

# Tambuli NEWSLETTER

A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION

DEC 2016



## UNITY IN GOD, UNITY WITH ONE ANOTHER

On July 23, 2016, 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.

The main theme of Family Day was "Unity in God, Unity with one another." It was a day to celebrate the gift of fellowship and the unity that we enjoy as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Jon Josen and Mio Ramos co-captained the Red team; Ronnie Sia and Joseph Wan the Blue.

The above 90-degree temperature neither impaired the spirits nor affected the competitive skills of those who participated in the morning games of Mixed Volleyball, Mixed Basketball Shootout, and Men's Basketball.

Potluck lunch and desserts refueled all players and were all-out again tackling the obstacle-and-puzzle 'Survivors Challenge' race.

For the second time in a row, the 'Spartan Race' (a mix of heavy bucket carry, burpees, bear crawl, run and more burpees) was again played this year by the brothers; a less intense version was played by the sisters.

The 'PingPong-Wall Shootout' game was participated in by the little ones and the all-time favorite watermelon-eating contest capped the event.

The Blue team came out as overall winner with 650 points, thwarting the Red team's 600 points. As always, it was a great day of fun, fellowship, and sportsmanship!

*-By Vicen Cabangon*



**"Behold how good and pleasant it is..." (Psalm 133:1)**



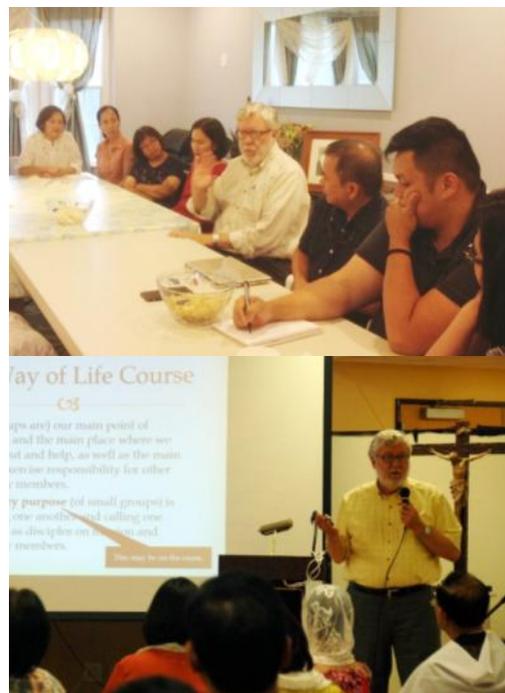
## Jerry Munk's Visit

Last July 29-31, Jerry Munk, Coordinator from the Work of Christ Community in E. Lansing, Michigan and head of the Community Building Team for the Sword of the Spirit-North America Region, visited the Family of Faith community.

The main objectives of his visit were to get to know the community more and to assess its status as a member community of the Sword of the Spirit as it moves forward to becoming an Underway-B member. Jerry had separate meetings with the leaders of the community—Council, Women's Leadership Team, Service Ministry heads, and Pastoral leaders.

Jerry also gave a talk about small groups during our Community Gathering last July 31. In his talk, Jerry emphasized the importance and blessings of small groups in the community.

It was a blessed time for the community to get to know Jerry and to get his insights and wisdom on Community life and the various aspects of our way of life. (MG)



## Music Night

The Community hosted a Music Night last August 6. The main theme was the celebration of God's mercy and love thru music and fellowship. The Music Night started with the Lord's Day celebration followed by a simple dinner. A good number of guests was in attendance. During the musical program, various members of community – children, youth and adults shared their gifts and talents to proclaim God's mercy and share their personal experience of it. Some guests were also invited to sing Christian songs that centered on the theme. It was an inspiring night to witness God's message being shared thru music and fellowship. To God alone be the glory and honor! (MG)



One of our guests was Fr. Jim Worth (middle), Pastor of the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Maplewood, NJ who sang some of his inspirational compositions.

From top left (clockwise): FOF Music Ministry, Nicole Beltran, Isabella and Gisella Castillo, Youth Band, Kyra Yorobe, David and Mary Skrzyniarz

## P.O.G. Summer Camp

Last July 24-30, five children from the Community attended the Summer Camp at the All Saints Camp in Emlenton, PA. The Camp was conducted by the People of God Community. They were Gisella, Danielle, Theresa, Kyra and Nikka. Also, two of our Youth boys—Ivan and Eliezer, participated as junior counselors.

