

WELCOME: We hope you enjoy the latest news and action from our Luzon community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FR IWAO AND FR LUCIO!



On August 15, the Feast of the Assumption, two of our missionary brothers, Iwao (from Japan) and Lucio (from Mexico) were ordained to the priesthood through the imposition of hands of Bishop Antonio Tobias, DD, Bishop of Novaliches. The families of both brothers attended along with a big and joyful crowd from the Verbum Dei community. We pray for our two new priests for a long and fruitful priestly and missionary life. As Mr Ikegami said (the father of Iwao) “I pray he will live to 100 and go to many lands even outer space to spread the Gospel!”

COMMITMENT OF LAY MEMBERS – YES LORD!



August 23 was a special day for Verbum Dei in Luzon. It was our monthly disciples' retreat and it was certainly special because many of the almost 70 lay persons attending committed for the first time or renewed their

commitment to be nourished by the Verbum Dei spirituality and live it out in their own ambiances. This is what in Verbum Dei we call 'discipleship', a way of concretely following Christ through our charism. In the retreat we deepened on Verbum Dei's objective and aim which is "to form apostles of Christ from among people of every state of life, race, culture and social condition for the propagation of the Kingdom of God." In Luzon we feel blessed with so many lay people from different realities and backgrounds that are giving their 'yes' to live out this beautiful mission.



Gelo, one of our youth taking his discipleship commitment wrote – *“Young people nowadays find it easier to have time for social media (such as Facebook) than having a time for prayer. This is only one of the many challenges that God is inviting his people to win-over. This August, a group of disciples bravely accepted the responsibility of being young ambassadors of Christ as they took their commitment for the Lord and the Verbum Dei Family.”*



REACH OUT TO YOUTH - "STAY" RECOLLECTION



With the desire to learn more about the faith in a new and exciting way, the ninth graders of Immaculate Conception Academy participated in a one day recollection facilitated by the Verbum Dei Formation course community bearing the theme

"Stay". The recollection focused on the Eucharist as part of their Christian Life Education subject. It emphasized the encounter with the person of Jesus as a friend in the Eucharist who stays with them for life. The recollection, given to each of the seven sections, is full of activities, talks, animations, games and ends with the Eucharistic celebration. These were held inside the ICA campus on August 18, 19, 27, 28, September 1, 2 and 3. Congrats to the participants and all our sisters in the formation course for their missionary zeal!

SPANISH MISSION TRIP - AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE!

What an unforgettable Mission Trip experience it was for the 13 Spanish who stayed in Tagaytay from August 1-23! They came with the theme: "You are the Light of the World" as well as the openness to new experiences. This has facilitated them to adjust to everything (food, schedule, culture, simplicity and joy) and to learn many things. As one of them shared: "There are much more learnings we got than what we taught them." They appreciated



the orientation given each morning as guide to integrate what they are to live during the day - be it farming, visiting the prison, the orphanage, the physically-disabled, the families, teaching the kids (educational and practical), helping in the construction of house, assisting in the hospital. Truly they have been light in the realities they have entered to especially to the kids with whom they interacted each day. As one kid told them: "Thank you for teaching us to believe in ourselves".

MISSIONARY JOURNEY TO TAGUIG CITY

Taguig City is one of the fast rising economies in the National Capital Region because of its flourishing nearby business district, Bonifacio Global City. It is a place filled with optimism in relation to economic activities and opportunities as well. However, as in any other highly urbanized cities, it is not spared of materialism, consumerism, and relativism that draw both the young and the old farther away from a closer relationship with their God.



The seniors of Domus Mariae attest to these realities. Situations of gambling, drugs, dysfunctional families, lack of catechism, teenage pregnancies, abound in the place and its nearby barangays. Domus Mariae is a housing project of the Archdiocese of Manila for the families of its own employees. Our Missionary Journey here is an invitation by Bing Sebello our Caritas coordinator and is now on running on its 4th year. Here we cater to different realities: Seniors, Single Parents, Youth (13 to early 20's), and the Kids. The Journey is being facilitated by able Verbum Dei lay disciples like Eva, Claudette and Benj for the Kids, Sarah and Beth for the Teenagers, Marissa and Ed for the Seniors, and Pepeng as support. To date we have given them at least the core topics of the Annual



Church themes: Year of Faith, Laity and the Poor. The people are very cooperative and in each meeting we have an average attendance of about 30-35. Challenges abound the Mission as shared during the evaluation meeting of the MJs last August 2 but we are looking forward for a very active group and a fulfilling mission as we open up a new theme of "VALUES Formation."

HELPING THE HEALERS!



