

# Tambuli NEWSLETTER

A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION

OCT 2015



## FAMILY OF FAITH Annual Planning Weekend



The Annual Planning of the Community's direction for the coming year was held from evening of September 18 until noon of September 20, 2015.

A total of 32 brothers and sisters, leaders of the community in different capacities, attended the weekend at a new venue: Fellowship Deaconry Ministries in Basking Ridge, NJ.

On Friday, we started the evening with a rundown of the schedule. To help us unwind from the week's burdens and to prepare our hearts and minds for a more serious pursuit, Corinne led us to a getting-to-know-more-of-you game.

After an early breakfast on Saturday, we proceeded with the task at hand. Divided into five groups, we reflected first on what God may be assigning to us as a community for the coming year. Prior to this day, we were encouraged to read and contemplate on all the inspired words through prophecies, readings and/or senses from the Lord which were spoken at the community gatherings during the past year. Thereupon,

each group offered their own gist of God's idea on what we ought to tackle to continue His work.

Equipped with the five summaries, by noon, the Community Council (CC) and the Women Leaders Team (WLT) retreated in a room to discern further what exactly is God's message expressed as a theme for the year 2016. The Lord says, "Rejoice and Let My Glory Shine." Surprisingly for this year, the words came quick.

Fittingly, Pope Francis, in his homily at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 and Bishop Bob Barron in his keynote speech to the World Meeting of Families commenced with the very same message in Philippians 4:4. By the power of the Holy Spirit, God delivers His message to His people even at different places and times.

After lunch, furnished with hardcopies of the Action Plan from the past year, each group was allocated to

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evaluate one each of the five components of community; i.e., Handling Community Growth, Having a Stable Community Pattern of Life, Strengthening Our Way of Life, Children and Youth, and Underway B Requirements (of Sword of the Spirit) and Government.

Based on each group's final report, we plotted out what additional activities to undertake to accomplish our goals. More prayers from the CC and WLT will happen and before the year ends, the complete schedule of events and activities for next year will be disseminated to all the members.

Praise and thank the Lord for modern technology. Our lives have been greatly relieved and we had more time to relax, pray, fellowship, and have fun together.

The Sunday following, after celebrating mass at a nearby church, our Senior Coordinator, Cecil Penson, wrapped up the weekend, revealing the 2016 theme to the rest of the community leaders. We all strongly felt God's presence within our midst and once again in unison heard His voice.

Brothers and sisters in the Family of Faith, once more God has spoken to us leaders in our mountain experience. Let us heretofore, as a whole community, heed the call of St. Junipero Serra, *Siempre Adelante!*

-By Teya David



## Mid-Year Evaluation Meeting

The Community Council (CC) and the Women's Leadership Team (WLT) came together last July 11 for their annual Mid-Year evaluation meeting in one of the small rooms at the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church Basement in Linden, NJ. Present for the Council were Cecil Penson, Nilo Natural, Danny Farrales, Eric De Jesus, and Medel Guevarra. The WLT sisters present were Menchie Natural, Puring Penson, Teya David, Mikmik Farrales, and Tita Alday. The day started with breakfast, prayers and a short talk and encouragement from our Senior Coordinator. Kuya Cecil's message centered on Working and Serving Together in Love and Trust. The group proceeded then to discuss and assess/evaluate various aspects of Community life: status of the Community Action Plan, the top priorities that need to be addressed, "diagnosis" of Community life, what went well and what needs to improve in Community. There were also discussions on the Status change criteria for FOF to become an Underway-B Community member of the Sword of the Spirit (FOF is currently an Underway-A member of SOS). Lastly, the group discussed the Community's stand and approach to current issues including possible modification to the Elements of Good Membership. Overall, it was a good and productive day for the Council brothers and the WLT sisters. They hope to have more time next year in their Mid-Year meeting for group retreat and fellowship.

