

Tambuli NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2018



A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION

EASTER MESSAGE

“Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again”

By Cecil Penson

We celebrate Easter because Jesus' Resurrection is not a past event but is a present reality. The empty tomb, where Jesus was buried earlier, will always be fresh news to us.

The message of the resurrection is about God sending His only begotten Son, Jesus, to become man and to suffer and die on the cross. We celebrate Jesus Christ's victory over sin and death because in His resurrection the eternal life that is promised to all who believe in Him is granted. In Easter, all that Jesus preached and taught during His three-year ministry was verified: that He is God, that He will suffer, die and rise from the dead.

Pope Francis in his Easter message said, “To celebrate Easter is to believe once more that God constantly breaks into our personal histories, challenging our “conventions”, those fixed ways of thinking and acting that end up paralyzing us. To celebrate Easter is to allow Jesus to triumph over the craven fear that so often assails us and tries to bury every kind of hope.” Are we really experiencing Easter in our life? What does it mean to me personally that Jesus Christ died and rose again?

Philippians 3:10 says, “My goal is to know Him and the power of His resurrection.” Do I attempt to know more about Jesus through His word in the scripture? Do I believe that when His word touches me I experience renewal and transformation?

A Twitter post attributed to Pope Francis says, “Our faith is born on Easter morning: Jesus is alive! The experience is at the heart of the Christian message.” Is this

CHRIST
IS RISEN!

Alleluia!

statement true in a personal way for you as you experience Jesus in the ordinary and some extraordinary events in your life – not only on Easter but 365 days of the year?

Some of us have followed Jesus for many years and studied the Scripture over and over again but we still struggle with fear and anxiety. The resurrection clearly demonstrates to us that the Lord does keep His promises, and we are to believe Him.

“He is not here... he is raised! And he awaits you in Galilee. He invites you to go back to the time and place of your first love and he says to you: Do not be afraid, follow me.” -Pope Francis

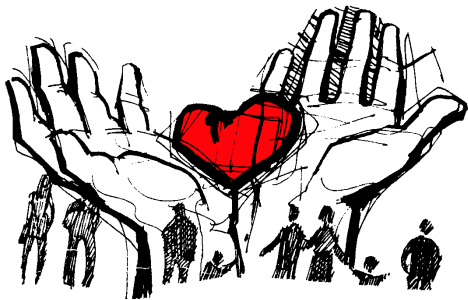
El Salvador Mission Trip by Mara Cabangon

For my spring break, I went to San Miguel, El Salvador for a mission trip with Seton Hall. I had never done anything like it before and I can easily say it was the best experience of my life so far. While there were some bumps in the road, like our flight being canceled, it was still full of fun memories and awesome service. Our big group of over thirty volunteers was split up between two cities. Within those two groups, we were further divided into three groups. I was assigned to work at the nursing home for the week. I thought it would be challenging because it is hard enough to interact with the elderly and with the language barrier, it seemed impossible. As the week progressed, I became more confident in my broken Spanish and was able to connect with people in a way I never thought I could. On Wednesday night, we held a party at the orphanage and it was incredible. The kids were so happy that we were there and it was then that I realized my love for service. I would love to return to El Salvador in the near future because it was amazing to step out of my comfort zone to serve people. I can only hope that I can bring the joy of the Lord I experienced there, back here to my everyday life. Thank you to everyone who contributed and prayed for my trip!



Michigan Mission Trip by Eliezer de Jesus

This year, for my spring break, I decided to go on a mission trip to Detroit, Michigan through an organization called YouthWorks-Detroit with a group of fourteen fellow Seton Hall students. My experience was incredible, as I truly felt God working in me and through me the entire trip. We had the opportunity to serve in many ways, such as giving supplies to the homeless, cleaning up abandoned parking lots, and interacting with young students. A highlight of the trip where I truly felt God speaking to me was during an AA meeting which “the” Ed Conlin led. All the people who shared at the meeting were so inspiring. The faith that they have in God after all they have been through, whether it was abusing drugs for the majority of their life or spending several years in jail, motivates me to do the same and fully trust in God and what He has for me in the future. Another message that I felt that God was telling me over the trip was the importance of community. He reminded me, through everyone serving with me at YouthWorks-Detroit, that I am a part of something bigger, God’s Kingdom, and I cannot do anything alone. All in all, my experience in Detroit is something I will never forget. Wherever I go, I will continue to strive to be God’s servant and help build His Kingdom.



Trip to the Holy Land by Ivan Yorobe

Over my spring break, I was given the amazing opportunity to visit Israel for 10 days. I can say with all my heart that my life has been changed for the better after this pilgrimage. Not only have I found a new appreciation for mass, but my prayer life has been on fire ever since I got back. Listening to the Lord has never been so fulfilling!

