

CELEBRATING
OUR
COMMITMENT
TO THE
POOR
&
THE
EXPLOITED
EARTH



Columban Mission in the **PHILIPPINES**



Ana Flores (L) and Larry Duerme (R) offering the 90 years logo at Mass



Fr. Michael Cuddigan (L), nephew of the first Columban priest to arrive in the Philippines, represented his uncle during the celebration. With him in the picture is Fr. John Leydon (R).

What's Inside

- Farewell, Father Kevin
- Recognition from the Center of Child Protection in Rome
- Columbans: Priests of the People
- God Bless the Columban Missionaries
- Cebu: My Place of Firsts
- When Dialogue Meets Companionship
- Waving Through a Window
- News Updates
- Prayer Guides
- Those Who Journeyed with Us

Columban Mission



FROM THE DIRECTOR

This year we, Columbans, are celebrating 90 years of mission here in the Philippines. The first Columban priest to arrive in Manila on May 30, 1919 was Fr. Michael Cuddigan from Ireland.

Joy and gratitude filled the air at Our Lady of Remedies Parish, Malate, Manila, as we celebrated this wondrous occasion on June 3, 2019. The Bishop of Novaliches, the Most Rev. Antonio Tobias D.D. presided at the Eucharistic Celebration, together with Bishop Broderick Pabillo D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Manila and Bishop Daniel Presto D.D., Bishop of San Fernando, La Union and former colleague of the Columbans who worked in Iba Diocese, Zambales. Columban Fr. Michael Cuddigan, the nephew of the first Columban priest to arrive in Manila was able to come from Hong Kong to proudly represent his uncle at this celebration.

It was a great moment to thank God for the countless blessings we, Columban Missionaries, have received from the people of the Philippines over 90 years, in Luzon, in the Visayas and in Mindanao.

You who are reading this newsletter are the reason why we are able to continue our mission here in the Philippines until now. Because of your generosity and that of so many Filipinos we are able to continue to respond to the missionary call of God, especially in our option for the poor and for the exploited Earth. Through your support, prayers and donations, together, we are able to continue to train and send young Filipinos and Filipinas as Columban Missionary Priests and Columban Lay Missionaries to the four corners of the earth. Every time you pray for us and every time you support us you are generously playing your part in helping the Filipino Church to respond to the mandate of Christ: *"Go and make disciples of all nations"* (Matthew 28:19).

Maraming, maraming salamat po sa inyong suporta!

Fr. Paul Glynn SSC

Thank you



Our deepest gratitude goes to **SHEIRLY PEREZ**, the Administrative Assistant of the Columban Mission Promotion Office, as she leaves the Columban Society and embarks on a new journey of her choosing. Your Columban family will miss your pleasant nature and kind smiles, but we, nevertheless, wish you all the best in your future endeavors. May God provide your family with good health in the years to come!



**KATUWAAN
LANG**

Question?

Who was the smartest man
in the Bible?

Answer: Abraham. He knew a Lot.

CORRECTIONS

CM33 p3: On the article, "Book Launch of 'Popong: A Compilation of Stories about Fr. Rufus Halley'": Fr. Paul Glynn, SCC should read as Fr. Paul Glynn, **SSC**; and...book launch last February 17 should be **February 7**.

CM 33 p6: (middle picture) the date should be November 28, **2018** not 2019. Our sincere apologies for the typographical errors.



FAREWELL, FATHER KEVIN

It's a sad day for the entire Columban family in the Philippines to see Father Kevin McHugh officially retire and leave the country for his homeland, Ireland, last July 23, but we, nevertheless, wish him the absolute best. He spent many years in Mindanao, much of that time in parishes in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur. And he spent his recent years in Malate Parish, a decision prompted by concerns for his physical health. Much loved by his friends, colleagues and acquaintances from Malate, one last thanksgiving celebration in his honor was organized on July 21 at the Remedios Jubilee Center, Malate.

It is hard to believe that it has been 60 years ago, since Father Kevin first entered the shores of Cebu on November 17, 1960. Years later, he'd leave the country packed with more than a lifetime worth of good

memories. However, he admitted that in the beginning, he was overwhelmed with the enormity of responsibilities he was immediately entrusted with. With perfect memory, Father Kevin recalled how he, being no more than 24 years old in Ozamiz City, was left alone in an unfamiliar terrain and being pulled in all directions for his services by locals he could not understand. He could still remember his anxiety in taking charge of an entire parish in Iligan City for a year, with assistants who were more or less his age. He has come a long way since then, and with the years that passed, he did not only age in time but grew in spirit as well.

