

Tambuli NEWSLETTER

APR 2016



A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION

EASTER AND OUR NEW LIFE

Behold,
I make
all things
new. Rev. 21:5



Easter is all about new life. You could also say that Easter is all about “NEW” or “newness”. The fifth Sunday of Lent gives us Isaiah 4:19, “Behold, I am doing a NEW thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?” The fourth Sunday of Lent gives us 2 Cor. 5:17-18, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a NEW Creation; the old has passed away, behold the NEW has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.” It’s a NEW Covenant... NEW Testament.

The last book of the Bible, Revelation, continues the theme of newness in Chapter 21:5, “And he who sat upon the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things NEW!’” Earlier, in verse 2, John sees the “NEW Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

(Continued on page 2)



As part of the observance of the Holy Week, our Community held Seder Meals or Christian Passover Services in small groups. This celebration is patterned after the Passover feast celebrated every year by the Jewish people since the time of Moses. For Christians, this Passover is a foreshadowing of the deliverance of God’s people from sin and death which is fulfilled in Christ’s sacrificial death and victorious resurrection. Our observance of Passover teaches us the true significance of Christ’s redeeming sacrifice and provides a fitting way to celebrate the events which have brought us freedom. The Seder Meal celebration gave us a fitting time, as God’s people redeemed by Christ, to celebrate

with joy and thanksgiving God’s gift of salvation in praise and worship, festive meals, and fellowship. It also gave us the opportunity to open our homes and be witnesses of God’s work of love and mercy in our lives to others.



SEDER MEALS

“Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who give us joy as we kindle the light for the Feast of the Passover of Christ.”

Rejoice, Christ is Risen!

Easter is a time to rejoice. Easter, in any language, is celebrated with joy all over the world. We rejoice because Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again!

Tagalog: Pasko ng Muling Pagkabuhay
 Chinese: Fùhuó Jié (literally "Resurrection Festival")
 Korean: Buhwalchol, literally "Resurrection Festival"
 Polish: Wielkanoc
 Italian: Pasqua
 Ukrainian: Великдень (Velykden) or Паска (Paska)
 Hungarian: Húsvét:(literally "taking, or buying meat")
 Persian: عيد پاک (literally "Chaste Feast")
 French: Pâques
 Lakota: Woekicetuanpetu (literally "Resurrection Day")

The Resurrection is the heart of Christianity, the ultimate climax of a drama that started on Ash Wednesday. Without resurrection there would not be Christianity. We would have no sense of what salvation is and no connection to God, no purpose or reason for life, no hope and no reason for community.

Thank God for the Family of Faith. This year we have two very good reasons to celebrate and rejoice further. First is the exhortation of our 2016 theme, "Rejoice, and let My glory shine." In every aspect of our community, family and daily life let us celebrate Easter by exuding the joy that manifests the risen Christ

Second, Pope Francis announced an extraordinary Jubilee to start at the end of the year, which will be dedicated to a theme close to the pontiff's heart: mercy. God has always been a God of grace and Easter highlights that trait.

(Continued from page 1... "Easter and Our New Life")

Most of us want to have "normal" marriages and "normal" families. But normal is DEAD! At least one half of new (normal) marriages fail. "Normal" families are divided with multiple sets of parents and grandparents.

Easter is about NEW (not normal): new creation, new wine, new Jerusalem, new approaches. 2 Cor.5 16-17, "From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view...therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a NEW creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come."

In this holy season, we turn our backs on the old, the "normal", to take on the NEW. Let us resolve to repair and heal all strained relationships as we take on the "ministry of reconciliation". Mercy, not revenge; forgiveness, not indifference or the 'cold shoulder'. Also, let us raise up our children to be Ambassadors for Christ, who embrace the ministry of reconciliation.

Easter is offering us a chance to reset broken relationships as we celebrate the NEW life we have in Christ. - **By Bob Tedesco**

"Kuya" Cecil Penson

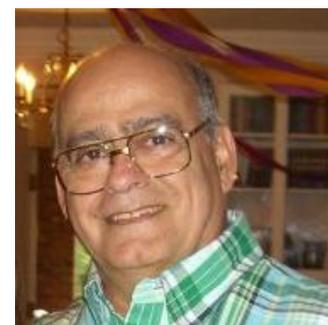
Senior Coordinator of the Family of Faith Community



"This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Tim. 1:9-10). Easter reminds us that "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8). "Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's Mercy". With these words, Pope Francis invites everyone to take part in a special Jubilee Year of Mercy.