Below are the sharings from two of the campers:

“I just completed my first year of POG Summer Camp. When I was first packing for the camp, I was wondering how it would be. It was very fun. POG helped me get closer to God through fun games, songs, prayer meetings, and the Gathering for Christ. I thank God for all of the gifts He gave me that week. I am very thankful for all the letters I received while I was in camp because it reminded me of home. Thank you all for your prayers and letters. God bless you.”

*-By Theresa Angeles*

“It was my last year attending POG camp; and since it was so, I was able to go on the canoe trip. Even though it rained by the middle of the trip, we still had so much fun!!!

The other best part in the P.O.G camp is the Gathering for Christ. It is when the counselors and the campers prayed over each other and prayed for the Holy Spirit to bless us. This year, the gifts that I asked for were Prophecy, Tongues, Patience, and Self-Control. I felt like the Holy Spirit gave me the gifts of Prophecy and Tongues that night. When our prayer leaders encouraged us to say a prayer or share bible verses from God, I went to the microphone and confidently shared God’s words. God blessed me with courage and His gift of Prophecy. During the Praise and Worship, I tried to exercise the gift of tongues. I started to say words that I know only God can understand. I was completely filled with His spirit.

I pray to God that He will continue to bless me with the courage to use His gifts and that I will practice them especially during our Gatherings.

I thank you for writing me letters and for all your prayers. Thank you to Mommy and Daddy for sending me to P.O.G. camp, and to Daddy for driving 12 hours so I will learn and experience more of God’s love for me.

More importantly, I thank God for reminding me that He is with us always; just like the P.O.G camp’s theme this year from Matthew 28:20 ‘I am with you always, even to the end of age.’” *- By Danielle De Jesus*



## Post-HS Summer Fellowship

It was a beautiful morning drive to Bergen County, New Jersey for this year’s summer Post High School fellowship. The luau-themed get together was held at the clubhouse reserved by our gracious hosts, Dan and Mik Farrales last August 13, 2016.

It was a delight to see Arianne Joson, Pam Pilapil, Gia Guevarra, Amariah Macatangay and Angelica Mowery who each had an exciting school year. We have freshmen successfully completing and surviving their first year in college, a Junior who is now preparing for the last year of her undergraduate program, and a recent graduate of nursing school. God is good!

This group was also joined by some members of our Youth Group – Joel De Guzman, Eliezer De Jesus, Ivan Yorobe and Mara Cabangon and our Post High School service team led by Myrla and Ed De Guzman. We welcomed another guest, Gretchen Vergara, who joined a joyful day of fellowship playing billiards, swimming, watching a movie in the big screen, or playing a new game called “banana peel”.

We thank the Lord for allowing us to serve and support our Post High School as they continue to honor, serve and deepen their relationship with the Lord. We pray that we become instruments to reach out more to others through this service.—*By Yen Alday*



## Youth Group Leaders' Retreat

“This is what is needed: A Church for young people, which will know how to speak to their heart and enkindle, comfort and inspire enthusiasm in it with the joy of the gospel and the strength of the Eucharist; a Church which will know how to invite and to welcome the person who seeks a purpose for which to commit his whole existence; a Church which is not afraid to require much, after having given much; which does not fear asking from young people the effort of a noble and authentic adventure, such as that of following of the Gospel”

- John Paul II, *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*, 1995

This was published a mere twelve days before I was born and yet it perfectly describes our current dilemma. The word “Church” in this quote could be easily replaced with “community” or even “Family of Faith”. We, as a community, are called to spread the incomparable joy that can only be experienced through an intimate relationship with Jesus. We are called to create a church, a community, a culture where young men and women can be supported in the adventure of following the Gospel.

We can only accomplish creating this Church that Saint Pope John Paul II called for by working together. The Children’s Formation Program and Youth Group met this past summer to discover how God is calling us to serve the young people of our community. We have found that the mission of our ministry is to meet them “in the midst of their questions”, travel with them on their journey, and help them grow and empower them in their faith.

We have a very gifted and creative group of young people. One of the ways we can empower them is to encourage them to use their gifts to serve and build the Kingdom. This does not just mean serving in music ministry. This means encouraging them to use their gifts to not only serve the community, but to serve the world. To use their gifts to spread the Good News.

