



Institute of Spirituality in Asia

ISA BULLETIN 2021

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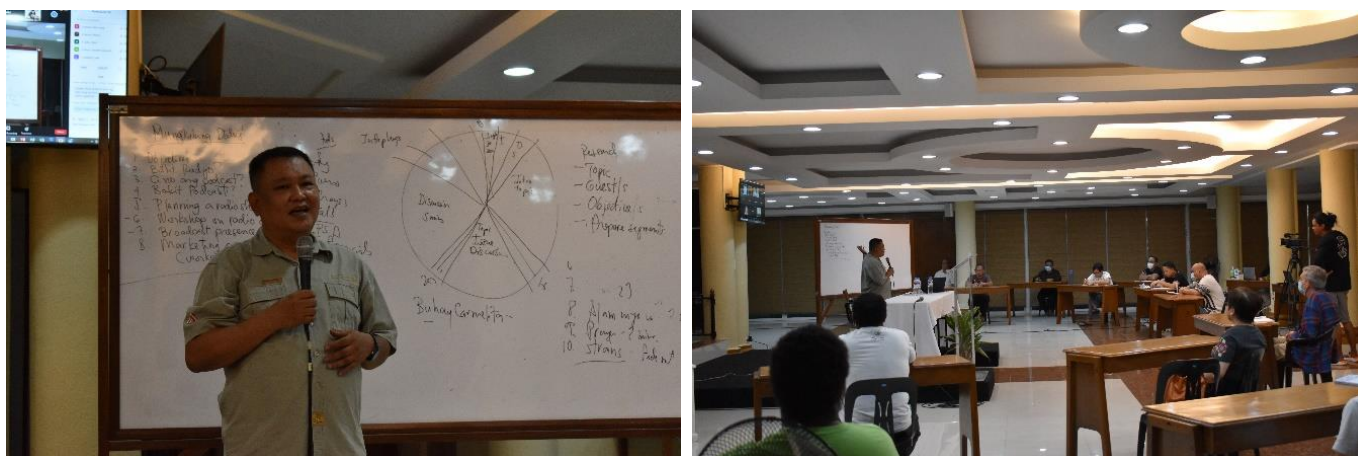
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Sr. Anne Marie Bos, O.Carm., Ph.D. (The Netherlands)

LECTURES, SEMINAR-WORKSHOPS AND FORA

JANUARY 2021

1. Seminar-Workshop on “Radio Clock: Planning and Executing a Radio Show”



The Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA) in partnership with CCSPC and KODAO Production organized a seminar-workshop on “Radio Clock: Planning and Executing a Radio Show” with Titus Brandsma Awardee Mr. Raymund Villanueva as resource speaker. This was held at Titus Brandsma Center, New Manila, Quezon City last January 16, 2021, afternoon.

This event was participated by 21 face-to-face participants (ISA Staff, Carmelite co-workers, Teresa Community, Student Friars, and members of the Spring of Carmel community) and 37 others joined via zoom.



2. Seminar-workshop on “Spirituality and Social Communication”



ISA was able to conduct the two-day course on Spirituality and Social Communication. The first course was held at Titus Brandsma Center in Quezon City from January 25 to 26, 2021 for Luzon region. The course was attended by members of communities of the Order of Carmelites in Metro Manila and the Carmelites Sisters of Our Lady (priests, students, sisters, brothers), brothers from the Carmelite Society of Prophet Elijah, and staff of people’s and non-government organizations, as well as those from ISA. There were 38 participants who completed the course. The course was facilitated by Fr. Christian Buenafe, O.Carm., Fr. Ritche Salgado, O.Carm., and Ms. Angela Ureta.

3. Film Dialogue



Film Dialogue is a language and a methodology to express and deepen the spiritual experiences of film viewers. Film enthusiasts (media practitioners and educators, religious, lay and students) gathered for twelve sessions from January to December 2021 at ISA to screen selected films based on selected themes for the month, to watch, reflect, share and discuss the film focusing on the spiritual messages of the film and to be interpreted in the light of faith and spirituality as perceived and understood by the individual participant. Because of the pandemic, the number of participants was limited to 15-20 to ensure that health protocols are observed during the screening sessions. Sr. Corazon Cecilia Untal, Carm.O.L., Ms. Joy Kialkial and Fr. Ritche Salgado were the facilitators of the film dialogues.

4. Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina was held once a month from January to December 2021 at ISA. Participants were media educators and film enthusiasts. Although face to face was implemented, minimum health protocols set by the COVID-19 Inter-Agency Task Force in the Philippines was followed so that the number of participants are limited. During the Lectio Divina, the participants were led into a prayerful reading on a passage of the Bible. They were then encouraged to share a passage or two that struck them and then share the reason why they chose the passage. The activity helped them to open up with their anxieties and concerns, allowing them to have a better understanding of the passage based

on their actual experiences. Lectio Divina is an ancient tradition of the Church that until now it is very relevant in the deepening of one's spirituality. There was an average of 12 to 16 participants every session. Sr. Corazon Cecilia Untal, Carm.O.L., Br. Kim Paul Escobal, O.Carm. and Br. Mechael Tating, O.Carm. were the facilitators of Lectio Divina sessions.