So what exactly is "mercy" and what does it have to do with the Easter season? Mercy is neither just more than pity nor is it simply sparing someone the punishment that they deserve. Mercy is a response to suffering - when mercy encounters suffering, it allows us the grace to endure. Jesus' resurrection from the dead proved that the physical laws of life and death have no power over Him. We, too, at the appointed time, can have victory over death and the grave through Jesus Christ just as He said.

Easter is a time of remembrance and celebration; a time to reflect and rejoice; a significant event that reminds us that only God can bring life out of death. Praise God! From my family to yours, have a blessed and joy-filled Easter season.



Bob Tedesco is past President of the North American Region of the Sword of the Spirit and a founder of the People of God community in Pittsburgh, PA.

He is currently the Regional Missionary Coordinator for the Family Of Faith.

Christmas Celebration

The Family of Faith Community had a joyful celebration of our Lord's coming and birth last Dec. 13, 2015 at the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church Basement. The theme of our celebration was **"Make room for the King! Let us enthrone and adore Him!"** It focused on welcoming Christ into our hearts and allowing Him to be at the center and throne as King and Lord.

Our Christmas gathering started with a solemn time of praise and worship. The children of the Community participated in the Call to Worship by reading a series of advent prayers and short exhortations. During the praise and worship time, each member of the Community (including the children and youth) offered their symbolic gifts to the baby Jesus in the manger. These symbolic gifts were in the form of heart shape cutouts where each person wrote what they are offering to Jesus to make Him the center and King of their hearts. Fr. Ed Jocson (Spiritual adviser for FOF) and Kuya Cecil Penson (FOF Senior Coordinator) gave their inspirational Christmas messages to the Community.

Other highlights of the celebration were skit presentation by the Children of Faith, song numbers (from mother-daughter and father-daughter duets) and song presentations from our Youth Band. It also happened to be the birthday of Kuya Cecil whom the whole community honored and prayed for. Finally, to close the Christmas gathering, the whole community got into an action dance to the music of "Joy to the World!" We praise God for the joy that He has blessed our Community with – the joy of His salvation and the joy of being with one another. (MG)



Community Council Retreat

The Community Council gathered for a retreat at the Fellowship Deaconry in Basking Ridge on the weekend of January 15, 2016 to listen and examine what the Lord is saying to us as council members. The talks were reminders to not harden our hearts when we hear God's call to deeper devotion and more radical discipleship, to be obedient and watch out for pride.

As council members, we were asked to bring each other's weaknesses to the Lord. We were encouraged to surrender areas of our lives that need conviction and healing, and to do our task not by our might but His Spirit.

The retreat once again gave us the time and opportunity to deepen our relationship with one another not only as servants in the Community Council but above all as brothers in the Lord. We thank God for this grace and gift of serving Him together.



- by Dan Farrales



Evangelization Workshop

Last January 30, 2016, the Community had an Evangelization Workshop during our Community Gathering with Bro. Allen Marquez from the Brotherhood of Hope Community as the main speaker.

In his talk, Bro. Allen brought us once again to the basics and essence of Evangelization. He reminded us of our basic call and mission, as part of the Church's mission to make known the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our words and deeds. In other words, to be His living witnesses to the world. He stressed the fact that the Church exists in order to evangelize (*Pope Paul VI, Evangelii Nuntiandi*). Bro. Allen also shared some practical pointers and steps in sharing the Gospel and personal testimony. After his talk, the whole Community were grouped into pairs to share with one another their personal testimonies.

Bro. Allen serves in Brotherhood Campus Ministries in different capacities, currently helping out at Rutgers University and lives in New Brunswick.



Community Day

The Community held its "Community Day" for previous Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS) graduates last Dec 5, 2015. There were two talks given that provided them an orientation and introduction to Community life in general and FOF Community life in particular. There was also a personal sharing from a sister on her life in Community. It was an opportune time for fellowship and getting to know more brothers and sisters from Community. The Community Day also included fun games for all present. It concluded with a Lord's Day celebration and dinner.



