



SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART

Philippine District

Ref. 6-17

DISTRICT NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

3 October 2017

Dear sisters,

Tomorrow I leave for Vietnam to visit Marie-Gisele, then proceed to Korea for the ASIANZ Provincials Meeting that will take place at the Sophia Prayer House in Seoul, Oct. 10-14, 2017. Fortunately Barb and Daphne will be present at the meeting, after which they have their visit to KOC province. Your prayerful support is requested, as we will be discussing the following topics: post-Chapter processes, regional collaboration, international formation, and reorganization. Gera will report on the Formation for Formators workshop, and I will report on the Vietnam Project and the Asian PTV meeting.

Joy Luz, on the other hand, will go directly to Seoul tomorrow, to facilitate the Duchesne Mission-China meeting which at one point will be happening almost simultaneously with the provincials meeting. She will be present at the provincials meeting when Young Ae gives the report on the Duchesne Mission. Joy has also been invited to discuss with the provincials the international JPIC assembly that will be held in Tagaytay in November 2018.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✚ Lydia Collado has been invited by the Asian Resource Foundation (ARF) as a participant and facilitator of some sessions of their meeting in Bangkok, 7-9 October. Lydia has been involved with this inter-religious foundation since its inception, and ARF has extended help several times to Philippine typhoon victims through SHIFT. This year's meeting will focus on humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya refugees, as well as explore the concept of Shared Future. Lydia will prepare a "paper" on how to engage youth and faith communities in promoting Shared Future. She will also report on the Sacred Heart Learning Center, which has been supported by donations channeled through the ARF for several years.

Lydia leaves for Bangkok on Oct. 6, and returns in the evening of Oct. 10th. She goes back to Samar on the 11th.

For the days between Oct. 6 and 10 when all 3 members of the District Council are out of the country (Cabats in Taiwan, as previously announced), please refer any district-level matters needing immediate attention, to Sol Navidad.

- ✦ The Metro Manila communities will observe the **feast of Mater Admirabilis** on Saturday, Oct. 21, with a mass at 6:00 pm at MSC, presided by Fr. Eugene Canete, MJ.
- ✦ The Risen Christ Community plans to offer **mass for all departed RSCJ at the Nov. 1 All Saints Day Mass** at Christ the King Church, then proceed to the Columbarium to light candles and say a prayer for Minda, Lita and Luz there. All RSCJ around are invited to join in.

NEWS FROM COMMUNITIES AND FOUNDATIONS

- ✦ **Montalban:** Even while the spirituality center facilities are still being renovated, Violie Villaraiz, a former novice, became the first person to avail herself of a prayer weekend with Maribel Carceller, Sept. 23-24. She in turn recommended it to Damayan, a faith-based group doing volunteer work in depressed areas of Caloocan, mostly providing scholarship support for children, youth and their families. Six persons including 2 French volunteers comprise the group that will have their own prayer weekend with Maribel on Oct. 14-15. The theme is "Prayer/Silence in the Life of a Volunteer." By this time the small rooms for individual retreatants would be ready for use. By the end of the month, all the repainting work will be done, and once more, San Jose Parish will use the facilities for their Parish Renewal Experience (PREX) on Oct. 28-29, with 30-40 participants.

Ayds will be rejoining the community on Oct. 15, upon completion of her CPE sessions with the Palo seminarians.

- ✦ **K-4th:** Last Sept. 8th, Sol Navidad was one of the Service Awardees of De La Salle University, in recognition of 10 years of teaching at the university.

Together with me, Sol and Aze Ramos participated in the National Day of Protest on Sept. 21, by joining the Misa Para sa Katarungan (Mass for Justice) at the University of the Philippines chapel, followed by the march to the office of the Commission for Human Rights and the unveiling of the statue of Jose Diokno, opposition senator and human rights advocate during the martial law years of Ferdinand Marcos.

- ✦ **SPDOWFI:** A donation from the Sacred Heart alumnae of Paris and Montvillargenne (AESCPM) is funding the improvement of the home vegetable gardens of the households in our Ormoc project. Each household is helped to have a stock of polyester bags, soil, seeds/seedlings, and steel/iron frames for their vegetable plants. The alumnae group has been sending support for Ormoc and Samar projects for the past years.
- ✦ **SMSF:** Ms. Iris Lawrie and her grandson Mark again came all the way from Scotland, from Sept. 6 to 20, to add their presence and skills to the TMP and tutorial classes. For activity time, they did face-painting with the children.

Almost simultaneously, Shona Morimoto, another volunteer-returnee, brought with her a Ugandan (Pius Senoga) and 3 other Japanese university students (Shiori Kitayama, Rio Hashimoto, Fuko Minami) on Sept 11 – 18. Sponsored by Kiwanis International, the group's project objective was to raise children's cultural understanding by giving them a shared experience. Japanese elementary school students created designs on t-shirts (e.g. cherry blossoms, their flag, etc.) that the group brought to the 50-some SMSF tutorial children, who in turn added their designs to the t-shirts, like their hand patterns. The Japanese and Filipino children also wrote on placards what they want to be when they grow up. They are then

encouraged to see and compare their experiences of school, neighborhood, etc. Shona and her friends will come up with a photo-book covering the process.

A short but sweet interaction also occurred between the SMSF staff and a group of 12 volunteers/staff from SHIFT foundation that visited them in the morning of Sept. 19th. The SHIFT group was interested in all aspects of the SMSF ministry, particularly the TMP Montessori approach, and the Sampaguita sewing project, since SHIFT also has similar programs.

SHIFT: Meredith Kain has come for the third time, to teach the women's sewing group and mothers of the Sacred Heart Learning Center bag-making and rug-weaving skills. This time she brought a friend, Judy Backhouse, who also brought in a lot of creativity. Meredith and Judy arrived on Sept. 27, and will return to Melbourne on Oct. 19th.

Simultaneously too, a research group on an Asian Peacebuilder Scholarship at the University for Peace based at the Ateneo de Manila University, is conducting a research follow up on the seminars on human trafficking in Northern Samar held at Sophie's Farm last year. The group consists of two Japanese (Airilizuka, Junichi Ito) and one Thai (PachernwitSaendi), and they are based at Sophie's Farm from Sept. 25 to Oct. 22.

In the meantime, the reconstruction of the first group of 20 houses destroyed by previous typhoons has been completed, funded by a grant from Consuelo Foundation (CF), in partnership with SHIFT. The reconstruction of the second batch of 20 houses follows.

Consuelo Foundation has also invited Lydia Collado and HermieNoval to the Strategic Thinking Workshop and CF Partners Meeting on Oct 24-26.at the Bellevue Manila iinAlabang, Muntinlupa.

Let us pray for all our sisters, ministries, mission partners..... and especially for our dear country!

Much love,

