

WELCOME: So we have been baking in the summer heat of Manila. Here are some of the things that have been cooking ...

ANNUAL DISCIPLES RETREAT IN BAGUIO



A group of 45 lucky disciples and missionaries managed to escape the heat of Manila on an 8 day silent retreat in Baguio. The silence was golden and the cool breeze of Baguio and the Holy Spirit was much appreciated. Held at Assumption retreat house, the theme was “Come follow me” and centered on the life and discipleship of the apostle Peter. Through his intercession may we too have the courage to be faithful to our Lord. And remember that in the retreat **WE WERE PRAYING FOR YOU!**

WEDDING OF FRANCIS AND GEN



Francis and Gen are a young couple who attend our Verbum Dei School of the Word in Christ the King parish. They were recently married and some of our missionaries from Verbum Dei were there to celebrate. Bishop Leopoldo Jaucian officiated the Mass

proceedings. In the homily, Fr James shared some words of St. John Chrysostom who suggested that young husbands should say to their wives: “I have taken you in my arms, and I love you, and I prefer you to my life itself. For the present life is nothing, and my most ardent dream is to spend it with you in such a way that we may be assured of not being separated in the life reserved for us.” Let us pray for Francis and Gen!

YOUTH FUNDRAISING - RUMMAGE SALE

Our Verbum Dei youth held a rummage sale to raise funds for their activities. Items were donated or recycled from thrown out garbage. They also had a cake raffle so it is good to see the young ones taking the initiative and creatively seeking ways to earn some funds for the youth events. Proceeds will go towards paying for their tickets to the 4th National Family Encounter to be held in Cebu from October 23-25, 2015. Hope to see you there!



QUENCHED AND OVERFLOWING! SEMI-SILENT EASTER RETREAT



There were around 50 of us from different walks of life, age group (from 17 to 75 years old), some students, working, single, married, parents, and grandparents all came with a decision to spend this year's Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday in Tagaytay because deep within, each one had a THIRST that needed to be answered, filled, quenched. With this year's theme of "I THIRST" we saw once again how the Power of the Word of God, His Passion and Resurrection can truly make any person who has a thirst within realize that that thirst (whether it's a thirst for rest, joy, meaning, direction in life, fulfillment, healing, love) is actually a thirst for HIM and in this retreat, how beautiful was their experience to be really quenched of what they need in the concrete situations they live. They were so filled that by the end of the retreat, they were also overflowing with God's love that they were radiating so much joy to let Christ's love overflow to others.



VERBUM DEI YOUTH AND TEENS EASTER ENCOUNTER



The Verbum Dei Center of Evangelization in Tagaytay City welcomed us - 62 youth and teenagers- for the Verbum Dei Easter Encounter from Holy Thursday, April 2 to Easter Sunday, April 5.

With the theme “I thirst”, we lived an amazing Holy Week following the footsteps of Jesus in his Passion and Resurrection finding in him the only love that can quench our thirst as young people of today. We really enjoyed the talks, games, workshops and liturgy lead by the Verbum Dei Missionaries and youth disciples. And of course the delightful meals prepared by the staff of the Center!

Everything was a gift from Jesus for us to experience his great love for us so that we can also share it with other youths that thirst for him, but failing to find him content themselves with very shallow things that only disappoint them. After the encounter we just want to point with our lives and words where is the true source of happiness and meaning for all: JESUS!

