

2021 October—November—December

Spinita

THE DICES QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

October—PAGE 1

November—PAGE 63

December—PAGE 101

#PaskongPamilyangDICES—PAGE 135



Message from the Superintendent



By: Fr. Alain P. Manalo

(Editor's Note: This message was originally published on the Batang DICES Facebook page last December 23, 2021.)

It's time to rebuild. The pandemic has devastated us in many ways. This is no exaggeration. Besides, we may be overtaken by personal burdens beyond our expectations.

Yet Christmas gifts us with hope to rise and begin anew—always. We are not meant for defeat. Jesus was born to save us. He comes here and now to free us from all oppressions.

Let us renew our faith and trust in the Lord. Let us Join hands in our journey of new beginnings. Let us share the blessing of hope.

Jesus is Emmanuel—God who is with us always.

Panahon na upang buuin muli ang mga winasak ng pandemya. Hindi kalabisang sabihin na tayo ay hinamon at ginupo nito, bukod pa ng ating mga personal na dalahin na hindi natin inasahan.

Ngunit inihahandog ng Pasko sa atin ang pag-asa na bumangon at magsimula muli—lagi. Hindi tayo nakatakda sa kabiguan. Isinilang si Jesus upang tayo ay iligtas. Dumarating Siya ngayon at dito upang palayain tayo sa mga sumisiil sa atin.

Pag-alabin natin ang ating pananampalataya at pagitiwala sa Panginoon. Kapit-kamay tayong maglakbay patungo sa bagong pagsisimula. Ibahagi natin sa lahat ang biyaya ng pag-asa.

Si Jesus ang Emmanuel—ang Diyos na sumasaatin, sa tuwina.

Gunita

THE DICES QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

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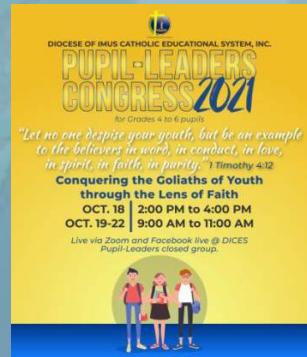
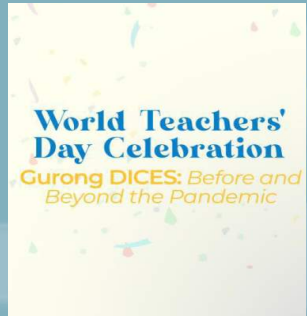
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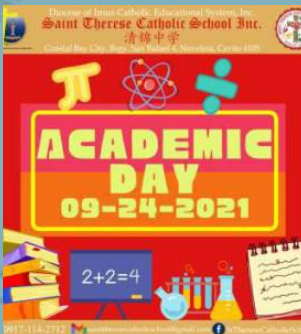
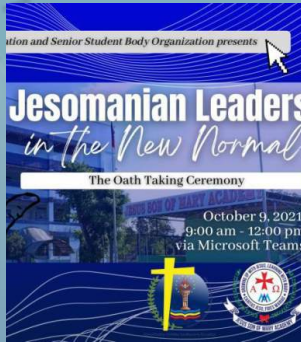
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2021 October





Bishop Reynaldo Evangelista, Fr. Alain Manalo thank DICES teachers in World Teachers' Day messages

Diocese of Imus Catholic Educational System (DICES)

By: Juan Miguel A. Tolentino

Last October 5, 2021, Most Rev. Reynaldo G. Evangelista, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Imus, and Rev. Fr. Alain P. Manalo, DICES Superintendent, gave inspirational messages for DICES teachers during the World Teachers' Day celebration of DICES.

The messages from Bishop Evangelista and Fr. Manalo were broadcast at 9:00 AM, via Facebook Live, at the Batang DICES page. Their messages followed Bishop Evangelista's celebration of the Holy Eucharist earlier that day, at 8:00 AM.

In his message, Bishop Evangelista referred to teachers as "tunay na bayani, tunay na mga tagapagsulong ng magandang kinabukasan para sa ating mga kabataan, sa mga mag-aaral". "Salamat sa inyong masipag na paglilingkod, mga guro, di lamang sa DICES, kundi sa lahat ng mga guro, mag-ing sa buong diyosesis, sa public schools, at sa iba pang mga paaralan," he said.