I was blessed to be able to walk where Jesus walked, thus coming to better understand Jesus as both God and man. Thank you to all who prayed for me while I was in the Holy Land, because I would not have had the same experience if not for you.



Youth Group Activities

Lord's Day Celebrations



Chastity Event



March 16, 2018—YES Retreat Michigan



The first Youth Chastity Event was held on Friday, January 26. The youth watched a video talk and split into small groups for further discussions. There were more than 30 youth (FOF and guests) who attended this event.

Kairos Legacy Conference

For young professionals around the North American continent, this New Year brought an opportunity to gather for a weekend of worship, fellowship and seeking the Lord. On the weekend of January 12-14, the Sword of the Spirit hosted the Kairos Legacy Conference in Elizabeth, NJ. The theme of the conference centered on discipleship, discerning the Lord's call, and "careering" as a Christian. The Kairos Legacy Conference inspired and equipped the many attendees to do their part in building the Kingdom back in their homes, workplaces, and schools.

- Pam Farrales



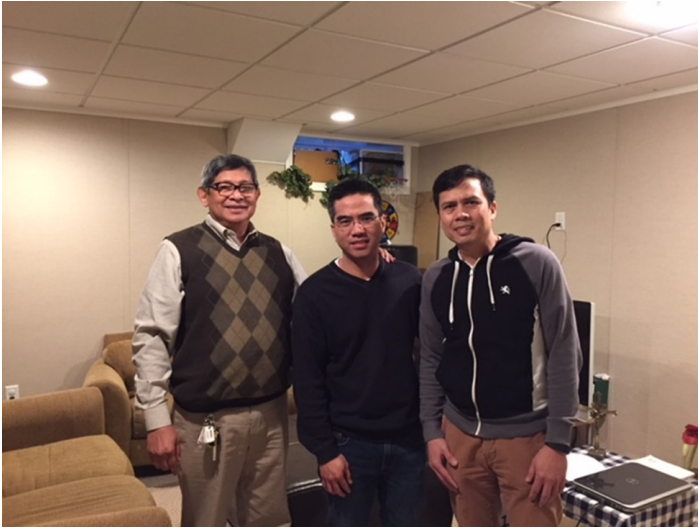
Fan into Flame



Fan into Flame was held in Camp Tecumseh from Feb 2-4, 2018. This event is a weekend of prayer, teaching, and community. Every year, Saint Paul's Outreach hosts a 3 day retreat for college students who long for a relationship with the Lord. The weekend is meant for them to grow in their own spiritual life, as well as experience the goodness of community.

-Mara Cabangon

Coordinator's Recollection



The brothers in Coordinator's Council had their yearly recollection on March 3 at the Yorobe home.

The schedule was light with two talks and plenty of time for reflection and discussion.

The first talk touched on God's Nature and Grace and the second, about Zeal and Weakness.

It was good to be reminded that as servant leaders, we should always take on God's nature and surrender all things to Him, including our service. Dwelling in God's grace will sustain us in our weakness and provide constant zeal in serving God while remaining small in posture.

Heartfelt thanks to Danny for organizing the activities and the Yorobe family who served the brothers with good food, beautiful music and fellowship.

--Eric de Jesus

Publicly Committed Members' Meeting

The Publicly Committed Members of the community met on March 24, 2018 at St. Elizabeth Lower Church to take care of important community concerns. Brother Nilo Natural was ratified as the next Senior Coordinator effective on October 20, 2018. As a legal non-profit organization, our community also needs a Board of Trustees. Senior leaders namely Cecil Penson, Nilo Natural, Eric de Jesus, Danny Farrales and Ed De Guzman comprise the Board of Trustees and was ratified as well. Menchie Natural moved a motion to vote for the Family of Faith to become a fully-formed member of the Sword of the Spirit. The motion was seconded and was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned with a Lord's Day celebration to remember God's goodness and mercy.

--Eric de Jesus

Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

John 12:26



MATTHEW 19:14

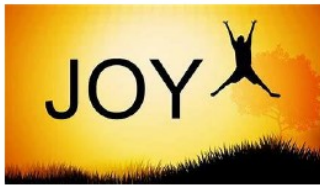
Children's Day of Dedication

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 February 4th Community Gathering.

Christian Feminine Character

Christian Feminine Character



in Finding the

STAR



The women had their first CFC event for the year last February 24, 2018. We listened to a talk from Corinne Yorobe about the joy in finding our star (the Lord!). After the talk, the women divided into groups for sharing and discussion.

Easter Celebration—April 8, 2018



Seder Meal—March 31, 2018



"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

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.

Family of Faith 2018 Theme

**I am your God.
Fix your gaze on me
and
be transformed.**

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.

"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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