FEBRUARY 2021

5. Training-Workshop on Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults



On February 8 and 9, 2021, a training-workshop on the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable adults was conducted among Carmelite communities of the Order of Carmelites and Carmelites Sisters of Our Lady (priests, students, sisters, brothers), brothers from the Carmelite Society of Prophet Elijah, and staff of people's and non-government organizations, as well as those from ISA. There were 68 participants who completed the course. The seminar- workshop was facilitated by Fr. Christian Buenafe, O.Carm., Fr. Rico Ponce, O.Carm., and Fr. Gabriel Dolotina, O.Carm., it was held at Titus Brandsma Center, New Manila, Quezon City. This is for the Luzon region.

6. Missio Ad Gentes



A public lecture on “Missio Ad Gentes” with Rev. Fr. Noel Rosas, O.Carm., M.A., Lic. Miss. was held last April 10, 2021 afternoon via zoom and Facebook live. Fifty-five (55) participants attended in this webinar.

Fr. Rosas identified and discussed three themes: 1) Missio or Mission which he dealt with Missio Dei; 2) Ad Gentes or To the People/Nation using some historical notes and the second Vatican Council position on ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue together with other magisterial documents; 3) Beyond, by asking the question, What is beyond Missio Ad Gentes or Is there beyond Missio Ad Gentes? He also tackled the Philippine setting in celebrating 500 Years of the arrival of Christianity with the theme “Gifted to Give”.

7. Challenging the Youth towards Mission

On April 17, 2021 afternoon, another public lecture was held through webinar via zoom and Facebook live. Two speakers were invited, Ms. Joyce Pilapil, Ph.D. founding president of Alliance of Resilient, Authentic, and Agile Leaders, International (ARALin) and Ms. Jessica Joy Candelario, Ph.D. from CICM- Bukal ng Tipan. The topic was about “Challenging the Youth Towards Mission”.



Dr. Pilapil presented the State of World Mission, Reasons why young people are leaving the Church, why young missionaries leave the field prematurely? She also presented the “Four-Phase Method” approach: 1) Reaching and retaining: What attracts young people to go to Church and make them stay?; 2) Receiving and creating: What are the key principles that are necessary to create mission-interest aspiration for young people?; 3) Building up and broadening: What steps should be taken to keep young people’s commitment for mission stronger?; 4) Empowering and enabling: How churches can empower and encourage youth to go forward as they partner with them in the Mission of God?



Dr. Candelario shared a topic on “The Filipino Youth and the Church in the Pandemic”. In her talk, she shared her reflection on youth and how the pandemic stories are opening pathways towards a new way of being church. She shared her reflections on 1) “Youth Stories: The Cries the Shape Church”: Stories of young people during pandemic and how their cries reveal wounds and their full field experiences about the future of the church; 2) “Soldiers prepared for the battle”: Looking at the pandemic as a new kind of war facing throughout the world; 3) “Youth challenging church towards mission”: For greater mission during pandemic and beyond.

There were around fifty participants who joined in this webinar.

8. Spirituality and Social Communication



The third course on Spirituality and social Communication was held in Mindanao region, in Mount Carmel College in San Francisco, Agusan del Sur on April 22 to 23, 2021. There were participants coming from three municipalities, namely: San Francisco, Rosario, and Prosperidad. The activity was participated by teachers and non-teaching staff of Agusan Carmelite Schools, parish workers, youth leaders, Carmelite seminarians, and media practitioners. There were 65 participants who completed the course. Frs. Ritche Salgado, Gabriel Dolotina and Christian Buenafe, O.Carm. were the resource speakers.

9. Media Education

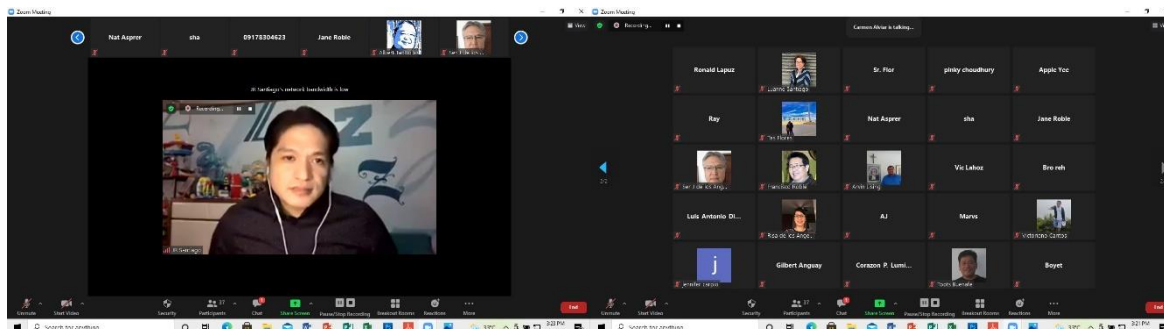


A seminar- workshop was conducted on April 24 and 25 among media educators and selected media practitioners from among the Agusan Carmelites Schools, and catechists, youth leaders and lay volunteers of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in San Francisco, Agusan del Sur. The seminar- workshop was facilitated by Fr. Ritche Salgado, O.Carm, Fr. Gabriel Dolotina, O.Carm. and Fr. Marvin Diongzon, O.Carm. There were 65 participants.

