



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
VERBUM DEI CATHOLIC
MISSIONARY FAMILY
CEBU CITY

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Welcome: This is the first edition of our newsletter here in Cebu City. We pray and hope that this newsletter can give you updates and good news from your Verbum Dei Family. If you have comments and suggestions, visit us at our website: verbumdeicebu.weebly.com



National Family Encounter 2013

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. Re y 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.

Outreach for Typhoon Yolanda victims in Northern Cebu



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. Together as a Family, we organized a number of trips and outreach activities to help the people especially in the affected areas of Northern Cebu. With the generous help from people nationally and internationally, we were able to bring basic goods to the people. We even organized a Christmas Family Day wherein we spent our Christmas celebration with the people in those areas.

First Verbum Dei Family Local Assembly

Last January 25-26, 2014 was the first Verbum Dei Local Assembly in Cebu with the theme: “This is my Family – Verbum Dei.” It was held in our Retreat house in Banawa, Cebu City. The Verbum Dei Family was gathered to present to each other the different groups and committees and to evaluate together the past years. It was also a time to pray together and to project the future of the community as a Family.



Easter Encounter 2014



On April 17-20, 2014 at the Sto. Niño Spirituality Center, Barangay Tolo-tolo, Consolacion Cebu was held the Easter Semi-silent Retreat with the theme: "Courage! I have conquered the world!" The event brought together new people including the members of the Community to experience and celebrate together in a meaningful way the Holy week and the Easter Triduum. There were talks and activities catered to different crowds of people making us one to the experience of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection.



National Disciples' Retreat 2014

Every year, the more committed members of the community, have their annual Spiritual Exercises. This year was a National event and was held at the Jesuit Retreat House, Malaybalay, Bukidnon last May 1-5, 2014. The theme of the retreat was: "Share the Joy of the Gospel" based on the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis – *Evangelii Gaudium*. Disciples from different Verbum Dei communities all over Philippines gathered in that special event to pray together and deepen their discipleship with Christ.

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