



## SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART

Philippine District

Ref. 7-17

November 11, 2017

# DISTRICT NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Mely Vasquez Recognized As Wisdom Figure

DaKaTeo (Damdaming Katoliko sa Teolohiya) is an association of Catholic men and women, specializing in the various theological disciplines, committed to a just and inclusive Filipino Church and society. This year, 2017, or about 17 years since its inception, and having held over 12 theological conferences and several national and international joint conferences, DaKaTeo gave tribute to its most senior members. A two-day symposium held on October 6 and 7, 2017 honored 9 "wisdom figures" for their significant contribution to the DaKaTeo vision and mission. The awardees were. Jaime Belita, CM; Anton Danenberg, Jose De Mesa, Jose Mario Francisco, SJ; Karl Gaspar, CSsR; Manuel Ginete, CM; Corazon Manalo, DC; Amelia Vasquez, RSCJ; and Lode Wostyn, CICM.



Mely was given a plate featuring *Mother and Child*, an original work by Filipino painter Vicente Manansala, National Artist of the Philippines.

The inscription at the back of the authenticated plate reads:

AMELIA VASQUEZ, RSCJ  
DaKaTeo Wisdom Figure

The Awarding Program was entitled "Seeds Sown and First Fruits." Mely is one of the founding members of DaKaTeo.

## BEING AND ACTING AS ONE BODY

- ✦ **The ASIANZ Provincials meeting** in Seoul (Oct. 10-14) was an experience of being One Body, particularly blessed with the presence of Barb Dawson and Daphne Sequeira, and a joint session with our Chinese sisters who were having their own simultaneous Duchesne Mission meeting. The following were planned to facilitate our acting as One Body and walking together towards the future
  - ✓ The ASIANZ Region Provincial Teams meeting with the Central Team in Japan, Oct. 6-9, 2018. The formal visit of the Central Team to the ASIANZ provinces will take place around October to November 2018.
  - ✓ The next ASIANZ Provincials Meeting is scheduled immediately after this Regional Meeting, also to be hosted by the Japan Province.
  - ✓ The next PTV meeting will be in Indonesia in July 2019.
  - ✓ A Professed Young (PY) meeting for RSCJ up to 12 years of final profession is envisioned for 7-8 days in August 2019 in Australia, c/o ANZ provincial Lynette Toohey
  - ✓ The next Formation for Formators workshop should be in 2018, but given international developments in the Society and in the world, this program can also be offered to other regions in the Society. The program and venue will be discussed at the regional meeting in Japan.



*The ASIANZ Regional meeting participants in a light mood, after the meeting. L-R: Mieko Shinjo, Kim Young Ae, Nancy Murphy representing Gerardette Phillips, Digna Dacanay, Lynette Toohey, Rita Pinto, Barbara Dawson, and Daphne Sequeira.*

- ✦ Coming as a surprise, we received the good news from **the Polish Province** that an initiative to raise funds for the Sacred Heart Learning Center of SHIFT has been formalized. Polish provincial Sr. Jolanta Oiczek wrote that Anna Rygielska, a Polish laywoman, visited the Philippines, was touched by the situation of Filipinos, and decided to look for ways to help through an educational project that would be long-term and effective in overcoming poverty. From her RSCJ friend Sr. Violetta Zajac, she learned about SHIFT programs and chose to focus her fundraising efforts for the Sacred Heart Learning Center.

The Polish province has already opened a bank account for this purpose. Jola says that this is their way of being One Body with us

## **ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

- Virginia Calpotura is part of the Philippine delegation participating in the Talitha Kum Southeast Asia/East Asia Conference from November 13 to 15, 2017 with the theme “Combating Modern Day Slavery: TK Network through Protection and Protection” (sic) at Hadharuethai House, Hua Hin, Prachaupkirikhan, just outside of Bangkok. Jean leaves with the Philippine group on Nov. 12, and returns on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**TALITHA KUM** is the International Network of Consecrated Religious to counteract human trafficking. It is an offshoot of the International Congress of Religious in Network against trafficking, in cooperation with the UISG, Rome. Talitha Kum Southeast Asia/East Asia has national representatives from countries throughout the Asia Pacific region: Australia, East Timor, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand. A central coordinator works to organize these national branches in a combined international effort against human trafficking. Talitha Kum Philippines is one of the networks of the AMRSP.

