

Tambuli NEWSLETTER

JULY 2015



A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION

FAMILY OF FAITH and Obergefell v. Hodges

A Message From Our Senior Coordinator

The U.S. Supreme Court decision last June 26, 2015, interpreting the U.S. Constitution to require all states to license and recognize same-sex marriage, *“is a tragic error that harms the common good and most vulnerable among us,”* said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

This banner story brought to mind the Roe v. Wade (Abortion Right) decision by the U.S. Supreme Court 40 years ago. This decision was in contrast to the Catholic teaching that life begins from conception and ends in natural death. That announcement was followed by a rash of lawsuits and litigations brought before the Christian churches. Many Catholic hospitals, health care facilities and agencies were affected – having made to contribute to the “rights” of women to kill the babies in their wombs by abortion.

The repercussion of the new court decision is no different. “The effect of this new court decision, Obergefell v. Hodges, on the interpretation of marriage will seek to drive Christians and Christian institutions out of education at all levels; they will press laws to force faithful Christian institutions and individuals to violate consciences in work practices and myriad other ways. The nature of the human person and marriage remains unchanged and unchangeable. Just as Roe v. Wade did not settle the question of abortion over forty years ago, Obergefell v. Hodges does not settle the question of marriage today.” Bishop Arthur Serratelli of Paterson affirms the previous statement from Archbishop Kurtz, as he says in his pastoral letter, “this decision rejects the understanding of marriage that has been held across the millennia by people of every race and religion. The consequences of this decision will have long-range effects in politics, economics, education, and, in no small way, religious freedom. The adverse consequences of this decision will become more and more evident in the days and months ahead in terms of our Catholic schools, universities, hospitals, charitable

institutions and churches.”

The media, including social media, has since bombarded us with announcements, ads, commercials that challenge us into joining the victory celebration of this court decision redefining marriage. There will be more and more challenges that will deceive us into believing the new interpretation of marriage, family and even new meaning of love.

How should we respond?

First, I subscribe to Bishop Serratelli’s advice: “as believers, we abstain from judging the consciences of those who choose to live in lifestyles contrary to the teaching of Jesus. Only God sees the heart and judges rightly each human person. As a consequence, we speak charitably and compassionately of all people, even those who disagree with us on fundamental truths of the natural law.” We are called to love – including those who do not accept the Church’s teaching on marriage. We must resist the temptation to only love those who agree with us or think like us.

Second, “precisely because we are people of reason and faith, we hold that there is objective truth about the human person and the world. Objective truth is founded on God’s design for creation and independent of the political and cultural trends of any age...Also, without a doubt, the objective truth about family, as intended by God, is a most fundamental, objective truth for the good of all society. From the very first pages of Genesis, we learn that God created us in his own image and likeness, male and female, he created

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us (cf. Genesis 1:27). In the beauty of God's creative design, marriage is based on the complementarities of man and woman. As Pope Francis has said, 'the removal of difference, in fact, creates a problem, not a solution.' Courts and constitutions may change the legal definition of marriage. But, they cannot alter God's loving plan inscribed within the natural law." (Bishop Serratelli)

Third, we are a people who live by a community way of life. Let us live it well with joy! - beyond all understanding.

Parents teach your children well especially the true meaning of marriage, family and love.

Husband and wives "proclaim the goodness, truth, and beauty of marriage as rightly understood for millenia" by deepening your relationship with one another. Show the world that it can be done by the way that Jesus designed marriage to be. Pray together as a family

and as husband and wife. Have a regular date night and one-to-one and meet regularly with sisters and brothers in your men and women's group.

Brothers and sisters, let us continue to regularly celebrate the Lord's Day as a family or as a household to show our gratitude to the Lord who has never failed us in His faithfulness to provide for all our needs. A grateful heart is a fertile ground for God to sow His grace for us to surmount challenges or obstacles that will come our way.

Let us be faithful and meet regularly in our community gathering that we may hear the Lord speak with words of wisdom for us, as a people set apart, to move in the right direction and love the way that He loves us.

Let us remain true to who we are, as the Family of Faith, calling ourselves as a Catholic community by making sure that Christ is recognized in all of us.