We have heard the call to challenge our youth to live in mission. Some might see a group of kids simply hanging out but I see a group of men and women equipped to reach out to their peers; to reach those that we cannot. The Family of Faith spent years building them up in their faith and now it is time for them to embark on their own adventure. - *By Meeko Natural*



*The Youth Group Leaders' Retreat was held last July 29 at the Poyaoan's home and was attended by Rex & Christina Poyaoan, Meeko Natural, Gabe Natural, Gia Guevarra, Tet Guevarra, Cherry Cua, and Angelica Mowery*

## Leaders Planning Weekend

The Community Council, the Women’s Leadership Team, the Service Ministry heads and the Pastoral leaders came together for their annual planning weekend last Sept. 16-18 at the Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center.

It started with an activity on Friday night, where the participants were asked to write down on Post-it notes the memorable moments they have had in Community. It was good and inspiring to hear from brothers and sisters their good and funny experiences in the Family of Faith. All the notes were posted on a wall for everyone to read.

The next day, Kuya Cecil gave an inspirational talk touching on the importance of working together in harmony - thru humility, forbearance, and service to one another. He reminded us that we are to serve together out of love of God and one another.

A group of three brothers and two sisters were selected to discern the final FOF theme for 2017 which turned out to be: **“I Am the Good Shepherd. My sheep hear My voice and they follow Me.”** (taken from John 10:14, 27)

The participants were divided into five groups to discuss goals, plans, and possible activities pertaining to various areas of Community. Finally, Saturday night saw a “Lip Sync” battle among five groups who lip-synced and danced to particular songs of their choice. It was a night of fun, laughter, and fellowship.

Indeed, the weekend provided us with a time to refresh, renew, and bond together as servants of the Lord. Praise God! (MG)

*Pictures from the Planning Weekend (Opposite page)*

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# God's faithfulness endures forever!

*From Cecil Person (FOF Senior Coordinator)*

During the last Community Planning Weekend, we were asked to name three memorable moments, from as far back as we can remember, of our life in community. I am so grateful to be there to hear brothers and sisters praising and thanking God for the blessings they received from various experiences: victories, failures, serious illnesses, births, and even deaths. All of them were thankful that the Lord was present in the situation together with the brothers and sisters. God has remained and continue to be faithful in every circumstance of our personal lives and the life of the Family of Faith Community.

God is faithful in keeping His promise to us, His people. He will provide for all our needs in good times and in bad, in times of temptations, in times of doubt, and in times of uncertainties. We can count on God's faithfulness to fulfill His promises.

How do we respond to a God who is all-powerful and loving? We respond in at least two ways; by being grateful and responsive to His will for us to love as He loves us, and to show mercy as He is merciful. In the celebration of our community's 23rd year anniversary, I would like to ask two things from you, brothers and sisters:

First, make it simple and reflect on just two of God's characters: His love and faithfulness. In your prayer time recall how faithful and loving God has been to you. Write down the circumstances as a testimony. Remember to write it down.

Second, as a response to God's faithfulness and love for you, please make a sincere and mindful decision to continue, even after the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy ended on November 20, 2016, to live a Life of Mercy.

Pope Francis has called for a Year of Mercy to help the Church recognize a simple but dynamic relationship. We are able to give mercy to others if we are able to receive mercy from God. Mercy and forgiveness go hand in hand for Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister. She urges us to see that we can begin to live a life of mercy only when we begin to grasp God's unconditional love and forgiveness for ourselves.

*"For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, but My loving-kindness will not be removed from you, and My covenant of peace will not be shaken," says the Lord who has compassion on you.*

- Isaiah 54:10



## PLANNING WEEKEND SNAPSHOTS



# "Cast into the deep!"

## Men's Retreat

The Men's Retreat was held last Sept 30-Oct 2 at the Cross Roads Retreat Center in Port Murray, NJ. The retreat's theme was based on Jesus' call to His disciples to "Cast into the deep" from Luke 5:4 and it focused on the four areas in our spiritual life: Holiness, Unity, Spiritual Warfare and Mission. The talks were based on those given at the last International Coordinators Meeting held in Michigan last May. The speakers were Nilo, Medel, Fr. Manolo Punzalan, and Eric.

Friday night was spent in a "getting to know" and bonding activity. Each brother picked a name and drew the face of the brother they picked. Later on, everyone tried to guess who it was. Each man, then, honored the brother that they drew.

On Saturday evening, the brothers took time to pray for each other individually. It was a great source of encouragement and strength for us. After the prayer meeting, the brothers spent the rest of the night with singing and more fellowship.

