sowers

14 / Mustard Seed

15 / Where Your Heart Is

17 / Strength of Sharing

18 / Breaking Bread

19 / Pananagutan

20 / YCP & Youth Ministry



Photo credit to Aradh Jodele Janarada, Cibao Media

FATHER'S HEART TODAY

Honoring the Caretakers of Our Past

By Fr. Steve Zabala — Parish Priest

RECENTLY, WE CELEBRATED the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the grandparents of Jesus. So we also unofficially launched the “feast of grandparents.” It was a day we salute our elders.

Grandparents and elderlies have an important role in the community. They are caretakers of the past, the keepers of our heritage, and the bearers of the memories of the community. Sila ang mga tagapag-alaga ng mga alaala ng sambayanan.

This November, we will be celebrating forty years as a parish community. We officially start our celebration on the month of September. Each activity will have the flavor of looking back to our storied past as we continue our journey as a parish.

Our Fortieth Fiesta Celebration will have these objectives:

1. Celebrate with gratitude the defining moments of CTK for the last 40 years.
2. Celebrate with gratitude the defining character of CTK.
3. Leave a legacy to the youth based on these defining moments and traits.
4. Promote devotion to CTK our patron.

SIX DEFINING MOMENTS

Our pioneers, our elders, recalled and shared some inspiring stories in the past in their enormous task of starting, establishing, building up and developing this community. There were so many inspiring memories still alive in their hearts. Based on these stories, we've identified six defining moments of CTK's forty years.

1. Construction of the church
2. Growth of ministries
3. Gawad Kalinga Village
4. PREX and other formation Programs
5. Msgr. Jaime Mora
6. Stewardship Program

Continued on the next page.

In line with these defining moments, we have culled six defining characters of the parish community. These are the following:

1. C-oncrete expression of generosity
2. H-ome with an embracing community
3. R-eaching out to the poor
4. I-nformed and formed community
5. S-hepherding with a vision
6. T-hankful sharing

I could not have identified these defining moments and character by myself since I'm a newcomer here. But our elders and pioneers are keeping CTK's beautiful memories in their hearts. Thus, we have those defining moments. What is clear to everyone, however, is that CTK has evolved as a community that has embraced the faithful and shared beyond its borders. It takes its role as a Stewardship Parish seriously. It has become a community that finds its fulfillment in becoming a parish for others.

If you notice, the defining traits derived from the six defining moments spell out C-H-R-I-S-T. Then, as now, CTK's community will continue its journey with Christ in their midst, as their core.

Elders carry with them the memories of the past. In these memories are stored the values our community upholds, the culture that we treasure, and the many lessons that formed and shaped us into what we are now. They are able to collect and preserve these memories so that the youth can continue their legacy and make new parish memories.

But just as through our elders we are connected with our past, our fortieth parish fiesta is a reassurance that the work of the Lord continues in the hands of the young.

I enjoin you to participate in the parish fiesta activities starting on September and culminating in November to feel the inspiration of the past and the hope of the future of the parish of Christ the King Greenmeadows—a parish for others. ■

PARISH PROFILES



Henry and Joyce Tañedo: Going Back to Basics in Community Building

By Tessa Mangahas

“DOON TAYO SA CHRIST THE KING, MASARAP MAG-SERVE DUN!”

These were the words of invitation that Henry Tañedo got from his friend Joe Aranas in 2005. Little did Henry know that his yes to Joe's invitation as a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC) at CTK would open a floodgate of service that surprised a lot, most especially himself.

Even if he lives in a nearby village, Henry always felt at home in CTK. He started serving during the crossroads of CTK, just when the Cubao diocese was being weaned from the Archdiocese of Manila. That was during the time when Bishop Ness Ongtioco became the “transition parish priest” of CTK.

When Fr. Bong Tupino asked Henry to head the EMHC, Henry followed in the footsteps of the priest by resorting to

“food evangelization,” meaning, enticing people with a meal and conversation. Henry reminisces, “Fr. Bong brought out the best in me. He was very convincing and systematic. I could never say no whenever he approached me for a project. And he would always be very diplomatic and nurturing, even encouraging me to bring in my friends in the endeavor! It was a joy to serve with him.”

As EMHC head, Henry tried to keep up with the fervor of the other lay ministers, serving every day because they did, even if the norm was to serve one weekday and one Sunday Mass. He felt sad when the group had to retire twenty-three members because of the 75-year-old retirement age set by the diocese.

“I didn’t know a lot of parishioners then. That time I joined, there were about eighty ministers. Now they are more than 150. I crafted the guidelines, compiled manuals for liturgy, standardized the lay ministers’ uniform, and the like,” he says. He eventually ended up compiling five thick manuals for the EMHC. Henry became so enamored with serving that he even sought noontime Masses at

the nearby St. John Paul II Parish at Eastwood City. “Serving makes me happy. I would attend Masses where I could find a church despite my toxic schedule—CTK, Eastwood, Padre Pio, Cardinal Santos, anywhere. My daily Mass became my armor of protection,” Henry enthuses.

Although schooled in Catholic institutions like Xavier and De La Salle, Henry had his low spells. He recalls that he never attended Mass at De La Salle. His first calling to service was when he was requested to help distribute Holy Communion by a certain Fr. Leon S.J. at Mary the Queen parish near Xavier School. He felt unworthy and was embarrassed to be clothed in “shocking yellow”! But the experience obviously touched him more than he knew. Years later, he became a member of the covenanted Catholic community, Pag-ibig ng Diyos, where he says his spirituality deepened. He thought at first that after the three days of the session, that would be it. But the Lord had other plans. He and spouse, Joyce were chosen as coordinators and they found themselves attending

prayer meetings, even if it ran into conflict with his regular Wednesday basketball practice. For Henry, that was a major shift.

Henry is the type who gives himself odd challenges and goes by signs. He challenged himself to go to Mass for a month straight at CTK before he plunged into serving. He ended up attending daily Mass way beyond the thirty days. He challenged himself to sink golf balls at a driving range as a sign that it was right

to accept his post in the parish. Well, the ball sank not just once, but thrice and more. The “signs” were just too clear.

He had his share of personal trials, some too painful to recount. A father of five, there was a time when problems brought him to tears during Mass. There was even a time when their family was not at all “religious,” with Sunday Mass being the last priority. It was lucky if they attended Christmas Mass at all.