MAY 2021

10. Spirituality and the Vocation and Mission of Fatherhood

A public lecture on “Spirituality and the Vocation and Mission of Fatherhood” was held last May 22, 2021 via webinar (Zoom) with Mr. JR Santiago as resource speaker. Mr. Santiago is the managing director of Institutional Marketing Development Academy of the Philippines and co-founder of DAD TRIBE PH. In his talk, he shared the Dadvocracy Community Story: A Journey to Redefine Fatherhood. He also shared his journey as a father and even shared some tips on fatherhood. There were 43 participants who joined in this webinar.



11. Retreat and Spiritual Enrichment for Media Practitioners

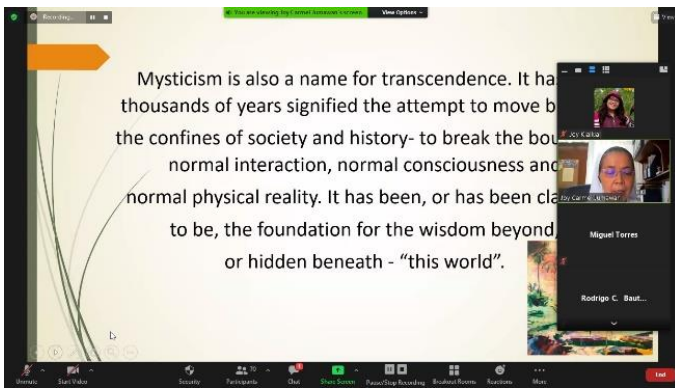
ISA was able to conduct a retreat and spiritual enrichment for 12 media practitioners in partnership with the Alternative Media Network and the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines. There were two resource speakers: Fr. Christian Buenafe, O.Carm. and Ma. Angela B. Ureta, and two facilitators: Fr. Gabriel Dolotina, O.Carm. and Fr. Ritche Salgado, O.Carm. The activity gathered 12 journalists and one ISA volunteer. The number of participants was limited due to the health protocols set up by the COVID-19 Inter-Agency Task Force in the Philippines. It was held at the Titus Brandsma Center last June 16, 2021. This was for the Luzon region.



12. Spirituality Week (formerly Summer Course on Spirituality)



On June 7-11, 2021, ISA held its annual Spirituality Week (formerly Summer Course on Spirituality) via webinar. For this year's theme, ISA focused on Carmelite Spirituality. The topics and speakers were: (1) (June 7, 2021) "Mystical Love According to Mary Magdalene de Pazzi" with Fr. Serenio Jaranilla, O.Carm. as resource speaker. There were 76 participants who attended the talk. (2) (June 8, 2021) "To Dwell where God Dwells: Mystic Path of Teresa of Avila" with Sr. Joy Carmel Jumawan, Carm.O.L., Ph.D. as resource speaker. Ninety (90) participants attended for this topic. (3) (June 9, 2021) "The Gift of Discernment in St. John of the Cross" with Fr. Esmeraldo Reforeal, O.Carm. Ninety-three participants attended in this lecture. (4) (June 10, 2021) "Cross as Mysticism in the thought of Edith Stein" with Fr. Jose Conrado Estafia, Ph.D. as resource speaker. One hundred (100) participants attended this topic. (5) (June 11, 2021) "The Writings of Titus Brandsma on Mysticism" with



Sr. Anne-Marie Bos, O.Carm., Ph.D. as resource speaker. Ninety-three (93) participants attended for this topic.

Some of the participants attended in groups.



JULY 2021

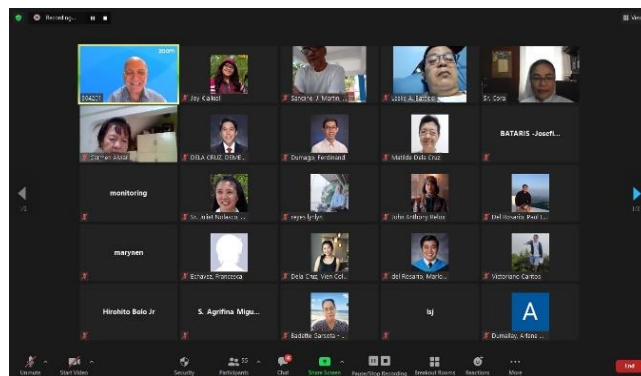
13. Mission Spirituality and Foreign Missionaries in the Philippines: Celebrating the 500 Years of Christianity



A public lecture on “Mission Spirituality and Foreign Missionaries in the Philippines: Celebrating the 500 Years of Christianity” was held via webinar through Zoom last July 17, 2021 afternoon with Fr. James Kroeger, MM, Ph.D. as resource speaker. His presentation relied heavily on a

synthetic examination of *Evangelii Gaudium*, a beautiful comprehensive panorama of the church missionary vision and an accompanying mission spirituality that identified ten pivotal insights.