Bishop Evangelista recounted his experiences as a student under the many teachers of his life, who

inspired him to realize the importance of their work as educators. "Ako ay dumaaan din sa pangangalaga at pagtuturo ng mga teachers kagaya ninyo, simula elementary, high school, college, at sa post-graduate studies," he said. He commended his teachers for the wisdom that he acquired over the years. "Lahat ng karunungan na aking natanggap ay dumaaan sa pagtuturo ng maraming mga guro na nagsakripisyo at nagbigay ng kanilang sarili, panahon, at talino, para sa pag-unlad ng aking kakayanan, at pati na rin ng kakayanan ng lahat ng estudyante na naturuan nila," he said.

Bishop Evangelista extended the gratitude of the diocese of Imus towards its teachers. "Kinikilala ng buong diocese ang inyong mga pagpupunyagi at pagbibigay ng sarili para sa paglilingkod sa ating mga paaralan," he said. According to him, teachers have a huge and invaluable contribution to society, not just in academics, but also in values and direction of life.

"Sana, sa kabila ng maraming hirap

sa panahong ito ng pandemya dulot ng COVID-19, magtuloy-tuloy kayo sa inyong pagiging mga guro ng ating mga paaralan,” said Bishop Evangelista. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, he assured teachers that DICES aims to help and support them as they help and support their own students. “Kinikilala namin at kinikilala ko ang lahat ng inyong sakripisyo. Sa aking makakaya at sa makakaya ng DICES ay tutulong kami sa inyo, susuporta palagi sa inyo, sa inyong mga pangangailangan,” he said.

Bishop Evangelista concluded his message by acknowledging the common difficulties and hardships experienced not only by teachers but also by the DICES community as a whole. “Alam namin na hindi lamang kayo ang nagsasakripisyo. Kami rin ay magbigay ng sakripisyo, tulong, at suporta para sa inyo, para lalong maging maayos ang takbo ng ating mga paaralan, lalo na sa DICES schools.”

Afterwards, in his message, Fr. Manalo reflected on three reasons or “secrets” which make Jesus the “Good Teacher”. These, argued Fr. Manalo, means that Jesus should be and is the “model and inspiration” for all DICES teachers.

According to Fr. Manalo, Jesus “is deeply committed to a very clear purpose or vision in life, and that is the Kingdom of God”. For teachers and students, “in practical terms”, this purpose of vision refers to the “the fullness of life for each one of us”.

Jesus “is very much grounded in reality, in truth, no lies, no compromises”, said Fr. Manalo, which he argues should be the guide for teachers.

Fr. Manalo also referred to Jesus’ way of engaging with the people that He interacted with. According to him, Jesus “engages each one, personally, fully, and passionately—his disciples, followers, and friends, and even his detractors and enemies”.

World Teachers' Day Celebration

Gurong DICES: Before and Beyond the Pandemic



World Teachers' Day Celebration

Gurong DICES: Before and Beyond the Pandemic



VP Leni Robredo praises DICES teachers, hopes for “better normal” in World Teachers’ Day message

Diocese of Imus Catholic Educational System (DICES)

By: Juan Miguel A. Tolentino

Last October 5, 2021, Her Excellency Maria Leonor “Leni” Robredo, Vice President of the Philippines, gave an inspirational message for teachers during the World Teachers’ Day celebration of DICES.

Vice President Robredo’s message was broadcast at 9:20 AM, via Facebook Live, at the Batang DICES page. Her message was broadcast after the respective messages of Imus Bishop G. Reynaldo Evangelista and DICES Superintendent

Rev. Fr. Alain P. Manalo.

Vice President Robredo expressed her thanks to teachers, citing their efforts to maintain continuity of education. “Maraming maraming salamat sa lahat ng sakripisyo para masigurong tuloy-tuloy ang edukasyon ng kabataan sa kabila ng mga hamon ng pandemya,” she said.

As a former teacher, Vice President Robredo understood the im-

portant role of teachers as formators. “Bilang dating guro, alam ko ang bigat ng responsibilidad na hubugin ang mga values at thought processes ng susunod na henerasyon, kaya saludo ako sa bawat isa sa inyo,” she said.

