



BULLETIN 2018

(An Annual Report on ISA Programs and Activities)

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Dear Brothers and Sisters, Friends, Benefactors and Sponsors of ISA!

Warm greetings from the Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA)!

Once again, we offer to you our Yearend Bulletin. This is our way of maintaining a close affinity with our students, alumni, sponsors, benefactors, partners, collaborators, friends and members of the ISA Family both locally and internationally.

We offer you a short description of our public lectures, seminar-workshops, spirituality fora, summer courses, research, publications, outreach and external linkages programs, meetings of the International Academic Advisory Board (IAAB) and of the Board of Trustees (BOT) and many other activities.

We are proud to say that ISA has contributed to the area of raising people's awareness on the importance of spirituality here in the Philippines and in our neighboring Asian Countries.

We are convinced of the vision of ISA as a research-based and academic institute. We will strive to live by this vision as we pursue programs guided by these two distinct characteristics of our institute.

The good Lord continues to shower His blessings by continuously providing us people of spiritual insights and wisdom. We can only say that you have been a big part of our success. And so, we thank you and all other people who, in one way or another, have become part of the ISA Family in the realization of our vision, mission and goals! I am grateful to the inspiring support of the ISA Board of Trustees, the International Academic Advisory Board (IAAB), the Prior Provincial and his Council (PPC), my fellow administrators and our staff. My sincerest thanks also go to our generous donors, sponsors, friends and supporters whom we can always rely on for assistance.

We look ahead to 2019 with renewed spirit, vigor and enthusiasm. We can do so because we are confident of your being one with us in our pursuit of a meaningful, timely and relevant spirituality responsive to the needs of our times.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a bountiful New Year. God bless us all!

Sincerely yours,

Fr. Rico Palaca Ponce, O. Carm.

Executive Director

Institute of Spirituality in Asia



February 2018

ISA Board of Trustees (BOT) Semi-Annual Meeting

The ISA Board of Trustees meets twice a year. First in February and the second meeting will be August right after the annual Spirituality Forum. The BOT had their semi-annual meeting last February 12 and August 4, 2018 respectively. The Board of Trustees is chaired by the Prior Provincial of the Order of Carmelites, Philippine Province. Members includes: Sr. Flor Pauline Duran, Carm.O.L., Fr. Albertus Herwanta, O.Carm. (Indonesia), Fr. Alan Reiger, OCD, Prof. Eduardo Calasanz, ndv and two honorary members: Most Rev. Rolando Tria Tirona, OCD, D.D. and Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, D.D.



Provincial of the Order of Carmelites, Philippine Province. Members includes: Sr. Flor Pauline Duran, Carm.O.L., Fr. Albertus Herwanta, O.Carm. (Indonesia), Fr. Alan Reiger, OCD, Prof. Eduardo Calasanz, ndv and two honorary members: Most Rev. Rolando Tria Tirona, OCD, D.D. and Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, D.D.

Giving Hope to the Addicted

The Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA) focused its Public Lecture for February on a topic which has been in the news since the President of the Philippines made the campaign against illegal drugs central to his administration.

ISA, however, gave a positive twist to its forum topic on **February 24, 2018** by naming it "**Bringing Hope to the Addicted**". Fr. Rico Ponce, ISA executive director, noted: "Addiction is one of the major ills and challenges of our society today. What is





addiction? What are its different forms?

"More essentially, how can we understand and concretely help those afflicted with it? How do we bring God's healing love to addicts who desire transformation? How we reach out to those who no longer feel there is a purpose in life?"

ISA's guest speaker, **Ms. Clarissa "Ilsa" Reyes**, is a lay missionary called to the ministry of inner healing, intercession and media. Since the 1990s she has been giving talks inside drug rehabilitation centers and prisons. She recently attended the Training Institute on Behavioral Health and Addictive Disorders under the US Journal Training, Inc. in Florida.

What is addiction? The experts at the meeting called it a disease of the brain, a total spike in the brain. The main verb ("addicere") in "addiction signifies debt, attachment and slavery, added Ms. Reyes.

Types of addiction include addiction to substance, drugs, behavior (eating sweet and sugary food, for example), pornography (even among seminarians; "Let's be open about it - there's hope if we know the roots," said Ms. Reyes), computers, video games, work, physical exercises, and even religious addiction when devotions or novenas cover up past experiences.



Reasons for addiction include trauma, emptiness, absence of love, curiosity, experimentation, peer pressure and desire to escape reality, especially painful feelings.

There could be more were it not for the fear of being shot upon surrendering, said Ms. Reyes about the dreaded tukhang (point and shoot) anti-drug campaign.

"Instead, we want a holistic approach to addiction," she said about a community-based programs of the Archdiocese of Manila called Sanlakbayan (One Journey of the Nation) to welcome non-facility-based patients to parishes.



Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle embraced a surrenderee and said to all others like him: "We are not putting you down. Instead, we love you because you are a child of God."

According to Ms. Reyes, Sanlakbayan brings to the fore what she calls one of the greatest challenges - that of working with honest government workers concerned about the surrenderees.

Sanlakbayan is a long-term program for rehabilitation with 12 steps for participants on a regular basis - similar to the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Among the steps: give prevention education while young but if already addicted, help people identify their helplessness; hold one-on-one counseling (and sessions with family members who are willing); check trauma history, the need for healing, the source of pain; and build on the strength of the individual in choosing interventions. Will it be visualization? Laughter therapy and focusing on positive thoughts? Psychotherapy?

The Archdiocese is joined by other Church-based institutions like Jesuit Communications (Jescom) of the Ateneo de Manila University which has made a video entitled Bagong Buhay - Kuwento sa Pagbabalik (New Life - Stories on Coming Back) on proper spiritual guidance as one of the 12 steps to healing.

For her part every Sunday evening Ms. Reyes continues to anchor Salitang Buhay (Word of Life), winner of the Best Counseling Program during the 37th Catholic Mass Media awards. Laughingly, she recalled learning to put on make-up because at



that late hour on a week-end, DZMM Teleradyo has no more make-up artist available. But she soldiers on talking to students, late-night callers with depression ("now becoming a worldwide problem") and overseas workers awake in their time zones.



Fr. Rico Ponce pointed out in introducing this particular public lecture of ISA, "Accompanying people with all types of addiction continues to be a relevant and urgent concern calling on all of us to be authentic and effective agents of God's love." *s et, eusmod vitae, est.* (by Pinky Choudhury)

March 2018

ISA Co-organizes Ecumenical Immersion in Tondo

The Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA) helped organize **Anawim Mission**, the first ecumenical immersion which drew members from Catholics (ISA and the Archdiocese of Manila), mainline Protestants (National Council of Churches in the Philippines) and Evangelicals (Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) and the Penuel School of Theology).

ISA helped conceptualize the solidarity immersion as an interactive experience that helps people become aware of and understand the lives, pains and sufferings of the urban poor.