Glory and Praise be to God! - **By Cecil Penson**
(Senior Coordinator of Family Of Faith)

Marriage Enrichment Day of Recollection

The Marriage Enrichment Day of Recollection held last May 2 (Saturday) at the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church Basement in Linden was a much needed pause for Bogs and me from the busyness of our family life. It reminded us of our unique roles and responsibilities as husband and wife from God's ordained plan for marriage. It gave us an opportunity to look into a few details in our marriage that we may have overlooked and have not talked about yet.

As a Christian husband, Bogs' role is defined as the head of the family whose headship is based on love, service, and commitment. Jesus showed this love and commitment for the Church as "sacrificing, selfless, and honoring." This means that Bogs is instructed by God to care for, provide for, and protect me and our children with the willingness to lay down his life for the family. As a Christian wife, my role as defined by God is 'a helper fit for him' so that Bogs can fulfill his role as the head of the family. This is translated by "being supportive in speaking the truth, helping him fulfill his commitments at home and outside, standing by his decisions and responsibilities, and making my home" where he, my children, and others thrive as Christians.

Fr. Ed Jocson, one of the speakers, gave us a glimpse of Pope John Paul II's teachings on Theology of the Body. Fr. Ed mentioned that the selfless love between husband and wife is an imitation or reflection of God's

love. The Father gives Himself fully to the Son and the Son gives Himself freely to the Father and out of that love comes the Holy Spirit. Marriage is a total self-donation for the good of the other. Further, he said that marriage as a vocation is a way of living life to the fullest. He encouraged us that our marriage should be generous with "I trust you", "I am sorry" and "I forgive you".

Bogs and I have been married for 15 years and there is so much room for growth as a couple. It was enriching to listen to and learn from Nilo, Menchie, Danny, and Mikmik on how their marriage has been prospering with God at the forefront. We are so much blessed to be surrounded with many married couples who show us how to love as God loves. - **By Shiela Bugarin**



Christian Parenting Course

The Christian Parenting Course was held last June 6 at the St. Elizabeth Church Basement in Linden, NJ. The goals of this whole-day course were: 1) to help married couples lay the foundations of a Christian, community-oriented family life and 2) to teach key features of the community approach to forming family life, especially establishing and maintaining a family pattern of life, forming the children as Christians in a way that is oriented to community life, and as parents working together as a pastoral team. The four talks were given by Bob Tedesco (FOF's Regional Missionary Coordinator), Danny Farrales and Nilo Natural. There were also husband-wife discussions, small group discussions and Q & A time at the end. The course materials were taken from Foundation Course II.



In the first talk, Bob outlined the elements of our common approach in Community that we would need in order to work well together. In the second talk, Nilo talked about how God expects us to build a strong Christian family life. In order to have one, we need vision, commitment, courage, diligence and hard work. Danny's talk was Training Children in The Ways of God which emphasized that we, parents, have the primary responsibility to train our children. Danny presented several ways to train our children: in the worship of the One true God, in prayer, in Scripture study, observing the Ten Commandments, enjoying the Fruits of the Holy Spirit by living out the virtues etc. In the last talk, Bob gave us guidelines on how the husband and wife can work together as the pastoral team for their family. He urged us to have a vision for the family - to have a purpose in marriage, family and in child rearing. We were encouraged to have unity in our decisions that will affect the vision of the family. Bob gave us pointers on how to work through these decisions and on how to handle disagreements. During these circumstances, as in all things, he said, prayer works.

The whole-day event ended with a joyful celebration of Lord's Day and dinner. - *By Corinne Yorobe*

Reflections By Peter Castillo

When the time comes and God asks me "How did you raise my children?", this is what I was thinking of after completing the Christian Parenting Course.

The course had 4 talks: elements of our common approach, building Christian family life, training children in the ways of God, and working together as a pastoral team. I consider it a refresher course and it is good to be reminded on how and where we are as parents at this stage where our daughters are 13 and 10 years old.

The first talk gave us an opportunity to review our goals for our children. It seems that without any guidance we would just accept the worldly goals that bombard our children on what they need and what they should be. This is like fighting the river current of the Niagara Falls. The talk also discussed God's plan and how we are tasked to be stewards of his children. I'm appreciative that our community provides us an avenue where we can get guidance in raising our children the Christian way. All we need is to trust in the Lord and accept the teachings and reminders that we receive from the community.