Decades ago, the liturgy was versed purely in Latin, a language most people didn't understand. It was only in 1964 when the Constitution on Liturgy promulgated by Pope Paul VI was introduced into practice. Father Kevin knew a day would arrive when a Mass could be conducted entirely in the language used by the people, and he was right. He took a special interest in liturgical participation, one he has maintained until today.

The Columbans in the Philippines, Malate Parish and the Filipino people whom he met along the way will forever be thankful for his commitment and dedication to a life of faithful service.

There are many ways to describe his character, but by nature, Father Kevin is a man full of passion for life and his vocation./D. Clemente



Columban Fathers Paul Glynn & Kevin McHugh



RECOGNITION FROM CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION PONTIFICIA UNIVERSITA GREGORIANA, ROME

In a letter dated June 20, 2019, the Center for Child Protection (CCP) at Pontificia Universita Gregoriana, Rome thanked Fr. Shay Cullen, President and Founder of PREDA Foundation, Inc., for his collaboration and contribution to the diploma course in Safeguarding of Minors and the first year of the Licentiate in Safeguarding program of the Center. As Hans Zollner, SJ, President of CCP and Karolin Kuhn, CCP Pedagogical Development expressed in the letter, "During

the academic year 2018-2019 we implemented a new pedagogical and didactical approach aimed at teaching applicable competences and culturally sensitive knowledge. The possibility of embarking on this adventure would have not been possible without your help through the text you wrote and/or through the classes you taught."

MISSION PROMOTION - LUZON *by CMPO-Luzon*

Our gratitude goes to the Diocese of La Union and the Administrators of the diocesan schools headed by Bishop Daniel Presto and Ms. Ever Quinto for allowing us to put our 'alkansya' in each diocesan school and to do mission promotion and mission appeal activities in the parishes.



(L-R): Fr. Rolly Aniscal, Ms. Evelyn Sabate, Bp. Daniel Presto – Bishop of La Union Diocese, Ms. Ever Quinto, Ms. Lilibeth Sabado, Fr. Andrei Paz

As our way of thanking them, we visited families of our Columban mission partners in Binangonan, Bulacan, Zambales, La Union and Manila.



Sharing of stories with Luzviminda Morales (in printed orange dress, left side) and family, Binangonan, Rizal



Mission & Vocation promotion team, Columban seminarians and mission partners with the Aeta community

Outreach activity to the Aeta community at Orani, Balanga, Bataan. There was a short talk about the Missionary Society of St. Columban, followed by a short program and giving of personal hygiene kit to those present. The kit was donated by one of our mission partners.



April 13, 2019 - First Mission Partners' Recollection at DPC, Iligan City.

The Mission & Vocation Promotion Team, together with Fr. Jovito Dales, Lilibeth Sabado, Columban lay missionary and Elbert Balbastro, Columban seminarian conducted two activities in Iloilo City.



July 07, 2019 - Mission Promotion and Appeal at St. John de Nepomuceno Parish, Anini-y, Antique

MISSION & VOCATION PROMOTION - MINDANAO

by Cesar Ramirez, Jr, Assistant Animator for Vocations

April 13, 2019 - The first Mission Partners' Recollection at DPC, Iligan City was facilitated by Fr. Kurt Zion Pala, together with Ana Flores, Columban lay missionary, and the Mission-Vocation Promotion Team.



July 06, 2019 - Recollection with the Singles for Christ members at Sara, Iloilo.

July 13, 2019 - Second Mission Partners' Recollection at the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM) House, Iligan City. Fr. Jovito Dales, together with Jerry Lohera, Columban seminarian, and the Mission-Vocation Promotion Team facilitated the recollection.

VOCATION PROMOTION UPDATES – LUZON

by Marvin Magat, Luzon Animator

The Vocation Team and the Columban seminarians visited a number of schools for vocation promotion in July 2019. **Pampanga:** Don Honorio Ventura State University, Villa de Bacolor; **La Union:** St. Mary Academy, Agoo; St. Mary of the Sea, Sto. Tomas; and St. Mary Academy, Rosario; **Pangasinan:** St. Columban College, Lingayen; **Zambales:** St. Columban College, Barretto and St. Joseph College, Olongapo.