Named after the Biblical term for the poor, the immersion mission was held in the morning of **March 9, 2018** at Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Church in Tondo, Manila.

The members of the mission held a dialogue with residents of Parola and Happy Land, areas near the pier and the busy market of Divisoria. Most of the residents survive by garlic-peeling, tricycle driving and picking up left-over vegetables.

ISA staff and other members of the immersion mission listened to the testimonies of two widows of victims of extrajudicial killing (EJK) by policemen whose identities are known. They also learned of the travails of three speakers who are in danger of ejection from the homes they have developed from what used to be barren land.



The members of the mission heard one of the speakers narrate how, despite the risk to the job security of her husband and son, she has remained firm in her commitment to help neighbors keep their homes from the projects of urban developers.



After the immersion mission, ISA and the other members of the team plan to discuss their findings and to share their insights with other partners in similar ecumenical missions. *(by Dr. Carmen Alviar)*

Medical-Dental Mission with the Dumagats San Ysiro, Antipolo, Rizal

On **March 10 and 11, 2018**, the Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA) co-organized a medical-dental mission for the indigenous peoples and other residents of Barangay Libis, San Ysiro, Antipolo, Rizal.



For two days ISA worked together with the Advance the Rights of Indigenous People for Self-Empowerment (ARISE), Protect Sierra Madre (PSP), Rotary Club of Kamuning (Dentists), Pirkko & Troytours, Inc., Dr. Reggie Ramos (Medical Doctor), Sr. Flora Llanes, Dumagat Chieftain Ernesto Doroteo and the Redemptorists, who run a mission there.

The medical-dental mission started with



the blessing of the Fr. Pete Robb Mission Center named in honor of Fr. Pete Robb, CSSR, a Redemptorist priest who spent many years as a missionary with the Dumagats. Fr. Alex Bercasio, CSSR officiated the blessing assisted by Chieftain Doroteo and Sr. Flora Llanes.

Chieftain Doroteo gave a welcome message while Sr. Llanes gave a short introduction on the medical-dental mission.

Following Dumagat tradition, Chieftain Doroteo initiated the offering of a bonfire to symbolize unity and Wilma Quierez, a Dumagat from Sierra Madre, Quezon, offered the nganga (betel nut) as a symbol of the importance of the event. The Dumagats then shared it with the staff of ISA and other guests, who in turn thanked them for this friendly gesture.



Many people lined up and waited patiently for their turn with the medical doctor and dentists inside the Health Center. Due to the large number of people who came, the volunteers as well as the patients themselves had a working lunch of sandwiches and packed food sponsored by Pirkko & Troytours, Inc.

While the medical-dental staff was at work, other volunteers spoke with and listened to the stories of the people and played with the children. Still other volunteers distributed toys for the children as well as clothes for the adults.



On the second day, the Eucharistic celebration started at 8:30 in the morning with Fr. Alex Bercasio, CSSR as main president. Co-celebrant and homilist was Fr. Rico Ponce, O.Carm., the executive director of ISA. After the mass, Sr. Marissa Macabinguel, Carm.O.L. distributed rosaries to the children of the community. At



around 9:30 am, the medical-dental mission resumed for the villagers who could not come on the first day.

The medical-dental mission officially ended at 11:00 a.m. then volunteers shared a boodle-fight lunch with Dumagats. Everyone enjoyed the food cooked by the hosts. All in all, the mission served a total of 153 patients for medical cases and 45 patients for dental cases services. It proved to be a meaningful and beautiful experience shared by the Dumagats and the ISA staff and volunteers alike, and to exemplify genuine solidarity and love in action. *(ISA Staff)*

Lenten Reflection: “Jesus, Martyr of the Reign of God”

Fr. Bernard Roosendaal, O.Carm. gave a lenten reflection on “Jesus, Martyr of the Reign of God” during Thursdays from **February 23 – March 16, 2018** (1 session a week from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm). On the first session of the series of reflection, Fr. Roosendaal presented about “Jesus handed over to the Temple Authorities” and on the second session was about “Condemned to Death by Rome”. On the third and last session, the topics were “The Horror of Crucifixion” and “In the Hands of the Father” respectively.



This Lenten reflection was intended for the Carmelite co-workers in New Manila, Carmelite brothers and neighboring religious congregations.

Talk Explores Links of the Brain to Spirituality



In its Public Lecture on **March 24, 2018** the Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA) hosted a talk entitled “**Neuroscience and Spirituality**” by **Dr. Cho Chong Tan**.

A psychiatrist-neurologist, Dr. Tan is a graduate and professor of the Far Eastern University, Manila, and practices at the Metropolitan Medical



Center, Manila.

To start his talk at ISA Dr. Tan paraphrased Abraham Maslow (1908-1970), the founder of Humanistic Psychology, who has said: Every person is basically good, and it is good to expand that goodness in the service of humanity by promoting the concept of self-actualization."

Dr. Tan discussed self-actualization and four other needs of people stated in Maslow's five-tiered "Pyramid of Motivational Needs" and added one more need - spiritual.

In his paper "A Theory of Human Motivation" (1943), Maslow argued that the primary goal of people is self-actualization, the fifth and last among the needs he had cited and which involves morality, creativity, spontaneity, problem solving, lack of prejudice and acceptance of facts.

The others are physiological or survival needs; safety; love/belonging; and esteem (where people feel comfortable with what they have accomplished).

Dr. Tan also discussed what he called an elaboration of Maslow's theory: Eric Erickson's theory on a person's eight stages of psychosocial development --- basic trust (infant), autonomy (toddler), initiative (post-toddler), industry (school-ager), identity (adolescent), intimacy (young adult), generativity (middle age) and ego integrity (older adult).

According to Dr. Tan, Erickson had said that a person develops outstanding traits after each stage. For example, after (or with) integrity, wisdom enables a person to look back on life with a sense of closure and completeness, and to accept death without fear.

Backtracking to his topic of neuroscience and spirituality, Dr. Tan discussed the development, structure, function, chemistry, pharmacology and pathology of the nervous system and the brain).

He showed slides of the various parts of the brain - the various lobes, the neurotransmitters and





synapses, the injuries they suffer as well as the way the brain protects itself and the way it governs moods. For example, a high level of dopamine can make one feel happy.

"God gave us dopamine," Dr. Tan said as he lectured on two unusual but related topics - one, the correlation between spirituality and brain structure and two, the neurobiology of love, kindness and compassion.

He cited how meditation may work on the cortex to help clear one's mind of baggage; how ultra-sensitive and high-tech cameras light up in blue the side of the cortex which is critical to meditation; how Buddhist monks slow down their breathing as they meditate; and how peak performance starts with normal sleep which becomes relaxed, calm, deep and relaxed and which eventually generates verbal imaging.

The literature also says that by practicing meditation or by praying, a hospital patient slows down his or her heart rate, respiration and brain waves; relaxes muscles and diminishes the side effects of epinephrine and other stress-related hormones.