1ST VOWS OF MONIKA PUNAN



One of our young Verbum Dei misioneras, Monika, celebrated her first temporal vows of poverty, chastity and obedience on May 16, 2015 in our Verbum Dei Center of Evangelization in Tagaytay. Her mom and dad, Merry and Berry, were both in attendance, along with her brother Steph, and a contingent of Verbum Dei missionary sisters

and lay members from Singapore where Monika first met Verbum Dei in 2006. After obtaining her license as a pharmacist she was happily working in a good hospital, with a stable career, good environment and colleagues, earning and being financially independent. However she wrote in her testimony “In other words, all was going well and stable in life, yet, something was stirring within my heart, a restlessness that I was unable to explain. It was then, that I had free time, I was at last able to pursue a dream I had since young, to learn Chinese martial arts (*wushu*)...” What impressed her was the dedication of the coach to *wushu*. Desiring her own dedication she plucked up courage to ask Jesus. “Lord, what can be my dedication?” Jesus answered her “Monika, why can’t your dedication be me?” We are so happy that she responded yes! We wish her well as she continues the next stage of her missionary journey, studying Philosophy, with the Verbum Dei in Singapore.



RETREAT FOR BATCH 1969!



A small group of ladies from Miriam college, who graduated in 1969, asked for a 3 day retreat. The theme was “The Risen Lord and mission” and focused on the resurrection appearances of Jesus and his emphasis on sending his disciples to mission. Melaine handled a session on the encounter between Jesus and Mary Magdalene and Lisa guided us through a Rosary of the Word.

EVERYDAY HEROES



A group of our young people in Tagaytay decided to experience the long path that their classmates have to walk to school every day. Our intrepid explorer Fr Filipe joined them – it took 1.5 hour going there from the road to the houses where they lived and coming back 2 hours! Fr Filipe said “The only difference is that we stopped at a waterfall which is not part of their daily journey. After experiencing the walk they make to school every day I'd say

that these boys and girls are like heroes!” Denzel, one of the youth participants had this to say “Filipe came to Tagaytay for mission immersion in Tagalog. One of the activities was hiking with the youth to Sambong, a Barangay in the ridge - visiting old Verbum Dei friends and inviting them to join us. We enjoyed the refreshing water of the falls, the bonding once again among us. We were inspired by the people we met along the way, the students who go up and down the ridge for school every day and also many parents who go for work in Tagaytay. Asking Filipe about his experience, he said: “If it’s tiring to go down and up Sambong, it’s more tiring to follow fast conversations in Tagalog!”



“GIFTED TO GIVE”



This was the theme of the 1st National Mission Conference held last May 18-21 in Tagaytay City with 361 participants. We received Christianity almost 500 years ago, and we are called to share the faith to Asia and other nations. The Conference concluded with the strong call *to develop a deeper commitment to mission and to promote “formation for mission”*. Sr Connie and Lui Valenzuela, a lay consecrated missionary of Verbum Dei

participated as facilitators in the workshop groups. We received the challenge for Verbum Dei to give with urgency our specific mission of forming missionary disciples in the Church.

EXPLORE YOUR OTHER SIDE! DEAF STUDENTS YOUTH CAMP



Our ministry with the deaf continues to flourish. This year in conjunction with LINK center for the deaf and the Salesian sisters we held our Deaf Students Youth Camp at Phillip's Sanctuary, a wooded setting 1 hour outside Manila. Following on from our previous work, the objective of this deaf camp was to continue to form the young deaf as leaders. Activities included team building, obstacle course, hiking and nature walk as well as some swimming! The Holy Eucharist was held each day as well as inputs on becoming leaders. It is so encouraging to see the young deaf developing their character, and growing in their leadership potential. Helping to facilitate were Claire, Lichel, Elaine, Rafaela and Caloy from our Pansol youth group.



SEMINARS ON ETHICS AT END-OF-LIFE



In front of end of life situations Doctors are often called to make judgments about the suitability of continuing certain treatments or not. On the one hand they do not wish to encourage euthanasia but on the other they must avoid over-aggressive or “futile” treatments which merely prolong the dying process. Faced with these medical and moral dilemmas the teaching of the Catholic Church can shed light on these at-times difficult situations. Fr James gave two seminars on “Ethics & End-of-life scenarios” to 60 doctors at St Luke’s hospital and Cardinal Santos. It is hoped that these inputs can help doctors in their invaluable and important mission to care for patients at the end of life.