Larry Duerme, Columban seminarian, giving a vocation talk at St. Mary Academy, Agoo, July 10, 2019



(L-R): Fr. Rolly Aniscal with the Columban seminarians – Larry, Marvin, Paul and Francis, vocation campaign at St. Mary of the Sea, Sto. Tomas, July 10, 2019



We welcome Lydio Mangao, Jr. (L) from Negros and Mark Joseph Magat (R) from Pangasinan to the formation program of the Columbans.

JPIC UPDATE

by JPIC Team

Inspired by the Achuar community in the Andes Mountains and the urgent call of Pope Francis to care for our common home, 50 young people and parents from the Mother of Divine Mercy Village planted around 300 tree species in the village last July 28, in time for the 198th Independence Day of Peru.

Ana Flores in Mindanao



Ana Flores (Peru), Columban lay missionary, encouraged actions over words through participation in monitoring the trees' growth. As one tree sequesters 22 kg of carbon dioxide in a year and around 255 kg in 40 years, this tree growing initiative significantly contributes in addressing the present climate emergency. This initiative would not have been realized without the strong support from the City Local Environment and Natural Resources (CLENRO) of Cagayan de Oro City. CLENRO provided the seedlings from its nursery located at Balubal, CDO and

it was also actively involved in the launching of *Laudato Si'*-Gen Pilipinas. With our collective commitment to nurture the trees planted, we hope for a greener, cleaner and fruit-laden Mother of Divine Mercy Village in the years to come. *Harinawa! / R. Mordeno*

Other Updates

In line with its Regional plan for 2019-2022, Columban Missionaries supports GCCM-Pilipinas in its effort to share the Deep Journey into *Laudato Si'* Animators' Training (DJLSAT) to the dioceses in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The latest training was conducted in Dipolog City wherein forty participants from the dioceses of Dipolog, Ozamiz, Pagadian, Iligan and Marawi partook in the three-day training.

Columban Fr. John Leydon and Fr. Edu Gariguez, Executive Secretary of CBCP-NASSA, had an audience with the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) plenary last July. Both delivered the call for a sequel to the 1988 CBCP Pastoral letter on "What is Happening to Our Beautiful Land?". As a response, CBCP issued the recent Pastoral Letter "An Urgent Call for Ecological Conversion, Hope in the Face of Climate Emergency." / J. Din



LALOM NGA PANAW SA LAUDATO SI
Animators Training
Bishop's House, Sicayab, Dipolog City
July 1-4, 2019

90

YEARS OF COLUMBAN MISSION IN THE PHILIPPINES





Columban Missionaries, priests and lay, Mindanao District Convention, January 27, 1998, Catadman, Ozamiz City

COLUMBANS: PRIESTS OF THE PEOPLE

by Daniella Clemente

Daniella is the Assistant Editor of the Columban Missionaries' publications in the Philippines. This article is based on the interview she conducted with Fr. Michael Cuddigan for the Columbans' 90 years celebration of mission in the Philippines. Father Michael is presently assigned in Hong Kong.

It has been a long time since Fr. Michael Cuddigan was assigned to the Philippines, but the way his eyes softened their focus, while he recalled details about his life and mission, says that he remembered the days as if they were only yesterday. He spent most of his youth in Mindanao, moving from one province to another in a span of about 20 years, with assignments ranging from parish and retreat works to formation and vocation. Life wasn't easy. There was a time when he questioned the point of his missionary life, when the excitement of the initial years was gone. He confessed, "There was fear, I think, in the sense of vulnerability in the face of challenges and the hugeness of the mission." He first came to the country, with its unfamiliar culture and landscape, without a hint of what to do. All he banked on was the model of the local church in Ireland, like the founding Columbans before him, including his uncle,

Father Michael Cuddigan, after whom he was named. One might say, that they had brought the Irish Church with them.

The nature of the society's mission has always leaned on what the local church needs in concurrence with the political and social climate of the country. From sacramental work into building communities, the mission later involved working for justice, peace and social action.

The time of martial law, for instance, instigated political turmoil and violence for those trying to facilitate justice for the poor. There was huge polarization in the society, and people from both sides of the conflict paid careful attention to what priests had to say. "The Columbans were challenged to review within themselves their priorities," as Father Mick eloquently recalled. Looking back, not only did they have to deal with external pressures but more often than not, grappled with their consciences as well. In times like this, Father Mick had to remind himself, "You made that decision between you and God. So, like marriage or others, you constantly commit yourself in the face of difficulties."