Dr. Tan mentioned hypnosis, yoga and meditation which can prevent depression and in some way alter illness but also had gave practical tips.

"Stop drinking alcohol, smoking, and abusing drugs," he said to the uncomfortable laughter of some of the lecture participants.

"Have regular check-ups and blood examinations," he added. "Also, get enough sleep and eat nutritious food such as fish with Omega 3. Avoid junk food, sweets, and spicy food, greasy and fatty food. And do physical exercises to reduce stress." *(by Perla Choudhury)*

April 2018

ISA Assists in Launching Anawim Mission

A very significant and historic event took place on **April 6, 2018** with the formal launch of **Anawim Mission** at the Romano Hall, National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Baclaran, Parañaque City.



Anawim Mission is an ecumenical group of the different Christian churches – Catholics, mainline Protestant churches belonging to the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), and Evangelical churches belonging to the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC).

Its primary objective is to facilitate the empowerment of the poor and to reinforce God's mission to liberate them.

The Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA) serves as part of the Secretariat of Anawim Mission, named after the poor of Biblical times.

At the launch ISA Executive Director Fr. Rico Ponce, O.Carm. co-convenor of the group, recalled its origins.

The launch was part of an ecumenical forum with the religious and the laity, including the urban poor and the indigenous peoples (Lumads) of Mindanao. Fr. Carlos Ronquillo, CSsR, rector of Baclaran Church of the Redemptorists, welcomed the participants.

Cagayan de Oro Archbishop Antonio J. Ledesma, S.J., D.D., Chair of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) Ecumenical Commission on Mutual Relations, and Bishop Emeritus Deogracias Iñiguez of the Ecumenical Bishops' Forum (EBF) graced the occasion by their messages challenging the participants to get involved with Anawim Mission. Atty. Jojo Lacanilao of the Council of Leaders gave the message on behalf of the PCEC.

Bishop Pablo David, D.D. of the Diocese of Kalookan gave a very touching and impressive presentation on how Anawim Mission is derived from the vision and mission of Christ to bring God's Good News to the





poor and the fullness of life to the deprived.

Bishop David's insights received comments from a panel composed of ISA Assistant Academic Director Marissa Cos Alcantara, Rev. Irma Balaba of NCCP, Prof. Nestor Ravilas of Penuel School of Theology (PST).

In the afternoon, **Rev. Luna Dingayan**, Dean of the Ecumenical Theological Seminary (ETS) gave a Biblico-Theological Reflection on Anawim. He emphasized the importance of listening to the cry of the poor.

Pastor Aldrin Penamora co-convenor and the PCEC Executive Director for Justice, Peace and Reconciliation synthesized the major points that transpired in the whole day gathering. It was followed by the presentation of the Orientation Paper of Anawim Mission by Prof. Alvin Jimenez of Penuel School of Theology. Rev. Fr. Dionito Cabillas of the Iglesia Independiente Filipinas (IFI) discussed its Initial Plan of Action. Fr. Rico Ponce, O.Carm. presented the Council of Leaders of Anawim Mission while Bro. Noy Loyola of the Redemptorists Lay Mission Team presented the members of the Secretariat the general assembly.

At the launch the participants were enlightened by theological reflections on Anawim and on mission. They ended the event with a meaningful and touching ceremony by signing a "Statement of Unity." They then formed a circle as a sign of unity, held hands, recited the Statement, and chose a committee where they can commit themselves to the new group. *(by Dr. Carmen Alviar)*

Six-day Summer Course Focuses on Spirituality and Peace

On **April 9-14, 2018** the Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA) held its Summer Course on **Asian Spirituality and Peace-Work**.



ISA Executive Director **Fr. Rico Ponce, O. Carm, Ph.D.** welcomed everyone to the Multi-Purpose Hall of ISA at the Teresa de Avila Building and gave them an overview via his paper "**Spirituality as Locus for Peace Work.**"

On Day 2 of the summer course, **Marcela Balao Octaviano** and Jun Padie, both



from Southern Philippines which is home to 61% of Filipino tribal communities, discussed **"Building Peace through Understanding Indigenous Peoples' Culture and Spirituality."**

Day 3 focused on Islamic Mindanao where armed rebellion started in answer to the 1967 Jabidah Massacre of trainees being groomed to enter Sabah, then being claimed by the Philippine government. In 1968 the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) advocated secession.



In his paper for ISA's summer course entitled **"Peace Work in Islam Before and Now: Signs of Fear and Hope"**, **Fr. Sebastian D'Ambra, PIME** wrote, "Forty years ago I experienced the violence of the revolution in Mindanao, but not the hatred that today is part of the teaching of some sectors of Islam who have their political agenda.... In this stage of "fear" I find a number of good Muslim religious leaders 'paralyzed'.

One other speaker at the ISA Summer Course, **Maria Teresa Guingona-Africa, Ph.D.**, promotes Christian-Islam dialogue as founder and executive director of the Peacemakers' Circle Foundation (2001).

In her paper **"Being, Becoming and Building Peace in the Love of Christ"**, Dr. Africa recalled how Christian and Muslims in an urban poor community in Tala, Caloocan City slowly learned to trust each other, only to have it replaced by fear when their beloved leader was gunned down, perhaps related to the war against drugs led by President Rodrigo Duterte.



Dr. Shakun Vaswani is also trustee and president of the Hindu Temple Bharati Women's Association and the Indian Ladies Club. In her talk at ISA's summer course (**"Hinduism and the Quest for Peace"**), she identified the ideals on world peace and harmony of what she called the world's oldest religion.



For her part, **Dr. Maria Marjorie Purino** patterned her talk along the ideals of Humanistic Buddhism as propagated by Venerable Master Hsing Yun of the Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Community, which has established the Mabuhay Temple in Manila and Cebu City.

At the University of San Carlos (Cebu City) Dr. Purino wrote her dissertation on D.T. Suzuki's Zen Doctrine of No-Mind and Heidegger's Dasein on Postmodern Being. In her paper for the summer course ("**Buddhism as a Vehicle for Peace**"), she said, "Basically, humanistic Buddhism integrates Buddhist practices into our daily life by making the dharma - the basic tenets of Buddhism - more appropriate and relevant to our current affairs."

In the morning Dr. Purino discussed key concepts of Buddhism such as karma, impermanence and non-attachment,. She also led the participants in analyzing and comparing Buddhist and Christian worldviews.

In the afternoon she assisted a monk from the Mabuhay Temple explain the benefits of meditation and show the proper posture and method of meditation, including correct breathing. *(by Pinky Choudhury)*

May 2018

Public Lecture on Integral Spirituality of Friendship

On May 12, 2018, Mr. Ricardo M. Ravacio came all the way from Oroquieta City in Mindanao Island to speak on "Integral Spirituality of Friendship: Re-owning Our Sense of Human Authenticity" at ISA Multi-Purpose Hall, Teresa of Avila Building, New Manila, Quezon City.

