

# Tambuli NEWSLETTER

JULY 2016



A COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES ON MISSION

## COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ON ECUMENISM

The Family of Faith held its Community Conference on Ecumenism last April 22-23, 2016 in the Family Room of the former Sts. Mary and Elizabeth Academy in Linden, New Jersey. The main goal of the conference was to understand and appreciate our Ecumenical nature as a Catholic Community (within the Sword of the Spirit Community of Communities) and to respond to God's call of unity among Christians. Bob Tedesco, FOF's Regional Missionary Coordinator, gave the first two talks: "Where Do We Stand" and "Catholic Principles and Practices for Ecumenism." Nilo Natural (Permanent Coordinator for FOF) gave the talk on "Ecumenical Approach" and Cecil Penson (FOF Senior

Coordinator) gave the talk on "Meeting the Challenges." The Q&A portion at the end gave the members of the Community a lot of time and opportunity to ask questions and clarify issues in as far as putting into practice this call for Ecumenism as a community.

The Conference was a good reminder for us that part of our call as a community is to live our lives and mission in unity with all who love the Lord and are called to serve Him and to work in harmony with those who serve Christ in roles of pastoral authority in the churches. It is our desire that by our ecumenical unity and collaboration, we, as a community, will be a witness to the unity God intends for all His people.



The community celebrated Lord's Day to cap the whole conference.

*(Bob Tedesco was accompanied by his wife, Bobbie and Joanie Nath from the People of God Community in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.)*



# Changed Name

God knows everything about us but is still willing to call us by our name – maybe a name different from what we are used to. When we answer the call we start to carry a new identity. We become ambassadors of His love, mercy and peace in the world.

From "A Changed Name" by Ray Scott, he said, in the olden times, people change the name of a person when a great event occurred in their life. The King of Egypt changed Joseph's name to Zaphnath-Paaneah. Nebuchadnezzar changed Daniel's name to Belteshazaar. Hananah, Mishael & Azariah's names were changed to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Each name had a particular meaning when it was changed.

In many instances in the scripture, God changed the names of some individuals and He wanted them to live up to their new name. God gave us a new name, too - Christian. Are we living up to that name?

*When God changes a person's name, He wants to see a change of faith.* Genesis 17:1-5, 15-16: God told Abram that He was going to change his name. I can just hear Abram say, "Thank you, Lord, for I am made fun about my name, 'exalted father,' yet I have no children! God told Abram, "No, instead of Abram, I am changing it to Abraham, 'father of a multitude'. I am changing Sarai's name from 'my princess' to Sarah, 'princess of many'." Why did God do this to Abram? He had a lesson for him. "Abraham, I have given you a promise of many children - I am Almighty God - trust in Me and I will do the impossible! Claim that name, Abraham, live up to your new name and you will see that I will live up to Mine!" When Abram accepted his new name, he displayed his trust in God.

*When God changes a person's name, He wants to see a change of plan.* Genesis 32:24-28: "Jacob" means 'trickster, schemer, conniver or to trip somebody up.' He tricked his brother into trading his birthright for a bowl of food. He deceived his aging father Isaac into granting him his final blessing, which Isaac had meant for Esau. He lived with his Uncle Laban for 20 years and each one tried to out-trick the other.

God had better things planned for Jacob who was used to doing things his own way, making his own plans and being his own boss but always getting in trouble. God changed his name and told Jacob, "(Israel) Claim that name and live up to it. You are now going to do things God's way because you are the 'Prince and Power of God'. No more scheming; you are no longer the 'Prince and Power of Jacob'."

Jacob fathered many sons, who are to this day known as the "Children of Israel", the "12 Tribes of Israel." His life was changed when he had a change of plans and let God direct his life.

By "Kuya" Cecil Penson  
Senior Coordinator of the Family of Faith Community

We are Christians, 'followers of Christ'. We need to follow Him, not our own plans and schemes. When we do, we will see God bless us. If we don't, we will see our life in a shambles like Jacob.

*When God changes a person's name, He wants to see a change of character.* John 1:38-42:

Simon means 'to make a noise or loudmouth.' He tried to talk Jesus out of going to Jerusalem. Jesus told him, "Get behind Me, Satan." Simon promised Jesus at the Last Supper that he would not forsake Him even if everybody else would. Simon made a "big noise" yet he denied knowing Jesus three times.



Jesus changed his name from "wind-bag" to Peter (Cephas) - 'a rock'. After the resurrection of Jesus, Peter fearlessly preached the news of the resurrection on the streets of Jerusalem, for all to hear. Simon became a Rock, standing hard and fast for Christ.