On Sunday morning, the brothers had the "Emmaus Walk" activity where they were paired together and went for a walk to share what the Lord is doing in their lives. It was an opportunity to get to know one another and share our spiritual and personal life.

Once again, God's grace was overflowing. Indeed, we went home with a refreshed and renewed sense of our call, our vision and mission as men of God. *(MG)*



## Women's Retreat

Nestled in the sprawling hills of Mendham, NJ, Villa Pauline Retreat House was the perfect setting for the Women's Retreat held on November 4 to 6, 2016.

Aptly titled "Cast into the Deep", the weekend provided a much-needed opportunity to deepen the faith of 38 women who attended the event. Friday night found us "re-viewing" that momentous encounter between the Samaritan woman and Jesus at the well. This made us evaluate the many times that Jesus sought us and our response to His call.

Saturday progressed with the talks on "Pursuing Holiness" by Nilo Natural, "Spiritual Warfare" by Fr. Manolo Punzalan, and "Unity" by Medel Guevarra. These talks provided us with practical ways on how to counter the culture that is slowly eroding our society. Making us aware of the snares of the evil one emboldened us, to fight each battle we face daily fully clothed in God's armor. In the heart of it all, our strength is in our unity as sisters because together we can accomplish our mission of getting closer to God. This mission was further discussed by Eric De Jesus during the last talk on Sunday.

As much as the talks provided us with knowledge and information, it was the group sharing and fellowship that really defined for us the gift of sisterhood that we have in one another. Late night chatting and snack sessions added to the joy of being with one another.

As we grow in humility and courage to do God's will, let us then, sisters, look to the Lord's outstretched hand as He calls us to go deeper into the sea as we learn to trust Him and discover the many wonders that being with Him brings. - *By Myrla De Guzman*



## Tribute To The Maestro

Last Aug. 7, the brothers and sisters of Family of Family celebrated Kuya Lito David's 80th birthday at Nilo and Menchie's home. Kuya Lito, was a founding member of the Family of Faith and former head coordinator of the Community. The celebration started with an exhibit of Kuya Lito's watercolor paintings some of which were for sale. The afternoon celebration was marked with singing, cocktail foods, fellowship and above all—just a deep appreciation of Kuya Lito's artistry. Some of the children and youth also did an impromptu presentation of musical numbers. Ate Puring Person made a wonderful and realistic birthday cake for the celebrant. *(MG)*

*Kuya Lito is an excellent musician and an accomplished water color artist who was given the "Pamana ng Lahi" Award (one of the Outstanding Filipinos abroad) by then Philippine President Noynoy Aquino in 2010.*

## On Simplicity...

The talk given during the September 11 community gathering struck home. It talks about Simplicity; which, by definition, is freedom from complexity. To be truly free is to have a simple heart – detached from all things impermanent, overflowing with gratitude, and full of contentment. From a simple heart springs a simple life – a life lived in mission and charity. Verily, greed finds no place in a grateful and contented heart.

As an old proverb goes: The richest (and happiest, if I may add) person is not the one who has the most, but the one who needs the least. *-By Cheng Cabangon*



## Women's Tea Time

For the Women's Tea Time event last October 1st, women & children from the Family of Faith & their guests, gathered at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church in Linden, NJ to learn how to paint from renowned artist & teacher, Kuya Lito David. We sat in a circle, with Kuya Lito teaching in the middle and we learned how to paint mountains, hills, trees, fields, and houses. Kuya Lito also showed us how to mix primary colors to get various shades.

There was time for people to paint at their own pace and many drew 2 paintings, using 2 different paintings of Kuya Lito's as a guide. The women and children also added their personal interpretation and details to each painting. Kuya Lito walked around the circle to individually answer questions and give encouragement.

It was fun to express oneself, grow in sisterhood, and learn together. It was also fun to see the display at the end, when the paintings were placed on the wall together to be admired.

*- By Rose Vergara*



# FOF Community 23rd Anniversary

The Community celebrated its 23rd Anniversary last Oct. 9 at the Lower Church of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church in Linden, NJ.

It was a special day of recalling God’s works in our Community, celebrating His steadfast love and faithfulness and giving thanks for His goodness, gifts, and grace to us through the years.

The gathering started with a time of praise and worship. Singing the song *Psalm 89* during this time made us greatly appreciate the awesome love that God has given us and the mercy with which He sustains us.