The other talks showed us concrete ways of living a life that will help us in raising our children. Some we already know and practice, but we are open to new traditions, patterns and actions. An example would be to do a service together as a family. Another critical area is to work together as a pastoral team. The work that we are entrusted is not easy and our spouses are here to help us. I am glad that I always see a Christ-centered life in my wife.

Going back to that question from God— How did you raise my children?" My goal is to say, Lord, I have been blessed with the people and reminders that you have sent my way and I'm happy to report that your children were raised to be loving, compassionate and convicted Christians. - *PC*



Easter Celebration

The Family of Faith celebrated the great Feast of Easter last April 12 at the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church Basement in Linden, NJ. It was a joyful celebration that included the Easter Service of the Light, a time of praise and worship, a talk by Fr. Ed Jocson and the Easter Message from our Senior Coordinator—Cecil Penson. There was also an Easter dance number from several moms and daughters led by Portia Pilapil. Afterwards, the whole community shared on some festive meal. The whole event was facilitated by Rex Poyaoan. - *By Medel G.*



Men's Breakfast

The Community held its second Men's Breakfast of the year last May 16 at the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church Basement. Fr. Alex Cruz was the guest speaker. He spoke about Spiritual Preparation for the End Times. After the talk, there was a presentation of two short videos on practical preparation for natural and man-made calamities. To culminate the morning, the men spent about an hour doing physical exercises led by Roy Rubio. - *By Medel G.*



Pentecost Festival of Praise and Picnic

The Family of Faith joined with the People of Hope Community last May 24 at the Festival of Praise in the celebration of Pentecost Sunday at the Koinonia Academy in Plainfield, NJ. The Festival of Praise is a quarterly prayer gathering jointly sponsored by these two Sword of Spirit communities in New Jersey. It is also a time of ministering to one another through prayers. The event was a joyful celebration of God's people coming together in worship and gratitude of God's goodness and mercy and being refreshed by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Pentecost gathering was followed by picnic and fellowship at the Koinonia Academy grounds. - *By Medel G.*



Women's Tea Time: Brooklyn Bridge Walk

On the morning of May 30, 2015, the women of Family of Faith, as well as female friends and relatives, eagerly gathered at the Brooklyn Heights Promenade. They were excited for the walk across the Brooklyn Bridge towards Manhattan, as well as the lunch at Chinatown afterwards.

For many, even the journey to the Promenade was amazing, seeing the beautiful homes in Brooklyn under the canopy of trees and admiring flowers along the way. While the women gathered, they shared stories and warm *pandesal* and took the first round of pictures of the skyline and each other.

Then they prayed together and started their walk to the Bridge. They took their time in order to enjoy the views, talking with each other and taking pictures. Afterwards, they took in the sights of lower Manhattan, as they walked to Chinatown and had lunch at Hop Kee restaurant.

For dessert, the sisters then went to the Chinatown Ice Cream Factory, tasting exotic flavors such as taro, green tea and red bean. Lastly, they went together to various restaurants and bought delicious treats from the area, including *siopao* and *shumai*, to bring home and enjoy.

The day was sunny and without too much wind; another fun time of bonding and building sisterhood with one another. - *By Rose Vergara*



Mother-Son Hiking

On June 13, the mothers and sons of community hiked the trails of Watchung Reservation. This is a yearly activity aimed to foster the relationship of mother and son. The Watchung Reservation is a 2,000+ acre preserve located in the northern portion of Union County, New Jersey. There were six pairs of mother and sons who participated in the activity.



Anton Alicante, who was the lead for this activity, also served as the trail guide. The hike started from the Trailside Nature and Science Center. There were markers along the trail and Anton gave out instructions before the hike began. The hikers followed three trails totaling 2.7 miles. There was a forecast of rain that day and it started out cloudy but God blessed the activity with good weather all day.

The fathers, who did not hike, drove one mile down the road to the picnic area where the daughters and younger children played in the playground. The mothers and sons enjoyed the hike and were refreshed by nature's beauty. Of course, there were plenty of cameras snapping pictures!