Mr. Ravacio spent five years in the seminary in Ozamiz City and holds a law degree as well as another on Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.). He taught for 15 years at Stella Maris College in his home town.



The speaker had been a medical representative of Ciba-Geigy for 10 years when he felt the call of the Holy Spirit to focus on the Biblical Apostolate. As a result he has been involved in the formation of the Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC) for the past 23 years with



the full backing of his wife Marsha and their two sons, now with families of their own.

He explained that the spirituality is integral because it involves seven aspects corresponding to the earthly life of Jesus: social, cultural, religious, economic political, ecological and global.

"The historical-faith ministry of Jesus can be a foundational strategy as we struggle for humility in order to re-own the dignity lost by our First Parents," he added.

According to Ravacio, the God of the Bible started small with Abraham and began to transform the world by starting anew, at a particular place in the world, with a single individual. Jesus of Nazareth became human, was incarnated with an origin of tribe and with an order of values as a Jew, experienced an Abba or a loving God, and worked as a carpenter.



Ravacio also included matrimony and conjugal love which build the family as the smallest assembly of God's people. He said, "Collegiality is the hardest thing even in families. But when husband and wife gather to talk about and plan for their family, they take care of their sons and daughters."

And lastly, the global structures during the time of Jesus had Jerusalem under Rome and Gentiles lording over society. People were like sheep without a shepherd, but he asked them to serve one another and to treat the least among them as they would have treated him.

Mr. Ravacio also showed a short video made by a Thai insurance firm about a man's persistence and willingness to do good above everything else. *(by Pinky Choudhury)*

June 2018

Public Lecture on "Spirituality and Leadership in Governance"

With spirituality, leaders and their communities can be resilient in stressful times; in turn, spirituality can learn lessons in strategic and systemic thinking from the practice of leadership in



governance. These were the main thoughts offered by Dr. Dennis T. Gonzalez at the Public Lecture of the Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA) for the month of June 2018.



The speaker is professor of systematic theology at the St. Vincent School of Theology and "Ethics and Spirituality in Leadership" in the Ph.D. in Leadership Studies program of the Ateneo de Manila University, where he was Associate Dean at its School of Government.

A graduate of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL) in Belgium, Dr. Gonzalez is a founding member and past president of the Catholic Theological Society of the Philippines (DaKaTeo). He is also a member of the Extension and Networking Team of the East Asian Pastoral Institute.

Held on June 30, 2018, the Public Lecture began with a hymn asking the Lord to "give us a new heart" and "to hold us upright" (Ilikha mo kaming mga bagong puso.../Itindig ninyo kami...").



With spirituality defined by the flyer for the event as a state and a process of devoting attention to the transcendent and immanent dimensions, Dr. Gonzalez offered an example of a Filipino "who was very serious about his faith" - the late Vice-President Emmanuel Pelaez (1915-2003).

Mr. Pelaez was a lawyer, professor, public prosecutor of the People's Court after the Japanese Occupation in the Philippines, congressman, senator, vice-president, assemblyman, ambassador to the United States and exemplary public servant.



Dr. Gonzalez paraphrased Fr. Karel San Juan, SJ who had done his Ph.D. at Gonzaga University. Constant striving for the capacity of discernment



can lead to companionship and self-integration; instead of self-complacency, we integrate and learn from the shared leadership.

So that leaders can share working with people, Dr. Gonzalez proposed the use of strategic and systemic thinking. For one, he quoted folk sayings for their insights on what he called "little things that lighten the burden of life."

From the Gospel, Dr. Gonzalez equated Jesus saying in Matthew 10:12, "Be shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves" with being innovative and imaginative during a crisis.

Instead of complaints, big campaign promises, fast solutions and what he called an elite democracy, Dr. Gonzalez also proposed a systems approach to interrelationships.

Let us also study and discern the Word of Jesus in the signs of the times, Dr. Gonzalez urged. Let us gain wisdom from other sources, including readings on the strategies for war.

Dr. Gonzalez readily suggested checking what elements of culture had supported violent populism: "Lahing mapagmura't malulupit ang dila (a race with sharp tongue and curses) - is this what our ninuno (ancestors) would have wanted as the Filipino identity to be passed on?"

He also offered education as a way to communicate with purpose, precision and power after sufficient literacy. *(by Pinky Choudhury)*

August 2018

18th Spirituality Forum: "Listening to the Youth...Discerning the Spirit"

The Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA) held its 18th Spirituality Forum on August 1-3, 2018 at the Mother Anne de Tilly Hall, St. Paul University, Quezon City with the theme "Listening to the Youth, Discerning the Spirit: Spiritual Processes of the Youth in an Unknown World."

In his welcome address Fr. Artemio Jusayan, O.Carm., the Prior Provincial of the Order of Carmelites-Philippine Province and the Chair of the ISA Board of Trustees, explained the theme of the forum.





He said, "Together with young people, we can look through their stories and see the spiritual processes that actually take place in the very fiber of their experiences. As we listen to them, we will discern how to lead the young. Or perhaps, it is they who will lead us to the in the unknown world of the future."

The 18th Spirituality Forum was the first time for ISA to have youth as a majority of the speakers; to have an intern become one such speaker; to have mentors as co-speakers; and to have speakers based abroad.

Specifically, in the morning of Day 1 which carried the forum theme itself as its theme, ISA teamed up Mark Conrad Ravanzo, co-founder/chief executive officer of I Am MAD (Making a Difference) with Fr. Art Borja, SJ, clinical psychologist, spiritual director and chaplain of Xavier School in Greenhills.



In addition, ISA asked its first-ever intern from abroad, Bonnie Williams - a junior year student of Furman University, South Carolina majoring in Philosophy and Religion - to speak on "The Sacred in the Secular Space of the Youth."

ISA matched Williams with Anne-Marie Bos, O.Carm, Ph.D., an academic researcher at the Titus Brandsma Institute in Nijmegen, Netherlands and a member of the

International Academic Advisory Board (IAAB) of ISA, on the last morning of the forum.

And in line with its mandate as an institute based in Asia, ISA invited Maria Regina Tijumena, deputy coordinator of the National Youth Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement, to speak on "Dialogue within a Dialogue: Youth in a Pluralistic Society" on Day 2.

For reactors ISA had an all-Indonesian team, including a graduate of its Masteral and Doctoral degree programs on Transformative





Spirituality, Fr. Yohanis Masneno, SVD (executive secretary of Jacob's Well Spiritual Center and director of Eco-Spiritual Transformative Sumur Yacob for Youth); another member of ISA's IAAB, Fr. Albertus Herwanta, O.Carm; and Fr. Chris Purba, SJ who is in charge of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and the Marriage Encounter Movements in Jakarta.



Lawyer Maria Caterina Cristina Lopa spoke in the afternoon of Day 1 with Coach Noli Ayo of the Jesuit-run Ateneo de Davao as the reactor to her paper "Spiritual Encounters in Youth Sports".