Vice President Robredo also referred to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as “greatest challenge of our time”, especially for education. “Edukasyon ang isa sa mga pinaka-apektadong sektor,” she said. According to her, the responsibility of teachers “takes on even more gravity” during this time. In particular, she referred to the transition of Philippine education to online classes and modular learning, citing how teachers, students, parents and administrators adapted to these changes. “Perhaps, some saw how technology would be integral to the classrooms of tomorrow, but few could have foreseen that tomorrow would come so quickly, that the changes would be forced upon us in such a manner, leaving us with little time to prepare for the transition,” she said.

“Sa kabila ng mga hamong kinakaharap ng mga guro natin nitong nakaraang school year, hindi mai-pagkakaila, our educators rose to the occasion,” Vice President Robredo said. She also mentioned how she and the Office of the Vice President, in dialogue and consul-

tation with teachers, faced the challenges in education during the pandemic, especially during the early days of the pandemic. Her office held gadget donation drives, produced online materials, and built community learning hubs “where students can have safe access to tools, tutors, and the internet”.

Vice President Robredo acknowledged the efforts of teachers, especially as they went above and beyond their duties. “Alam kong marami sa inyo ay sa sariling bulsa kumukuha ng pang-print ng modules, o di kaya naman ay nagbababad ng mahabang oras sa YouTube, trying to learn the ways of distance learning, even if this meant time away from your own families,” she said. “Ginawa at patuloy ninyong ginagawa ito dahil sa malasakit at katapatan sa tungkulin,” she continued.

Vice President Robredo commended teachers for their work “at the frontlines”. “For this, the nation owes you its deep gratitude” she said. She commended teachers “for imparting not only knowledge but also for your commitment and dedication, for your selflessness, and for the many times you went above and beyond the call of duty, to make sure that our children get the education that they deserve.”

According to Vice President Robredo, teachers are proof of the say-



ing, "The worst of times brings out the best in ourselves." She also emphasized the purpose and goal of educators, saying, "You show up for your students, for your peers, for your community, everyday, at ginagawa ninyo ito para maabot ang iisang layunin—ang magpanday ng isang better normal kung saan walang kabataang nag-iwanan."

Vice President Robredo challenged teachers "to reach further with your empathy, to adapt, and in adapting, carve out a new path for other educators, imparting lessons of kindness and fairness and justice and solidarity".

Vice President Robredo concluded her message by looking forward to the future of education. "Sabi ko nga, malaki man ang hamon ng panahon, mas malaki ang pagkakataon, ang pagkakataon na magiging mas mahusay, magsimula ng pagbabago, at magpanday ng isang better normal para sa lahat." She emphasized the importance of communal effort, saying, "Basta't sama-sama, basta't tulong-tulong, sigurado ako, makakamit natin ang mithiin nating mas patas, mas mapagmalasakit, mas makataong mundo."

Committed to Christian

DICES member schools create photo collages, tribute messages for #SalamatPoGurongDICES

Diocese of Imus Catholic Educational System (DICES)

By: Juan Miguel A. Tolentino



Last October 6, 2021, photo collages and tribute messages for teachers from the member schools of DICES were published on the Batang DICES Facebook page, as well as on the member schools' respective pages. The photo collages and tribute messages were created for the #SalamatPoGurongDICES project, held as part of the celebration of World Teachers' Day last October 5, 2021.

messages were based on the theme "Teachers at the Heart of Education Recovery". The photo collages were created by the member schools' respective communications offices. Meanwhile, while some of the accompanying tribute messages were written by the member schools' communications officers, others were written by students, principals, directors, coordinators, and teachers.