But all that changed with his involvement with Pag-ibig sa Diyos and CTK. Today, Henry and Joyce, together with Father Steve, are at the forefront of the Coffee Talk series of consultations with the different ministries and organizations aiming to animate the parish. Among their priorities as PPC heads is how to make the PPC more accessible, bring the community to active participation in the parish. He is convinced the way to do that is to make sure “people see God in us.” Henry and Joyce are continually inspired by



the generous CTK community. He hopes people will know and care more about each other despite the high village fences. He is challenged by the work ahead, especially since the parish is celebrating its fortieth anniversary. But most of all, Henry and Joyce are humbled by the position of being lead servant couple in an amazing stewardship parish such as CTK.

Once reluctant servant leaders, Henry and Joyce are inspired by one thing: “Nobody can separate us from Christ anymore.”

The Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist

By Roberto M. Locsin

IN A TOWN IN LANCIANO, Italy in the 18th century lived a holy monk who doubted the doctrine of the Eucharist—that the bread and wine actually turns into the body and blood of Christ. One day, as he celebrated Holy Mass in the monastery of Saint Longinus, the monk recited the words of consecration and he saw the bread change into living flesh and the wine change into blood.

This Eucharistic miracle is what Fr. Henry Ferreras shared in his talk before the extraordinary ministers of holy communion last June 13, 2019, to remind them of the marvel of this sacrament.

Father Henry said that the blood in the Lanciano miracle coagulated into five globules, irregular and differing in shape. The miraculous host and wine were scientifically analyzed and were found to be real human flesh and blood. The Flesh consists of the muscular tissue of the heart and had the same blood type, AB, that was identical to the one found on the Shroud of Turin.

The fresh flesh and blood, which were left in their natural state for twelve centuries and exposed to the action of atmospheric and biological agents, remain preserved, which in itself is an extraordinary phenomenon.

Father Henry reminded the lay ministers, “(When) you perform the duty of giving communion to the people, take note that you are giving them the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ, offering them eternal life.” How mind-boggling to know that from sin-stained human hands flow eternal life.

The miracle of Lanciano is evidently for the benefit of unbelievers. The miracle happened in the monastery of Saint



Longinus, the unbelieving centurion who pierced the side of the dead Christ on the cross and became a believer and even a saint. That the miracle manifested in both forms of the body and blood of Christ seems to tell us that the Eucharist involved His entire being, His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. What more proof of His love do we need to see! The scientific findings that identified the tissue as coming from the fresh vagus nerve and the left ventricle of the heart tell us of the love that is alive and fresh from Jesus Christ Himself.

Therefore, we, the faithful who partake of this bread in communion, take consolation from the promise of our Lord, that “he who feeds of my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day” (John 6: 54). ■

FORMATION TALKS FROM SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER



CBCP'S CALL TO CONCECRATION

By Rev. Fr. Romerico “Omer” A. Prieto
September 14, Saturday
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 noon
Divine Mercy Chapel

Rev. Fr. Romerico “Omer” A. Prieto is from the Diocese of Cubao and is a member of its pastoral team. He is the parish priest of St. Anthony of Padua Parish.

He is presently occupied with giving guidance to different Marian groups in the Philippines on living their consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Father Omer also does mission work overseas, giving Marian talks and retreats to both priests and the laity upon the invitation of various lay groups and bishops of the dioceses in the region.

He regularly facilitates a weekly

Cenacle on Radio through the program, Cenacle sa Veritas, which airs nationwide every Thursday evening at 8 P.M. to 9 P.M. on Radio Veritas 846 AM.



ADVENT RECOLLECTION

By Fr. Emmanuel I. Cruz
December 7, Saturday
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 noon
Divine Mercy Chapel

Fr. Emmanuel I. Cruz graduated from San Carlos Major Seminary in Makati City. He was ordained on August 26, 1989. He is a diplomate in Pastoral Theology, a licentiate and a doctor in Sacred Theology, which he obtained from the Angelicum University in Rome. He used to serve as the rector of the Immaculate Conception Major Seminary in Bulacan where he currently teaches.



PARISH COMMUNITY BUILDING

By Ilsa B. Reyes
October 26, Saturday
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 noon
Divine Mercy Chapel

Ilsa B. Reyes is a full-time church worker called to inner healing and intercession and authored a number of books on spiritual healing. She is a facilitator of the ARISE Integrative-Transformative seminar workshops. In her talk, she will share some of her thoughts on how CTK can grow as a parish of community builders even beyond our commonality as a community of pray-ers.

Receive the Power

Verbum Dei Holds Pentecost Recollection in CTK Parish

By Verbum Dei

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT? This was the question Fr. James McTavish used to open the day's talk during the Verbum Dei recollection that was held on June 12, 2019 at CTK Parish. It was aptly entitled "Receive the Power," taken from Acts 1:8 when the Holy Spirit first descended on the disciples. Because the Holy Spirit is probably the least understood person of the Trinity, it's important for us to know Him, learn to relate to Him, and understand how He manifests Himself.

The Holy Spirit has been represented as a dove, fire, wind, and water in Scripture but, most importantly, He is a Person. He has intentions. He shows willfulness and discretion. He loves, intercedes, teaches, advocates, consoles, and prays. He is the Principal Agent of the Mission.

We receive the Spirit when we believe in Him, and we build a relationship through prayer and faith. Jesus promises the gift of the Holy Spirit to those who seek Him. We

know the Spirit is working through us when we are drawn to Christ. The fruit of the Spirit is the result of His presence in our lives. In Galatians 5:22-23 the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

The celebration of the Holy Eucharist followed after an hour of prayer and sharing.

Fr. Bong Guinoo and Fr. James McTavish presided over the Mass where the readings were taken from Acts 2:1-11, the coming of the Spirit, and John 2:19-23.

Father Bong gave an enlightening homily on the Spirit's role in molding us into the image of Christ, so that we may live in His likeness. Just as the Apostles received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we too can enjoy the fullness and power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives, enhancing our relationship with God.

In the afternoon, Sr. Cecilia shared her experience on the gifts of the Spirit, especially fortitude. That gift helped her



Bet Montecillo



Corito de Claro



Marichelle Infante



Monette Najar

overcome fears and gave her courage to take risks for Christ. It enabled her to stand up for what is right even if it meant rejection.

Judy Tan talked about the fruit of generosity by giving time, talent, and treasure selflessly to glorify God and make a difference.

Dr. Resti Bautista spoke on the fruit of faithfulness. It is the result of the Spirit working in us. For the Spirit is our seal of faithfulness, our witness to God's promise of salvation.