Ms. Lopa was an outstanding member of the women's basketball team of the Ateneo de Manila University. She founded with her batch mates, now all

professionals like her, Girls Got Games Philippines, which she manages.

She and Mr. Ayo were joined at the last minute by her fellow Atenean Sabrina Ongkiko, Science and English teacher in a public school which has pulled up its scores in national achievement tests, and by lawyer Renato Saguisag, Jr., volleyball coach of Ms. Lopa in high school and now the Executive Director of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP).



Their presence and that of film and television star-youth ambassador Dingdong Dantes on Day 1 came by God's grace, explained by Fr. Sheldon Tabile, O. Carm. ISA Academic/Research and Publications Director.

The last set of speakers discussed "Media Education as Spiritual Formation" in the morning of Day 2.

Journalist, ABS-CBN Corporation news anchor and assistant professor Christian Esguerra was joined by Ma. Angela Ureta, a.O.Carm., a former executive producer at ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs and now a consultant on communication and strategic planning to The Eon Group.



In the afternoon of Day 3 ISA invited the members of its International Academic Advisory Board to give reflections on the



five papers and the discussions raised.

Dr. Alfredo Co, the Philippines' foremost Sinologist, spoke on the heroism and steadfastness shown by girl-warrior Mulan against the foes of the Chinese Empire.

Anne Marie Bos, O.Carm, Ph.D. presented the views on love ("not to be mistaken as weakness when dealing with the youth") held by Blessed Titus Brandsma, O. Carm., modern-day martyr for press freedom and patron of the Philippine Province of the Carmelites.

For her part Sr. Ma. Anicia Co, RVM, Ph.D. expounded on dialogue, and upheld Jesus Christ as the model for reaching out to and helping the youth discern.

Fr. Eliseo Mercado, Jr. OMI, Ph.D. offered a Powerpoint presentation on the images shared by the speakers, including a broken umbrella transformed into a Christmas tree and a tree set ablaze by fireflies as 'Teacher Sabs' despaired over the little she could do for 'my kids'.

Lastly, Fr. Daniel Franklin Pilario, CM, Ph.D. who heads Saint Vincent School of Theology but makes time for an urban poor parish near a dumpsite in Quezon City, took note of what ISA Executive Director Fr. Rico Ponce, O. Carm. had pointed out in his message: the 15th Ordinary

General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops set for October 2018 or three months after the 18th Spirituality Forum of ISA.



The 18th Spirituality Forum gathered together more than 200 participants who came from key cities in the Philippines as well as from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Myanmar, Dubai, the Netherlands and the United States.

For the closing remarks ISA Director for Administration and Finance Fr. Perfecto Adeva, Jr. O. Carm., pointed out how ISA is a key ministry of the Order of Carmelites for studies which are scientific, relevant, integrative and transformative.

The forum used Emodo online program for on-site comments which could be flashed on-screen instantaneously. *(by Pinky Choudhury)*



Book Launching: “Lecture Series XVII: Spirituality of Communion” and “Living Flame Vol. 3: Movement of the Spirit”

The Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA) launched two publications during its 18th Spirituality Forum on August 1-3, 2018 at the Mother Anne de Tilly Hall, St. Paul University, Quezon City.

On Day 2, ISA launched Lecture Series XVII, the proceedings of the 17th Spirituality Forum ("Spirituality of Communion") held at the same venue a year earlier on August 2-3, 2017 to mark 500 years of the Protestant Reformation.



ISA invited Fr. Eliseo Mercado, Jr. OMI, Ph.D., author of two papers in the anthology and member of ISA's International Academic Advisory Board (IAAB), to comment on the papers on the experiences and perspectives of spirituality in communion of five major religious groups.

Fr. Daniel Franklin Pilario, CM, professor and dean of the Saint Vincent School of Theology, spoke on “Communion and Power” where power blocks communion.

Sr. Maria Anicia B. Co, RVM, president of the Catholic Biblical Association of the Philippines and a scholar on Scripture and the New Testament, spoke on “Language, Meaning and Expressions of Communion.”

Sr. Anne Marie Bos, O.Carm., who is based at the Titus Brandsma Institute in the Netherlands and who has specialized in research on sacred images, offered three reflections, including what she sees as an example of how communion happens in times of suffering: Blessed Titus Brandsma being jailed for resisting the Nazis in the Netherlands and then inspiring inmate Protestant pastors to testify at the hearings for his beatification.



On Day 3 of the 18th Spirituality Forum, ISA launched Volume 3 of Living Flame, A Journal of Interdisciplinary Discourse in Spirituality under the title "Movement of the Spirit."



At the launch Prof. Ramonito Perez, a participant in the 18th Spirituality Forum and a student in the ISA-Southeast Asian Interdisciplinary Development Institute (SAIDI) Ph.D. Program on Organization Development Major in Transformative Spirituality, represented the nine authors in the journal. He linked his article "Spirituality of Forbearance: A Response to the New Religious Movements of the 21st Century" to the theme of ISA's anthology on the Reformation.

Their other mentors - Fr. Rico Ponce, O.Carm. and Dr. Marissa Alcantara (Dean and Assistant Dean, respectively of ISA) - joined Fr. Gabriel Dolotina, O.Carm. (who has served as ISA's Director for Research and Publications) to write "Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation: Sociological-Theological and Pastoral Perspectives" for Living Flame 3.

Still another author is Dr. Rebecca Cacho, theology professor at St. Scholastica's College and at De La Salle University as well as teacher at various institutes and formation centers. She contributed "Dakilang Paramdam (God's Loving Manifestation): Re-reading the Role of the Holy Spirit in the Asian Context".

Writing on inter-faith relations between Filipino Muslims and Catholics is Dr. Maria Teresa Guingona-Africa ("Spirituality and Praxis of Dialogue in Promoting Peace and Justice").

The last article in Living Flame 3 is by Fr. Miceal O'Neill of the Irish Province of the Calced Carmelites. He wrote "St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi - A Saint for Today: The Experience of St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi and the Teachings of the II Vatican Council". *(by Pinky Choudhury)*

The International Academic Advisory Board (IAAB) Annual Meeting

The International Academic Advisory Board (IAAB) annual meeting was held last August 4, 2018 in the morning, a day after the 18th Spirituality Forum. The IAAB is composed of religious and lay academicians. The members are: Rev. Fr. Eliseo "Jun" Mercado Jr., O.M.I., Ph.D., Rev. Fr. Franklin Daniel Pilario, CM, Ph.D., Sr. Ma. Anicia Co, RVM, Ph.D., Sr. Anne-Marie Bos, O.Carm., Ph.D. and Prof. Dr. Alfredo Co.





September 2018

ISA Supports a Forum on Just and Lasting Peace

To celebrate National Peace Consciousness Month, the Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA) supported a forum organized by the Philippine Ecumenical Peace Platform (PEPP), the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC), the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines (RMP), the Save Our Schools (SOS) Network and Anawim Mission.