Men's Breakfast

Last Feb. 6, I attended the Men's Breakfast which FOF regularly holds as a way to feed our bodies and souls. Ray Rutz, a brother from the People of Hope Community, was the guest speaker. The theme of Ray's talk was "Evangelization in the Workplace." Taking from Pope Francis' "Joy of the Gospel", Ray emphasized that a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ is the "foundation for all evangelism." Unless we genuinely believe and live out the gospel, we cannot transmit it. In describing our Christian life and our life of evangelism, Ray used the analogy of a fish which by its nature is able to breath underwater. We, as men, by our nature, cannot. We often go above the waters and gasp for air. And, in a sense, evangelization for us is like that. We, often times, give up or "gasp for air." We tend to not stay in grace very long. That is why, as Ray mentioned, we need the "super natural" grace of God in our life. What Jesus is calling us to is transformation. He wants us to have "grace gills" and "fins of the fruit of the Holy Spirit" - to be transformed into this nature and swim in the ocean of God's grace. This is what a renewed life in Christ is like.

I was sitting at the back and saw a lot of heads nodding in agreement. His opening lines were so relevant that it set the tone for lively question and answer portion afterwards. It had elicited quite a number of sentiments and opinions which I thought was part of a



healthy and an ongoing growth in our faith in God. I have learned from this talk that evangelization is a process, not an event. It is a process, as outlined in Sherry Weddell's book *"Forming Intentional Disciples"*, that involves Initial Trust – Spiritual Curiosity – Spiritual Openness – Spiritual Seeking – and finally Intentional Discipleship.

I have been to numerous Evangelization talks and workshops but, I have to admit, that I am still 'tweaking' in my approach to evangelization at my workplace. Ray encouraged us that we should continue our way of life with Jesus Christ in spite of the hardships. When the tough gets going, that is when we start to grow gills. Let's practice, and soon enough, we won't even notice that we are already swimming under His grace. - *By Bogs Bugarin*



Women's Event

The first of 4 scheduled FOF women's events in 2016 was held last February 27th at the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church basement.

Tita Alday's talk revolved around the mercy of God. Citing a few Bible stories, she noted how Thomas' stubborn unbelief was dealt with patience and how Peter's weakness was met with mercy.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son illustrates the merciful patience of God who constantly waits for the return of the wandering son. Trust in God's patience should give us the courage to return to Him, however many mistakes and sins we may have.

The story of Zacchaeus shows how God's mercy operates. He reaches out to us, however small we think we are. He meets us where we are and if we allow Him to love us (because He does), it will urge us to turn toward others.



We were reminded that prayer must enjoy primacy. Intimacy with the Trinity is the heart of all we do and are. The grace that the Father gives in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit will make saints out of sinners.

The love we receive is the love that we give. The more we unite ourselves to Jesus and the more He becomes the center of our lives, the more we are led out of ourselves and drawn to others.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5, "Women's Event")

Suggested things that we can do in celebration of the Jubilee:

Contemplate Mercy – God gave Himself to us without recompense

Don't judge or condemn – we can only see what happens on the surface

Forgive – release the poison of resentment that builds up inside of us

Listen to God's Word - let us grow in understanding of mercy so we can practice it

Go on Pilgrimage – special graces are granted when we pass through a Holy Door

Recognize the Need for Mercy – restore human dignity

Practice the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy

Change our hearts – the ultimate goal of the Year of Mercy

In community, we can make the most of this Holy Year by allowing God's mercy to touch our lives, responding to His mercy by being merciful to others, and fully living our call. Tita continued on to give an outlined summary of what we are called to do, and, more importantly, what we are called to be. Simply, we allow God to act.

The event facilitator, Teya David, led us in meditation on the Jesus Prayer before we ended : *"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."*

- By Cheng Cabangon



Daddy-Daughter Night

The Family of Faith hosted a Daddy-Daughter Night last March 5 at the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church Basement. It was a special night for fathers and daughters to bond together and spend a night of fun, games, love and memories.