*“I will celebrate your love, forever, Yahweh, age on age, my words proclaim Your love!”*

Fr. Ed Jocson, Spiritual Adviser of FOF, was the guest speaker for the event. Kuya Cecil gave his inspirational anniversary message and also presented the FOF Theme for 2017. Nilo Natural also spoke to the Community (see excerpts of his message at the right column of this page).

Other highlights of the event include personal sharing from FOF members, song numbers from our youth, and dance number from the Children of Faith. (MG)



## Excerpts from the 23rd Anniversary Message (By Nilo Natural)

*“God is intensely creative, exceptionally far-seeing, and infinitely patient. So stay focused on what he is saying today, and keep moving forward!”*  
(from *The Word Among Us*, Oct 8, 2016)

Currently, the Family of Faith is an Underway-A member of the Sword of the Spirit which is a Community of Communities of Disciples on Mission. We are working towards Underway-B status. However, this is not just a change in status, but more so, us, as a community, growing in our faith, and continuing to learn to follow the Lord and His glorious plans for us.

Moving towards Underway B status:

It is not about trying to improve our Attendance – It is about growing in Faithfulness.

It is not about being a part of Service Ministry – It is about growing in Humility by serving others.

It is not about increasing our Tithe – It is about living a life of Generosity.

It is not about listening and completing the Teachings – It is about gaining Wisdom, understanding and embracing the truth.

Now, on our 23rd anniversary, the inspiration of having a *trans-generational* community is more evident. I first heard the term from Bob Tedesco, our Regional Missionary Coordinator. However, I got to understand it fully, when during the last ICM that Kuya Cecil and I attended, they called some of the coordinators and they took pictures of them together with their sons who are now either coordinators themselves or leaders in the Sword of the Spirit. If there is one thing that I will consider a fulfillment, it is seeing my children living this way of community life. The Lord does not call His people for only one generation. His call is for generations and generations.

The joy that we experienced back when we started is the same joy that we are experiencing right now. It is because, that joy is founded on God’s love.



# Saint Paul’s Outreach (SPO) Fall Retreat

Last Nov 11-12, five of our college students (Gia, Pam, Amariah, Meeko and Gabe) —attended the SPO Fall Retreat held at the St. Paul Inside The Wall. The Retreat’s main speaker was Dan Keating, a Professor in Theology and member of the Servant of the Word. The theme of the retreat was “True Cost of Discipleship.” Some FOF members also came to serve on the second day of the retreat.



Meeko, Gia and Pam at the SPO Fall Retreat



## Reflections *By Gia Guevarra*

In the beginning of this year, I first realized God calling me to serve. The SPO retreat turned out to be exactly the push I needed, as it reminded me of the true cost of discipleship. Dr. Dan Keating explained that the desire to become a disciple comes from an experience of God's personal love for us. I always knew God loved me but I used to think it was because he loves everyone. This is true, but His love is much more than that. God made each of us uniquely and He loves each of us uniquely as well. He gives us each special gifts and talents but most importantly, he gives each of us a new life. When we realize God loves us graciously, we are able to return it gratefully. Using the gifts and talents given to us by Him, we can touch lives. After all, God loves us so deeply. Filled with His love, it only feels right to share it with others. That is what true discipleship is. As John 13:34-35 reminds us:

*“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*



# Life in the Spirit Seminars

The Life in the Spirit Seminar sponsored by the Family of Faith took place over a period of 7 weeks. The series of talks and discussions started on October 7th, continued every Friday night, except on Nov 4th, and concluded last November 18th. Three member families opened their homes as venues. Fifteen participants, spread across the different locations, finished the seminar. As the LSS was designed to be only the first step in a completely new way of life, the community will continue to work, under the Lord’s guidance, to provide means of growth in the candidates’ relationship with Christ. - *By Cheng Cabangon*



*“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.”  
- John 14:16-17*

## Publicly Committed Members Meeting

The Publicly Committed (covenanted) members of the Family of Faith held their 2nd meeting of the year last Nov 19 at the basement of the St. Cecilia Church in Monmouth Junction, NJ.