“A JOURNEY WITH THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: A CALL FOR PEACE” was held on September 14, 2018 at the College of Accountancy Hall, University of Santo Tomas.



The forum was in support of a just and lasting peace for the lumads of Mindanao, whose community life and education of the young have been severely displaced by the intensifying armed conflict there.

Highlights of the forum included a talk by Atty. Florin Hilbay of the University of the Philippines College of Law (topic: “National Sovereignty”) and another by

Rey Casambre, a representative of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (“Perspectives on Peace and Updates”).

Sr. Patricia Fox, NDS, Catherine Dalon of the SOS Network and a representative of the lumads gave testimonies.

Bp. Ciriaco Francisco of the United Methodist Church led the Opening Prayer while Bp. Deogracias Iniguez, PEPP Head of the Secretariat, and Mark Anthony Abenir, Ph.D. of UST Simbahayan, a publication of the Ecumenical Resource Center-Pilipinas, welcomed the participants.

Forum Convenor Pastor Aldrin Penamora of PCEC presented the objectives of the gathering.





Fr. Rico Ponce, O.Carm., co-convenor of Anawim Mission, and Sr. Elenita Bernardo, RMS, a member of its Council of Leaders, were present to support the activity.

Rommel Linatoc, Ph.D., National Council of Churches of the Philippines representative in the Anawim Mission, presented a biblico-theological reflection on peace.

Kerlan Fanagel, chairperson of the Confederation of Lumad Organizations and head of the Living and Learning with the Poor Committee of Anawim Mission, issued words of challenge.
(by Dr. Carmen Alviar)

October 2018

ISA Pioneers in Holding a Seminar-Workshop on Empirical Research

For the first time in its history, the Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA) held a seminar-workshop on “Doing Empirical Research on Spirituality, Theology and Religion” on October 20-21, 2018.

For the landmark activity, ISA forged a partnership with the Center for Empirical Studies in Spirituality, Theology and Religion (CESSTREL) Asia.



Resource persons were Fr. Rico P. Ponce, O.Carm. and Fr. Dave Dean Capucan, both experts on empirical research and holders of doctoral degrees in Empirical Theology at Radboud Universiteit-Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

On Day 1 Fr. Capucan defined empirical research and its role in spirituality, theology and religion. A graduate of the Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, he is the research coordinator of Saint Vincent School of Theology. He is also the rector of St. Joseph Formation House of the Prelature of Infanta, Quezon and a professor at Mother of Good Counsel Seminary and at the Ateneo de Manila University.





On Day 2 Fr. Ponce discussed the empirical-theological cycle and its elements: development and goal of the theological problem; theological induction; theological deduction; empirical-theological testing; and theological evaluation. As executive director and faculty member of ISA, he has guided a number of researchers on spirituality and theology and has facilitated the publication of their works.



Day 2 included a workshop on identifying an empirical-theological problem and formulating objectives for undertaking research on it, the conceptual framework and the population of the study. Workshop results were presented in plenary for critiquing and improvement.

Held at the Multi-Purpose Hall of the Teresa of Avila Building, the seminar-workshop attracted researchers and individuals interested in research. A number of participants travelled all the way from Baguio City in Northern Philippines (Saint Louis University) and from the Diocese of Legaspi, Albay in Southern Luzon, part of the largest island of the country. Those based in Metro Manila included students of the Redemptorist Seminary and its Dean, a lay volunteer from Quezon City, and Religious Sisters from Myanmar and Indonesia taking their masteral studies in the Philippines. *(by Dr. Carmen Alviar)*

ISA Joins Uni-harmony Partners Manila forum



Sr. Gerlette Fatima C. Cabahug, Carm O.L. and Ms. Joy Kialkial represented the Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA) at a forum held on October 25, 2018 at Cultural Section of the Iranian Embassy in Manila.

Entitled “Interreligious Dialogue as Path to Harmony”, the forum had His Excellency Most Rev. Gabriele Giordano Caccia, Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, as the guest speaker.



He pointed-out that all human beings belong to one family, are gifted with a sense of spirituality and must share responsibility for the common good.

During the forum, it was emphasized that the primary objective of interreligious dialogue is not to prove one religion wrong and another right. Rather, such a dialogue must help its participants look forward to arriving at points common to all religions and to building a better world. *(by Dr. Carmen Alviar)*



ISA Participates in the Anawim Mission's Medical-Dental Mission with Lumads

In partnership with the Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA), the ecumenical group Anawim Mission continues to reach out to Indigenous People (Lumad), this time through a medical-dental mission held on October 27, 2018 at Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI) Katipunan, Quezon City.



The church compound was then hosting the Lumad Bakwit School (high School-Senior High) who has evacuated their homes in Mindanao, together with their teachers and parents, due to militarization.

Even when they have no permanent place in Metro Manila, the school

continues their education as religious groups and universities generously offer a site for a week or two.

For the medical-dental mission, more than 30 physicians, dentists, pharmacists and nurses came from Metro Manila and





Bulacan to check the physical condition of the Lumads and to offer free medicines and vitamins.

The volunteers' mission started with a liturgy and a brief orientation facilitated by Bro. Jade Gerona, a Carmelite Friar and a member of Anawim Mission. Fr. Rico Ponce, O.Carm, co-convenor, then welcomed everyone.



The event gained much from the presence of Atty. Jojo Lacanilao, one of the members of the Anawim Mission Council of Leaders and a volunteer lawyer for the Lumads.

Also making the event successful were Carmelite student friars, the staff of ISA and of the Order of Carmelites, and other

volunteers.

Chummy Chum Foundation and other generous organizations as well as kind-hearted individuals provided financial assistance, medical supplies and ingredients for the meals shared by everyone after the consultation. *(by Dr. Carmen Alviar)*

Fr. Sabado defends his Dissertation on Spirituality of Building Community

Fr. Gilbert G. Sabado, O.Carm, successfully defended his dissertation entitled “Defining Naimeng A Pagtaengan (N.A.P.) as Spirituality in Building Community” and has earned the degree of Doctor in Organization Development Major in Transformative Spirituality.





Fr. Sabado's defense was a culmination of the academic program of the Southeast Asian Institute for Interdisciplinary Development (SAIDI)-Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA) on Doctor of Philosophy in Organization Development, Major in Transformative Spirituality.

On the panel for his oral defense held Oct. 29, 2018 were Marie-Paul B. de Luna, Ph.D., MNSA, Chair, and Marissa C. Alcantara, Ph.D., Sr. Joy Carmel L. Jumawan, Carm OL., Ph.D. and Fr. Rico P. Ponce, O. Carm., Ph.D. (members).

Fr. Sabado's dissertation adviser was Rosalina O. Fuentes, Ph.D., the president and dean of SAIDI.