Kuya Cecil Penson, Senior Coordinator of Family of Faith opened the night and welcomed everyone including a number of invited fathers and daughters from the St. Elizabeth parish and friends of Community members. A total of 20 handsome daddies and 25 lovely daughters attended the special event. The daughters' ages range from 5 to 18.

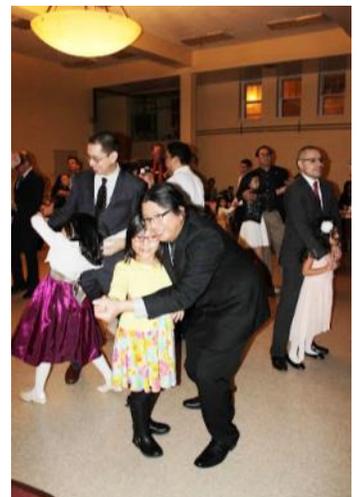
Fr. Ed Jocson, Pastor of the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church in Linden and Spiritual adviser for the Family of Faith, rendered a moving song—"In My Daughter's

Eyes" that was the first dance song for the fathers and their daughters.

There were lots of fun games for both fathers and daughters. The highlight of the night, of course, was the daddy-daughter dance. Towards the end, there was line-dancing for everyone. The dance music was provided by one of our Youth—Ivan.

There was also a photo booth for everyone to take and bring home their pictures and memories of this special night. The photo booth was set up and provided by Bogs.

The whole event— program, decoration and food - was prepared and organized by the Children Formation Ministry of the Family of Faith.



Children’s Day of Dedication

Every year, the Community holds a Day of Dedication of our children with the purpose of presenting them to the Lord and renewing our commitment as parents to raise them in the ways of God – pleasing to Him and serving and loving Him with their lives. The whole Community renews its commitment, too, to help and support parents in raising the children in God’s ways and providing a “healthy” Christian environment where they can thrive and grow.

This year, the Children’s Day of Dedication was held during the March 13th Community Gathering. Parents and other community members prayed over each child for the outpouring of God’s grace. To keep our focus on the day’s theme, Rex, our Youth Group leader, led the whole gathering. Eric gave a short talk on Evangelization in the Family. Kuya Cecil, our Senior Coordinator, led the Community Prayer of Dedication. Our Youth group provided the Praise & Worship music.

Rex formally presented the new additions to the Youth Group — Danna Pilapil, Sophie Wan, Keena Guevarra, Isabella Castillo, and Toni Escudro (not present at the time). Christina (group leader for the girls) presided in praying over them as they embark on this new phase of their lives in Community.

Within an allotted time, some of our youth shared their personal experiences of God’s goodness and love. It was a delight to see the grace of God working in their lives and their awareness of His love and constant presence. Praise be to God for the gift of our children!



“Bestow upon us the courage to set them apart for You, conformed by Your holiness. Pour out Your grace upon us that we, as a community, provide a place for our children where they will be transformed by Your love.”

Lenten Recollection

Last March 19, the whole Community had its Day of Recollection at the St. Cecilia Catholic Church in Monmouth Junction, NJ. It's been a while since we had our retreat or recollection as a whole community. This gave us a fitting time to meditate and reflect on God's love and mercy during the season of Lent (a day before the Holy Week) and in this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. The Day of Recollection's theme centered on receiving God's mercy and showing God's mercy to others.

The day started with a time for praise, worship and listening to God through prophetic words and inspired readings. There were two talks in the morning, a time for personal reflection and group discussions.

The first talk (Receiving God's Mercy) was given by Medel. In it, he spoke about some of the obstacles to receiving God's mercy, namely: a loss of the sense of sin, pride, unforgiveness, fear, selective confession, discouragement, and doubt. He also spoke about the purpose of God's mercy for us as disciples of Christ and as a community - first, in the light of the Scripture passage in 1 Peter 1:3-4 and second, in the light of our Community theme for this year ("Rejoice and let My glory shine!").

In the second talk ("Be Merciful as your Father in Heaven is Merciful"), given by Danny, he discussed the ways of being a living sign of God's mercy – thru concrete and external acts of mercy (Works of Mercy) and service. All of these in imitation of God's mercy to us. Dan also spoke about having a life of mercy; i.e., developing a lifestyle built upon the mercy of God and giving this mercy to others. He shared some practical steps towards this.