-By Medel Guevarra



## Women's Tea Time

Last July 18<sup>th</sup>, the women of FOF gathered together at the Alicante home in North Plainfield, to spend time with one another – to have fun as friends, as sisters. After sharing good laughs over breakfast, some of the women taught us how to crochet. That was the first time for me. I had to learn how to hold the hook and the yarn. They had to show me how to do the stitches. I was able to do a few chain stitches and then it was time to stop.

At the end of the day, prizes were given away – crocheted items from the generous sisters.

I was challenged to come up with something. After days of doing and undoing stitches, seeking help and taking directions from several sisters, I was able to finish half the spool of yarn. Not quite done, I had to go to the store to buy more thread for my planned project. I took with me the label that came with the yarn. According to my instructors, that would help me find the exact yarn I needed. But even with it at hand, it took me a long time to look for 'my' yarn. A store personnel was kind enough to explain to me what the words, letters, and numbers on the label mean. It turned out that I had kept the wrong label.

I am done with my first project. The finished product isn't the nicest but it was a good one according to my standards. I'll be able to use it this winter. I am on my second project and I have bought more yarn for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

Kudos to the one who came up with this idea of fun fellowship! You were successful in making me enjoy crocheting. I know other FOF sisters share this sentiment. *-By Tita Alday*



## “Speak the Truth in Love”

*Last July 26, during our second Community gathering, Father Manolo Punzalan spoke of the Catholic Church's stand on same-sex marriage and what our response should be. Following is a brief summary of the talk.*

The ever-changing world around us does not change who God is and what He calls us to do. Though opinions and government laws have changed, the Catholic Doctrines have not.

God created man and woman so that they may be united in conjugal love and procreate.

Therefore, we uphold marriage sacred and is between man and woman only as it was meant to be. It remains that marriage between the same sex, and the homosexual act, is sin.

As Christians, we are to speak the truth in love and love always based on truth. Jesus eating with the prostitute and tax collectors is a compelling reminder on how we should relate with those who are oppose to where the Catholic Church stands.

*-By Puring Penson*

*(Fr. Manolo Punzalan is the Associate Pastor of the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Maplewood, NJ)*

## People Of God Summer Camp

*Last July 19-25, eligible COF members attended a week-long summer camp in Emlenton, Pennsylvania. One of our campers has this to share.*

Last July 19, I attended the People of God's summer camp. The theme for this year is "Run the Race". On Wednesday night, the boys and girls had this thing called the Gathering for Christ. This was when we prayed for each other; specifically, our cabin mates. Before Praise and Worship, we had Bible Study. Bible Study time was when we talked about the theme for the day and discussed some things that God spoke to us about. Sixth graders were supposed to go to a canoe trip but unfortunately, the river was twice as fast as it was the day before and plus it was 4 feet high. So instead, we went to a train tunnel built many years ago. Then we went hiking and swam in a stream and got ice cream. The more significant parts about POG summer camp were being closer to God, and meeting and getting to know each other especially my butterfly cabin mates! Lastly, just because it was my last year as a camper doesn't mean I stop running the race for God. *Titos and Titas*, let us run the race together!

*-By Phoebe Pilapil*



## Post-High School Send-Off



Starting college life can be an exciting and daunting experience. To help our college-bound children in their transition, the Post-HS ministry had a send-off/orientation activity on August 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Alicante's home in North Plainfield NJ. Our very own college students, Pam Farrales and Meeko Natural, gave them a glimpse of what to expect and the pitfalls that they may get into. Our prayers and best wishes go to the class of 2015, Bianca Abrera, Angel Escudro, Geeya Guevarra, Arianne Joson, Pam Pilapil, Gabe Natural and Bernadette Rutz, as they embark on their college journey.