After the hike, the families gathered together and shared lunch prepared by sisters Bheng and Shiela. They prepared pulled pork, hotdogs and beef *tapa*. Everyone enjoyed the exercise, good food and fellowship. Thank you Lord for the gift of nature!

- *By Eric De Jesus*



YOUTH CORNER

Congratulations to the six youths from our Youth Group (YG) who recently graduated from High School! As they head on to college, we asked them to share their thoughts and experience in the Youth Group.

1. What are your happiest memories in Youth Group?
2. What do you value most?
3. What will you miss most?
4. What are the important lessons you learned and experienced in the Youth Group that you will take with you in college?

Pam Pilapil:

1. Happiest memories: YG and YES retreats (2013, 2014), the Youth Girls Retreat and simply having fellowships

2. I value the friendships I made with the girls and boys in the Youth group.

3. I will miss the Youth Group meetings and the YES retreats the most.

4. From the Youth Group, I learned the importance of faith, trust and selflessness. At this age, sometimes it's hard to remember that not everything revolves around you and that it is because of team work that the blessings you have are in your hands.

Being in Youth Group definitely helped me remain grounded in my faith and always remember the importance of humility and responsibility. As I go off to college, I will always keep in mind that I always have my friends in YG to support one another no matter what.

Gia Guevarra :

1. Probably every moment I've spent with them. All the laughs, smiles, jokes, support, prayers, words of encouragement are happy memories but so are all the trials, tears, and teasing. Despite even tough times, I can look back and consider it a happy memory because I learned something from it and most importantly, no matter what I faced, the Youth Group was there in the end.



2. The friendships and bonds I've made with everyone.
3. Being able to attend youth group meetings, fellowship with YG members, and YES Retreats!!!
4. One important lesson I learned was that it's important to have people in your life that will support you in your faith and keep you close to God when you start to drift away. I'm so lucky and blessed to have found a group of teens, my closest friends, to do so. No matter how confident I feel in myself to take on temptations or tough times, I can't do it alone. Having the Youth Group to guide and support me has strengthened my relationship with God throughout the years. I know I can look to them for support even in my years in college.

Thank you for all the love and guidance throughout the years. It's been really fun and quite a learning experience to grow up with everyone. Because of what I learned at Youth Group and all the prayers, I successfully got through high school. Now that I'll be entering college life soon, and times will only get tougher. I'm confident that I will take everything I learned with me and standing up for my faith won't be as hard knowing I have a steady foundation (that is the friendships I've made in the Youth Group) to support me.

Thank you again for being a HUGE part in making me the girl I am today. I love you all :)



Gabe Natural:



1. My happiest memories in YG are just the time spent laughing, building friendships, and just hanging out with the YG.
2. I value the brotherhood that I built with the other guys in the YG and I value the guidance that Kuya Rex has given all of the guys in YG.
3. I will miss not being able to bond, laugh, and spend time

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with everyone. Being able to build upon friendships and supporting one another in our own journeys is an opportunity that can't be easily replaced.

4. I learned to be strong and true to my own values, and I learned not to compromise my faith, my family, or myself for anything. I also learned who my true friends are, and what being a true friend means: loving someone like family no matter what.

Youth group has been an important part of my life as I have been maturing and preparing for the future. I have learned to really explore and expand upon my relationship with God and with my brothers and sisters. I love everyone in YG and in the FOF. They have all been an integral part of my formation as an individual.

Angel Escudro:



1. My happiest memories in the youth group was when ever everyone had the chance to reunite, especially during the overnight retreat.

2. I value the relationships and trust I have with the people in the youth group and my family the most because it strengthens my relationship with the Lord.

3. I will miss seeing the family I have in the youth group more often.

4. The most important lesson I have learned is that the primary prerequisite of having a close relationship with God is being open to having one by allowing oneself to be selfless and meditate upon what the Lord is saying.



Bernadette Rutz:

1. Some of my happiest youth group memories are of hanging out and relaxing with the youth group. I loved getting to spend time with everyone and being a part of such an awesome and funny group.

2. I value the friendships I've made with my fellow youth group members.

3. I will really miss Lord's Days and meetings with the youth group that were both fun and faith-filled.

4. I learned that it is important, especially in heading out to college, to surround myself with individuals who are strong in their faith and are willing to help support me in my own faith.