Naimeng means emotional warmth and Pagtaengan means home. Together these two words mean "a welcoming home" - the seed of hope needed by the families in Isabela severely devastated by Super-typhoon Haima .

Inspired by his personal life forces – political, sectoral, religious, elderly, farmers, victims of super-typhoons and years of reaching out to the poorest of the poor - Fr. Sabado worked with his respondents to identify the life forces relevant to them - namely, land, faith in God's mercy, and family/community.

By his methodology he also elicited the preferred images of the respondents - abundant land, strong bamboo and family-community life - as well as the transforming elements in sustaining the strength of N.A.P - the images of faith in God's mercy, long table (symbolizing communal celebrations), umbilical cord for birth and life), celebration, recreation and mirroring.

Fr. Sabado identified the life forces and the preferred images of the respondents as essentially the life sustaining, transforming and life giving elements for the spirituality in building their community. *(by Dr. Carmen Alviar)*



November 2018

ISA and Friends Say Goodbye to a Missionary of the Poor

A farewell Mass was held at St. Joseph's College Auditorium on **November 3, 2018** to show solidarity with **Sr. Patricia Fox**, advocate for poor and oppressed Filipinos.



Sister Fox was ordered by the Bureau of Immigration to leave the country because of her missionary works solidarity efforts for God's Anawim, the poor and marginalized people in our times.

In his November 3, 2018 Facebook post, Fr. Danny Pilario, CM the dean of St. Vincent School of Theology, and also a member of the Council of Leaders of Anawim Mission has this to say:

Sr. Patricia Fox was charged by the Duterte government of doing political activities in the Philippines. For this she is deported. If to serve the poor is to be "political", then all Christians - foreigner or local -- should be "political". To refuse to do so is an act of cowardice. To profess Christianity is to do a political act. Jesus, the man from Nazareth and Christianity's founder, died as a political criminal because he opted for the poor. Sr. Pat is just following him. Salamat Sr. Pat!

Sr. Fox is on the Council of Leaders of Anawim Mission, an ecumenical group whose primary objective is to actualize God's mission with the poor.



Co-celebrants were Bishop Emeritus Deogracias Iñiguez, Chairman, Anawim Mission Council of

The Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA) is one of the convenors of Anawim Mission, and ISA Executive Director Fr. Rico P. Ponce, O.Carm. was the main celebrant of the Mass for Sr. Fox.





Leaders, and a number of priests from various congregations.

Sr. Fox has been an inspiration to the members of Anawim Mission, and a source of strength and courage founded on faith. A member of the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion, she was in the Philippines for 27 years.

She had learned to love Filipinos, she has repeatedly said in interviews and again at a press conference before her departure for Australia.

Sr. Fox's petition to remain in the country was extensively covered by local and international media, and closely followed by friends, colleagues and human rights advocates.

She was escorted to the airport by a motorcade organized by representatives of inter-faith and other groups supporting her since April of this year. *(by Dr. Carmen Alviar)*

Spirituality in the Media Profession: A Pastoral Communication Perspective

On **November 24, 2018** the Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA) held its last public lecture for the year and invited an Associate of the Order of the Carmelites in the Philippines to speak on "**Spirituality in the Media Profession: A Pastoral Communication Perspective**".

Angela Blardony Ureta, aO.Carm. who served on the Council of the Philippine Province as an extended councilor from 2014 to 2017, shared the findings of her masteral thesis entitled "Ministry for Media Professionals in the Philippines in Pastoral Communication Perspective".



She worked under the guidance of Fr. Franz-Josef Eilers, svd, recipient of the 2015 Titus Brandsma Media Award Philippines for leadership in social communication. She received a Bene Meritus grade for this thesis for her M.A. in Theology degree, major in Social-Pastoral Communication (cum laude), from the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School in 2017.



A seasoned producer and head writer of multi-awarded television and radio programs, she decided to focus on the pastoral care for media professionals for her thesis so that she could explore a new field in Philippine media.

"This is only an initial study which needs a lot of updating but at least, it's a start," Ms. Ureta said at the public lecture, "and the Church has always cared for media professionals, particularly since the Second Vatican Council (1961-1965)."

She noted that this profession was one of the few singled out by Vatican II, which promulgated *Inter Mirifica* (Among the Marvels) on December 4, 1963 during the time of St. Pope Paul VI.



She explained, "*Inter Mirifica* is the foundational document on the role of media in the modern world. It called for media professionals imbued with the Christian spirit, especially with the Church social teaching. It was also the first time that the term 'social communication' was used."

Ms. Ureta explained during the public lecture: "Major Church documents on social communication have promised to provide pastoral ministry specific to media practitioners because of the unique realities and experiences they encounter in their profession. In particular, news personnel are frequently exposed to stressful and dangerous situations that need to be processed on the emotional, psychological and spiritual levels."

Here, understanding and tolerance can help, said Ms. Ureta as she suggested a model of Christian communication beyond the usual source-message-channel-receiver model. She also suggested a communication spirituality that is a witness to life; marked by openness to God, prayer and discernment; and blended with solitude and silence.



Ms. Ureta's conclusions: "Church leaders must find a positive common ground with media professionals; explore having a



website on pastoral care; and work for Church education on media towards becoming a Christian community."

For recommendations, she asked the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP, which, she pointed out, does have editorial and technical skills workshops but not for secular media organizations) for training programs for priests/ministers on how to develop openness to God, to others and to self; on how to convey acceptance, understanding and empathy towards media professionals; on how to help media professionals cultivate their prayer life and make Christ as the God; and on how to serve as shepherd by example.

For media professionals, Ms. Ureta recommended deepening their prayer life; participating in the communal spiritual programs; recognizing the Church not just as institution; and being aware that the moral values of the Church are the same as those of national bodies such as the Kapisanan ng Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP) and its Code of Ethics.

For media organizations, they could maintain work that respect all religions and experiences of faith by providing space for prayer and meditation; incorporating spiritual accompaniment in wellness practices; collaborating and linking with churches for church-based counselling; and encouraging media professionals who are in such groups to offer their services.

And on research, Ms. Ureta urged the publication of studies on strengthening faith; promoting socio-pastoral counseling programs so as to attract more professionals to study the conduits of Christian communication; and replicating her initial study in fields such as entertainment.

She closed her lecture by saying, "Let us encourage media practitioners to express what they need most, and then make it the basis of an approach to a spiritual ministry for them." (*by Pinky Choudhury*)

December 2018

A Memorable Saturday for Fr. Gilbert Sabado, O.Carm., Ph.D.



On **December 1, 2018**, the Southeast Asia Interdisciplinary Development Institute (SAIDI) held its graduation at the Centennial Room of Club Filipino in San Juan, Metro Manila.



The morning rites formally started with the Opening Prayer led by **Fr. Rico P. Ponce, O.Carm., Ph.D.**, a member of the SAIDI Board of Trustees and the executive director of the Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA), which co-supervises the academic casework for the graduate program in Transformative Spirituality.