Recitation of the Rosary of the Spirit was led by Sister Cecilia

and Sister Iria, a German Verbum Dei missionary working in Budapest, then led the rosary in different languages to symbolize friendship and solidarity. It was a beautiful moment of collaboration and harmony. We were also blessed to have the presence of

Sister Pearl and Brother Jojo, two Verbum Dei missionaries in formation.

What a spirit-filled day it was! Nothing can fill our hearts more with peace and contentment than the certitude that the Holy Spirit loves us and lives in us. Awareness of His presence in us leads us to renew ourselves and to respect and care for one another. It gives us courage, wisdom, and strength to communicate the Word of God to others.

Let's call on the Holy Spirit to awaken and unleash in us His love and power, so that we may be renewed, empowered, and encouraged to become apostles of Jesus Christ. Let's ask the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary so that we too can be faithful to the promptings of the Spirit. As Verbum Dei founder Fr. Jaime Bonet, FMVD, prayed, "Grant me, dear Mama, a detailed and meticulous fidelity, delicate, attentive and grateful to the Holy Spirit. Help me to respond promptly, immediately and sharply to His insinuations." ■

“**Awareness of His presence in us leads us to renew ourselves and to respect and care for one another.**”

”



Fr. James McTavish



Fr. Bong Guinoo



CTK PREX Revival Successfully Launched

By Pepe and Billie Pilar

EARLY IN MARCH 2019, a group of Parish Renewal Experience (PREX) graduates led by Rudy and Ira Reyes, both lecturers and commentators, initiated a plan to revive the PREX Weekend Seminars for adults. They took note of the fact that the last Prex No. 93 was more than three years ago.

The initiative had a positive response from “kuya” and “ate” friends in the parish (how they fondly call each other in PREX), namely, Augie Soliman, Nito Tagle, Charito Barredo, Ruby Joaquin, Pepe and Billie Pilar, Louie Laudico, Ching and Bots Botero, and David Ong (then head of CTK Formation Ministry and the successful Coffee after Church project). Many other early PREX graduates were glad and supported the idea, citing the fact that the seminar had opened the door for them to serve in the various ministries in the parish.

The PREX movement was born in the 1970s as response by a group of priests and lay to Pope Paul VI’s apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi* on Catholic evangelization. The weekend seminar leads the attendees to a “conversion experience that is oriented to the parish.”

With the approval of parish priest, Father Steve, PREX No. 94 came to reality on June 15 and 16, 2019 attended by nineteen candidates, out of thirty-one persons who were enlisted.

Ate Ira and Kuya Rudy Reyes took care of meeting with Diocesan Formation Ministry’s Kuya Mon and Ate Lina Cordova, who are also the diocese heads for PREX Formation. They introduced Ira and Rudy to the new PREX format that is being implemented in several parishes of Cubao. Thus, it was agreed to implement the new format in the forthcoming PREX 94 at CTK.

Accordingly, the Speakers Bureau was formed and Baby Mendigo, national vice president of the Apostles of Prayer (AP) was invited to help the group and be a speaker too. Ate Baby travels to regional AP chapters to speak and give lectures.

The newly organized PREX Secretariat lined up the speakers for

the inter-related PREX topics, and everyone responded with gladness and enthusiasm. The initial list of speakers include our parish priest Fr. Steve Zabala, Drs. Doy and Estrelle Lopez, Kuya Augie Soliman, Ate Nini Ramos, Kuya Rene Montemayor, Kuya Louie Laudico, Ate Cita Pabillon, Kuya Pepe Pilar, and Fr. Louie Punzalan.

Father Steve gave the final talk on the topic of evangelizing our family and friends.

With the successful conclusion of PREX Weekend No.94, the group hopes that the next seminar will be attended by more parishioners.

The tentative date for PREX No. 95 is November 30 to Dec 1, 2019.

We pray that God will bless this work of love and make truly fruitful for our parish.



The Apostleship of Prayer Spreads Sacred Heart Devotion at Camp Caringal

By Wanda T. Reyes

THE APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER (AP) CTK sponsored a Mass at Quezon City Female Dorm at Camp Karingal last June 17 in honor of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 28.

Fr. Marvin Pajarillaga, Cubao Diocese Prison Coordinator, celebrated the Mass. Eucharistic ministers from the Divine Mercy Chapel assisted him during communion time while the in-house choir consisting of inmates provided the music.

Currently there are 1,100 inmates housed in the facility that can only accommodate 180. The facility, which was opened for female inmates in 2002, started with only 180 women detainees who came from the Quezon City Jail. Their offenses range from petty theft, robbery, estafa, syndicated estafa, drug pushing or using, illegal recruitment, kidnapping, and murder. The number of inmates slowly rose through the years.

When Operation Tokhang was launched in 2016, the number of inmates ballooned to 1,300. They have since maintained the number of inmates to over 1,100 depending on the daily release of cases or the number of newly admitted detainees.

The slow processing of their cases is due to the frequent cancellation of the hearings for different reasons like absence of the judge, the prosecutor, or the accuser. Less than ten inmates from the original batch who were imprisoned in 2002 remain in the facility. Others have been pardoned or have been released after having served their time. Those found guilty of major, non-bailable offenses were then transferred to the Women's Correctional facility in Mandaluyong.

The ages of the women detainees range from eighteen to over seventy years old. Pregnant women at the time they are admitted give birth inside the facility. The babies are either taken by relatives or put up for adoption.

As of this writing, a new facility to house the 1,100 inmates was built at the back of the present structure. The old building will be used for their livelihood, formation, and other activities.





Sunrise Ministry Sponsors Talk on Spirituality of Ageing

By Louie Laudico

THE SUNRISE MINISTRY, which caters to needs of senior citizens, sponsored a talk by Fr. Fil Estrella, OMI last June 15 titled “Fearless Ageing.” For those who dread the eventuality of wrinkles, gray hair, aching bones and maintenance medication, Father Fil gave fresh perspective.

Nadine Navarro from the Lectors and Commentators group spoke before Father Fil to talk about Philhealth benefits for lifetime and senior members.

Fr. Estrella’s talk was an offshoot of a challenge posed by CTK’s former parish priest, Fr. Bong Tupino, to the newly formed Sunrise Ministry.

A certificate of appreciation was presented to Doy and Dra. Estrella Lopez for nurturing the ministry that caters to the senior sector of the community to its now vibrant and active status.

The photo above shows the Sunrise Ministry Core Group posing with Fr. Fil Estrella, OMI after the event.