Arianne Joson:



1. One of my happiest moments is when the youth group came to celebrate my 18th birthday. It was a lot of fun. I also really enjoyed going to the water park with them and Ocean City.

2. What I value most about the youth group was the friendship. Everyone always cared about each other so much, and were always there for each other at difficult times.

3. I'm still going to see the youth group over my college breaks. So I will miss talking and laughing with them, but hopefully I won't miss them for too long.

4. I have learned that God is always looking out for you, and that you shouldn't give up at difficult times. God has sent us many loving and caring people in our lives, and they are there to support us when we are not strong.

Sword of the Spirit Youth and Student Outreaches/Websites:





Bridging the Gap: The Post-High School Group

On a pleasant albeit cloudy Saturday afternoon of June 20th, the Family of Faith's Post-High School/Post-College group held its fellowship at the Beltran residence in Piscataway, NJ. Young adults from community (high school graduates, college students and college graduates), a couple of guests and the event organizers were present at the gathering. Partying Filipino style, the fellowship kicked off with create-your-own *halo-halo*, a native and popular Filipino dessert. The atmosphere was light and fun as some played a short game of badminton while others engaged in various conversations. As an ice breaker, a trivia game was played where everyone discovered fun and unique facts about each other. The hosts, Noel and Flors, then requested all the guests to gather around the dining table for the Lord's Day Celebration. A sumptuous dinner of rice, grilled squid, fish, corn and pork, shrimps, baked mussels, fish ceviche, eggplant ensalada, mangoes, and buko pandan was then served. Except for the buko pandan, everything was eaten from a bed of banana leaves, *kamayan*-style. The night was capped with the closing blessings after the meal, more fellowship, more laughter and a promise of another fellowship in the near future.

Fostering new friendships and strengthening old ones, praising and thanking God as one big family, the thrill of eating with bare hands, great food and even greater company. What a fun and exciting way to begin the warm months of summer! - *Chelle Rubio*



Kamayan (eating with bare hands): Post-High School young men and women eating the Filipino way

Reflections from the Post-HS Servants

Joseph Angeles:

I was fortunate enough to be part of the post-HS/college gathering last Saturday (June 20). First of all, I would like to say kudos to Noel and Flors who I believed have perfected the virtue of hospitality. We have not seen each other for awhile so we tried to catch-up. But everybody was open. The ice-breaker that Roy spearheaded helped in getting to know people. We discovered new things about each other. I have to mention the food! It was "epic" and impressive. The food was presented over banana leaves. There were people giving instruction on how to eat the food with their hands – the "Filipino way." You could tell that everybody had fun. There were those who had the capacity

for more. For me it was an eye opener. For me, it required an adjustment because we've seen the children grow up in community and somehow for me (maybe for some people too), I tend to keep them as the same children that we knew. In some ways that's true but we know that they are grown-ups. For the post-HS and post-college, they will be released to the world and they will be responsible to make decisions for themselves – the way they act and the way they live. But even though we release them, to me it is a great idea to give them a chance to come back to a place where they belong. For me it is our responsibility as a community to make them feel that they belong here. The world offers

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them a lot of things. There's a lot of challenges that they will face. But I think, in order to gather them, we need to make them feel that there is a place for them where they are accepted as they are, where they are loved as family. We always say that when there is a child in the community that it takes more than the just the parents to raise a child. It takes a community. So we, as a community, have a responsibility to our children. They may be grown up but we still have to make them feel that there a place for them here. Hopefully, as we continue this, they will respond and realize this. And hopefully this will fulfill our vision of a trans-generational Community. - JA

Rose Vergara:

The ministry's mission is to build strong relationships and help the post-high school men and women make their own decisions. Before this event, we had two meetings. In the first meeting, we tried to gather and get the idea of the mission and the vision, the objectives of the ministry to help our college and post-college children be part of our trans-generational vision and provide an evangelistic venue to invite other young men and women. In the second meeting, it was also eye-opening – How do I approach the ministry? It's not like the LSS because for the participants, most of them know about praise and worship and they are familiar with community life. I've attended Lord's Day several times and the children there usually don't need the Lord's Day guide because they memorized them already. It's also eye-opening because some of the post-High School have already attended LSS and some have even taught in the LSS. But the goal is really to build relationships with other people their age and also with us that are older and build that support system. We, who come to community often, grow and receive life, affirmation, support from each other's presence in community or through the relationships that we have with each other. We learn from each other and in this post-HS ministry, we want to share what we receive. However, we also understand that they are not children and we have to remember that they are working or in college. We have to consider that when planning events. We have to help them make their own decisions and to let them see and know that we are here for