*When God changes a person's name, He wants to see a change of opinion.* Acts 13:9: Paul was called "Saul". Saul persecuted the church, killing and imprisoning Christians. This was his mission when he was on the road to Damascus. "Saul" is a Jewish name, meaning "asked". He was feared and respected by the Jewish leaders. He was a man of influence and power.

But God had a new name in mind for Saul for a new job He had for him. God changed his name to "Paul", which means "little". Saul did not have any room for Jesus in his life. God had to cut him down to pieces for Him to use Saul. God blinded him - that humbled Saul and enabled him to see Jesus as more important than anything else in the world.

God says in Revelation 2:17, "To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it." The new name receives the assurance that God's plan would be fulfilled in them.

*When God calls, change is bound to happen.* God does not always give the reason for the call but when we respond, we know that we are destined to participate in a new mission in life – and that is life changing. The writer of Ecclesiastes says, "There is a time for everything"—and that certainly includes answering God's call.



## SOS International Coordinators Meeting

The International Coordinators Meeting was held on May 27 to May 30, 2016 at the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing, Michigan. There were about 400 coordinators from across the Sword of the Spirit and other young leaders, from Asia, Ibero-America, Europe, and North American region.

The theme of the ICM was 'Pastoring the Pastors' based on the scripture passage from 1 Peter 2:9, "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." The four plenary sessions focused on Holiness, Unity, Spiritual Warfare, and Mission. Each session included a time for meditation on the scripture passage and focus of the day, praise and worship, talk, and personal testimony. After each session, the coordinators had separate group discussions to share and encourage one another regarding these areas.

The afternoon sessions comprised of the address from the Sword of the Spirit President Jean Barbara, presentations on ecumenical unity and church relations, presentation on leadership succession planning and raising up young leaders. On the final day, several workshops were offered focusing on sharpening prayer meeting leadership, mentoring younger men for mission, understanding and working with 'transitional' (post college/young professional) adults, and current issues on gender and sexuality.

There were three evenings allotted for prayer meetings, with times for seeking the Lord, ministering and praying for one another, and sharing reflections and word gifts. On Saturday night, we celebrated the opening of the Lord's Day, and six communities signed the covenant of membership of the Sword of the Spirit as Full Members, bringing the total number of Full Member communities to 34.

The six communities were: Jerusalem (Belgium), Buhing Pulong (Malaybalay, Philippines), Illuminator's Lamp (Beirut, Lebanon), Incienso de Dios (Xalapa, Mexico), Emmanuel (Cali, Colombia), Cuerpo de Cristo (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic)

Truly it was a blessing and a privilege to attend this meeting and witness how the Lord continues to call men to strive to live a life of holiness and mission. May the name of the Lord be glorified at all times! Amen.

- *By Nilo Natural*



## Reflections Prayer for Deliverance

In response to the community-wide call to become radical disciples, all members of the Family of Faith are being urged to undergo a "Prayer for Deliverance". Simply put, this is the act of "interceding for (praying over) a fellow Christian so that the person might be freed from the influences of the evil spirits".

My "Prayer for Deliverance" session happened at the home of Nilo and Menchie on May 7th, 2016. On this occasion, 3 brothers from my men's group called on the name of Our Lord Jesus, laid their hands on me and prayed to deliver me from the bondages that were blocking me from submitting myself to the Lord. After praying over me, they delivered to me prophecies they heard from the Lord and offered me words of encouragement. It was truly a remarkable experience!

I was telling the brothers shortly after the deliverance session how blessed we are in community that we have brothers and sisters who pray for, intercede and genuinely care for us, as we grapple through life's challenges. Where else can we talk about topics of great importance such as how to get rid of our sins so as to become a better person, husband, father, brother, son, etc., other than our men's group? These things are not going to be discussed in school or in the workplace. In parties? I have a lot of close friends and their friendships are dear to me. But when we meet, we mostly talk about sports, news events, technology, movies and maybe some gossip. All these seem trivial compared to the depth of conversations during our men's group meetings.

It is indeed a great blessing to have you brothers and sisters in this faith journey. I praise and thank God for the Family of Faith!