The ten pivotal insights are: 1) Missionaries: God-centered Prayerful Persons, 2) Joy, Pivotal Sign of Missionary Disciples, 3) Integrating Vatican II Perspectives, 4) Missionary Evangelization is Central to the Church, 5) Becoming a Dynamic, Outgoing Church, 6) Centrality of Mercy in Missionary Spirituality, 7) Social Realities, Integral to Evangelization, 8) Popular Piety and Spirituality, Vehicles of Evangelization, 9) Two Crucial Dialogues in Evangelization Today, 10) A World-wide Vision of Evangelization. These ten items help us to appreciate the great depth of Pope Francis' vision of Missionary spirituality.



He concluded the session by sharing the words of Saint Augustine, the echo of the sentiments, *Tolle Lege!* Meaning Take and Read! He also recommended to read *Evangelii Gaudium* in order to be enriched personally and spiritually.

There were sixty (60) participants attended the webinar with some attending in groups.

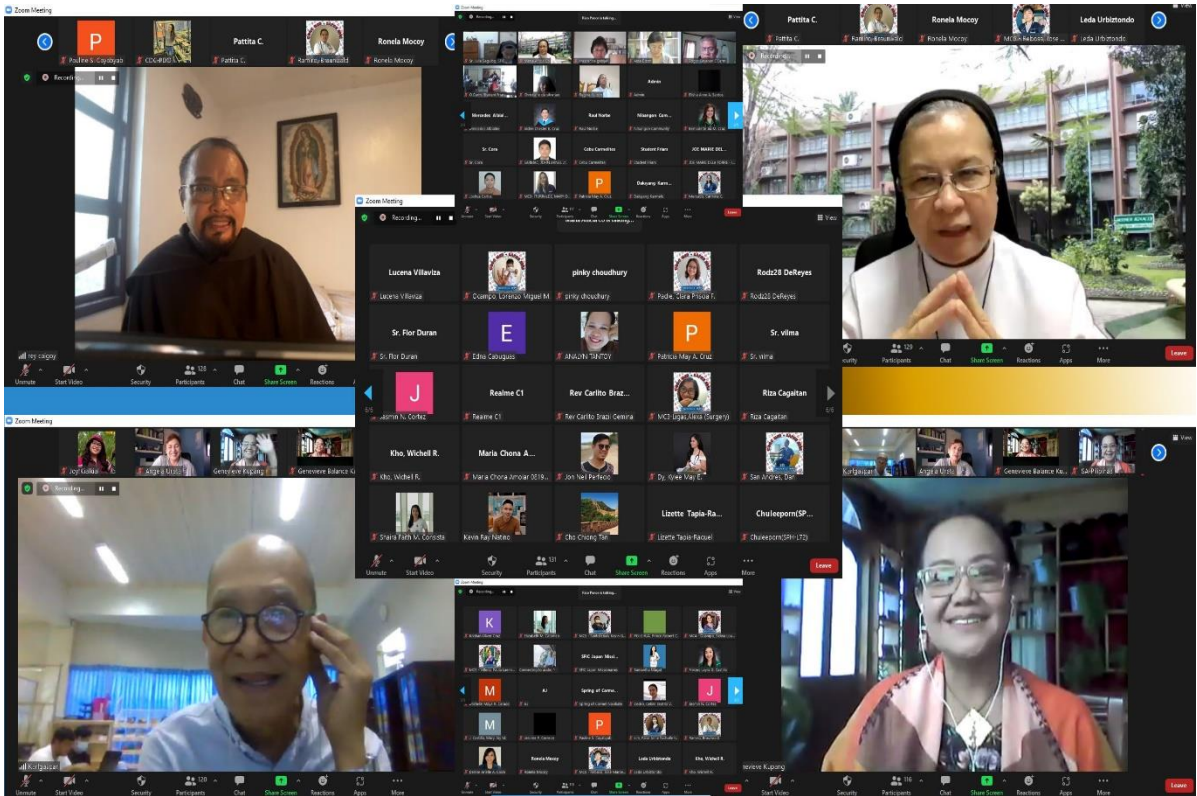
AUGUST 2021

14. Spirituality Forum 2020: “Love Seeking Faith: Celebrating 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines”

The 20th Spirituality Forum was held last August 4-6, 2021 through webinar via Zoom. The theme was “Love Seeking Faith: Celebrating 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines”. The topics and speakers were:

First day (August 4): 1) “Love Seeking Faith in the Year of Mission” with Fr. Reynold Joseph Severin Caigoy, O.Carm., M.A. (a Carmelite Missionary to Papua New Guinea) as resource speaker and Sr. Ma. Anicia Co, RVM, Ph.D. (Member, ISA International Academic Advisory Board) as conversationalist; 2) “Indigenous Peoples and the Mission of Proclaiming the Good News” with Bro. Carlito “Karl” Gaspar, CSsR (St. Alphonsus Theological and Mission Institute, davao City) as resource speaker and Ms. Genevieve Kupang, Ph.D. (Vice-chair, Sandiwa Network of Advocates for Indigenous Peoples and Moro Rights) as conversationalist.

There were 140 participants who attended the webinar with some attending in groups.



Second day (August 5): 1) “Multilogue of Faith: The Works and Fruits of the Spirit” with Mr. Ted and Mrs. Asela Arago (Members, FOCOLARE Movement) as resource speakers and Prof. Alfredo Co, Ph.D. as conversationalist; 2) “Mission Spirituality in Development Work” with Mr. Edward Gerlock (Co-Founder, Coalition of Services of the Elderly, Inc.) as resource speaker and Fr. Roberto Noel Rosa, O.Carm. (Prior and Rector, Carmelite St. Elijah Student Friary) as conversationalist.

There were 141 participants who attended the webinar with some attending in groups.



Third day (August 6): 1) “We Though Many, are One Body in Christ: Ecumenical Experience in the Philippines” with Ms. Lizette Tapia-Raquel, Ph.D. (Asst. Professor, Union Theological Seminary, Silang Cavite) as resource speaker and Fr. Rico Ponce, O.Carm. (Prior Provincial, Order of Carmelites Philippines) as conversationalist; 2) “Mission Spirituality in the New Frontiers” with Fr. Antonio Pernia, SVD, Ph.D. (Dean of Studies, Divine Word Institute of Mission, Tagaytay City) as resource speaker and Sr. Mary Regina Kuizon, RGS, Lic. in Soc. Sci. (Maryridge, Tagaytay).

There were 131 participants who attended the webinar with some attending in groups.



15. Mission Spirituality and the Carmelite Family in the Philippines: Celebrating 500 Years of Christianity

On September 18, 2021, ISA organized a public lecture on “Mission Spirituality and the Carmelite Family in the Philippines: Celebrating 500 Years of Christianity” with Fr. Ritche Salgado, O.Carm., M.A. as resource speaker.



He started his talk by quoting a chapter from the rule of St. Albert of Jerusalem: “Many and varied are the ways in which our Sainly forefathers laid down how everyone, whatever his station or the kind of religious observance he has chosen, should live a life of allegiance to Jesus Christ – how, pure in heart and stout in conscience, he must be unswerving in the service of his Master.” Based on this quote he tried to let the participants see how the Carmelites are a gift to the Church. He shared about the Carmelites in the Philippines and the evolution of the Carmelites in the country. He also talked about Mission Spirituality by sharing three (3) points: 1) The poor is the center of the Gospel, the object of evangelization, 2) To be a Christian is to be a Missionary, and 3) The Christian life transforms lives. He also talked about the Carmelite family as a gift to the church, highlighting three (3) points: 1) Carmelite service: A witness of God’s presence among the poor, 2) Carmelite community: A witness of God’s love in community, and 3) Carmelite prayer: A witness of God’s transforming and saving grace.

He also presented videos of his interviews with some religious and lay Carmelite groups. There were 77 participants who attended the webinar with some attending in groups.

16. Celebrating Season of Creation: “A Home for All: Renewing the Oikos of God.”

- a. In celebration for the Season of Creation, the Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA) together with the Fellowship for the Care of Creation Association, Inc. (FCCAI) and Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP) organized an activity on Laudato Si Experience in Paenaan, Rizal on September 24, 2021 (whole day) with the theme “A Home for All: Renewing the Oikos of God”. Participants of this activity were the staff of the three offices. The activity started with prayer and rituals followed by tree planting. Lecture about the theme were done after the tree planting followed by group sharing and reporting.

There were forty (40) participants joined in this activity.



