



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
VERBUM DEI CATHOLIC
MISSIONARIES – QUEZON CITY

ISSUE 10 – 2014

WELCOME: This is our tenth edition of our newsletter. We hope this newsletter finds you well and you had a happy, fruitful and peaceful Holy Week and that you are enjoying the season of Easter very much. If you have any feedback or you would like to ask questions about our activities or mission please email us on: verbumdeiqc@gmail.com

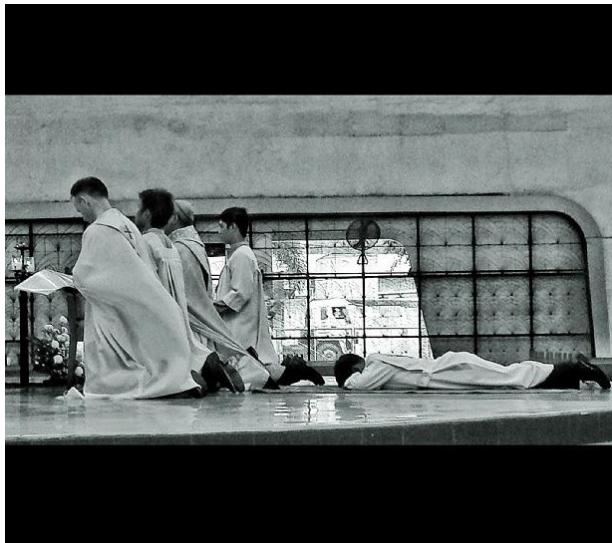


NATIONAL FAMILY ENCOUNTER:

From October 25-27, 2013, Verbum Dei Philippines celebrated its 3rd National Family Encounter in Tagaytay City. The theme was “I believed, therefore I spoke.” Almost 300 Verbum Dei Family members attended from Manila, Tagaytay, Quezon City, Cebu, Cagayan De Oro and Musuan. We even had a delegation from China. There were 3 talks given by Sr Luisa, Jun Reandelar (a Verbum Dei lay disciple) and Fr James aligned around the theme. We were blessed with the presence of the Bishop of Imus, Most Rev. Rey Evangelista for the opening mass. There was also 3 workshops and the first ever Verbum Dei Family Fair with stalls containing different activities such as rosary-making, origami, Mexican dancing, website design and a presentation on Verbum Dei in Africa. We also had many beautiful liturgical celebrations and a fiesta with cultural presentations. The Encounter was a resounding success and we look forward to our next one which will be held in Cebu in 2015.

MARRIED COUPLE MISSIONARIES FORMATION COURSE

In June 2013, Poncho and Adriana, married couple missionaries from Mexico, arrived in the Philippines along with their 4 children. They have already started to adjust well to the new culture, language, food, customs and weather of the Philippines. They have opened up a pre-formation course for missionary married couples in Cagayan De Oro. There are 4 Filipino couples in the pre-formation course. We are very excited that our missionary community in the Philippines is now fully ecclesial and we ask for your prayers for the formators and couples in formation in Cagayan De Oro.



ORDINATION OF VIC CARITOS:

On September 28, 2013, the first Verbum Dei priest from Cebu in the Philippines was ordained: Vic Caritos. The ordination ceremony was held in Cebu City and the ordaining prelate was Bishop Gerardo A. Alminaza from San Carlos Diocese in Negros Occidental. The ceremony was very moving and was followed by a reception nearby. Fr Vic celebrated his first mass the next day in his home parish in Mandaue, Cebu. We are very excited to have another Filipino priest here and we look forward to many more Filipino missionaries and priests following in Fr Vic's footsteps. Congratulations Fr Vic!

PERPETUAL VOWS OF SR CECILIA:

Sr Cecilia Teo, a missionary from Singapore recently completed her studies in Sacred Theology at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. She professed her perpetual vows in the University of Santo Tomas on October 12, 2013 in the presence of the Zone Responsible of the Philippines, Luisa Mesina and the Area Responsible of Singapore, Australia and Taiwan, Sr Maria Jose M. Egido. She is now assigned in Singapore. We give thanks to Sr Ceci for her HUGE contribution of joy, fun, music and laughter to the Philippines and we wish her all the best in her future missionary journey.