- *By Vanni Yorobe*



# Fellowships

## Mother-Son Activity

The Mother Son Activity was held last June 4, 2016 at the Pine Creek Miniature Golf in West Amwell. On that Saturday morning, a total of 3 mothers and 5 sons, plus one grandmother, had a blast. Tet, the Children's Formation Program Ministry lead, was there, too. The group picked the course that had more shade as it was very sunny. Each flight consisted of mother and son to ensure that the sons bonded with the moms; not the sons with their friends and the mom with the other moms. This was a mother-son activity after all. At the end of 18 challenging holes, there was a 19th hole that had 3 openings for the ball. If you make a hole in one, then you get a free game for your next visit. One of the moms did it so it looks like they are going back to that place. Overall, the event was enjoyable and like other activities, there was a clamor for more bonding time.

Here is what some of the participants have to say about the experience:

"The highlight of the mother-son activity for me was being able to compete with my mom and my lola and laughing about how competitive we got playing mini-



golf. We all really wanted to win, but we also just wanted to have fun and laugh a lot." - *Gabe*

"I got to rediscover Eliezer, knowing him more as a grown up man. He's more patient and calmer now. He just liked to have fun even if I would get ahead of him at times. He has really matured." - *Bheng*

"It was a time for us sons to simply spend time with our mothers and have some bonding time." - *Ivan*

"I was able to have fun and be competitive with my mom playing a game that both of us don't really know how to play. It just helped me become closer to my mom." - *Eliezer*

- *By Corinne Yorobe*



## COF Summer Fellowship

The annual COF (Children of Faith) summer fellowship was held at our house in East Brunswick, NJ on a beautiful and sunny afternoon of June 25. God blessed us with the nice weather that day and the children were able to spend most of their day at our backyard eating and playing. Thanks to my husband, Joseph a.k.a. the Master Chef, who grilled hotdogs and burgers for everyone. We also enjoyed the scrumptious salad, sweet potatoes, corn, and mac n cheese prepared by Lissa Angeles. Even Bheng, mother of Danielle, who is not a fan of vegetables even complimented the salad; said that it was one of her favorite dishes on the entire menu.

After eating lunch, the children had an exciting time doing a scavenger hunt in our neighborhood. The game was designed by myself and Sophie. The children paired up with a chaperone parent to find the clues around our neighborhood. Kudos to Danielle and Olivia who were the first pair to return with all the found clues. They even beat the high school girl team.

It would not be a good party without getting the kids soaking wet. Many thanks to Corinne, who provided us

with 300 water balloons; the kids had a fun time filling the water balloons, splashing and playing with them in the water balloon toss and relay game. Special thanks to Portia who volunteered to join the games and raised the excitement to a higher level.

Afterwards, the kids devoured the delicious rice crispy treats made by Tet and some homemade S'mores. Last, but not the least, Lissa bought the kids colorful drawstring bags and she had them decorate with fabric paint so they could all bring home as their souvenirs.

A big shout out to Vanni taking photos for us and helping Joseph in grilling; to moms Portia, Bheng and Corinne who helped out on everything from chaperone, games and craft; to Tet on making the dessert and to Lissa who organized the event from the beginning to the end. I am honored to have so much help from the brothers and the sisters and to have a wonderful fun afternoon with the COF children. The children have demonstrated love and kindness towards one another that I have never seen in any other settings. They are amazing children!

- *By Evelyn Wan*

(See pictures on page 7)



## Women's Tea Time

June 18th, 2016, the women of Family of Faith gathered together in the beautiful garden of Greenwood in Short Hills, NJ. It was a beautiful day - sunny and breezy. A perfect day for an outdoor activity. We had two ladies from Greenwood who guided the tour in the garden. We learned that the buildings and landscape were constructed by hand of rough local stone and colorful arts and crafts tiles in the 1920's.

The women enjoyed the beauty of nature. The flowers and greenery, and the nurturing environment of the sisters were refreshing. It was a day of fun and laughter and bonding time with sisters.

- *By Bekah Sison*



## Post-High School Group Fellowship (Summer Escape)

On a Saturday afternoon, on June 25<sup>th</sup>, the Post HS Ministry headed out to Amazing Escape Rooms in Princeton for a fellowship. Escape rooms are the newest trend for fun exciting group activity: You are trapped in a room and your mission is to solve puzzles to get out in time.

The group was split into four. First to be called were the guys Jason, Joel, Ivan, Eliezer, Jeremy, Jon, Eric and Joseph who received freshman orientation in "The Dorm" room. Gabe, Meeko, Angelica, Arianne, Chelle and Roy spent some down time in "The Cabin" but they had to be out before winter comes. Our group - Mara, Geeya, Pam F, Pam P, Isabella, Ted, Rose, Myrla, Myra and myself - were trapped in "The Office" because the doctor forgot he has one last patient and left. In the last group were Kim, Mike, Issa, Ramon, Tita, Yen, Arnold, Peter, Carmi and Cheng and their mission was to steal something in the "Bank Robbery" room.