OCTOBER 2021

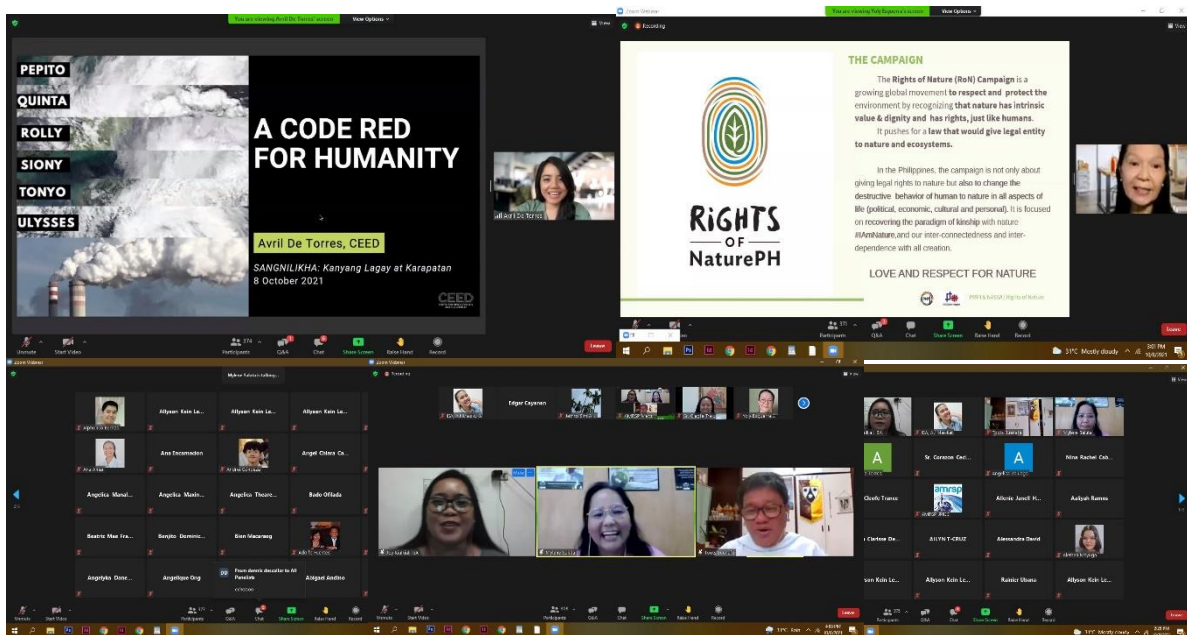
- b. The Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP), Fellowship for the Care of Creation Association Inc. (FCCAI), and the Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA) organized a free webinar as a culmination of the Season of Creation 2021 celebration titled "Sangnilikha: Kanyang Kalagayan at Karapatan" on October 8, 2021 afternoon. The resource speakers were Atty. Avril de Torres of Centre for Environment and Energy Development (CEED), and Ms. Yolanda Esguerra of the Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc.

The pandemic is a mark of both an ecological and health crisis. The webinar was organized with the hope to inspire people to create new ways of connecting with our Mother Earth.

Three hundred seventy-seven (377) participants who attended the webinar, with some attending in groups.

17. Mission Spirituality and the Consecrated Women in the Philippine Church

A public lecture/webinar was held last October 23, 2021 via zoom with the topic "Mission Spirituality and the Consecrated Women in the Philippine Church". Sr. Ma. Anicia Co, RVM, Ph.D., director of the Mother Ignacia Center for Spirituality and RVM Archives was the resource speaker on the topic.



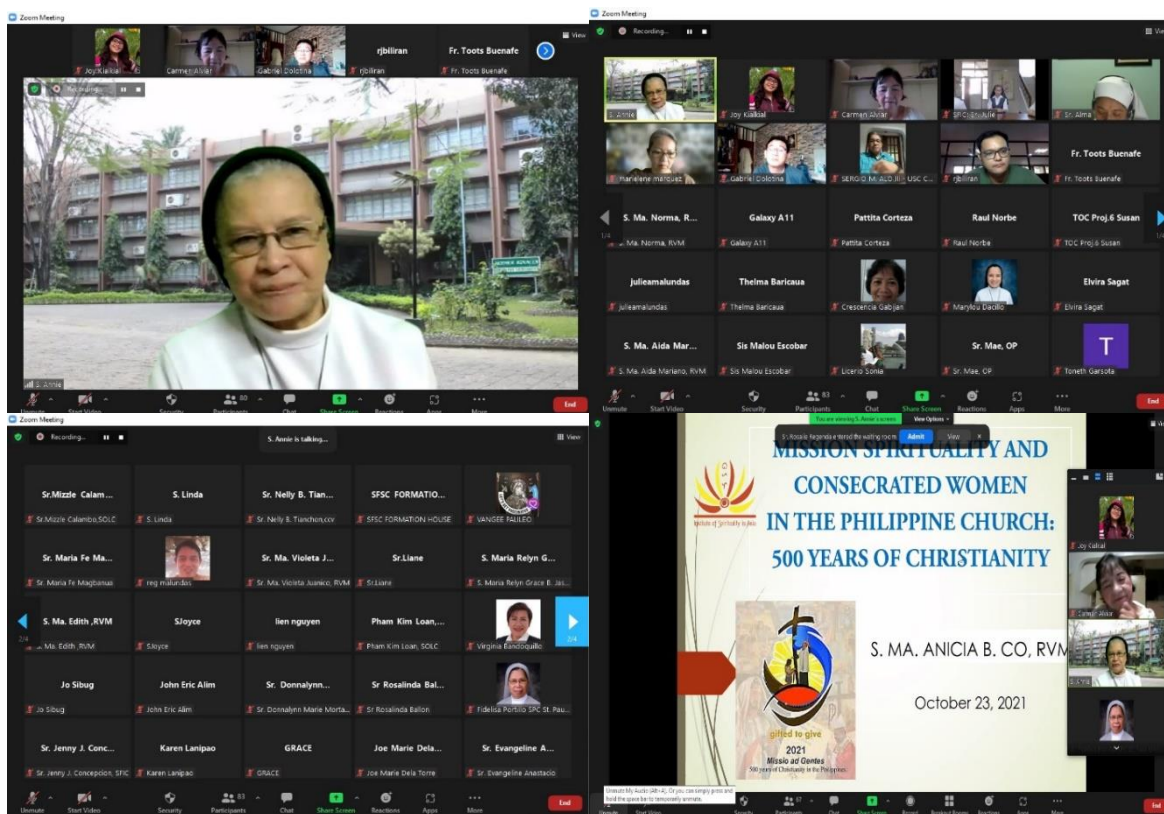
She begins her talk with two (2) important considerations. First, to be a Christian is to be a missionary. Christian spirituality is mission spirituality. Second, to be a consecrated person is to be a missionary. Consecration is for mission.