When asked on where he thinks the Columbans see themselves in the future, amidst the rapidly evolving society, he answered, "I think a lot of us are influenced with what's happening around us. We're priests of the people. So, wherever they're in need, that's where we'll go."

GOD BLESS THE COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES

by Louella Daos Ortiz



Louella, 75, is from Botolan, Zambales. She is a retired teacher of Sta. Monica Parochial Institute; a member of Sta. Monica Parish Pastoral Council, the Vice-President of Senior Citizens-Taugtug, & a member of the Lupon Tagapamayapa-Barangay Taugtug.

The Columban Missionaries were instrumental in the evangelization of Botolan. I was a freshman student in school year 1957-1958. Botolan High School was still a private non-sectarian school at that time but the Columban fathers had already started their work on evangelization, with the help of the Student Catholic Action, of which I was a member. It was from Fr. Thomas Fay, my religion teacher, that I learned the basics of Catholic religion - the prayers, the parts of the mass, the vessels, the vestments, and the sacraments. I even had a missal in Latin and English translations. I often went to confession.

After college, I went back to teach in my alma mater, under the management of the Columban Fathers. Fr. Joseph Connelly was then the Director. He was followed by other Columban priests: Fr. Fintan Murtagh, Fr. Dominic Nolan, Fr. Malcolm Sherrard, Fr. John Curry and Fr. Donal O'Dea. I was not under the directorship of Fr. O'Dea since he got assigned to Poonbato. But he was my friend from whom I requested a tape on Irish music and a book on the history of Ireland. I will always be grateful to him.

It was the Columban Missionaries who helped form who I am, as a student, a Catholic teacher, and a parishioner. God bless the Columban Missionaries.

COLUMBAN LAY MISSIONARIES-PHILIPPINES UPDATE

by Beth Sabado, Coordinator



Liliani (in green shirt) welcomed by Sun Hee at the airport in Manila last July 15.

Haiti Muller (Tonga) returned to the Philippines on April 14, 2019 from her home vacation. After completing her language refresher course, she will now return to Cagayan de Oro to continue her Prison Ministry.

Kim Sun Hee (Korea) has moved on to her new ministry in Malate Parish after finishing her refresher course in Tagalog. We thank the Columbans in Malate parish for continuously supporting CLM engagements.

We welcome Liliani Ma'afu (Tonga) back to the region. She will be attending some modular courses before going to Davao for her language

refresher course in September. Aside from their administrative roles, John Din and Arlenne Villahermosa, together with other members of GCCM-Pilipinas and JPIC teams, have been giving the “Deep Journey into *Laudato Si'* Animators' Training” to different dioceses and groups in the country. On July 20, 2019, Our Lady of Remedies Parish, Malate in cooperation with GCCM-Pilipinas organized a “Deep Journey into *Laudato Si'*” symposium in response to the urgent call for ecological conversion. We thank the organizers for redirecting our sight and heart to the present ecological reality.

Ana Flores attended a module on Women's Rights, Gender and Equality at the Women and Gender Institute of Miriam College to help her ministry with women.

Alongside her functions as CLM Coordinator, Beth Sabado has been busy promoting Columban vocation throughout the country and being involved in the various activities of the Mission Promotion Office. We congratulate Febie Gonzales and Marea Lyn Almirañez who have completed their first three-year term in Taiwan. We keep them in our prayers, always. CLM-Philippines had their Annual General Assembly on July 31 to August 4, 2019 at the Columban House in Singalong. On August 1, CLM honored Leo Distor with a meal for his years as priest member of the Lay Missionaries Leadership Team (LMLT) and welcomed Cerenio 'Dodong' Matulac as the new priest member of the LMLT. Thank you both for your generosity and support to CLM.



Marea (left) and Febie (right) at the end of their reentry process with Beth (center) held at Cenacle Retreat House, QC.

FORMATION UPDATE by Felisiano Fatu, Rector

The Formation staff and students were on their summer vacation until classes started in August. However, for some students it was vacation with a twist. Three students finished their English language studies on June 28, while three others had concluded their Tagalog language studies on July 19. They enjoyed learning the languages and are now able to engage more deeply in daily conversations with people. Seven of the students were involved in various mission promotion and mission appeal activities of the Columban Mission Office: six helped out in the efforts in Luzon while one assisted in both Vocation and Mission promotion efforts in Mindanao. I thank the students for their generosity in helping out these two important ministries even while on vacation. The students had enriching experiences in their encounters with local benefactors, mission partners and the various schools supporting the fundraising efforts of the mission office.