Parish Activities & News / SEEN ZONE

1. “INTO THE DESERT WITH JESUS” – CTK LENTEN RECOLLECTION

Around 80 people, many new, joined the Verbum Dei one-day Lenten recollection in Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows on March 20, 2019. The opening dynamic helped us deepen the Lenten means of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The first guidelines by Fr. James McTavish focused on the Lenten message of Pope Francis where we were invited to enter into the desert with Jesus to allow Him to transform the barren land into a fruitful garden. It was taken from Isaiah 51:3, “Her deserts he shall make like Eden, her wasteland like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of song.”

The participants were also invited to enhance the perspective of their Lenten journey and transformation in line with the invite of Pope Francis when he said, “By concretely welcoming Christ’s victory over sin and death into our lives, we will also radiate its transforming



power to all of creation.”

In the afternoon, Stella Deriquito, a Verbum Dei apostle gave a beautiful talk on the effects of sin. We were invited to see our sins not as a list but as a loss—where we lose out on our relationship with God, with others, with self and with the whole cosmos.

We were reminded that our prayer during this time is not to close ourselves off in a purely private world. She quoted Pope Benedict XVI who said, “To pray is not to step outside history and withdraw to our own private corner of happiness. When we pray properly we undergo a process of inner purification which opens us up to God and thus to our fellow

human beings as well.”

The closing homily centered on the importance of the mission of the Church and that the whole of creation is waiting with “eager expectation” (Romans 8:19) to learn how to pray.

“Let us not allow this season of grace to pass in vain! Let us ask God to help us set out on a path of true conversion. Let us leave behind our selfishness and self-absorption, and turn to Jesus’ Pasch” (Pope Francis, Lenten message 2019).

2. CTK CELEBRATES SACRED HEART DEVOTION

Former parish priests and other priests close to the heart of CTK celebrated the Sacred Heart Novena and feast day Masses in June. Among them were Fr. Bong Tupino, Msgr. Dan Sta. Maria, Fr. Joel Jason, Fr. Pops Repole S.J., Fr. Nono Alfonso S.J., and Fr. Francis Alvarez S.J. Cubao Bishop Honesto Ongtioco presided over the ninth novena Mass while CTK's current parish priest Fr. Steve Zabala did the Sacred Heart feast day Mass on June 28, which was sponsored by the Apostleship of Prayer. The Sacred Heart devotion is one of the oldest devotions in the forty-year worship life of CTK.



3. NEW BATCH OF ALTAR SERVERS INSTALLED

Boys just wanna have fun and serve too! Father Steve recently installed young boys as altar servers. The boys are learning more about their faith by serving during the Mass and discovering that service is also a lot of fun and camaraderie.

3. RISSA KAWPENG TALKS ON MAXIMIZING THE SEASONS OF YOUR LIFE

It was one of the best-attended Basic Ecclesial Community (BEC) talks at Greenmeadows clubhouse. Rissa Singson Kawpeng talked about “Seasons: How to Live Fully at Each Stage of Your Life” to ninety-five captive listeners last July 31. She spoke on how we should respond at the different stages of our lives. Kawpeng has been acclaimed as a top influencer, an author of several books, and an inspirational speaker.



4. CTK-GK SEWERS CONTINUE LIVELIHOOD TRAINING

The miracle of the CTK-Gawad Kalinga (GK) Village lives on. Years ago, the CTK community came together to raise funds and give shelter to about fifty displaced families at Sitio 1. Today, the residents of the CTK-GK Village at Zabarte, Novaliches continue their livelihood with the help of CTK ministries. Recently, the Public Affairs ministry facilitated a sewers training for the residents of this community.

5. PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL 2019-2022 EMBARK ON NEW MISSION

Father Steve led the planning and the commissioning of his first-ever Parish Pastoral Council that will serve from 2019-2022. Long-time servant leaders Henry and Joyce Tañedo are the PPC’s head couple. The parish pastoral planning was held at the Eugenio Lopez Center in Antipolo and the commissioning of the new servant leaders was held at the CTK main church on June 16.



6. CTK PRAYS FOR PRIESTS

CTK is showing its support for priests, especially the persecuted ones, in several ways. Last July 27, CTK and other Cubao parishes joined the Solidarity Mass in support of Bishop Ness Ongtioco and other priests who have been charged with sedition by the Philippine National Police. Vicar General Fr. Steve Zabala presided and delivered an impassioned homily titled “Seek and You Will Find,” emphasizing that the “church will never be silenced.” On St. John Mary Vianney weekend on August 3-4, CTK Mass goers picked from baskets filled with the saint’s stampitas and the names of priests with their assignments or designations so that they can pray for the safety and intentions of these clerics. We continue to pray for our priests in these trying times.



7. PPO, FATHER STEVE FEEL COMMUNITY PULSE THROUGH COFFEE TALK SERIES

Father Steve and CTK’s Parish Pastoral Officers (PPO) have been going down to the ministries and organizations to have a better feel of the pulse of the community. Father Steve said that the Coffee Talk series seeks to engage the organizations to find better ways to animate the different sectors of the parish. Among the organizations visited are the Mother Butler Guild, Catholic Women’s League, Couples for Christ, and the Eucharistic Ministers.

8. LOC INTERNATIONAL VISITORS CHECK OUT OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Visiting officers of the Ladies of Charity International recently checked out the different outreach activities of their CTK counterparts in July 12. They saw first hand the successful LoC endeavors including the feeding programs of schoolchildren of Libis Elementary School, livelihood projects and the like. The graduates of the program also treated the visitors to a complimentary massage during their fellowship.





9. CTK TAI CHI CLUB – GAME ON!

Wellness enthusiasts and early risers of all ages are invited to join the newly formed CTK Tai Chi Club. Headed by the Sunrise Ministry, the sessions are conducted by Tai Chi master, Alecs Wong. The first class was held on August 6 at 5:30 A.M. at the St. Luke’s room.

10. FR. STEVE UP CLOSE WITH NEW EMHC CANDIDATES

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion head Albert Cuadrante (fifth from left) presented to Father Steve the 2019 EMHC candidates. It was heartwarming to hear the stories that spurred these *kuyas* to answer God’s call to serve. Father Steve says these stories will inspire them to be faithful to the ministry during challenging times.