In the afternoon, we had the Lenten Penitential Service which we do every year as a community. This was led by our Senior Coordinator, Kuya Cecil.

While the retreat was on-going, the children (led by Tet) were also having their own session on receiving and showing God's mercy in a separate room. They listened to short talks, did some activities (crafts), performed their own mini, "silent" skits all focused on this same theme.

We were also blessed by the presence of some families and friends who were able to join our Community in this Day of Recollection. Through it all, our hearts were filled with awe and gratefulness for the gift of God's mercy to us through Christ. We hope and trust in His grace to help us be merciful as our Father in heaven is merciful. 



“I am convinced that the whole Church will find in this Jubilee the joy needed to re-discover and make fruitful the mercy of God, with which all of us are called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time.” - *Pope Francis*

Word Gifts

Prophetic and inspired words excerpts from our Community Gatherings

“What I am sensing from the Lord is the word listen. The Lord has something to say to us. We need to listen to Him, allowing Him to speak to us in our prayer time. And listening is not the same as hearing. Listening is hearing and obeying. The true joy of the Lord comes from listening and obeying Him.” (Jan. 10)

“I sense that the Lord is telling us – My child I need you to awake. I need you to arise. Go out there and bring Me to those who need Me. Those who are not aware that I exist. Let them know that I love them. Be My joy, be My love, be My comfort. Reach out to those who are sad. Listen to those who need someone to talk to. Bring cheer to those who are sad. Hope to the despairing. I will enable you. I will give you what you need. I will give you the grace.” (Jan. 10)

“There is not enough money or material possessions that can bring us joy or happiness. Happiness is experiencing God in His kingdom. Happiness is allowing God to take away our hunger. Happiness is experiencing God as He takes away our sorrow and turns it into laughter.” (Jan. 10)

“Brothers and sisters, I sense that the Lord wants to remind us to be mindful of our ways if we wish to preserve the unity of the body. He wants us to aspire for humility, gentleness, patience and love. If ever we are lacking of these virtues, the Lord is telling us, ‘Come to me and I will fill them.’ Amen.” (Jan. 30)

“The Lord says, ‘My people, remember the mighty King David? I anointed him. He was the anointed one, to slay the giant Goliath. He fought thousands and thousands of enemies. But he fell into sin. He fell into adultery. He fell into murder. Mighty king David fell into sin because he fell away from Me.’ The Lord is reminding us...that we should always seek unity with our God. We should always seek to be close to our God. Seek to be one with our creator. Only then will we be stronger. Only then will we be pure. Only then will we have fullness of life.” (Jan. 30)

“Right now He is reminding us that He is the God of gods. He controls both heaven and earth. He knows all. And with His authority He is asking us don’t come to Me offering sacrifices of earthly things, but come to Me and offer your sacrifice of praise. And brothers I think that is what the Lord is asking us today. He is asking us a very intimate way. Just give Me your praise. Honor Me here today. Raise your hands. Use your voices. Ex-tol Me. There is no other sacrifice we can give the Lord, than to glorify He who has made us. Let us give praise to the Lord.” (Feb. 14)

“Brothers and sisters, I just sense that the Lord would like to remind us, not to receive His grace and His mercy in vain. This Lent is a time of favor, and is the best time to receive His mercy and grace. The Lord is reminding us if there is anything that is preventing Him from accomplishing His grace in us He is asking us to lay it at the foot of His cross so that He may accomplish His will for us.” (Feb. 14)

“Brothers and sisters, I sense that the Lord is telling us let us not waste this Lent. Brothers and sisters, let us take advantage of the forty days so we can get closer and come back to our Lord.” (Feb. 14)

“We can do all things through Christ who gives us strength.” (Feb. 14)

“The Lord has an invitation for us. At this moment He has an invitation into His love. I got the sense that He is asking us to be taken by His love; taken from where we are, here, in this room, from where we are, our situations, and we just lovingly indulge in the love that He is continuing to offer to us.” (Mar. 13)

“Let us claim that we are the children of God. And we are blessed and are filled with grace. That is why – amazing grace is the song that we sing.” (Mar. 13)