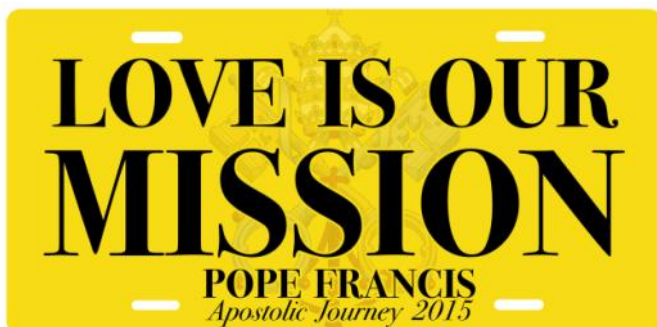
*-By Myrla de Guzman*

## A Weekend With Pope Francis

On the weekend of Sept 25, 2015, the FOF single women along with friends went to see Pope Francis in Central Park, NY and Philadelphia. The pilgrimage in NY entailed long commute, long walks, long wait in security line, sitting on the ground, using porta-potties, bringing your own lunch and few bottled water. It was all worth our time and sacrifice when we saw the Holy Father even for just a few minutes. We felt blessed and spiritually refreshed.

Our experience in Philadelphia was more satisfying because it included a Papal Mass. We (myself, Bekah, Cherry, Debbie, Mell, Ted and this time with Lissa) took a chartered bus, arranged by the Diocese of Metuchen, from St Augustine Church. The Diocese also handed us red zone tickets so we could enter the area closer to the stage. Father Bob of St Augustine Parish provided breakfast, lunch, and bottled water for all the passengers. We also had wonderful bus captains who made the trip well organized for 40+ passengers. The bus has a toilet, which was a great bonus for our trip. God knows our concerns and He addressed them. From the bus parking lot, we took a subway, walked more than a mile and stood in the long line for more than two hours to get inside the Benjamin Parkway. We were able to see the Holy Father much closer during his motorcade along the parkway. The Papal Mass was beautiful and grace-filled. We thank God that we were able to receive Communion. We were so blessed to sit next to the Dominican Sisters from Nashville, Tennessee as they sang so beautifully.

Even though the 2-day pilgrimage was tiring, the experience of being near Pope Francis made me feel God's loving presence and mercy to His people. I know our presence in New York and Philadelphia gave witness to other people of our love and support to the Holy Father and the World Meeting of Families. I also praise and thank God for the gift of sisterhood. The loving, generous, and caring sisters made the journey fun and endurable. *-By Agnes Margallo*



## Family Day 2015

On August 15, 2015, members of the Family of Faith community and their families and friends gathered once again at Thompson Park in Monroe NJ for their annual Family Day celebration.

This year's colors were Yellow and Blue – the colors of the lovable Minions. This year's captains were Anton and Paolo Alicante, and Pam Farrales for the Yellow team, and Ivan Yorobe, Jason Wan, Pam Farrales, and Geeya Guevarra for the Blue team. After the morning prayers, the day was opened, and the Early Bird point was given to the Blue team – they had the most number of attendees by 9 AM. **Yellow – 0, Blue – 1**

First game up was volleyball. The Yellow team dominated at the start and took the first set. The Blue team woke up in the second set and triumphed. The third set was very close but in the end the Yellow team won with superb serving. **Yellow – 1, Blue – 1**

The sun was already out in its glory, which made the morning warmer, when the basketball game started. This did not affect at all the skills of the brothers who played. The blue team led the game at half time and continued on to win the game. **Yellow – 1, Blue – 2**

The shootout relay was for the women and youth only. Lined-up, one at a time, each player tried to shoot the ball for a point. It showcased some good shooters from both groups. In the end, the blue team was victorious. **Yellow – 1, Blue – 3**

Lunch time! After prayers, the community feasted on potluck food brought by the members themselves to share. Chicken, fish, beef, pork, sushi, and vegetables

were enjoyed by all, with Filipino-style drinks – ‘*sago't gulaman*’, melon, and ‘*sago't gulaman*’. Desserts were plentiful.