Photo credit to OLPP FB page

11. KARITON NI KIKO TO VISIT CTK

CTK welcomes the “Kariton ni Kiko” on September 7-14. The Kariton ni Kiko is a concrete manifestation of the Cubao Diocese’s effort to support the social concerns of the marginalized and the objectives of the year-old Urban Poor Ministry. It pushes the Diocese of Cubao Priority Agenda #4, that is, “upholding human dignity and the integrity of creation.”

A “roaming church,” Kariton ni Kiko encourages the lay faithful to immerse in the lives of the least, the last and lost members of our communities. Launched by the Diocese of Cubao on Nov 17, 2018, Kariton ni Kariton is Kariton ng Awa at Kalinga.

Kiko refers to the two inspirations: Pope Francis and St Francis of Assisi—to smell like the sheep, to go to the periphery, to be with the poor, to care for the environment.

The Kariton is both a symbol for the poor and the church—an altar on wheels.

**SCHEDULE OF KARITON NI KIKO IN CTK
SEPTEMBER 7-14, 2019**

- Sept. 7-9: CTK Parish Church, Greenmeadows
- Sept. 9-12: Libis
- Sept. 12-13: Saint Ignatius Village
- Sept. 13-14: White Plains
- Sept. 14: Depart for Miraculous Medal Parish

Please check the electronic media boards and the parish website for more details.



One of the MVP classes

Before “I Do”

CTK’s Marriage Vocation Program

By Regie and Joanne Polancos

CTK’S FAMILY AND LIFE MINISTRY (FLM)

facilitates the conduct of the Marriage Vocation Program (MVP). The MVP is a two-day pre-marriage seminar to be attended by the engaged couple as one of the requirements for a church wedding. The seminars are conducted every quarter, with an average of forty couple attendees every weekend.

The MVP was first conducted in CTK in January 1996, and is a brainchild of Drs. Doy and Estrelle Lopez, who used to head the Family and Life Ministry. The two-day seminar covers six topics: 1) The Sacrament of Matrimony; 2) Images of Love; 3) Effective Marital Communication; 4) Sexual Expression of Married Love; 5) Responsible Parenthood and Natural Family Planning, and; 6) The Journey Ahead.

A couple speaker shares on the topic assigned to them. A priest talks about the Sacrament of Matrimony. After the talk, all attendees will be asked to answer a questionnaire based on the given topic. Each couple-attendee will then be given time to discuss and share their answers. To further assist the couple attendees to have a better grasp of the topics, they will also be



Family and Life Ministry Core Group, from left: Jops and Louie Padrinao (MVP speaker), Aji and Angie Rualo (MVP coordinator), Michelle and Edwin Bernardo, and Regie and Joanne Polancos.

given time to discuss their answers within a smaller group of couples, which is facilitated by one of the FLM-MVP members. Other activities that make the weekend memorable are also conducted but are kept as a surprise. On the second day, Holy Mass is celebrated with a special prayer for the couples. A mini-graduation follows, as each couple receives their certificate of attendance.

The MVP attendees come from all walks of life and are of various ages. Others are quiet and would just be listeners, while some are outspoken and would express their feelings and thoughts willingly. Though the MVP is a requirement to get married in church, couples, as they listen from one talk to another, would discreetly approach the FLM-MVP team and express their surprise at how the sessions have become an eye-opener for them, and that the sessions

have allowed them to discuss matters that, they realize, are most important for married couples. Engaged couples tend to focus on wedding day preparations and fail to discuss the after-wedding days ahead of them. The two days spent in CTK gives them a peek at how married life will be, and couples learn the best paths to take through the questionnaires and discussion.

It gives great satisfaction for the FLM-MVP team to hear good feedback from the attendees. To be of assistance to the couples as they take the first few steps toward a successful and God-centered married life gives us so much joy in our hearts. We are thankful to God that we are given the opportunity to be His stewards.

Share the Treasures of the Catholic Faith with Your Family

By Sheryl Coronel and Alma Yeh

PARENTS HAVE the primary duty to teach their children the Catholic faith. If they don't pass down these values, the world will conform them to its mold and, one day, the next generation might lose its way.

Taking to heart this great responsibility and privilege to impart to our children the faith that God has gifted us with, the Catechetical Ministry harnesses the power of social media to impart the basics of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

In its official Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows Catechetical Ministry FB page, you will find posts and resources that teach, inspire, and help deepen your Catholic faith. Most posts are in question-and-answer format and can easily be shared with loved ones.

The ministry encourages us to make a habit of discussing the Catechism at home, to give our children—no matter how old they are—a strong foundation in our Christian faith in the midst of the challenges of today's world. ■



Car-techism:

n. the act of teaching kids and teens the Catechism of the Catholic Church during road trips.

Singing, Teaching, Learning, the Mustard Seed Way

By Mina Mejia

LAST JUNE 30, CTK Children's Choir held its first choral workshop conducted by Rivah Singson, their current choirmaster. She is a Madrigal Singers alumna, an accomplished resident conductor, accompanist and music consultant of several parishes. The children's choir composed of twenty-one kids aged eight to twelve, learned new songs which they now sing during Masses. They join a handful of teens who also assist the ministry when they are not singing in the choir.



Madrigal Singers alumna Rivah Singson is the current choirmaster



14 Years of Stewardship in CTK: A Never-Ending Story of Gratitude

By Benjie and Wins Mirasol

THIS YEAR, Christ the King Parish celebrates its fortieth year since it was established in 1979. The parish also marks its fourteenth year since the Stewardship Program began. As a stewardship parish, we begin yet another chapter of its mission.

One of the things we learned early on as we got immersed in the concept of stewardship is that it never ends. A parish's stewardship mission begins on the first day of its existence and ends only when its last parishioner has gone to meet his Maker.

STEWARDSHIP IS A JOURNEY

The first steps in the CTK stewardship journey began in the early 1980s for the communities around the Barangay Ugong Norte area. The following twenty-five years saw faithful stewards—clergy and lay people alike—build the physical structures, grow the ministries, conduct formation sessions, celebrate liturgical events, and reach out to the poor through social projects. Yet it was only in 2005 when it gained new impetus with the official launch of the CTK Stewardship Program through the Balik Alay Program. Parish organizations hatched social services projects and implemented them to help communities in the peripheries of the parish as well as further out in nearby poorer communities outside our jurisdiction.