them. Just because they grew in Community, we want them to make their own decisions, what they want to do. About the event itself, for some people this is their first experience of the Filipino culture and one of Chesca's friends commented that it was different to have the dessert (halo-halo) before the first meal. We had Lord's Day. It was very casual. Beautiful weather. And we could even see the post-High School people enjoying even by themselves. Some people were playing badminton with them and they were hanging out in the gazebo, trampoline and playing with the dogs. I remember one sister saying- "You don't have to be perfect to serve. Just be faithful and available." When I first heard this, I asked – Am I faithful? Am I making myself available? Then I thought later – we offer our loaves and fishes to the Lord and he does the rest with it. - RV



Sharing from a Post-HS : Pam Pilapil

My favorite part of the night was the "kamayan." It was a fun experience having a different way of eating, making new friends and just spending time with everyone in community there. It's just a different experience hanging out with adults and it could really prepare you to when you start communicating with your professors in college or when you have to go to interviews for jobs because for us who just graduated from high school, we have to learn how to talk to adults the proper way. Lastly, bonding with my older peers helped me see the importance of community. As you get older, you learn how to talk with more maturity and sense and it's nice to know that we have each other in community to fall back on and to confide with about our faith or just anything that you'd like to talk about. I am glad that I was able to experience that. - PP



Children of Faith : Sleepover Fellowship

On June 27, the very first Children of Faith (COF) Overnight Fellowship took place at the Bugarin's house (tons of thanks to them for opening their home to the children!). Organized and ran by the CFP Ministry (Tet Guevarra, Shiela Bugarin, Lissa Angeles, and Evelyn Wan), the event aimed at helping the children get to know each other better and building stronger bond with each other. Upon arrival early in the afternoon following our community's Saturday gathering, the children used their creativity and tie dyed their own shirts. The rest of the day then followed with a game of Guesstures, a water balloon fight outside in the rain, and an icebreaker "Guess Who?" game. The event was highlighted by the celebration of the Lord's Day. As one final activity, the children enjoyed a movie night of the classic "Jumanji" before calling the night off. Seventeen CFP children attended.

While helping out with the activities and looking after the children, I simply observed how they interacted with each other. It was clear they enjoyed each other's

8th Graders Going to YG

Five of our CFP children are moving from COF to Youth Group (YG) this year: Keena Guevarra, Danna Pilapil, Sophie Wan, Toni Jo Escudro, and Isabella Castillo. We asked them what their happiest memories in COF are and what they are looking forward in YG.

Keena— My happiest memories were the COF/POG camps. I'm looking forward to strengthening my relationship with God and also to the YES Retreats.

Danna—My happiest memories were the teachings because I got to have a better understanding of the Lord and I got to spend time with my friends. I'm looking forward to the activities and to becoming more closer to God and my friends.

Isabella—My happiest memories were playing and working together as a team and bonding together with each other. COF overnight was awesome. I'm looking forward to bonding with new people, doing activities, and strengthening my faith in God.

Sophie— My happiest memories were going to the overnight fellowship at the Bugarins. I had so much fun doing the activities and getting to know my friends even more. I'm looking forward to getting to know the other members of the YG, to strengthen my relationship with God and to making more great memories with new people.

company and had lots of fun. Spending time with the kids made me feel both young and old. At times, I felt like I was their age again, while other times, I couldn't believe I had already grown past that age, past COF, and now past Youth Group. My hope and prayer for the COF now is that they continue to strengthen their friendships with one another and support each other in their faith. In a few years, when it becomes time for them to enter high school and are bombarded with the stress and drama of being a teenager, I hope they can look back at the memories and friendships they made in the COF and know that they can always turn to each other for love and support. After all, they are the future YG. Let's just hope they don't grow up too fast.