The photo collages and tribute messages were

Most of the tribute messages were

written in the form of reflections and open letters, while some were written as poems. Highlights from the tribute messages include the following:

"Teachers are passionate people who enjoy making a difference." — Elizabeth Signo Hernando, ASVF Assistant Principal

"You will always be our hero in these modern times." —Armand G. Gallardo, DGA Principal

"Guro, titser, propesor, o anuman ang tawag sa kanila, sila ay tunay na dakila sa kanilang larangan." — Ana Teresa L. Octa, FMDMS External Relations/Communication Officer

"Let us continue to love learning, love our learners, and love bringing the first two loves together." —Vhia L. Alcantara, HFA Communications Officer

"Thank you so much for your believing hearts which brought multitudes of accomplished students to greater opportunities in recreating the world for the better." —Rev. Fr. Ariel Delos Reyes, IJA School Director

"You are heroes who fight ignorance. You may not wear capes, but you have the superpower to change the world." —Joyfe Serrano, JESOMA External Relations/Communications Officer

"Thank you so much for your timeless dedication and heartfelt devotion to our school." —Jennifer Santos Lopez, MPS OSA Coordinator/Communication Officer

"As we always say, 'Walang bibitaw! Lahat makakaya, basta tayo'y nagkakaintindihan at nagkakatulungan!'" —Lydia D. Dimapilis, NSGA Principal and Communications Officer

"To all teachers, thank you for believing that every student can do their best, even when they can't believe in themselves." —Fatima Lorzano, OLPCS Communications Officer

"Teaching is a profession, but more than that, it is a vocation." — Jenessa Silvela and Chenee A. De Vera, PFCSI Communications Officers

"The life of a teacher is more than just teaching." —Ma. Irish Anne P. Gatpandan, SAS-M Communications Officer

"It is, indeed, true that being a teacher is a valued profession that should not be taken for granted." —Marc Arvie Cantos, et al., SAST-SHS Communications Officers

"Despite many uncertainties, the pursuit for knowledge and learning is never-ending. Teachers play an integral role in this quest." —Alyzza R. Venzon, SAS-T Communications

Committed to Christian

Officer

"The virus may have limited our proximity with our students, but our objective as teachers remains the same." —Maria Fe M. Santos, SMMPs and SFAA Principal

"To our DICES heroes: You are our inspiration. Our second parents. Our heroes." —Shierney Ann P. Reterta, SFDMPs Communications Officer

"Sa aming minamahal na mga guro: Lagi ninyong tatandaan, kamay namin ay sa inyo lamang sasaludo." —Rey Micheal O. Peñalba, SGA Grade 10 Student

"You are an inspiration, and your radiance guides your students as they reach for their dreams." —Lalaine L. Lacsao, SHJA Teacher

"Kayo ay tunay na mga bayani na nagsusulong ng makabagong paraan ng edukasyon!" —Jessica Mojica, SJPS Communications Officer

"Don't forget: Work smart, and it's okay to take some rest." —April Rose G. Ronario, SJPS Teacher

"Teachers, you all deserve a '#SalamatPoGurongDICES', as well as our overwhelming gratitude for your efforts and sacrifices." —Donna Mae D. Lintag, SMI Communications Officer

"We give our heartfelt thanks and

salute to all DICES teachers for their undying perseverance and sacrifices in the name of Catholic education." —Jerico O. Enriquez, SMMS Principal

"Thank you, teachers, for your dedication. May the Lord bless you without hesitation." —Lovely Camille Raqueño, SRCS Communications Officer

"May God bless you a hundredfold for your dedication and passion." —Romar B. Reyes, STCS Principal

DICES' psychological first aid webinar recommends strategies to manage mental health crisis events

Diocese of Imus Catholic Educational System (DICES)

By: Juan Miguel A. Tolentino

Last October 8, 2021, from 1.00 to 4.00 PM, the psychological first aid webinar from the DICES FLEX-ABLE Webinar Series was broadcast via Facebook Live at the Batang DICES page. The webinar was organized by the DICES Office for Guidance Services.

The featured resource speaker for the webinar was Ms. Maria Elena "Elline" Cruz-Santos, RPsy, RPs, the current Head of the Psychology

Department at Our Lady of Fatima University-Valenzuela.

Ms. Cruz-Santos is a consultant psychologist for ChildFam-Possibilities Psychosocial Services, where she helps adolescents understand developmental, biological, emotional, and social-cognitive concerns, helps adults who are dealing with stress, anxiety, and depression, and collaboratively works with couples and families.