Bishop Honesto Ongtioco, then CTK parish priest, with his assistant Fr. Dennis Soriano, and the diocesan promoter, the late Fr. Manny Sarez, watered the first seeds

of stewardship. The main push was to get everyone to adopt stewardship as a way of life—to look at one's need to give versus giving to a need, as a grateful response to a generous God who has given us everything that we have. We had to learn to embrace a life of love and responsibility for God's creation and caring for one another. Through the next fourteen years, we saw a steady growth in stewardship offerings, from half a million pesos to more than nine million pesos per year. Mass offerings also steadily increased as the message of stewardship flowed freely through formation talks, the Mass homilies, banners around the church, and mostly through the giving examples of the early adopters of stewardship.

STEWARDSHIP IS ABOUT GRATITUDE

Stewardship is acknowledging that everything comes from God, that you are responsible and accountable for each blessing, and that you should respond with gratitude and generosity.

One of the most tangible manifestations of gratitude in our parish's story is the Christ the King Gawad Kalinga project that started in the latter part of 2008. It was an ambitious project—one started by Couples of Christ (CFC) but eventually embraced by the entire parish. The parish built a new village for the residents of Sitio 1 in Libis whose homes were going to be demolished to give way to what is now the Libis flyover. More than a hundred families were going to be affected,



but only half opted to relocate to this new village in Zabarte Road in Novaliches.

In less than a year, CFC and the parish, under the leadership of Msgr. Dan Sta. Maria, were able to raise enough donations to buy a property and build homes for the fifty families. Various groups led by CFC, conducted values formation, leadership training, and good neighbor (kapitbahayan) sessions. CTK parishioners also joined the beneficiaries and their families in building the homes. Together, they painted houses, planted trees, helped families find nearby schools for their children and assisted them in seeking livelihood opportunities or creating small businesses near their new homes.

Today, that community is known as the CTK GK Zabarte Village. Once a hotbed of drugs and crime, it is now a vibrant, giving community. They even share their experiences and treasures to the Pabahay ng Diocese project, a housing project of the Cubao Diocese for its employees. Several residents are now actively serving in church and have received numerous praises from their parish counterparts for being a model community. The receivers have now become the givers.

STEWARDSHIP IS A WAY OF LIFE

Stewardship is practiced every day, wherever we are, not only in church, but more so in our homes, workplaces, and community.

Our family's stewardship journey started with a Parish Renewal Experience or PREx seminar in Christ the King in 1998. We are both retired from the corporate world, our children are all grown up, and we are jokingly regarded as taong simbahan because of the length of time we spend in church. Even though we both came from very devout Catholic families, with parents on both sides active in church work, and attended Catholic schools, our main involvement then was



Bp. Ongtioco with Gawad Kalinga's Tony Meloto (rightmost)

limited to Sunday Mass.

PRex changed all that. Without fully understanding what had transformed in us, we started to be more involved in church work—the music ministry and Knights of Columbus for Benjie, then we finally joined Couples for Christ (after five years of patient and persistent follow-up by a neighbor and an officemate). We have been part of the Stewardship Committee since its inception in CTK and continue to be its advocate in the parish and the diocese. As a result, we became much more than Sunday Catholics. We immersed ourselves in the work of the church, whether it be parish work in worship, family life, formation or social service. We embraced each and every service that the parish and community assigned to us, giving the best that we could offer.

We also tried to give more than Mass offerings and endeavored to be as generous as we could. We also factored in the financial detail of giving into our balance sheets even if we had both retired. But we had enough. We had enough for our daily needs. We had enough for some fun and entertainment. We had enough for occasional vacations and dining out. And still, we were left with enough to give more. But our greatest learning in stewardship is to be circumspect and discerning in the choice of what we spend for ourselves knowing truly well that we do not own what we have and are only stewards of what we have been given.

WHAT SPURS US TO CONTINUE AS STEWARDS

Stewardship is a never-ending story that doesn't tire us out. We say, as long as we have resources to be shared, we know we have a mission. We keep our eye on the prize of storing treasures in heaven. We pray that each day brings us a chance to become better stewards and inspire others to do the same. We continue to ask the Lord to tell us what He wants done, and how to give back more so that we can carry out His plan for us and, hopefully, leave this earthly life as His good and faithful stewards.





The Spirituality of Stewardship and the Magic of Sharing

By Angelica Vilorio

DO NOTHING OUT OF SELFISHNESS...

rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but [also] everyone for those of others.
– *Philippians 2:3-4*

Bishop Pablo Virgilio “Ambo” David of the Diocese of Caloocan was the keynote speaker at the Stewardship Summit at the Diocese of Cubao and he shared the verse above to highlight the spirituality of stewardship. The summit was held last June 22, 2019 at the Obispado de Cubao on Lantana Street. Bishop Honesto Ongtioco and the summit organizers brought together about 250 delegates from forty-seven parishes in the diocese, including delegates from Christ the King Parish Greenmeadows, led by parish priest, Fr. Steve Zabala. The objectives of the summit were to deepen the spirituality of stewardship among the leaders and to have all parishes in the diocese embrace stewardship as a way of life by 2025.

The summit was a perfect venue to reflect on where we have been, where we are, and where we wish to go. It came at a perfect time, with Christ the King Parish about to celebrate its fortieth year and Stewardship as a Way of Life on its fourteenth year. To individuals, both the teen years and mid-life are important milestones—marked by a search for identity and trying to make better sense of things. At forty, the story of Christ

the King Parish has been one of finding a greater sense of purpose—about realizing that life is never just about one’s self and is never just about us.

“Walang milagro na nagsisimula sa wala. Lahat sa meron,” Bishop Ambo said, referring to the feeding of the multitudes from five loaves and two fish with twelve baskets of leftovers to boot. He reminded everyone that we need to start where we are and with what we have. “Ang binibigay, mula sa puso, hindi sa balsa. Resources, when generously shared, multiply,” he said. That is the magic of sharing.

Stewardship as a Way of Life at Christ the King Parish has seen the sharing of time, talent, and treasure, in the service of God and neighbor. Through the generosity of parishioners and Mass goers, the parish has been able to provide scholarships, support feeding programs, catechists and poor parishes, and many noteworthy projects. As Christ the King parish journeys into the next forty years, it needs to build on and strengthen what it has started. Stewardship is reflecting God’s goodness in our lives by “giving as much as we can, as often as we can, from the heart, as a faith response.”

SOME POINTS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. What are you grateful for in your life? How do you express your gratitude?
2. What responsibilities and duties have been assigned to you as an individual? How do you think these relate to God’s plan for your life?
3. How do you share your time, talent, and treasure with people around you? How are you generous at home, at work, at school, in the parish, in your community?
4. How have you used and returned the gifts that God has given you to serve the Lord and your neighbor?