— By Gia Guevarra



Toni Jo— I have had many fond memories of having lessons together taught by the parents and simply getting the time to be together. I've grown up with the people in COF for my whole life and the happiest memories seem to be every moment together, because when I'm with them, I feel comfortable, relaxed and at home; To be a part of Youth Group next year is very exciting for I'm looking forward to becoming even more spiritually close and going on the YES retreat.

PTI 2015 (Michigan)

A group of FOF brothers and sisters attended the Pastoral Teaching Institute (PTI) on June 18-20, 2015 held at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, MI. The main theme of the PTI was "Christian Community." The whole course is divided into two main parts: 1) **The Basic Truths** which consists of talks on Being Corporate, Brotherly Love, Structures and Patterns of Community Life, and Order in the Christian Community; 2) **Pastoral Approach** with talks on Men and Women: The Issue and Approach, Social Science, and Scriptural Teaching on Men's and Women's Relationships. The Pastoral Approach talks were given by Steve Clark (former President of Sword of the Spirit).

The PTI ended with a prayer meeting on Saturday evening. Several people gave presentations and reported on the latest developments in SOS-North America and Kairos. Mike Shaughnessy (Executive Director of Kairos-North America) gave a report on the growth of University Christian Outreach (UCO). The growing list of universities with UCO is very encouraging. A UCO, for example, has just been started in Maryland. James Munk (Program Director of Kairos-North America) gave a report on the recently concluded Kairos Asia in Manila, Philippines. He presented a 4-minute video of the event and looked like it was a lot of fun. A brother from Seattle shared about the new community that has just been formed there. They are currently 15 in number and growing.

The PTI gave me a better view of the Christian community and its participants. It gave me also a better insight on how to relate with brothers and sisters. And it gave the group a better understanding of what more needs to be done in our community. - *Ed De Guzman*

(Kairos (kairos-na.org) is the youth work of the Sword of the Spirit. Its mission is to bring as many young people as possible into full human and spiritual maturity, and to partner with Christian communities to accomplish these goals.)



Nilo and Menchie Natural, Dan and Mikmik Farrales, Tita Alday, Teya David, Puring Penson and Ed De Guzman at the 2015 PTI in Michigan

Welcome to the Family

Last June 14, Rex and Christina Poyaoan presented their bundle of joy, their first born Chloe to the Community during the gathering. It was a proud and joyful moment for the new parents as the Community also took time to pray over them and Chloe for God's grace, blessings and protection. Chloe was born on May 4, 2015 and was baptized on July 4. Her name was taken from 1 Corinthians 1:11. - *Medel G.*



Catholicism Series

The Family of Faith, in coordination with St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish of Linden, NJ, started an 11-session 'Catholicism Series by Fr. Robert Barron' program at the St. Elizabeth Church. It started last April 9 and will run up to July 31. This series aims to help enrich the participants' Catholic faith. As a pilot project, it was meant initially for a small group who will eventually help as facilitators when the same program is presented to a wider audience. Fr. Ed Jocson, the pastor of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, acts as the 'in-house theologian', consultant, instructor and guide during discussions. The main topics of each session are shown from a DVD and are based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. A lively group discussion follows the DVD showing. Eventually, we hope to be able to do this program to a bigger audience and reach out to more people. - *By Arnold Alday*



"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 Team:

Cheng Cabangon, Marita Josen, Medel Guevarra

Contributors for this issue:

Cecil Penson, Eric De Jesus, Ed De Guzman, Chelle Rubio, Shiela Bugarin, Corinne Yorobe, Rose Vergara, Arnold Alday, Gia Guevarra, Pam Pilapil, Peter Castillo, Joseph Angeles, Medel Guevarra

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Aug. 15 - FAMILY DAY (Community picnic, sports, games, and fellowship), 8:00am-4pm @ Thompson Park (Monroe Township, NJ)

Aug. 30 - Festival of Praise @ Koinonia Academy (Plainfield, NJ), 2:30-4:30pm.

Sep. 12 - Post-High School Fellowship

Oct. 9 - Start of the **Life in the Spirit Seminar** (LSS) - a six-session seminar to help Christians experience the power, gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives; 7:30pm-9:30pm, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church Basement Linden, NJ.

Retreats:

Oct 2-4 - Men's Retreat

Nov. 6-8 - Women's Retreat

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