Several exciting news were shared by our Senior Coordinator, Cecil Penson. Among others, as we are in the final stage of moving forward in our SOS membership (from Underway A to becoming Underway B), we are expecting to have a visitation sometime in the summer of 2017. Another, FOF will host the 2018 North American Region Conference the same weekend of our 25th Anniversary celebration. Going forward, the Community Council (of 6 members) will split roles to comprise 2 bodies – the Coordinators Council (Cecil Penson, Nilo Natural, and Eric de Jesus) and the Executive Committee (Danny Far-

rales, Medel Guevarra, and Ed de Guzman). In continuing our efforts to build a trans-generational community, reorganization of Men’s and Women’s groups is imminent. As we continue in this journey, we were reminded of basic expectations as publicly-committed members: to help one another, to give our best for the Lord, and to witness to others our commitment and faithfulness.

Mikmik Farrales gave a presentation of the financial status of community. In it, she reported on the budget and expenses incurred so far for the year 2016. She also reported on the tithe collection from members.

Menchie Natural shared her experiences and reflections on the Sword of the Spirit (SOS) North America Women’s Region Council that she attended last Nov 3-5 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The highlight of the meeting was the ratification of Eric De Jesus as a Permanent Coordinator of the Family of Faith by all the publicly committed members present. There were 38 members present for the vote.

- *By Cheng Cabangon*



**A**bove all, we desire to be a people who always grow, by his great mercy, in the fervor of that first love he has given us, He who is our all.  
*(From the Family of Faith Covenant)*





# Advent

*By Fr. Ed Jocson*

We may wonder why the first Christians were interested in questions about the “end times”. They asked Jesus when it will come and what will happen.

The early Christians were so awed by the resurrection of Jesus Christ that they awaited the imminent arrival of the new state of affairs – the return of Jesus and the establishment of God’s kingdom. Though Jesus did not immediately return, the “old world” was over, broken, compromised – its destruction now was just a matter of time. Jesus came preaching the Kingdom of God, and the nations conspired against him. The “old world” seemed to conquer this “new world” that Jesus embodied. But then, in the resurrection, they saw that the “old world” predicated upon death and the world that had led to the crucifixion of Christ was now defeated. Thus, we read of the “end times” in the books and letters of the New Testament.

In the last few weeks of every liturgical year, we read of the “end times”. The earth will pass away and the Son of Man will come to rule in eternity. This theme is a fitting prelude to Advent which calls us to focus on repentance and amending our lives so that we are prepared when our time comes to stand before the Lord to give an account of our lives. As we approach Advent this year, we are reminded of the importance of living in such a way that we are properly prepared – at a time known only to the Lord – to stand before God to give an account of our lives, that He might judge us worthy of entering eternal life in heaven. Mindful of this, let us recommit to turning to the Lord in prayer and opening our hearts to God’s love, mercy and grace. This way, our faith and love of God and others will grow, spilling over into every area of our lives.

Come, Jesus, come! God is with us always!



# Reflections

# Christmas

*By Eric De Jesus*



I recently heard a talk about a life of simplicity. Year after year, we accumulate many things that we do not need, especially during the holidays. Need proof? Just check your closets, garage and basements. Everyone loves to receive gifts - who doesn't? But if our expectations are not met, we are sometimes disappointed and Christmas seems to be...hmmm, less Christmas-y. This demeanor is usually evident in children but can affect us grown-ups, too.

We are often mesmerized by the glitter of the newest top-of-the-line gadget or the latest trend in clothes or fancy shoes. Let us remember, things do not make people happy. As soon as you open the present, the item begins to fade and you catch yourself thinking, “Is that it?” Clutter weighs us down and distracts us from the truly important things in life, like family, friends, and relationships.

It is written in Luke 2, “You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” Like the baby Jesus who was born into this world in swaddling clothes under a smelly stable, we should follow God’s cue. No bells and whistles. Jesus had very little but was surrounded by the people who loved and cared for Him.

This Christmas, forget the list of things you wish to receive. Instead, look around the table at Christmas dinner and as you say grace, hold hands with the people you cannot live without.

May the true meaning of Christmas give you peace and joy this special season.



## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Jan 18-25, 2017)

Jan. 18-25, 2017 is designated as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This week is an annual eight-day observance or “octave” of prayer. Its main focus is to pray for church unity. It has been this way from the beginnings of this international movement in 1908 and is observed by Christians around the world. The Family of Faith, together with the Sword of the Spirit, joins all Christians (Catholics and Non-Catholics) around the world in the annual observance of this octave of prayer for unity.

The theme for 2017 is: **“For the love of Christ compels us.”** - 2 Cor. 5:14



"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 Good Shepherd.  
My sheep hear My voice  
and they follow Me."

JOHN 10:14, 27

FAMILY OF FAITH 2017 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

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