Helping Others Help Themselves

By Menchu Pascual

GUIDED BY THE MOTTO “helping others help themselves,” the Ladies of Charity under the Social Services and Development Ministry (SSDM) launched the Livelihood and Skills Training programs in 2009 with the support of then parish priest Msgr. Dan Sta. Maria. The goal is to empower the participants and beneficiaries by building their capacity for livelihood as workers in the service industry or as self-employed practitioners. Believing in the dignity of work, the CTK Social Services and Development Ministry continues to give the underprivileged the opportunity to learn various skills through training and improve their earning capacity for the betterment of their families and communities. Among the courses included are Cosmetology, Food and Beverage Service, Health Care Services, Electrical Installation, and Reflexology. TESDA trainers conduct these courses.

Currently, under the leadership of our new parish priest Fr. Steven Zabala, the SSDM is undertaking various activities to help in poverty alleviation and improvement of the living conditions of the marginalized. With the support of the CTK social action arms like the Ladies of Charity, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women’s League,



Buklod ng Panginoon, Mother Butler Missions Guild, Apostleship of Prayer, and the Christian Family Movement, SSDM programs have expanded vigorously beyond the CTK’s territorial boundaries.

Under the Scholarship program, SSDM extends financial assistance to deserving students residing in the Libis and Bagumbayan area. The Ladies of Charity and the Knights of Columbus set standards and guidelines and evaluate applicants and approve their inclusion in the program. Catechism and values formation sessions are extended to scholars to instill discipline and help them become responsible citizens of the community.

To help the graduating scholars pass the entrance exam in the good universities, review classes and online practice test will be given starting this year. For school year

2019-2020, SSDM is supporting a total of 220 scholars in the high school and college level.

Our feeding program for 120 malnourished children aged three to seven years old uses a four-week menu prepared by the Philippine Food and Nutrition Research Institute and the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The nutritious menu was designed to help in the development of the child’s brain.

The ministry also conducts prison visits and elderly care.

All these activities are made possible with the support from the parish’s stewardship funds. Mila Bangco and Menchu Pascual currently head the Social Services and Development Ministry.





Women with Helping Hands and Generous Hearts

By Mila Bangco

THE BUKLOD NG PANGINOON (BnP) was formed in 1982 by a group of ladies from the St. Ignatius village to help form a Christ-centered and united community. They envisioned a community of Christian families living an authentic Christian life, evangelizing, sharing, and obedient to the Church.

The Buklod ng Panginoon, with the support of the Christ the King Parish, is presently undertaking the following activities to fulfill its vision:

1. **Weekly feeding program** for the undernourished children in the surrounding underprivileged communities. Presently, they are serving Barangay Libis where they provide supplementary feeding to thirty children.
2. **Biannual visits** to the Molave Youth Center in Quezon City to share God's Word and to provide some material assistance like toiletries, electric fans, etc.
3. **Biannual spiritual retreats**, sometimes in cooperation with other parish organizations.
4. **Weekly Bible study and sharing**
5. **Monthly meetings**
6. **Participation in the Christ the King Parish Pastoral Council.**



Seeking Balance Between Prayer, Family, and Work

It will bring peace and joy to our lives

By Tessa Mangahas



EVERY MONTH, the Basic Ecclesial Community of Christ the King sponsors a talk at the Greenmeadows Clubhouse. Last June 26, the speaker was entrepreneur and sportsman Danny Moran, who gave a talk on balancing work, family, and spiritual life.

Danny was the founder of the Red Ribbon chain before selling it to Jollibee Corporation. He now runs Amici Italian Restaurant and Cara Mia Cakes and Gelato. He is also a known figure in the Philippine football scene since he played in the national team in 1970s. Today, he leads in promoting futsal in the country through the Henry V. Moran Foundation, named after his father.

What the public doesn't know about Danny is the fact that he's a daily Mass goer and a dedicated Opus Dei member. That Wednesday evening, Danny divulged the secret of his success. "Many times, we can get lost—whether it's the business or no matter what you're doing. And sometimes we can get distracted. That thing that will keep you anchored at the end of the day is quiet time and prayers," he said in a previous interview.

During his talk, he mentioned that everyone is called to holiness in the middle of our ordinary, day-to-day lives. He also said that we must be aware of the many elements of today's society that damage our

Christian way of life. "The sanctification of our ordinary life starts with our families at home. We must do everything to protect and defend our marriages, our families, and the proper upbringing of our children. The family is the root and foundation of our Christian culture," Danny said.

The night brought a lot of insight to the seventy attendees—an impressive number by Greenmeadows BEC standards. One of them, comedian Joey de Leon, shared his insights on social media through this humorous post:

"Spouse for life"—but hindi ba having more than one spouse is better and more fun? Kasi the plural of spouse is SPICE! Ngek!

His wife, Eileen, who is the Basic Ecclesial Community coordinator of the parish, made this comment to Joey's post:

"Correction: one wife, many roles, many virtues—that's spice!"

But the comedian must have the last laugh, so he came back with this rebuttal:

"Less wife" daw so menos-spouse!

For those who came, it was a definitely a night well spent.

ATTENDEES SHARE THEIR TAKEAWAYS FROM DANNY MORAN'S TALK

Compiled by
Eileen de Leon, BEC Coordinator

Leila Banico, Enclave

"The talk affirmed my life's perspective on priorities, prayer life, family life, work life, and social life. As Fr. Steve Zabala put it, the talk was truly enriching and must be shared with more families. The history of Christianity was a brief but clear account of how expressions of faith have evolved. The talk reminded me that I am created in the image and likeness of God."

Bert Santos, Greenmeadows

"Just like an athlete who needs a coach to help him improve his athletic prowess, a Catholic should have a spiritual coach. The spiritual director helps him develop his prowess and increase his chances of going to heaven and enjoy eternal happiness."

Louie Laudico, White Plains

"My takeaway from this talk is the realization that it should always be family first—with love for your spouse being number one. Your wife is your working partner and prayer warrior. Put Jesus always in the center of the family and workplace. Ever since we became a family, we have tried to do this. Jesus is at the center of our family and workplace. It's also important to be an example to your children."

Beth Mondero, Greenmeadows

"I learned that your spouse should be number one; children only come in second in the order of priorities. Another insight is that one should give attention and pray for your spouse because when things are OK between husband and wife, good relationships with children usually follow. The speaker said that it's also best to have occasional one-on-one talks with each child to make them feel important and to give them the confidence they will need in life."