Iowane Naio and Saula Seeto, who are on their First Mission Assignment (FMA) in Peru, have arrived safely in Cochabamba, Bolivia for their Spanish language studies at the Maryknoll Fathers' Institute of Language.

For the academic year 2019-2020, there are two programs: Spiritual Year program, to be hosted in a separate house, and the main program at 42 Rosario Drive. Ten students are attending the main program and seven students for the Spiritual Year program. The students at 42 began the academic year with a retreat on July 31-August 7, Sacred Heart Novitiate, Novaliches, facilitated by Sr. Joy, Carm. OL.



Paul Calipusan, Columban seminarian, promoting mission.

CEBU: MY PLACE OF FIRSTS

by Marvin Magat

Marvin is the Vocation Animator-Luzon of the Columban Missionaries.

My first time in Cebu, undeniably the Queen City of the South, and the first seed of Christianity in the Philippines, blessed me with new experiences when I became a delegate of the National Youth Day.

The theme of the celebration, “Welcome to Cebu, Welcome to our Hearts!”, succinctly described the joyous, festive and warm welcome given to the delegates.

The program had a daily schedule with different catechetical themes that allowed friendships to bloom through the interaction and relational experiences among strangers, such as the NYD Service Revolution. Through this, I learned that having cultural sensitivity and

awareness of individual differences can alleviate one’s biases and prejudices. Despite our varying backgrounds, we are all catalysts of change as we strive to promote faith-sharing communities and get involved in community projects. The previous chapel president shared that seeing us work with their community erased the negative impression he had on our generation.

Other than community service, this week-long celebration was a blur of activities that taught me to trust the Lord at all times because everything will work out in the end. So, given the chance to talk to my young self, I’d like to tell him: “Do not be afraid to say ‘Yes’ to God in every moment. Soon things will be clearer and all will be well.”

I found my second home in Cebu as a pilgrim of National Youth Day.

Thank you very much Ibones family, especially to our foster



Marvin (second from the right) with his group mates in Pardo, Cebu City

parents, Nanay Saling and Tatay Boy, for opening your home to the delegates. Your generosity and warmest welcome allowed us to experience the event to the fullest. I’m also thankful to my newfound friends, for the meaningful and sincere bonds we have formed. Thank you, Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro for accommodating me as part of your delegation. Thank you, Columban Missionaries for letting me experience this youthful gathering.

God knows how happy I am for this journey. Until we meet again. I will miss you all. I love you all. God bless us all.

WHEN DIALOGUE MEANS COMPANIONSHIP

by Jerry Lohera

Jerry is from La Victoria, Kauswagan, Magsaysay, Misamis Oriental. He joined the Columban seminary formation in June 2012 and left for Pakistan in July 2017 for a two-year First Mission Assignment (FMA).

Aisha, a two-year-old Muslim girl, arrived at the Catholic Clinic in Badin one Friday morning. She was admitted to the clinic for tuberculosis treatment. On another occasion, 71-year old Mansingh arrived at the clinic in scorching hot weather with his grandson. He came to get his medicine for the continued TB treatment. He was told to wait outside until his name was called, but the next time we found him, he had passed away.

People of all ages come to the clinic every Friday. They either come for a doctor as an out-patient or to get their medicine for the on-going 6-month treatment for the endemic tuberculosis. They usually hailed from far-flung villages. Along with two staff from the clinic, I had the privilege to visit the patients in their houses for follow-ups. A lot of them live as farm workers of the land lords. The water they use and drink is from the hand pumps, which is notoriously known to have a high level of chemical content. For years, they have been drinking this water without knowing the threat it poses to their health.

Untreated illnesses lead to many deaths in Pakistan and according to the reports, 80% of illnesses can be traced back to the water people drink. This could have been minimized if the government has a genuine



concern for them. Sometimes, meeting sickly people makes me want to pursue medicine. But I also know that I don’t have to be a doctor to be a healer.

In pastoral ministry, our presence and our listening heart alone can be profoundly healing. We should take our step one at a time and acknowledge our limitedness with great faith in God who is way bigger than we imagine. We cast our sighs, hopes and courage on to God so that we will not be helpless when faced with the enormity of the poverty of the people and the unimaginable intolerance of religion. In pastoral ministry, we are invited to be true companions to the sick, the poor and the marginalized; to empathize in their struggles, joys and hopes, regardless of their creed.