For this joint program ISA selected Fr. Gilbert G. Sabado, O.Carm., to be one of the students and supported him through the years of formal courses and dissertation writing.

'Fr. Jerry' thus became the twelfth graduate of the SAIDI-ISA program upon receipt of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Organization Development, Major in Transformative Spirituality, at the most recent graduation ceremonies.



In his response, he pointed out that the day was memorable as the culmination of a humbling experience which has transformed him into a sparkling seeker in the midst of people.

For Fr. Sabado and his seven co-graduates, SAIDI invited Hon. William L. Ramirez, Chairman of Philippine Sports Commission, to be the guest speaker.

Mr. Ramirez inspired the graduates, their families and friends with his views on the importance of sports and games as he explained that sports activities can not only remove stresses but also help each player appreciate life.

Christmas Fellowship



The ISA staff had their Christmas fellowship last December 10, 2018 after the monthly staff meeting. The Holy Mass was celebrated after the meeting with Fr. Rico Ponce, O.Carm. as main celebrant. Fr. Jun Adeva, O.Carm., the director for admin and finance and Fr. Sheldon Tabile, O.Carm. the director for academics, research and publications concelebrated during the mass.



Immediately after the mass, the staff shared lunch prepared by Ate Susan and everyone participated and enjoyed the games prepared by the staff. Fr. Ponce thanked everyone for the fruitful year 2018. He wishes everyone a meaningful and safe Christmas vacation with families and friends.





2019 List of Activities

1) February 2, 2019 (1:30 – 4:30 P.M.)

Topic: Forum on Peace: UniHarmony Week/Book Launching the new publication: “Living Flame Vol. 4”

Speakers: Authors of Living Flame Vol. 4:

Venue: ISA Multi-Purpose Hall, 4th Flr., Teresa of Avila Bldg., 28 Acacia St., New Manila, Quezon City

2) February 23, 2019 (1:30 – 4:30 P.M.)

Topic: “Spirituality of *Babad*”

Speaker: Fr. Dave Dean Capucan, Ph.D.

Venue: ISA Multi-Purpose Hall, 4th Flr., Teresa of Avila Bldg., 28 Acacia St., New Manila, Quezon City

3) March 9, 2019 (1:30-4:30 p.m.)

Topic: “Hagiography of Titus Brandsma based on existing Biographies”

Speaker: Fr. Rico P. Ponce, O.Carm.

Venue: ISA Multi-purpose Hall, 4th Flr., Teresa of Avila Bldg., 28 Acacia St., New Manila, Quezon City

4) March 23, 2019 (1:30 -4:30 p.m.)

Topic: “Introduction to the Word of God”

Speaker: c/o Fr. Sheldon Tabile, O.Carm.

Venue: Sagrada Familia Parish

5) April 22-26, 2019 (8:30 a.m. – 12 nn)

Topic: Summer Course: 13th Spirituality Week
“Islamic Spirituality”

Speaker: Fr. Eliseo :Jun” Mercado, OMI

Venue: ISA Multi-purpose Hall, 4th Flr., Teresa of Avila Bldg., 28 Acacia St., New Manila, Quezon City

6) April 22-26, 2019 (1:30 – 4:30 p.m.)

Topic: “Christian Spirituality”

Speakers: Fr. Austin P. Cadiz, OSB (to be confirmed)

Fr. Rico P. Ponce, O.Carm.

Fr. Sheldon R. Tabile, O.Carm.

Venue: ISA Multi-purpose Hall, 4th Flr., Teresa of Avila Bldg., 28 Acacia St., New Manila, Quezon City



7) May 25, 2019 (1:30 – 4:30 P.M.)

Topic: “Spirituality of Mission”

Speaker: Fr. Perfecto Ll. Adeva, Jr., O.Carm.

Venue: ISA Multi-purpose Hall, 4th Flr., Teresa of Avila Bldg., 28 Acacia St., New Manila, Quezon City

8) June 8, 2019 (1:30 – 4:30 P.M.)

Topic: Devotion and Prayer: Appreciation of “The Statues of the Sacred Heart” and Saturday Evening in the Church of the Carmelites”

Speaker: c/o Fr. Sheldon Tabile, O.Carm.

Venue: ISA Multi-purpose Hall, 4th Flr., Teresa of Avila Bldg., 28 Acacia St., New Manila, Quezon City

9) June 22, 2019 (1:30 – 4:30 P.M.)

Topic: “The Scriptures for the Young”

Speaker: c/o Fr. Sheldon Tabile, O.Carm.

Venue: Sagrada Familia Parish

10) July 20, 2019 (1:30 – 4:30 P.M.)

Topic: “Resiliency and Child Protection”

Speaker: Dr. Marissa Cos Alcantara, aO.Carm.

Venue: ISA Multi-purpose Hall, 4th Flr., Teresa of Avila Bldg., 28 Cacia St., New Manila, Quezon City

11) July 31 – August 2, 2019

Topic: 18th Spirituality Forum: “Dancing with the Youth”

Speakers: Experts in Spirituality and the Youth

Venue: Mo. Anne de Tilly Hall, St. Paul University Quezon City, Gilmore St. cor. Aurora Blvd., New Manila, Quezon City

12) September 14, 2019 (1:30 – 4:30 P.M.)

Topic: “The Poetry of Titus Brandsma: O Jesus”

Speaker: c/o Fr. Sheldon Tabile, O.Carm.

Venue: ISA Multi-purpose Hall, 4th Flr., Teresa of Avila Bldg., 28 Acacia St., New Manila, Quezon City

13) September 28, 2019 (1:30 – 4:30 P.M.)

Topic: “Lectio Divina, Bibliodrama: Creative Ways of Encountering the Scriptures for the Young”

Speaker: Fr. Sheldon Tabile, O.Carm.

Venue: Sagrada Familia Parish

14) October 26, 2019 (1:30 – 4:30 P.M.)



Topic: "Spirituality of Teachers"

Speaker: Dr. Carmen Alviar

Venue: ISA Multi-purpose Hall, 4th Flr., Teresa of Avila Bldg., 28 Acacia St., New Manila, Quezon City

15) November 23, 2019 (1:30 – 4:30 P.M.)

Topic:

Speaker: c/o Fr. Sheldon R. Tabile, O.Carm.

Venue:

16) December 7, 2019 (1:30 – 4:30 P.M.)

Topic: "Scriptures and Spiritual Reading"

Speaker: c/o Fr. Shelcon Tabile, O.Carm.

Venue: Sagrada Familia Parish

17) December 14, 2019 (1:30 – 4:30 P.M.)

Topic: "Historiography of Mysticism: Titus Brandsma's Carmelite Mysticism Historical Sketches"

Speaker: c/o Fr. Sheldon Tabile, O.Carm.

Venue: ISA Multi-purpose Hall, 4th Flr., Teresa of Avila Bldg., 28 Acacia St., New Manila, Quezon City