Fely Ong, Greenmeadows

"I was struck by Danny Moran's most important advice to young parents: 'Sacrifice for your kids while they are young and reap benefits after. If you just look after your own benefit and not your kids', you will sacrifice later in life."



Kamustahan sa Kapitbahayan

By Ching Botero

SIMPLE LANG ang aming pamumuhay.

At simple lang din ang nagpapasaya sa amin.

Isa na dito ang Kamustahan na ginagawa ng ilang kasamahan namin sa parokya bilang bahagi ng Basic Ecclesial Community at Urban Poor Ministry. Sa mga ganitong pagkakataon, nakikisalamuha sila sa amin. Pumapasok sila sa aming mga bahay at nakikiisa sa aming mga munting kasiyahan.

Nagsisimula kami sa opening prayer tapos nagkakamustahan sa mga bagay-bagay sa aming mga buhay. Walang paghuhusga ang nangyayari dito. Marami sa mga kinakamusta ay hindi nagsisimba. Meron ding ilan sa kanila na nagsasama kahit hindi kasal. Pero pagdating ng “sharing,” nagkakaisa kami sa masayang usapan.

Madalas naman, hindi mo kailangan magtanong o mag-urirat. Madalas, sapat na ang simpleng pakikinig sa isa’t isa. Kung merong magbibigay ng opinyon, laging bukas ang isip at kalooban na makinig ng walang pamumuna o paghuhusga. At siguro

ay natutuwa naman sila sa aming ginagawang mga Kamustahan.

Yan ay dahil pagkatapos ng aming closing prayer, laging nandoon ang mainit na paanyaya na kami’y bumalik muli sa kanilang munting tahanan at simpleng mga buhay.





The Young Catholic Professionals Ministry held their first Executive Speaker Series with Ms. Angela Cole

Faith at Work

The First of the Executive Speaker Series for Young Professionals

By Chino Quizon

LAST JULY 05, 2019 the Young Catholics Professional (YCP) Ministry successfully held the inaugural talk for the Executive Speaker Series at the second floor of our parish hall. The flagship formation activity of the YCP ministry aims to build a venue for networking between the community members of the parish while gathering potential recruits for the newly established lay organization. The first talk in the series featured Ms. Angela Cole, a member of the Regum Christi Philippines and Operations Director for Starbucks Coffee Philippines. Her talk featured insights into integrating Christian values into one's work and home life.

Fr. Steve Zabala graced the event with his presence and welcomed the attendees through his opening remarks. His gracious words set the tone to all in attendance which was highlighted by his chance encounter with the speaker as they both arrived to the event venue. The activity was able to gather a total of seventy-five attendees originating from within the community and newcomers to parish. One of the memorable moments during the activity was the opening prayer offered by Faith de Leon, a core group

member of the YCP Ministry.

Below is a copy the prayer she penned for the event.

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for getting us safe here tonight. We praise You for this event and Your purpose for it. We know that when we gather together, You always have a divine agenda. We ask that You will be done through this event. Take what we have prepared and multiply our efforts as only You can. Steer our intentions to align with Your righteous will. Remind us of Your faithful provision when our efforts fail us or fall short. May all glory go up to You when we reach the finish line and climb over benchmarks. Blanket us with Your peace tonight, Father. Keep us physically safe and guard our hearts and minds from pride and selfishness. Keep love at the forefront of our minds tonight, and the guiding light for all we set out to accomplish and celebrate.

*In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.*

The first Executive Speaker Series is a testament to the power of collaboration between the various communities, movements, and ministries within CTK Parish Greenmeadows. The YCP Ministry is grateful for the offering of love, faith, and service the entire parish community has gifted towards the resounding success of this activity.

EDITORIAL BOX

Editor-in-Chief **Rissa Singson Kawpeng**
Managing Editor **Tessa Mangahas**
Editorial Consultant **Fr. Steve Zabala**
Graphic Designer **Pio Mallari**
Printer **The House Printers**

The Herald is a quarterly publication of the Social Communications Ministry of Christ the King Parish.

Greenmeadows Avenue,
Quezon City, Philippines

Telephone: **633-0280**
E-mail: info@christthekingparish.ph
<http://christthekingparish.ph>
FB.com/CTKPGreenmeadows



Saturday Night Life

An Activity by the Youth Ministry

By Michaela Maliksi

THE SATURDAY NIGHT LIFE formation series was launched with its first session last Saturday, July 13. It was the first time for the different organizations under the Youth Ministry to come together, so to ease into things, the session was mainly for participants to get to know each other and the different organizations.

For many years, the parish has been committed to engaging the youth. The Saturday Night Life formation series is a project dedicated to helping the youth find a home in the parish. There are four main organizations under the Youth Ministry: PREX Youth, CTK-Days with the Lord, Timothy Youth Ministry, and Libis Youth. Each of these orgs are communities of their own, having their own timeline of activities, practices, and traditions apart from those of the parish.

The main goal of the formation series is to give these orgs a common platform in the parish where they can share about themselves and their communities to the rest of the youth. Something they can all own together. It is also something consistent that they can look forward to every month. The long term goal is for Saturday Night Life to be a series of talks from speakers that the youth can relate to, and those who can hopefully inspire the youth to keep the faith and be the stewards of God's creation.

As always, the event started with a prayer, giving thanks to the Lord for giving us the opportunity to bring people closer to Him. Participants then sat in a circle to introduce themselves with a few fun facts. It was interesting hearing about each person, learning that we can all have a common ground even though

we're from different walks of life. There was a fifteen-year-old, still in high school, a fresh graduate from college, and of course, the two ministry heads that have been long done with college. There were also ice breaker games to test if they really remembered each others' names. The participants enjoyed and it was exciting to witness them getting more and more comfortable with each other.

PREX Youth and Days with the Lord took turns then took turns introducing their orgs to the rest of the group. A representative from each org shared a brief background and what their group stands for and aims to contribute to the community. One commonality that we discovered was that each org has their own set of songs that they sing when they have their retreats or batches. So each sharing session ended with the representatives singing a few songs that the rest of the group sang along with. It was a nice moment to be sharing with each other what we hold dear to our hearts. The night ended with a fellowship around food, of course.

Overall, it was a successful first session and the participants all said that they're already looking forward to the next one. The spark that CTK's Youth Ministry hoped to ignite has started through the exchange of phone numbers and befriending on social media. The next session will be on August 10, and the parish is more than ready to welcome even more participants then!