Elena Cruz-Santos

DICES FLEX-ABLE WEBINAR SERIES: Psychological First Aid



October 08, 2021



1:00 PM - 4:00 PM



Live via Batang
DICES Facebook page



Ms. Maria Elena (Eline) Cruz-Santos, RPsy, RPh
Psychology Program Head at Our Lady
of Fatima University (Valenzuela)
Clinical Psychologist
Consultant, Childfam-Possibilities

She is also part of the core group at CPPS Work-Workplace Mental Health Philippines, where she helps in the psychological assessment and facilitation of mental health psychosocial support for organizations.

According to Ms. Cruz-Santos, psychological first aid is “human, supportive, and practical assistance to fellow human beings who recently suffered exposure to serious stressors”. She also referred to the World Health Organization definition of mental health, which is “not just about not having mental illnesses, but is also about having well-being”. She also emphasizes the importance of an “integrationist approach to under-

standing mental health”, saying that “biological, psychological, and social factors combine and interact to influence physical and mental health”.

In cases of crisis events, and even in daily life, Ms. Cruz-Santos highlighted the importance of being prepared to give psychological first aid for oneself and for others. Psychological care “starts with ourselves,” she said. Psychological first aid is a guide “to help you know the helpful things to say and do in order to support people who have recently experienced” negative events that have affected their mental well-being, she elaborated.

Ms. Cruz-Santos explained the process of giving psychological first

aid, saying that it involves “non-intrusive, practical care support”, “assessing needs and concerns”, “helping people to address basic needs”, “listening but not pressuring people to talk”, “comforting people and helping them to feel calm”, “helping people connect to information, services, and social supports”, and “protecting people from further harm”.

Ms. Cruz-Santos emphasized that psychological first aid can be done by anyone, not just by professionals. However, she clarified that it is not equivalent to professional counselling, but instead is meant to be an emergency supplement to professional psychological help.

Instead of asking, “What can I do to help?”, Ms. Cruz-Santos recommends that the offer of psychological first aid be phrased in a more positive and accommodating way. She recommends saying, “Here are some of the things that I think you need. Am I correct?” By doing so, she said that the burden on the person in need of help is lessened. At the same time, the person is still involved

in the psychological first aid process.

The first action principle of psychological first aid, according to Ms. Cruz-Santos, is looking or “assessing the situation. According to her, looking involves assessing the person who needs support, assessing the risks, assessing the needs of the affected, and assessing “expected emotional reactions”.

The second action principle is listening, which is a crucial part of psychological first aid, said Ms. Cruz-Santos. According to her, listening involves knowing how to “begin the conversation, introduce the helper, pay attention and listen actively, accept feelings, calm the





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FLEX-ABLE WEBINAR SERIES VERSION 2.0 on the topic: "PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID"



person in distress, ask about needs and concerns, and help find solutions". She emphasized the need to not be judgmental when listening to someone in need, and to let them express their emotions in a safe space. "When we talk to them, we empathize, we try to validate their feelings," she said.

The third and final action principle is linking the person in need to "information, loved ones and social support, solutions to practical problems, as well as psychological services and other help", Ms. Cruz-Santos said.

Ms. Cruz-Santos concluded the webinar with a story about Atlas, the Titan from mythology who carried the world on his shoulders. When Atlas was asked, "Paano mo nabubuhay ang mundo?", Ms. Cruz-

Santos said that he replied, "Non cogitare sed facere," which, translated from Latin, means, "Do not think; instead, do." According to her, this is a reminder to not overthink things.

DICES holds two five-day leadership congress events for student and pupil leaders

Diocese of Imus Catholic Educational System (DICES)

By: Juan Miguel A. Tolentino



(Note: DICES refers to junior and senior high school leaders as “student leaders” and grade 4 to 6 leaders as “pupil leaders”.)

Day one: Opening remarks, first plenary session

The first day of each congress event—October 11 for the SLC and October 18 for the PLC—was graced by opening remarks and an inspirational message from

DICES Superintendent Rev. Fr. Alain P. Manalo.

In his message for the SLC, Fr. Manalo challenged student leaders to think about their role as influencers who lead the people they serve towards good. “Ang pamumuno ay hindi nakukuha sa posisyon o sa eleksyon. ... (Ito) ay nakaugat sa ating kakayahan na impluwensyahan ang iba,” he said. He also reminded them that they

Last October 11 to 15, 2021, DICES held its five-day Student-Leaders Congress (SLC) for junior and senior high school student leaders. Last October 18 to 22, DICES held its five-day Pupil-Leaders Congress (PLC) for grade 4 to 6 pupil leaders.

