

**WELCOME:** So we are now in the run up to Easter. Here is the latest news from our different communities in Luzon. Hope you enjoy reading what we have been up to!

### **VISIT OF POPE FRANCIS - FILIPINOS ARE OUTSTANDING MISSIONARIES OF FAITH IN ASIA**



The 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> of January have become unforgettable dates for Filipinos as it were the meaningful days of Pope Francis' visit. The theme "Mercy and Compassion" continues to bring us all back to the inspiring experience of the papal visit. As Verbum Dei, we were in solidarity with the millions of our brothers and sisters in the Mass celebrated by Pope Francis at the Quirino Grandstand. At the end of his visit, we were renewed in faith and left with his challenge to live as "outstanding missionaries of faith in Asia".



### **WORD MADE SONG: 1<sup>ST</sup> NATIONAL MUSIC CAMP**

*Music in evangelization: a question of effectiveness. The Incarnated Word: Verbal and Musical. Towards a Verbum Dei spirituality for musicians.*

These are the 3 topics discussed by Sr. Maeve Louise Heaney, FMVD during her conference talks in the 1st national music camp in the Philippines. The camp was attended by about 15 aspiring, talented musicians and singers from our different local communities. It was a fruitful time together in learning and exploring music as a way of evangelization especially in our Verbum Dei

charism. We also shared our different experiences on how music had helped the Word of God to enter and speak to people's lives. Between the talks and workshops, there were also moments of impromptu 'jam' session to enjoy our love of music together. Looking forward to the next national music camp, or maybe even international!



## **MISSIONARY JOURNEYS – GOING TO THE PERIPHERIES**

One specific way in which the lay members of Verbum Dei live the mission are so-called “Missionary Journeys”, bringing the Word of God to different corners and so making an impact in the Filipino society. Currently the following Journeys are alive and bearing fruits in different ways: San Pedro, Laguna (Rudy Catedral as Responsible), Caloocan City (Grace Francisco), Sto. Niño de Pandacan (Tess/Roel Pastorfide), and Taguig City (Ed Jose). These journeys cater to the spiritual needs of people of different age (adults, teenagers, kids) different economic conditions (rich, middle, and the poor) and different realities (parents, working, youth, students) by way of prayer, preaching the Word and testimony of Life. Looking forward for the so many Church concerns evolving with the signs of the times, the Missionary Journeys aim that many would be able to know, listen to, live the Gospel of Jesus, and have a deeper personal knowledge of Him through the journeys specially prepared for as many people and situations that God places in our lives and hands as a Missionary Family.



## **RECOLLECTION FOR COUPLES**



Evangelization is our work of charity in the Celebration of the Year of the Poor, to share the Word of God for the integral promotion of every person. For this reason the 2nd in a series of Recollections for Couples was held in Tagaytay last February 8. The theme focused on unity: “Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.” (Gen 2:24).

Noralyn and Allan, with their son, prepared dynamics on day-to-day dialogue, a practical means towards unity. Simultaneously, the disciples did their part in the recollection for the children. It is good to see married couples and families involved in the evangelization of families!

A Verbum Dei disciple couple,



## CONCERT KICKS OFF HOUSE OF PRAYER PROJECT



*"For You I live,  
for them I give;  
For You I speak,  
for them I  
believe..."*



So echoed the opening song of Sr. Maeve Louise Heaney of the Verbum Dei Missionaries during the fundraising concert **"For You, For Them: A Night of Inspiration and Music"** last January 31 at the Albertus Magnus Auditorium in UST. Sr Maeve was visiting us here in the Philippines for the first time to perform in our fund raising concert for a new apostolate center in Pasig, Metro Manila. The event was attended by over 250 people. She shared that her opening song, "For You, For Them" is a composition that "goes to the heart of what being a missionary is about. It is about doing things for God and doing things for others." It was a fitting way to launch Verbum Dei's "House of Prayer for All Nations" project.