After lunch, while some of the members were doing siesta time, the children had their relay game. The youngsters in yellow carried their team to victory this time. **Yellow – 2, Blue – 3**

The women's relay race came next. The women had to do dress-up, hula hoop and run one at a time. The Yellow team won! **Yellow – 3, Blue – 3**

Next relay was for the men. With borrowed ideas from the Spartan Race, the men did a mix of sand bag carry, burpees, run, and more burpees. It was a fast and tight race which the Blue team won by a hair's breadth. **Yellow – 3, Blue – 4**

The annual Family Day won't be complete without the Watermelon-eating relay. Players bit, chewed, and swallowed their portions to finish to the judges' content. It was a filling race which the Yellow team won. **Yellow – 4, Blue – 4**

To break the tie, the team color with the most number at the end of the day was given the extra point. **Yellow – 4, Blue – 5**

The day ended with the community picture, closing remarks from our coordinator, and closing prayer. As always, it was a great day of fun, fellowship, and sportsmanship!

-By Ed de Guzman



## Post-High School Hike

Our Post-High School (PHS) group had a strenuous, but definitely fun, activity last September 12, 2015 at the Holmdel Park. Pam Pilapil, Geeya Guevarra, and Gabe Natural participated in a 5-kilometer hike along the different trails available at the park. Our hikers made stops along the way to do “Spartan-like” training activities put together by Roy Rubio & Vicen Cabangon. In support, the group was joined by brothers and sisters Ted Abarientos, Arnold Alday, Yen Alday, Joel and Ed De Guzman. It was a good day to explore the park and spend time with our PHS group as all three just started their freshman year in college.

The hike ended with a hearty lunch prepared by Myrta De Guzman. It was a feast enjoyed by a famished team on a perfect day for a picnic. We thank the Lord for blessing this activity and this time of fellowship.

- By Yen Alday



**HOW** good and pleasant it is  
when God's people *live together*



*Psalm 133:1*

**in unity.**

"TAMBULI" is a Filipino word for horn or trumpet.

## ABOUT US



The Family of Faith (FOF) is a Catholic Charismatic Community based in New Jersey, USA. We are a community of lay people (married couples, singles, youth and children) that seeks and actively participates in the Church's mission to the world. We stand and work for: Conversion to Christ and

Christian maturity, love and worship of God, Christian personal relationships and Community, daily life in Christian character, commitment to Evangelization, promotion of Christian unity, and defense of the Gospel. Through a life of prayer, worship, service and mutual support we seek to bring the light of Christ to the world.


FOF is a member community of Christ the King Association (Association of Catholic Communities) and Sword of the Spirit— [swordofthespirit.net](http://swordofthespirit.net) (Ecumenical Association of Christian Communities)

The Family of Faith is a registered 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit Organization.

To know more about us and our various activities, visit our website: <http://fofnj.org>

### Social Media connection:

 <http://facebook.com/fofnj>

 <http://twitter.com/fofnj>

For inquiries, email us at: [fofadmin@gmail.com](mailto:fofadmin@gmail.com)

"So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all, but especially to those who belong to the family of the faith."

*Galatians 6:10*

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It calls the people of God for an assembly and prayer.

Like the "tambuli", our newsletter calls us to gather around God who makes His message known.

"I AM THE LORD,  
YOUR GOD,  
COME, FOLLOW ME  
AND LIVE."

FAMILY OF FAITH 2015 THEME

### *Our Mission and Vision*

Our **mission** is to live a life of prayer and holiness, take on the ways of God and become witnesses of God's love to others. We are committed to love and serve one another and the greater Church.

Our **vision** is to be a Catholic Covenant Community with a common way of life that expresses God's truth and word in action.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**December 6 : Community Gathering, 3:30-5:30pm** at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church Basement Linden, NJ.

**December 13 : Community Gathering and Christmas Celebration, 3:30-6:30pm** at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church Basement Linden, NJ.

Please check our website for more information on these and other events.