“The Lord is doing something out of us. He is creating something new out of us. We are His new creation. Let us forget our past. Let us not think that we are not worthy. If we have something that we have done wrong, let us confess, but the Lord is inviting us today. We have to live up to His new creation. We were made to announce His praise. We are His people He formed for Himself. Brothers and sisters, let us leave our past behind, and look forward to being God’s new creation.” (Mar. 13)

“I the Lord is doing something new in your lives. Do you perceive it? Do you? Seek Me more. Pursue Me. You are not perfect, but pursue perfection. Let go of things that prevent you from following Me. Harden not your hearts. I understand it is difficult, but where else will you go, but up to the mountain of the Lord. I will remain patient, but you need to do your part. By My grace, you can.” (Mar. 13)

“And the Lord says, you know My love for all of you. Surrender. Surrender your lives. Surrender everything, your concerns, and I will give you peace. Surrender, and I will give you peace.” (Mar. 13)



Life in SPO *by Gabe Natural*

My life has been very dynamic since becoming a part of Saint Paul's Outreach (SPO, New Jersey) and its Men's Household Program. Life in household requires adjustments and sacrifices but it also builds maturity mentally, physically, and most importantly spiritually. My experience so far, in the Men's House, has opened my eyes to show me how God wants me to live while I am in college.

The adjustments and sacrifices I made in order to live in the Men's House were significant to me, however, I felt that learning from life in household was worth the sacrifice. Two major sacrifices that I had to make both had to do with time. Household commitments changed the amount of time I would have to go home and spend time with my family, and also change the amount of time I would have to do homework and study. Although sacrifices have been made in those areas, I still find the time to go home and spend time with my family and I still have ample time to finish schoolwork and study for tests (all while getting good sleep almost every night). Adjusting to being away from family and having to truly balance my academic life with the rest of my life was significant during my first semester of college, but I felt that I was able to handle it well through constant communication with my family, time management, hard work, and prayer.

The ways I handled my adjustment to household living are also the ways I feel I have grown the most while in the Men's House. I really believe that anyone who decides to enter into household living and decides to put their best foot forward in all facets of living will thrive. I believe that I have grown mentally, physically, and spiritually in so many ways, because of the Men's House. The brothers that I live with push me to strive for excellence in everything I do, whether it is in my studies, working out, sports, household commitments (chores), or in prayer and my relationship with God. The major area of growth that I have noticed in my own life has definitely been prayer. My relationship with the Lord has been stronger than it has ever been, and the structure of Men's House and its focus on God and His mission for us has been a huge help. The daily routine of breakfast, morning prayer, school, having meals with brothers after getting back from school, working hard alongside brothers (in school, in the house, or in prayer) and just engaging in real, deep conversations with one another all builds up brotherhood and builds up men of God.

Sharings

For those wondering what a normal week in household looks like:

Mon-Thu: Breakfast (6:30am), Morning Prayers (7:00am)

Mon & Thu: Household/Outreach Dinner (6:30pm)

Monday Night Formation/Small Group (8-9:30pm)

Tuesday: Frisbee, Basketball, Volleyball

Thursday: Campus Ministry Events (Men's Night / Women's Night) (8:00-9:30pm)

Friday: Usually free to hang out with Men's House/ Women's House or students on campus

... and of course, there are chores due every Saturday!

Lord's Days: 3-4 times per semester at the Men's or Women's House

Acknowledging all there is in household, I believe it comes down to the idea that whatever you put into household is what you will get out of it. In other words, if you enter into the brotherhood, enter into good relationships with the people you meet, enter into your relationship with God, and strive for excellence just like the rest of the brothers around you; the Men's House will grow and you as an individual will grow.

