

WELCOME: Christmas is fast approaching. We would like to express our thanksgiving for all your help and support for our mission. May the birth of the infant King bring you and your family peace and joy!

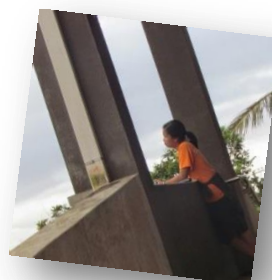
BBC CONGRESS

BBC is not the TV producer but stands for “Bulilit (Kids) Barkadahan (Youth) Congress”. It was held in Tagaytay, the Verbum Dei center of Evangelization on Mission Sunday, October 19, 2014. The different activities included talks, dynamics and games as well as the Holy mass and fun activities for the participants. This is the first time the community here in the Philippines embarked on this kind of Congress for the whole family! We came in one place but divided into three groups: Kids from

7 to 12 years old / Teenagers / Parents. It was a day filled of collaborating with each other trying to find out how we can respond to the call of God to be HIS SMILE for the WORLD! It was in celebration of WORLD MISSION SUNDAY! We are all missionaries in where God places us.

YOUTH VOCATIONS RETREAT

Courageous young men and women from Manila, Quezon City, Tagaytay, Cebu, and Cagayan de Oro took the time to listen to God's call for their life. The theme was “Take off your sandal for you are on Holy Ground” (from Exodus 3:5) and it was held from Oct 31 to Nov 2, 2014. This is part of a series of Vocational Retreats for young people.



ONE LOVE OVERNIGHT RECOLLECTION

“One Love” was the theme of the overnight recollection we had on November 7 and 8 with UST students in our Verbum Dei Center in Tagaytay City. The 3rd year Chemistry class asked us to have this recollection as they needed to strengthen their bonds as a class. So in the middle of talks, games, songs and dynamics these young people learned that unity has only one source: Jesus. These are the words with which one of them thanked us for the experience: “We are happy that you came to our lives. That you served as a means for us to be one. So now after our activity we greet each other ‘One Love’, to remind us that we are really one!”



REACHING OUT WITH THE MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY

Helping young people grow in faith has always been part of the Verbum Dei mission, which is why we were very happy to assist the Missionaries of Charity in Tayuman, Manila in organizing a one day recollection for the youth last Nov 16, 2014. The 50 young people, mostly in the age range of 13-17 years, are participants in the Missionaries' outreach program in Manila. Planning and giving the retreat was a collaborative effort among Fr Filipe and Joel Pagsanghan from Verbum Dei, Jino, Monic and Rhea from OLLP Camarine, Marga and Sarah from Miriam College. The retreat's creative approach - using songs, dance, visuals, reflections and youth testimonies – was effective in conveying to the youth that they are loved by God, and that they are called to love back.



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YOUTH FORMATION TO POOR CHILDREN

The youth group has also been active in helping the poor and underprivileged children of the Pansol neighborhood in Quezon City, Manila. The youth spend their Saturday afternoons with the children, listening to them, having fun and arranging various human and spiritual formations to help the children grow in body, mind and spirit. An integral growth and formation!



VERBUM DEI AT THE WORK PLACE

The Verbum Dei charism found its way again into the work place last December 06, 2014. One hundred fifteen (115) employees of RMR Electric Corp. attended their first ever Advent Recollection. Under the theme, “And God came to His own people...” (see John 1:11), Fr. Filipe guided the attendees in their search for the one true life treasure, Love, in the work place. Speaking in Tagalog (local dialect), he easily connected with the group and conveyed God's message of love and service to others. It was a spiritually enlightening morning that included confession, reflection and sharing. It fittingly ended with the Mass.



PRE-DISCIPLESHIP PROMISE

Having journeyed with us in the Charism Verbum Dei and having spent a day of retreat, 8 teens and a college student had their pre-discipleship promise to take an initial step to be a disciple. It was during the Sunday mass in Verbum Dei Chapel, Tagaytay City. “I promise to follow Jesus as part of Verbum Dei Family through daily prayers, living and sharing the word of God,” Joyce said, one of the teens who made the promise.



ADVENT RETREAT

Our annual Advent retreat was a much awaited event. There were 71 participants overall from all walks of life. Together we deepened on the importance of waiting. Various biblical characters were chosen and the meditations centered on how they waited for God's time. And so we stay awake this Advent to be watchful for all the wonderful things that are waiting for us if only we are humble in seeking God's details of love in the everyday ordinary moments!



"FOR YOU, FOR THEM"

We are looking forward to welcome our Verbum Dei sister, Maeve Heaney, who will host a concert for us on 31 January, 2015. Maeve is currently assigned in Australia as a Lecturer in Theology and Music and this will be her first visit to Philippines. The concert is a fund-raising event for the new apostolate center which we hope to construct in Pasig.



Verbum Dei
presents a fundraising concert

FOR YOU, FOR THEM

a night of music and inspiration

SR. MAEVE HEANEY

*Verbum Dei Missionary
Lecturer in theology
Australian Catholic University*

For tickets or inquiries, contact

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**ALBERTUS MAGNUS AUDITORIUM
UST EDUCATION BUILDING
ESPAÑA, MANILA
JANUARY 31, 2015
6:00 PM**

"A SAVIOR IS BORN" Luke 2:10

Every Christmas, we are invited to touch its very essence—the birth of Jesus, our Savior! And truth is so rich that words alone are not enough to proclaim it to all peoples. As an evangelizing community, Verbum Dei creatively uses art to share this wonderful message to everyone. This unique Verbum Dei art figurine of Baby Jesus is originally made by Sr. Asunción Gomila, FMVD in Spain. In the Philippines, the Formation Course community is making it available to more people as a fund-raising activity. This is to offer a sentimental Christmas gift to families and be able to share the person of Jesus. Proceeds of this will help in the formation of new missionaries to become Verbum Dei Missionaries for the world!

**Merry
Christmas!**