In this webinar, Sr. Annie in her introduction explored the manifestation and expressions of mission spirituality of groups of consecrated women who came to the Philippines and those that were born on Philippine soil. This webinar also explored features of mission spirituality based

on the experiences of consecrated women according to the paradigm of Christian life and mission. She also presented some implications for engagement in mission as consecrated women today.

After the introduction, she shared the spiritual vitality of native women before and during the Spanish Colonial Rule: The Priestesses and the Beatas Terciarias, Religious life for women during the Spanish Colonial Period (1565-1898): Experiences and Community and Mission, Further Developments from 1900 to the present and some features of Mission Spirituality for Consecrated Women Today.

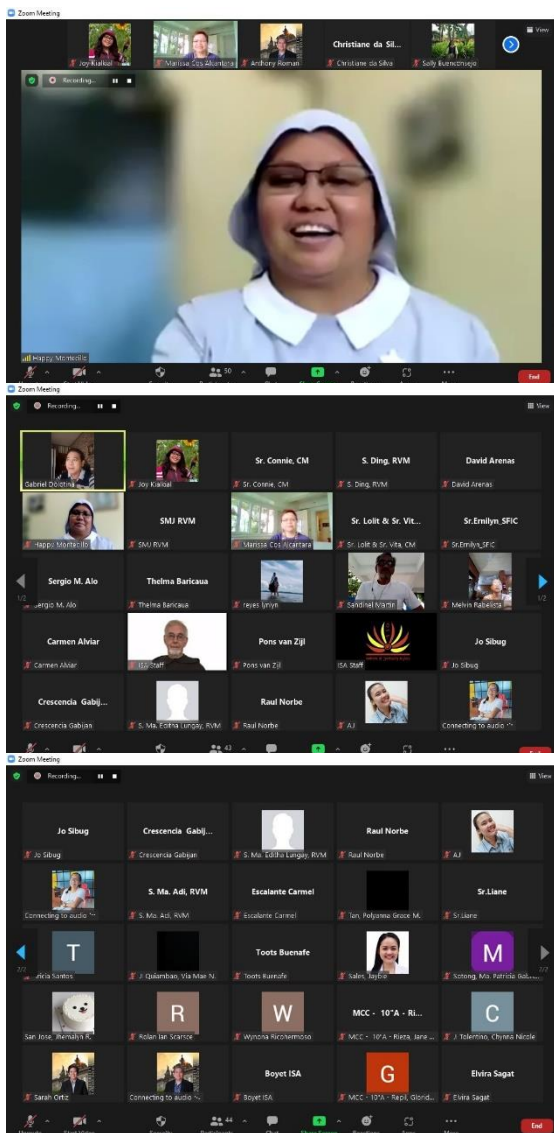
Eighty-four (84) participants who attended the webinar, with some attending in groups.



NOVEMBER 2021

18. The 1st Sr. Julie Postel Memorial Lecture on Mission Spirituality

The first public lecture in honor of Sr. Julie Postel on “Mission Spirituality” was held last November 20, 2021 through a webinar via Zoom with Sr. Anna Crisvie “Happy” Montecillo, DSA as resource speaker.



The webinar started with a short introduction on Sr. Julie Postel’s presence in Escalante with Fr. Harry Bloem, O.Carm. and O.Carm. Associate Ms. Rizalina Ombi-on. Mrs. Melvin Kl. Koerkamp, also an O.Carm. Associate gave her testimony of her experience of the Sisters of Julie Postel in Escalante and how the sisters helped and inspired her as a missionary.