I was fortunate to have great puzzle solvers as teammates. We were the first one out with only 10 minutes to spare. The dorm guys were not so lucky. Looks like they have to learn more survival skills before school starts. The vacationers have to extend their stay at the cabin until winter. And, the bank robbers have to treat us with ice cream someday for the success of their mission.

After the game, we celebrated Pam Farrales' birthday. Amazing Escape set up cupcakes and candle. We sang her the birthday song and enjoyed the treat.

It was a heart-pounding, adrenalin-pumping yet fun fellowship. Thank you to Kuya Ed and Myrla for organizing this event. Till next time!

- *By Cherry Cua*



# Testimony

## My Call To Mission

*“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” -Romans 10:13-14*

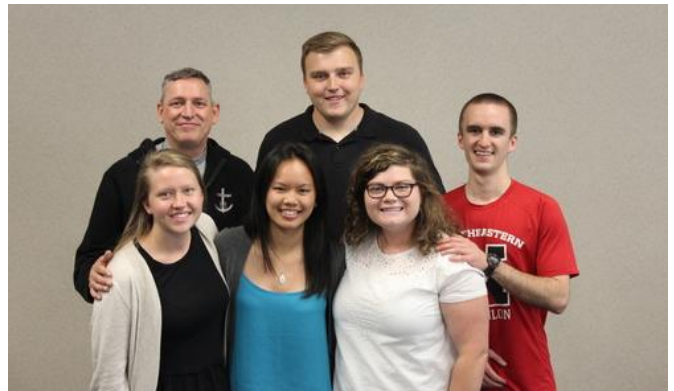
During my early college years, I turned my back on the Lord, on my family, and on my responsibilities. As freeing as the independence initially seemed, that time yielded years of despair, lack of drive, and emptiness. Eventually I grew out of the typical college scene and found the Catholic Center at Northeastern University. Senior year, I experienced a deep conversion of faith and a profound sense of fulfillment. With the foundation I gained by growing up in community and then developing that knowledge further with the community at the Catholic Center, I grew to love our God and my heart was forever changed. At the beginning of my last semester in college, I was asked to give a witness of my faith journey at a retreat. I believe the Lord used that experience to stir something in my heart, to stir a newfound love for his young people as well as a strong desire to follow Him.

Now several months down the road after answering God’s call, I am preparing to be a missionary back on the Northeastern campus under the Brotherhood of Hope and Saint Paul’s Outreach. My role as a missionary, or as a Mission Leader, is to reach out to young people and share God’s

ocean of love – to invite those who have never known Him, to impassion those who have forgotten Him, and to grow deeper with those who love Him. I can’t wait to build stronger relationships with those students and walk alongside them through their faith journey. My prayer is that the Holy Spirit will use me and my fellow Mission Leaders so that young people may hear the Lord, that they might call on His name, and know they are saved.

Brothers and sisters, thank you for answering God’s call to be community members! Blessed are we who *have* tasted and seen the goodness of the Lord. How gracious is our God that we can participate in His exchange of love within our family of faith here on earth. And how accountable are we to further spread the good news with the rest of the Body of Christ. God Bless you today and always!

**- By Pam “Mela” Farrales**



*Pam (2nd from left, bottom) and the Mission Team from St. Paul’s Outreach (SPO) Massachusetts*

# Milestone

**Evelyn**

**Fr. Alex**  
25 Years of Priesthood

**Portia**

**Menchie**

**Doc Arnold**

**Horence & Irma: Golden Wedding**

# Snapshots



*Our Youth Group at the YES Retreat in Hillsdale, MI (Apr 1-3, 2016)*



*Bridge Retreat, St. John's Church  
Dunellen, NJ (May 14, 2016)*



*Children of Faith Summer Fellowship Day  
East Brunswick, NJ (June 25, 2016)*



*Men's Lunch Fellowship (May 21, 2016)  
Tepanyaki Grill, East Brunswick, NJ*



*Community Easter Celebration (April 10, 2016)*



*Publicly Committed Members Meeting  
(April 2, 2016)*

"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*

### Tambuli Newsletter Editorial & Design Team:

Cheng Cabangon, Marita Joson, Medel Guevarra

### Contributors for this issue:

Cecil Penson, Nilo Natural, Corinne Yorobe, Cherry Cua, Vanni Yorobe, Pam Farrales, Bekah Sison, Evelyn Wan, 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.

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>

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