Guide for Group Reflections on Mission Awareness



SESSION FOUR: LIFE IN A BROKEN WORLD

Aim: An appreciation of the shape of authentic living in a broken world – as it was lived out in the life of Jesus.

1. Opening Prayer/Song
2. Read prayerfully
Is 52:13-53:12
3. Activity: Give some examples of the destruction of life happening in our country/world today. What could be the source of these evils? What is the common response of people?
In the reading, what was Jesus' response?
4. Sharing

POINTS FOR REFLECTION:

The destruction of life is evil. Evil is generally responded to by further evil. Many choose to remain silent and become paralyzed. Thus, the destruction of life continues.

5. Sharing: Examples of people you may know who gave their lives for others
6. Closing Prayer/Song

These guides are meant to help us appreciate our common calling to be "light to the world and salt for the earth" and to help others live out the same calling – to heal, to restore, to affirm, to care for and to promote LIFE in all its diversity.

An adaptation from "Life for the World" by Frs. Peter Leonard and Sean McNulty, SSC, a continuation of the first three sessions found in CM 33.

SESSION FIVE: HEALING AND AFFIRMING LIFE

Aim: An appreciation of how Jesus went about his mission and how his followers may continue the same mission.

1. Opening Prayer/Song
 2. Activity: Assign the following Gospel verses to the different members of the group
Mt 4:23 – the good news of the Kingdom;
Lk 4:18-19 – Jesus declares the nature of His mission;
Mt 11:1-6 – How do we know you are the Messiah?
Mt 9:35-37 – the content of the Gospel that Jesus preached
- Guide Question: What do the Gospel texts tell us as to how Jesus understood what his life and mission was about?
3. Sharing

POINTS FOR REFLECTION:

God's unconditional love & total acceptance for all, especially of outcasts & sinners was made manifest in the person of Jesus. He ate with sinners and outcasts and spent time with them & in doing so, affirmed their worth & accepted them as they were.

4. For further reflection: What areas of life in the community that are in most need of healing?
5. Prayer of Healing and Thanksgiving

SESSION SIX: LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

Aim: To heighten awareness of and involvement in mission to the wider community of the world.

1. Opening Prayer/Song on Mission
2. Activity: Think of missionaries you know or have read about. In what way are they life-givers for others? From where are they? In what countries are they working and with whom are they working? How are they caring for life? Are there similarities between what they are doing and what people do here in the Philippines?
3. Sharing

POINTS FOR REFLECTION:

People can be on mission anywhere. What is unique about those in foreign mission is that they are in places and cultures other than their own. They embrace and share God's love to/with other peoples – crossing boundaries of creed, culture, gender, race and age.

In what way can I/we support the mission? In what way can I/we help the Philippine church become more missionary?

4. Sharing
5. Prayer for the Mission and Missionaries

Waving Through a Window

by Daniella Clemente

When I was young, I was the troublesome child who hated going to Mass because of my impatient nature. I couldn't sit still and focus on the homily, and that behavior continued on beyond my teenage years. Furthermore, my high school years marked a huge shift in my spirituality. I decided that I do not believe in religion, because it's merely a fad. However, I still find myself open to the idea that a God probably exists, because how else can one explain all the wonders of the world?

It is ironic then, that my first job, fresh out of college, would be with a religious society. At the time of this writing, I had been working as the Assistant Editor of the Columban Publications of the Missionary Society of St. Columban for more than a month, yet I still had difficulties in adjusting to a new environment. So, I dreaded the day of my first retreat with the staff of the Columban Mission house. Being new to the group, I had yet to form any kind of friendship among my colleagues. In hindsight, I should have known not to let my fears get the best of me, because going on a trip with them, away from the usual noise of the city, proved to be a memory I'd cherish forever.

We came to the Center for Ecozoic Living and Learning (CELL) in Silang, Cavite where the air is crisp and the sight of green extends for as far as the eye can see. Fr. Louie Ybañez, SSC presided over the activities set for the day. Right off the bat, I noticed the contrast in our personalities by the way we participated in the ice-breaker game and the kind of lessons we picked-up from the activity. More importantly, I was able to see how much faith and spirituality influence the mentality



Singalong staff after their retreat in CELL, Silang, Cavite. Daniella is at the leftmost side, front row.

and behavior of my co-workers.