Both congress events were broadcast via Zoom and via Facebook Live on the SLC and PLC closed groups.

Day 1 - October 11 (Monday)



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CONGRESS 2021

are Christian leaders “chosen and sent by Jesus to serve”.

In his message for the PLC, Fr. Manalo emphasized Jesus as the role model for pupil leaders. He also reminded them that their leadership roles are opportunities for them to learn, even as young children. “Hindi sapat na tayo ay nanalo sa eleksyon. Mag-aral nang mabuti, magsaliksik, tumingin sa

paligid, at kumopya ng mga magandang halimbawa,” he said.

Afterwards, the first plenary session, facilitated by DICES Assistant Superintendent Rev. Fr. Dominador C. Duroy, Jr., discussed the overall theme of both congress events, “Conquering the Goliaths of Youth through the Lens of Faith”.

For the SLC, Fr. Duroy defined

“social media” as the “Goliath” that student leaders must defeat. “Social media allows the creation and exchange of experiences and ideas in ways we could have never imagined. ... However, social media has taken over the lives of the youth,” he said.

For the PLC, Fr. Duroy emphasized the role of faith in as pupil leaders. “Imposibleng matalo ni David si Goliath, pero naging posible ito dahil sa kanyang pananampalataya sa Diyos,” he said. He also reminded pupil leaders to emulate David as “warriors, leaders, and heroes”.

Day two: Second and third plenary sessions

The second day of each event—October 12 for the SLC and October 19 for the PLC—were dedicated to the second and third plenary sessions.

The second plenary session was facilitated by Mr. Domingo B. Alarcon, Jr., DICES Program Assistant for Christian Values Integration and Student Affairs (CVISA) and JESOMA registrar. The session provided an overview of the JEEPGY+FM advocacies.

(Note: JEEPGY refers to the pillar programs of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP), which are justice and peace, ecological integrity, en-

gaged citizenship, poverty alleviation, gender equality, and youth empowerment. DICES’ revised version, JEEPGY+FM, includes family and life and media education.)

For the SLC, Mr. Alarcon highlighted the importance of personal transformation for student leaders. “When we are talking about Catholic education, we are talking about being a transformed individual, a transformed Catholic, a better version of ourselves,” he said.

For the PLC, Mr. Alarcon referred to JEEPGY+FM as “a vehicle na dapat nating sakyan patungo sa gusto nating puntahan, towards our goal of a transformed society”. He also challenged pupil leaders, saying, “Don’t wait for the world to change. Be the change!”

The third plenary session, entitled “I Can!”, was facilitated by Ms. Jonna Mae M. Berci, IJA Student Affairs Coordinator.

For the SLC, Ms. Berci highlighted “the power of a fresh perspective”. “While you can’t change your situation, you can transform your perspective, you can transform your mind and your reaction. ... With that, you can change the world”, she said.

For the PLC, Ms. Berci reminded pupil leaders “to take responsibility”, as well as to use their imaginations, cooperate, and commit themselves to their projects. “This

is the design for change. Ang pagbabago ay nagsisimula sa bawat isa," she said.

Day three and four: JEEPGY+FM "breakout rooms"

The third and fourth days of each event—October 13 to 14 for the SLC and October 20 to 21 for the PLC—were divided into concurrent "breakout rooms". Four of these rooms, each featuring a different topic from JEEPGY+FM and a different resource speaker, were held for each day.

The topic of justice and peace featured resource speaker Mr. Alexis A. Tayam, DICES Program Officer for Christian Values Integration and Student Affairs (CVISA). The breakout room for the topic was entitled "The Missing Peace: Conflict Prevention and Resolution".

For the SLC, Mr. Tayam argued that peace and justice cannot be separated. He also reminded student leaders of their role as mediators of conflict in the classroom. "Conflict is a natural part of life. Conflict is neither good nor bad. What makes conflict good or bad is our response to it," he said.