She shared in her talk some documents of the Catholic Church on Mission. Then she defined Mission Spirituality as awakening, enlightenment, compassion, forgiveness, joy, inner peace and karma.

Sr. Happy also shared the message of Pope Francis for World Mission Sunday of 2021: “Once we experience the power of God’s love, and recognize his fatherly presence in our personal and community life, we cannot help but proclaim and share what we have seen and heard.” What we saw and heard that created an overwhelming experience for us, cannot just be kept in us. She hoped that as followers of Christ, we will be spreading the good news of salvation and not the fake news of destruction.

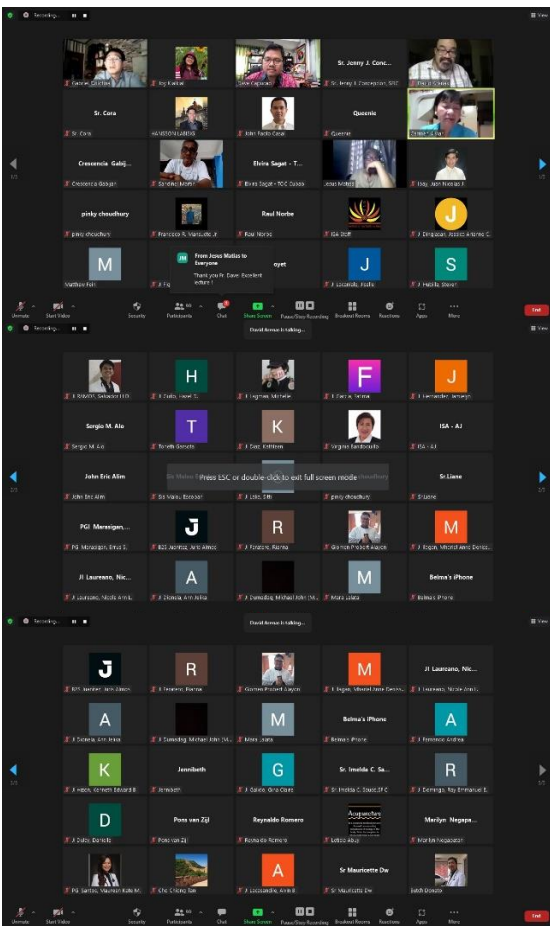
She also shared her own story as a missionary in the different mission areas of the Daughters of St. Anne, specially her eleven (11) years as a missionary in Indonesia. She ended her talk with a message that “Mission Spirituality is about God’s story in our lives that we share with others, and upon sharing, it ignites God’s love in those who listen to it. Then it will become a chain of good news.”

There were one hundred five (105) participants who attended the webinar, with some attending in groups.

19. Spirituality of *Babad* (Immersion)



The last public lecture/webinar for 2021 was held last December 4, 2021 on “Spirituality of *Babad* (Immersion)” with Fr. Dave Capucao, Ph.D., S.Th.D., author/writer of “Exploring the Spirituality of *Babad*: Engaging the Poor and Inter-religious Dialogue Today” (Peeters, 2021), as resource speaker.



Fr. Capucao started his talk by sharing the story of the Salt Doll. He defined the Filipino word *Babad* as to immerse, to soak, to plunge, to dip (active mode) and to be absorbed, to be involved deeply (passive mode). Then he also gave the definition of Immersion as the act of immersing, or the state of being immersed; a sinking within a fluid; a dipping and it also means submersion in water for the purpose of Christian Baptism, the state of being overwhelmed or deeply absorbed and deeply engaged.

He also shared his own *Babad*/immersion experience from different immersion areas. He said that Spirituality of *babad* requires us to listen to the prompting of the human spirit. He uses Bp. Labayen’s three (3) characteristics of human spirit: 1) search for meaning, 2) capacity for self-gift, and 3) capacity for self-transcendence (to dream dreams). Then he uses three symbols to help us understand the hermeneutics of immersion: the pebble, flower, and encounter.

He also shared the five (5) concepts of poverty in the Christian Tradition: 1) Material poverty – socio-economic poverty; imposed poverty, 2) Spiritual poverty – attitude of dependence on God; need for God; humility; Pope Francis’ expression: crying, begging, dreaming, 3) voluntary poverty – agapeic poverty, 4) solidarity with the poor – struggle with the poor, 5) poor as shapers of own history – poor as evangelizers. Then he ended his presentation by sharing a quote from a Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu: “Go to the people, live with them, learn from them, and love them. Start with what they know, and build with what they have.”

There were 68 participants who attended the webinar, with some attending in groups.

20. ISA Annual Planning and Evaluation/Christmas Fellowship

To end the year, the ISA staff and Executive Committee had its annual planning and evaluation for two (2) days from December 6 to 7, 2021. After the last day's session, ISA had its Christmas fellowship.