VISITS OF FR ISMAEL, FR DAVID & FR RODRI CARRIZO:

In May 2013, Fr Ismael Barros, the Vice-Superior of the Male Branch of Verbum Dei visited the Philippines and facilitated a month retreat for some of the male missionaries. He also participated in the Pentecost celebrations. In June and July 2013, Fr David Rolo, a member of the Junta or leadership group of Verbum Dei also visited the Philippines and facilitated a month retreat for the rest of the male and female missionaries and visited all the different communities here in the Philippines. We would like to thank Fr Ismael and Fr David and the Junta for their generosity in providing such wonderful preachers for us. In January 2014, we also had the pleasure of welcoming Fr Rodri Carrizo, the General Superior of the the Male Branch of Verbum Dei to the Philippines. We enjoyed his stay here very much and he visited the different communities in the Philippines: Quezon City, Tagaytay, Manila and Cagayan De Oro while he was here. We look forward to seeing him here again sometime soon.



EARTHQUAKE & TYPHOON:

On October 15, 2013, an earthquake struck Bohol province in the Philippines with a magnitude of 7.2 on the Richter scale. 222 people were reported dead, and many more were injured. Many houses were severely damaged and a number of historical churches were severely damaged. The neighboring province of Cebu, where we have houses, was also affected. Many of our disciples and their families were affected by this very strong earthquake. On November 8 and 9, the super-typhoon "Yolanda" hit the Philippines. According to statistics, it was the world's strongest, deadliest and most destructive typhoon for 2013, with winds reaching up to 200 mph (320 km/h), sweeping up everything in its path: roofs, trees, houses, buildings... The situation was especially serious in Samar, Leyte, Northern Cebu, Palawan and Iloilo. Our communities in Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Tagaytay, Quezon City and Manila, are fine. However, Rachel Lumain (one of our misioneras) suffered extremely because she had no news about her family (parents, brothers and nephews) who are living in one of the areas most affected (Guiuan, Samar). Fortunately they were able to survive but their houses were totally destroyed. Many of our disciples have had similar stories. We have been very touched by the local and international response to help. Verbum Dei has visited Guiuan twice to distribute relief supplies and give a recollection for survivors. We ask for your continued prayers as the Philippines continues to rebuild after these two terrible calamities.

SCHOOL OF APOSTLES

In June 2013, Verbum Dei communities in Luzon (Quezon City, Manila and Tagaytay) combined for the School of Apostles, Part I (where we learn how to preach the Ideal part of the Verbum Dei Life & Love Temario or Theme-Set). Different missionaries have presented the aims of each talk and then either a Verbum Dei disciple or missionary has given a sample talk. It has been the first time that we have had a combined School of Apostles in Luzon. We have all learnt a lot about our charism, the truths of our faith and how we can better share them with others. We hope to see the fruits in our community and the Philippines for many years to come.





PERPETUAL VOWS OF SR JENNY:

Jenny Nicolas, a missionary from the Philippines recently completed her studies at the Verbum Dei theological institute in Loeches, Spain. She professed her perpetual vows at Verbum Dei Tagaytay on December 8, 2013 in the presence of Luisa Mesina, the Verbum Dei Zone Responsible of the Philippines. She will now take up a role as a formator for the pre-formation course beginning in the Philippines for the female branch of Verbum Dei in Quezon City. We congratulate Jenny on her “yes” to Jesus and to the Verbum Dei Community and we pray for her to have many happy years sharing God’s Word with the world.

TGIF SCHOOL OF THE WORD:

In June 2013, we started a new SOW in Quezon City for young professionals. One of the regular attendees, Lani Brillantes describes it this way: “Thank God It’s Friday (TGIF) is a weekly School of the Word dedicated to teaching youth how to pray. At just eleven months old, TGIF reflects many of its members: still young, just starting out, but filled with that unmistakable fire of energy and enthusiasm. The group meets every Friday for pizza-filled sessions of Bible reading, singing, sharing and Pictionary. They also conduct monthly Revision of Life exercises, have attended a few seasonal retreats, as well as the occasional debate and karaoke night. Under the close guidance and mentorship of Father Gerson, Brother Dan and Hunter, the group continues to inspire each other and grow deeper in their friendships and faith, one Friday at a time.”