“The Church in Asia is committed to becoming still more involved in the care of the sick, since this is a vital part of her mission of offering the saving grace of Christ to the whole person.” These words of Pope John Paul II remind us of the importance of healthcare and the continued need to bring the Word of God to the workplace including the wards in the hospitals. Fr James finished his series of 4 talks at St Luke’s Medical Center with a session on “The meaning

of death – medical, theological and spiritual aspects.” After his lecture he was invited by Dr Geraldine Mariano, Head of the Neurocritical Care Unit, to bless the ITU as well as blessing the patients and staff! Fr James said “It was very beautiful for me to finish the set of talks with a blessing of the ITU. Many sick people pass through here and they need God’s strength.” Let us also continue to pray for all the hardworking doctors and staff at the hospital!

PASIG APOSTOLIC CENTER PROJECT

Last July 12, 2015 we launched “Home for the Word”, a project of fundraising for the Apostolic House in Pasig. One young participant, Francis, shared his reflections with us:

“Home, a very simple word but with different meanings. For some it is a place where family and people live and for others it is something deeper - home is a place where love is borne, it is a place when you feel at peace. It is a place where people unite and welcome each other. It is something that all of us need to have because it is essential in our daily life.



For the past few years I’ve seen the community grew. When I started there were just a handful of people who go but slowly there were many people who are inspired by the word of God. I can say that I am also one of those especially when I attended my first Verbum Dei Youth Easter Encounter entitled “My Life is Christ”. In that event I was able to meet Jesus. The encounter made a very strong impact in my life and after few years I am happy to see that the family is growing, slowly the attendees increase and when the

people increase naturally the demand is getting bigger also that's when the idea of Luzon Apostolic House came from, a place where many can gather to pray together, a place when all the families from different Verbum Dei communities can gather to have formations and other spiritual activities. A place where many more people can be welcomed to know God. "Home for The Word", it sounds good right! There will be a lot of things to do on our journey of building it but I believe that even though it seems very difficult, we will be victorious in the end because we are guided by the master craftsman himself who is God. This entire plan is dedicated for him and for us who are his children. Let us all take part actively in building our new home!"

HOW CAN I HELP?

Going Home to Christmas: A Dinner-Concert featuring Jose Mari Chan.



FRIENDS OF
verbum dei
presents
*Going Home to
Christmas*
a fundraising dinner concert featuring
Jose Mari Chan
December 5, 2015 at 7:30 pm
Miriam College Paz Adriano Little Theatre
5:00 pm - Mass / 6:00 pm - Dinner
No. 001

An invitation to music lovers, and to fans of Jose Mari Chan who also wish to help Verbum Dei. The dinner-concert will be on December 5, 2015, at Miriam College along Katipunan Avenue. Mass will be celebrated at 5:00 p.m., followed by the dinner-concert at 6:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at P5000 each. We would also appreciate the help of individuals or companies who can sponsor this event, or who can refer possible sponsors.

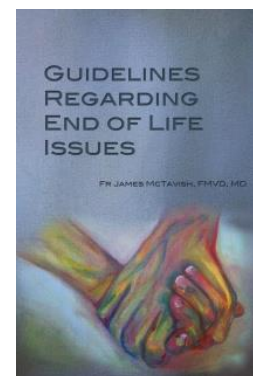
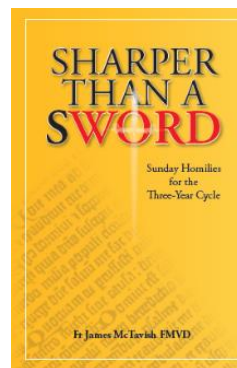
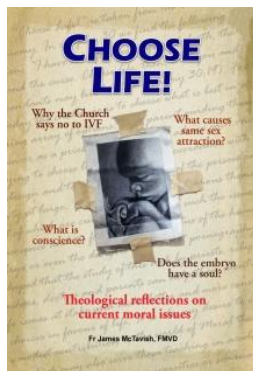
Banking on You

Students and children are also invited to help! A student or child can bring home *A Home for His Word* “housey bank,” fill it with coins or bills every day, and simply return the bank and its contents after 30 days.



Best sellers

Purchase books written by Fr. James McTavish, FMVD, MD. Get them for personal enrichment or to give away as gifts! “Sharper than a Sword” (P500) is a collection of homilies for the three-year liturgical cycle. “Choose Life” (P400) offers the light of Church teaching on current moral issues—a book that has been recommended by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle. “A Guide to End of Life Issues” (P100) is a booklet that helps explain what to do when a loved one is dying, and offers Church teaching on the matter.



A one-off donation of any amount or referrals to people who can help will also be much appreciated.

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*Check donations can be made payable to “Friends of Verbum Dei.”

*Donations can also be deposited to Friends of Verbum Dei, Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), Katipunan Branch, Current Account No. 003081117135. Please send us a copy of your deposit slip.