- The Mother House Solidarity Fund-assisted projects SHE (Samar for Humanity and the Earth) I, a 5-day anti-human trafficking seminar for youth held in October 2016, and SHE-II for adults in networks across Samar Island in May 2017, was capped by SHE-III on Oct. 3-4, 2017. Unexpectedly but providentially, as reported in the last DNA, a group of 3 international students on an Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship (APS) chose to do their research on “Enhancing Community Networks to Prevent Human Trafficking in Northern Samar Province”, in partnership with SHIFT. Based at Sophie’s Farm, they conducted their research from Sept. 27 to Oct. 24, using in-depth interviews, and focus group discussions involving 30 participants from the previous SHE seminars, during SHE-III. At the same gathering, Inputs on human trafficking were given by speakers from Talitha Kum Philippines. The final write up of their research will be a landmark literature on the subject, there being no previous written research done on the topic.
- The researchers were Airi Izuka (Japan), Pachenwit Saenfi (Thailand), and Junichi Ito (Japan). The APS program is a 2-master degree program of Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines, and the United Nations mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica. UPeace gives the degree on an area related to peace-building, while the Ateneo degree is in Political Science major in Global Politics. APS is funded by Nippon Foundation of Japan. In the afternoon of Nov. 4, the group presented their research findings to 2 members of Talitha Kum Philippines and one from the JPIC Commission of the AMRSP, at MSC. Some RSCJ were also present.



Left: The team presenting their findings at MSC. Right: L-R: Ester Salvosa, Jun, Jean, Airi, and Ting.

### MORE ON SHIFT ACTIVITIES... WITH OTHER BODIES

- ❖ SHIFT's partnership on some projects with **Consuelo Foundation** has provided opportunities for further skills training and exposure to a wider network. Lydia Collado has been accepted to another Consuelo Foundation sponsored training on Nov. 27-29, on **Trauma-Informed Psychosocial Processing (TIPP)** given by international resource persons. Furthermore, Consuelo Foundation is sponsoring Lydia and volunteer Berma Portugal to the Ako Para sa Bata International Conference on November 30-Dec 1, at the SMX Convention Center, Pasay, Metro Manila. With the theme *"The Science and Art of Parenting Today's Youth,"* the organizers aim to make parents and professionals aware of parenting as a positive intervention in promoting optimal child development and preventing child maltreatment.
  - ❖ While Consuelo Foundation is a private NGO, the other institution partnering with SHIFT, the **Agricultural Technology Institute (ATI)**, is a government agency. On November 14-16, ATI is co-funding a seminar on **Organizational Diagnosis-Institutional Development for Sustainability of SHIFT Foundation..** The seminar will involve the SHIFT staff, volunteers and support teams. Sandra Clemente will be one of the facilitators.
  - ❖ Two seminars in December are fully funded by ATI: a **Workshop on Project Development and Management for Agricultural Extension Workers** from different municipalities of Northern Samar District 1 (Dec. 5-7), and **"From The Garden To The Kitchen: Enhancing Household Nourishment"** (Dec. 8-10) for 30 women from 5 parishes/municipalities of Northern Samar, in coordination with the Diocese of Catarman.

### MOTHER HOUSE SOLIDARITY FUND PROJECTS

This year the Mother House Solidarity Fund is supporting two projects: Peace and Political Education in Northern Samar, and the Prayer Center in Montalban,

- The **Peace and Political Education (P-POL)** project is aimed at forming and training Filipino Catholics who will live out the social teachings of the Church in our present context. It will be in two parts. Part I will be held on Dec. 11-14 at Sophie's Farm. It will engage 70 participants from RSCJ ministries, LGUs, parishes and schools that already have stable relationships with SHIFT, basically from Northern Samar. The 4-day live-in seminar will consist of modules on The Filipino Catholic, the Dignity of Life, Active non-Violence, Creative Thinking and Discernment, Team Building, Participative Development, Learning Visits, and Planning for engagement in Church and government activities. Part II is scheduled for May 2018 and will gather the same participants for reflection and integration of their experiences, and focus on Project Development and Proposal Writing, for specific and principled action for peace and political participation.
- Even before the renovations of the Multi-Purpose Hall, the Dakilang Loob, and the "New Wing" were done, the San Jose Parish already began to hold their seminars in the **Prayer Center**. Now that the facilities are fully operational, the Montalban RSCJ community will celebrate the 217<sup>th</sup> foundation anniversary of the Society by "formally" welcoming our San Jose Parish parish priest Fr. Paul Merida and the local community with a Mass and lunch on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>.

Last Oct. 28-29 PREX 4 was held at the Center, and on Nov. 5 one of the parish youth choirs had their recollection facilitated by Ayds Sua-an and Tessie Ramirez. On Nov. 10 more than 70 catechists from the Vicariate of Aranzazu Catechetical Ministry had their monthly in-service training. The Montalban parishes are part of the 72 parishes belonging to this vicariate.

From the middle of December 2017 to the month of January 2018, the 15 sections of the Grade 10 graduating class of Geronimo High School are scheduled to have their recollection at the Center.



