

CABRINI COMPANIONS



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CIRCLES OF DISCERNMENT

This year's theme for the Circles of Discernment centers on our relationship with God, Self and others.

Jesus summarized the context of our relationships :

“ Now I am giving you a new command— love one another just as I have loved you, so you must love one another”. (John 13:36). Jesus was not making a suggestion, something that we would apply only to our friends, or those whom we like. He was giving us a new commandment— one that already presumed adherence to the greatest commandment- “ You shall love your God with all your heart, mind, and strength. You shall love your neighbor as yourself”. Jesus backed this up with the example of His own life. This year's COD is centered on relationships. We are relational beings. Relationships— or how we stand in reference to others- is central to our personal and spiritual growth.

As we move to this year's COD may we always remember that relationships are always founded on love— be it love for self, others, and also with the Lord who is our wholly and most significant other.



SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2011

August 14, 2011— COD Assembly

September 11, 2011— Relationship with God

September 25, 2011— Path of Life Retreat

October 10, 2011— Relationship with Others

November 6, 2011— Mini Retreat

November 3-11, 2011— Mother Cabrini Novena

November 12, 2011— Mother Cabrini Mass.

December 12, 2011— Relationship with Others

January 8, 2011— Epiphany Party

February 12, 2012- Mission Outreach

March 11, 2012— Lenten Retreat

COD IN MY LIFE by Jonalisa Butag



I arrived in Casa Cabrini on June 2007. As I become part of this community I started to love it especially my involvement with the ***Circles of Discernment***. It was my sister Helen who introduced COD to me and I remember how I really liked it since the beginning. We have different speakers every COD meeting, as well as retreats, and all of them have played an important role in my life.

The learnings I had in high school were deepened through these experiences, especially the relationship with Ourselves, Others and God. I would like to elaborate on these three aspects because this has helped me a lot.

Five years ago I defined myself as a person who did not have an identity. I was confused with a lot of things and I did not know what to do with it. When the relationship with myself was introduced I realized that God was with me and He never stops loving. It is a great comfort when you know that someone loves you who ever you are.

This realization widened my horizon and I started loving myself. I did not love only myself, but I saw how my family, friends and community loved me so much and so it was time for me to love them back. They showed me what love is.

Another thing that made me proud in joining the ***Circles of Discernment*** was being part of the Leadership team. The learning that I gained with the team was confidence and generosity witnessed by so many of them. In addition, during my four years stay in college, I was elected twice as one of the officers of the Math club. On December 31, 2010, I was also elected as the president of Mankillet Neighborhood Organization, a newly formed organization in my Sitio (Village). I do not know why, but I thank them for trusting my abilities.

As I start another part of my life I will always bring with me the learnings I gained from COD. I will not keep these to myself but share them with other people who are with me on this journey. I truly believe what Mother Cabrini said when she quoted St. Paul, "I can do all things in Him Who strengthens me" and this will also be my strength wherever I go.

PROJECT READ AND LEARN— A lesson on Compassion and COLLABORATION

By Rebecca C. Costales

“ Where you are called to serve the poor, the Lord will provide everything you need”

These were the powerful but grace filled words that Sr. Terenzinha Lumbieri, MSC said while we were packing the school supplies for 160 students of the Yagyagan Elementary School. We were doing our jobs with amazement as we did not expect that we would be able to provide for ALL the students of the school for the incoming school year. The Lord indeed has given what the students need and more.

Sometime in January of this year, Sr. Terenzinha and Crystal Catalan came by Hebrews Bookstore and Café after the Wednesday Mass . They were sharing their work at the Yagyagan Elementary school and the plight and the needs of their indigent students. Stirred with compassion which can only be inspired by the Holy Spirit, we started talking about a collaborative work— a vision to give these students school supplies for the next school year. After a visit with the Yagyagan Elementary School in Tuba Benguet in February of this year— Project Read and Learn was conceptualized



Project Read and Learn Continued..

Project Read and Learn is a collaborative work between individuals and communities— from SOSCFI , Ang Lingkod ng Panginoon, the faculty of the Philippine Military Academy, and well meaning individuals from the Philippines, Indonesia, Spain, Kuwait, who answered the call of the Lord through social networking alone.

We witness to God's compassionate presence in the world by the way we live and work together.. Compassion always reveals itself in so many ways—in community, in new ways of being together.



Sr. Terenzinha giving the opening prayer for Project Read & Learn.

Lent: A Pilgrimage to be in Harmony with the Spirit of Mission

By Norlyn Mercoles

“Grateful, happy, inspired, enlightened”, these are just some of the words to describe how it feels to be a part of the Circles of Discernment Lenten Retreat held at the ICM House of Prayer, 13th day of March 2011. There were approximately twenty people who attended the retreat which included four of the college scholars from Save Our School Children Foundation, some professionals, the Missionary Sisters, and some of the Cabrini Companions. It was a nice experience to meet other people with different personalities and age brackets from whom you can learn so much.

The event started with an activity led by Ms. Crystal Catalan in the beautiful garden which uplifted our appreciation of all the creations of God. By merely looking around us, the beautiful trees and everything, especially the old and new faces by our side, remind us of how blessed we are. Another special moment was when we closed our eyes and prayed for our own intentions, for our family, the country and also the whole world.

But what do we really connote when we say Lent or the Lenten season? Here's a very brief definition from Sr. Terezinha Lumbieri. “Lent is the constant revelation of who Jesus is”. Nice isn't it? It is the time for a pilgrimage to be in harmony with the Spirit of Mission most especially in our environment and community and so, in relation to having this time, we have three important things that could be the starting point for our pilgrimage which are shown in this picture:

“Pray, Give, Fast”. We can do these things in our own simple ways. “Giving is a grateful response to God's exceeding love, goodness and generosity; a personal gift of God.” In carrying out these things, there are a lot of impediments which includes temptation. The word temptation means “the act of seducing, persuading, enticing, or luring into evil. Here, we can see that even Jesus had also faced temptations (Matthew 4:1-11).

The drama of the temptation in the desert by Ms. Crystal as the devil who asked Jesus to eat sky flakes, apples, and even drink wine, and Mr. Francis as the Lord Who never said yes, instead fought for his stance was both a funny and great presentation. We were then asked to reflect on our own given the questions from Sr. Terezinha: "Has anyone ever tempted you to participate in something that you knew was wrong? If so how did you handle the situation?" All of us encounter temptations, the only difference is how we react and handle the situation.

Reflecting on the words of wisdom from Mother Cabrini about having trust in the Holy Spirit could also help us. In her letter from New York in 1890, she gives emphasis on how the Holy Spirit works for us, converting all the negative things within us. In her letter from New York on May 28, 1982, she explained that having trust in the Holy Spirit could make you see marvelous changes, could make us better persons.

During this season of Lent, we must reflect on the following statements. "The struggle against evil is a continual challenge we face every day of our lives. But the victory of Jesus is our birthright as children of God, as followers of Christ. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus have long been studied by his followers as a blueprint for understanding the challenges of the Christian life. The Gospel celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent is a window through which we can see the personal trials and temptations that faced Jesus.

It's a great experience to be part of this event and I would say that it's an eighty percent (80%) loss for those who weren't able to attend.



We are on the web: www.mothercabrini.org

Contact us

Casa Cabrini.

43 M. Roxas Street, Baguio City.

442-6764