For the PLC, Mr. Tayam encouraged pupil leaders to "respond to conflict in a principled way". He also encouraged them to learn and use different conflict styles in

different situations. "Every conflict is unique; therefore, we need to find out first what conflict style is needed," he said.

The topic of ecological integrity featured resource speakers Dr. Rowena Resurreccion, Vice President of Aksyon Kalikasan for the SLC, and Mr. Nestor Gonzales, OSA Coordinator from SGA for the PLC. The breakout room for the topic was entitled "Global Warming and Its Local Impact in the Philippines: Ways to Make a Difference".

For the SLC, Dr. Resurreccion encouraged student leaders to believe in the collective potential of individual effort. "Ang isang bagay na maliit, kapag pinagsama-sama, malaki ang maiaambag sa pangangalaga ng ating kalikasan. Simulan natin sa ating mga kabataan, sa ating tahanan," she said.

For the PLC, Mr. Gonzales reminded pupil leaders of their responsibility to take care of the environment. "Walang mag-aalaga nito kundi tayo lamang. Change will happen if individuals take action," he said. "Ang mundo ay buhay (alive) at buhay (life). Believe in change. Be the change," he continued.

The topic of engaged citizenship featured resource speakers Bro. Michael S. Cañares, PPCRCV Lay Coordinator for the Diocese of Imus for the SLC, and Mr. Edward

Day 3 - October 13 (Wednesday)



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CONGRESS 2021

Diaz, OSA Coordinator from OLPCS for the PLC. The breakout room for the topic was entitled "The Role of Youth in the Local and National Election 2022".

For the SLC, Bro. Cañares encouraged student leaders to look back to history as a guide for the upcoming elections. "Sa history natin makikita kung ano ang ayaw na nating mga maulit pa. Nasa atin

ang desisyon kung ito ay mauulit pa o hindi na," he said.

For the PLC, Mr. Diaz encouraged pupil leaders to not be intimidated by the upcoming elections and ask their parents, guardians or teachers for guidance. "Ang pagboto ay napakahalaga, dahil bilang mamamayan, ito ay makakatulong para mabago ang ating bayan," he said.

The topic of poverty alleviation featured resource speaker Ms. Jonna May M. Berci, OSA Coordinator from IJA. The breakout room for the topic was entitled "Youth Entrepreneurship in a Time of Pandemic: A Key to Adapt and Thrive in Life".

For the SLC, Ms. Berci encouraged student leaders to reflect about their motivation and mentality in

facing the challenges in their life. "How you do anything is how you do everything. Kung paano mo ginagawa ang isang bagay, ganoon mo ginagawa ang lahat ng bagay— kaya always do your best!" she said.

For the PLC, Ms. Berci emphasized the importance of youth entrepreneurship for pupil leaders and their communities. "Youth entre-

Day 4 - October 14 (Thursday)



DIocese of IMUS CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, INC.

STUDENT-LEADERS CONGRESS 2021

preneurship provides young people with the necessary skills and experiences to thrive economically throughout their lives, while helping their communities prosper as well," she said.

The topic of gender equality featured resource speaker Mr. John Christian A. Silva, Prefect of Discipline and OSA Coordinator from SAST-SHS. The breakout room for the topic was entitled "Maturing Confidently in Troubling Time".

For the SLC, Mr. Silva reminded student leaders of the importance of knowing oneself and helping others know themselves as well. "Ang goal ng tao ay ang tulongan ang kapwa tao na makilala ang kanyang sarili. ... Ito ang ating misyon: na ipakita ang ating pagiging tao at ituring sila bilang tao rin," he said.

For the PLC, Mr. Silva reminded pupil leaders to respect one another as creations of God. "Hindi tayo kung sino-sino lamang. Kapag tayo ay tinuturing na tao, dapat ay binibigyan tayo ng respeto. ... Maturity is when we realize that we are created in the image and likeness of God, 'Imago Dei,'" he said.

The topic of youth empowerment featured resource speaker Mr. Ralph Robert J. Alalay, OSA Coordinator of SMI. The breakout room for the topic was entitled "My Rights, My Responsibilities".