### **CELEBRATING ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE**

- The SPDOWFI community has traditionally prepared for their celebration of the feast day of Philippine, their titular patron. They began their novena on Nov. 10, which will culminate in a Mass and community fiesta.
- The RSCJ-SHIFT community will have a recollection starting 4:00 pm on Nov. 18 with confessions and Mass, and enter into silence until Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup>. A talk with slides on RPD will be given on Sunday morning, with sharing in the afternoon.
- On November 19, the Metro-Manila communities will gather in Montalban for Mass at 11:00 a.m. followed by the blessing of the renovated Prayer Center facilities, and lunch. Many RSCJ friends, new and old, have been invited to pray and rejoice with us.

- The district RSCJ and close mission partners will join the weekly observance of the Society's Bicentenary Year of Prayer starting Monday, Nov. 20.

## VOLUNTEERS AND GUESTS

- SMSF will receive another volunteer from MaZ, the German-based Pallotine sisters' overseas volunteer program. Ann-Sophie Lara Honikel arrives on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> and will stay until August 2018. Although just turned 18, Ann-Sophie has had many experiences with international exchange programs, and has been studying Tagalog to prepare for her service in the Philippines. She will board with our neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Ong,



*Photo: Ann-Sophie (left) with a friend*

- SHIFT will have another batch of Sacre Coeur Melbourne fresh graduates, to help with Christmas activities. Klea Atallah, Charlotte Moore and Sophie McLoughlin will arrive in the evening of Dec. 8 and leave for Samar early on Dec. 9. They go straight back to Melbourne on Dec. 23.
- RSCJs arriving for the ICLA Religious Life lectures in January are: Maria Cimperman (USC) as one of the main lecturers; Marie-Gisele Tram, Kim Sook Hee, Sun Chi-wei, and Chang Man Ling.
- Pre-probanist Erika Tornya (Hungary, CEU) will spend a month with us, from February 15 to March 15, 2018, She arrived in Indonesia last October for her international experience, which ends in July 2018. Erika worked as a mechanical engineer for 11 years, and is computer-skilled. She is a certified spiritual director and retreat director.



- Our retreat director, Sr. Patricia de Quevedo, arrives in the late evening of Dec. 23, and has to leave in the evening of Jan. 3. As remote preparation, Pati will be sending us some materials for reflection, in time for Advent.

Everyone is expected to be at Sacred Heart Novaliches by Dec. 26th.  
Lunch will be ready.

## VARIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The exterior of the 5-storey building on 12 F. Manalo will undergo a painting job for a month, starting Nov 13<sup>th</sup>. Anticipating allergic reactions to the fumes, the left side of MSC will be vacated: cooking will be done in the RCC kitchen, Judith's office will be transferred to the Infirmary nook, and the treasury set-up to the Counseling Room. Mely Vasquez will move to Sophia House, and Sonia Aldeguer to their house and office in Cubao. Other residents of MSC can take rooms on the right wing. This arrangement might affect the capacity of MSC to receive visitors and hold meetings and other activities for the time being.
2. The District Council's visit to the Montalban community has been reset to Nov. 22-23, and the Coordinators' Meeting to Nov. 26. The agenda for the coordinators' meeting will cover, among others, sharing of community goals, the district Christmas celebration and district retreat, and the January 4th district meeting.
3. For the second semester, Sol Navidad will teach Johannine Letters at LST, Fundamental Christian Morality at SVST, and Introduction to Scriptures, Methods of Biblical Interpretation at DLSU. She will go again to Cebu for her modular classes in .Johannine literature at the Seminario Mayor on Jan. 8-18, 2018. On December 1- 13 she will co- facilitate the General Chapter of the Augustinian Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation at the Villa Consuelo Retreat House in Novaliches..
4. Joy Luz leaves for Spain on Dec. 10 to brush up on her Spanish, in preparation for translating for the probanists in the month of January. She moves to Rome on Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>. Besides this translation work, Joy will also be engaged in other international services like the JPIC Commission and communications. She returns to the Philippines in February 2018.
5. The following are scheduled Advent and Christmas Prayer-Celebrations to date:

<b>MSC</b>	Dec. 9	District Staff Christmas Party
<b>SMSF</b>	Dec. 3	Youth Advent Recollection
	Dec. 10	Parents Advent Recollection
	Dec 16	a.m. TMP and Tutorial Classes Christmas Program p.m. Sampaguita Christmas Party (Recollection on Nov. 16)
	Dec 17	p.m. Youth Christmas Party
	Dec 20	a.m. Staff Christmas Recollection p.m. Staff Christmas Party with Montalban RSCJ
<b>SHIFT</b>	<b>Dec.16</b>	Campus Ministry
	Dec 17	SHIFT Family
	Dec 18	Women and Dona Lucia groups
	Dec 19	Sacred Heart Learning Center
	Dec 21	RSCJ, Volunteers and Staff