## WORK WITH THE HOMELESS



Our homeless men group is slowly growing. We are receiving help such as slippers, clothing and food supplies to assist them. Recently we took 2 groups of young people on an outreach to visit the homeless on the streets. We gathered at 9pm and were given an orientation by Sr Jean of the Handmaids of Charity who we collaborate with. We spent the evening sharing with them, listening to their stories. They only have enough possessions to fit in one or two small bags because they have to carry them. One man who has a stroke will even walk for 2 hours every Tuesday just to attend the prayer session which they said fills them with hope and optimism. We are now trying to find a place in a sheltered home for a 8 year old girl, daughter of one of the homeless, because on the streets she is very vulnerable. Her parents are delighted that she may be able to get proper schooling. If you can help us with any assistance or donation in kind please get in touch!

## PAYATAS RECOLLECTIONS IN THE YEAR OF THE POOR



On March 15 and 21 of the Year of the Poor, two Verbum Dei missionary teams went to Payatas! Team one gave a one day recollection for parish volunteers of Ina ng lupang pangako parish. With the theme “I thirst,” the recollection explored the thirst of the Father for us, our thirst for the Father, prayer as the place

where the two thirsts meet, and thirst of the Father for all His children. On March 21, the second team gave a recollection for the parish youth, exploring the Temario themes of “Life and Love,” “God the Father” and “Your Life is for Loving.” The goal was to offer the people as close an experience as possible of God as a loving Father, and to invite the people to develop a deeper relationship with Him through prayer—and so help them both to find more meaning in service, and to reach out more to others as brothers and sisters of the same Father. With talks centered on the Word of God, moments of prayer, of sharing, games, dynamics and mass, the recollections was an experience of richness in the year of the poor—a richness only the Father can give to His children."

### Testimony from Sarah, Lay disciple

*“It was indeed a memorable and unforgettable experience to be part of the missionary team youth recollection in Payatas. It is true indeed that the more you give and immerse yourself in the mission the more that you are rewarded. This activity was an inspiration for me to give myself more in the Verbum Dei Mission.*



*And truly that there is a great hope still in our youth of today we only need to be more hopeful and to see them the way Jesus sees them and you will be amazed by them!!!”*

## RECOLLECTION FOR DOCTORS



A Lenten recollection was held on March 26 in Cardinal Santos hospital. Seventy-five physicians attended. Fr James shared some of his medical anecdotes and invited the medics to fix their eyes on Jesus, the “Good Doctor” and not merely on career advancement or making money. Issues touched-on included the contribution

of our faith in the medical practice as well as the consequences of a medicine without ethics (such as the wrongs of IVF and physician assisted suicide). Mission initiatives of Verbum Dei such as going to the hospitals and workplaces are in line with the call of Pope Francis “to go out of ourselves and to be engaged in the life of the greater society.”

## LENTEEN SERIES OF TALKS IN DON BOSCO PARISH




Fr Filipe and Rev Iwao recently finished a series of 5 Lenten talks in the Don Bosco parish in Makati. The audience included many youths who were scholars of the parish coming from the surrounding poor areas. The talks were given in Taglish (Tagalog and English). The focus was on the relevance of the Sunday gospels and how we can live out the Word of God.



It is hoped that in this year of the Philippines’ Church dedicated to the poor we can reach out more and more to all our brothers and sisters ...

## EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

FOR THE YOUNG ONES



# Easter Encounter 2015

For 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> year High School and College students

## Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday

April 2 (1:00pm) - April 5 (1:00 pm)

Verbum Dei Catholic Center of Evangelization,  
Tagaytay City

Registration fee: P2,700

Organized by: *Verbum Dei Catholic Missionaries*

Contact to register: Sr. Adriana 09432152542/09057655068  
Br. Iwao 09253640459/09266306352

FOR THE YOUNG ONCE ☺

### *Easter Semi-Silent Retreat*

Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday  
April 2 (1:00pm) - April 5, 2015 (1:00pm)

Marello Retreat House, Tagaytay

Registration Fee: P3,500 double room  
P2,700 dorm

organized by

*Verbum Dei Catholic Missionaries*

Contact to Register: Sr. Malou 0925 801 7675 (sun)  
Sr. Percy 0927 150 1438 (globe)

# "I THIRST."