Our last activity required us to scatter ourselves all over the area for introspection and later on, share something about ourselves. While I found it hard to talk about myself, it was an amazing experience to see my colleagues bare themselves for all the world to see, to put so much of their emotions on display without shame and regret. Each and every one of them had been carrying their own personal cross, yet they remained generous with smiles, kind words and genuine affection. I'm glad to be at the receiving end of these and I hope to reciprocate them for the days to come.

I used to scoff at the idea of leaning on a God for strength. I thought all the rules and practices are unnecessary for a personal relationship with Him. I believed its main use is to fulfill humankind's need to look up to something, to know there is purpose to their existence. But being part of the Columban family where they have learned to carry on the good fight with the help of their faith, has given me fresh eyes and a renewed sense of optimism. It's like slowly letting the sun shine in through the window after years of being adamant in keeping them shut. Soon enough, maybe, I'd be able to stand in front of it and wave to the world outside.

Those Who Journeyed with Us



Fr Patrick Hurley (1924-2019)

Fr. Patrick from Kilcrohane, County Cork, Ireland came from a family of Columbans. His two older brothers were Columban priests and his sister was a Columban sister. Appointed to the Philippines in 1949, Father Paddy was assigned to take over a remote block of parishes in the centre and south-west of Negros where he worked for more than sixty years spending most of his time caring for the spiritual and material needs of the people. He organized a "carabao project" which helped a huge number of farmers. When ill health finally caught up with him, he returned to Ireland in July 2011. He was a dedicated, hard-working missionary and a dear friend of the Filipino people. May God rest his soul.

Milagros Culanag (1940-2019)

Milagros Yray Culanag was born on January 20, 1940, and returned to her Maker on May 20, 2019. She is the wife of Teopisto Culanag, Sr., who worked with the Columban Missionaries in Ozamiz since 1960 until his retirement. They were married by Fr. Patrick Lavin and blessed with four boys and six girls. She is the mother of Laga who was the caregiver of the Columbans for ten years, specially to Fr. Pat Farrell. She is the grandmother of Marjorie Engcoy, a Columban lay missionary assigned in Fiji. To Nanay Milagros, thank you for your generosity.



May God give you eternal peace and joy.



(L-R): Columban Frs. Philip, Rex, Louie and Rolly, with Columban Sr. Perlita



Filipino Lay Missionaries, Mona & Hazel, with Columban Sr. Hasuk Shin(R) in Pakistan



Fr. Vincent Busch, a Columban priest from USA, assigned to the Philippines since 1975 to present.



- 👁 Mission Appeals
- 👁 Mite Box and Alkansya
- 👁 Donate Regularly
- 👁 Leave a Will



DEPOSIT TO OUR BANK ACCOUNT

Bank/Branch:
Account Name:

East West Bank - Bicutan
Columban Missionary
Foundation Inc.

Banco de Oro (BDO) - Paco

The Regional Director of the Missionary Society
of Saint Columban in the Philippines Inc.
001650-143220

Account Number:

200006345793

SEND THRU:

ML Kwartá Padala (MLhuillier)

FOR PICK-UP:

Please contact our office

Account Name:

Columban Missionary
Foundation Inc.

Mindanao: Mr. Bernie Durangparang (09501837474)

Visayas: Fr. Brian Gore (09230822825)

Mr. Jayson Arcamo (09258768666)

Phone Number:

0932-245-0300

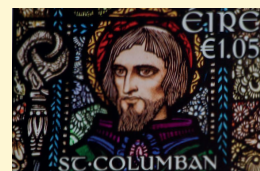
Luzon: Ms. Evelyn Sabate (09287968173)

For more copies, you may contact the following:

Luzon: Ms. Evelyn Sabate at 0928-796-8173 (Smart)

Mindanao: Mr. Bernie Durangparang at 09501837474 (Smart)

Visayas: Mr. Jayson Arcamo at 0925-876-8666 (Sun)



COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES

1857 Singalong Street,
Malate, Manila
(02) 523-3361

www.columbanmission.org.ph

colcomphil@gmail.com

FB: Columban PH Missionaries

PUBLISHER:

Fr. Paul Glynn
Regional Director

Editor:

Arlenne Villahermosa

Assistant Editor:

Daniella Clemente

Layout Artist:

John Din