I think, other than my own home, household is the best place to learn about yourself and what God wants for you. There are few places where an individual can serve while growing as a man that prioritizes, God, family, and everything else that comes after that. Household, (for me – SPO Men's House, NJ –) is one of those few places. (GN)



Women's Day of Reflection *by Gia Guevarra*

On February 27, I attended the Women's Day of Reflection sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark at the Seton Hall University. Going into the conference, I didn't know what to expect because it was my first time attending. With over 1,000 other women there, we listened to two speakers. Both speakers were incredible women with inspiring stories about God's love and mercy. The talk that struck out to me the most was given by Leah Darrow. Leah Darrow was a former model who also appeared on the reality TV show, *America's Next Top Model*. She shared with us her personal story of how she left the modeling industry and found the Lord. Listening to her story, I was amazed at how God had worked in her life. The things she learned throughout her life helped me better under-

stand my value as a daughter of God. In a world that is constantly trying to change the way you look, act, and feel, to fit into a socially accepted "norm", it is easy for people to lose their way. For women, it is especially tough as social norms have twisted the minds of young girls, making them forget their worth. In her talk, Leah repeatedly reminded us of the phrase: "made for more". I learned that as a daughter of God, I am made for so much more than whatever the world is trying to tell me or make me believe. As I continue to remind myself of this phrase, I feel comforted knowing that no matter how "cool" or attractive it may seem to look a certain way or do certain things, I am still made for more. God's plan for me is far bigger than anything the world has to offer. (GG)

Archdiocese of Newark Men's Conference *by Vanni Yorobe*

I attended my first Catholic Men's Conference together with some FOF brothers on March 5, 2016 at Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ. The event was attended by more than 1500 men, mostly from the Diocese of Newark, NJ. In the English track, the speakers were Gus Lloyd, the host of the Catholic Network's radio program "Seize the Day" and Patrick Madrid, a famous Catholic apologist and also host of "The Patrick Madrid Show" on Immaculate Radio. The talks were followed by a Eucharistic adoration, and the conference was capped off by the celebration of the Holy Mass by his Excellency himself, Archbishop John Myers.

I heard a lot of good things about attending this conference. One of the things I appreciated the most was listening to Patrick Madrid talk about his book "Why Be Catholic?" He mentioned that he was a cradle Catholic and he grew up in a conservative Catholic family. In one summer during his high school years, he started dating a girl whose parents were protestants and were very much anti-Catholic. Whenever he comes over to visit her, the protestant parent would grill him with questions about Catholic teachings and practices regarding Mary, the Saints, religious images and the like. When confronted with the tough questions, he did not have any response. Every time he's stumped, he would ask help from his dad who would then lead him to materials with responses to those very questions. He observed that every time he comes back with a response, the protestant father simply changes the subject. He realized later on that the protestant never got a suitable response for these questions being asked. Over time, during the course of that summer, he got better at researching and responding to the attacks on his faith that the grilling eventually stopped.

Not only did he grow in his appreciation for his Catholic beliefs during that summer, but he also realized that he enjoyed the process of finding out the answers to those questions, leading him to a career in Apologetics. He eventually stopped dating the girl, but he will always be grateful for her father who challenged his beliefs leading him to search for truth.

Patrick Madrid said we should all have a ready response on why we are Catholic? We can probably say we were born and raised in a Catholic family. For children, that is an acceptable response, but as we mature in age, our response to this question should also mature.

Shortly after the talk, I started asking myself the: "Why am I Catholic?" I am proud to say that I am a Catholic because my parents introduced me to the faith as a child and they constantly brought me to church during my formative years. More importantly, I believe that the Catholic Church is the institution that Jesus founded. In Matthew 16:18-19, Jesus states: "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

I place my trust in God's word. When He said "the gates of hell will not prevail against it (the Church)", it means that He will not allow the Catholic Church He had founded to be led astray. There are still a lot of things about the faith that I do not understand, but I know that as long as I stay with the Catholic Church, I will always be guided by the truth. (VY)

"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 (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

"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

Tambuli Newsletter Editorial & Design Team:

Cheng Cabangon, Marita Joson, Medel Guevarra

Contributors for this issue:

Cecil Penson, Bob Tedesco, Vanni Yorobe, Bogs Bugarin, Gabe Natural, Gia Guevarra, Dan Farrales, Medel Guevarra, Cheng Cabangon

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.

REJOICE!
AND LET MY GLORY
SHINE!

FAMILY OF FAITH 2016 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.

Access our Tambuli Newsletter issues online at: <http://fofnj.org/newsletter>

LIVING BULWARK ON-LINE MAGAZINE

WWW.SWORDOFTHESPIRIT.NET/BULWARK