For the SLC, Mr. Alalay emphasized the importance of knowing one's rights and responsibilities. "Kailangan nating makilala ang ating mga karapatan at mga responsibilidad. Tama na (kayong mga kabataan) ang pag-asa ng bayan, kaya't kailangan natin ng engaged citizenship," he said.

For the PLC, Mr. Alalay highlighted how one's self-identity is both changing and constant. "You are a collection of constantly changing parts, and yet you remain who you are. ... When we know who we are, we are able to identify our strengths, hence emerging as stronger individuals," he said.

The topic of family and life featured resource speaker Ms. Maria Eileen B. Marges, DICES Program Officer for Guidance Services. The breakout room for the topic was entitled "Leading Families from Below".

For the SLC, Ms. Marges reminded student leaders to ensure the legitimacy of the sources of information that they use as basis for their projects. "Kailangan din na ang mga proyekto ninyo ay tumugon upang mapabuti ang buhay ng mga tao sa inyong paligid," she said.

For the PLC, Ms. Marges reminded pupil leaders of their potential, saying that "David did not start off as a 'giant killer'". "One does not

need to be strong or of high status to be anointed by God. He looks at the heart, faithfulness, and truth within a person and anoints them to do His will," she said.

The topic of media education featured resource speaker Ms. Ma. Alyanna P. Raveche, DICES Program Officer for JHS Curriculum and Instruction. The breakout room for the topic was entitled "Think Before You Click: The Youth in the World of Social Media".

For the SLC, Ms. Raveche told student leaders to transform social media, one of their "Goliaths", into "David's sling". "Social media can be a sling of hope, love, and peace. If we do this, there would be no fake news. We could make a change during this disinformation age,"

she said.

For the PLC, Ms. Raveche addressed pupil leaders as "digital natives", challenging them to use social media responsibly. "As early as now, use these platforms to share, post, and tweet the language of hope, love and peace. Use these platforms to bring us back to the information age," she said.

Day five: Synthesis speech, Holy Mass, commissioning rites, and closing remarks

The fifth and last day of each congress event—October 15 for the SLC and October 22 for the PLC—was begun by a recap of the previous days' sessions, followed by a



synthesis speech from Fr. Duroy entitled "Catholic Youth Leaders Today: The Bearers of Truth and Hope".

For the SLC, Fr. Duroy reminded student leaders of the goal of Christian leadership. "Ang posisyon at kapangyarihan ay tinitingnan bilang biyaya na tayo ay makilahok sa misyon ng Diyos o 'Missio Dei'. Ang paglilingkod ay isang bokasyon ay pagtugon sa universal calling of God to serve," he said.

For the PLC, Fr. Duroy reminded pupil leaders of "the values of the Catholic leaders of the past and present", which he argued "remain constant and significant". These values include having fear of God, being ready to serve, protecting goodness and truth, and knowing right from wrong.

Afterwards, Fr. Manalo presided over the celebration of the Holy Mass.

In his homily for the SLC, Fr. Manalo extended the goal of the congress, "to renew our commitment to our mission of leadership", to all attendees. He also reminded them to accomplish their responsibilities as leaders to give hope and inspiration. "Kapag nagawa natin ito, ang lahat ng ating nabigyan ng pag-asa ay magkakaroon na ng kakayanan para pagtagumpayan ang kani-kanilang sariling digmaan," he said.

In his homily for the PLC, Fr. Mana-

lo argued that individual victories, such as that of David, can inspire others. "Si David, bata pa lamang, napagtagumpayan niya si Goliath. ... Ang isang tagumpay na ito ay nagbigay ng pag-asa sa kanyang mga kababayan na sumugod sa mga kalaban. Isang problema, isang tagumpay, ay magiging inspirasyon upang ang ating mga kasama ay mabuhayan din ng loob," he said.

The Holy Mass was followed by the commissioning rites for DICES' pupil and student leaders, followed by the closing remarks by Mr. Tayam.

For the SLC, Mr. Tayam challenged student leaders to use what they have learned to be better leaders. "Ngayon, nasa inyo na ang desisyon kung kayo ay kikilos as student leaders who will contribute to the betterment of our schools and communities. ... We are confident na kaya ninyo," he said.

For the PLC, Mr. Tayam reminded pupil leaders to trust in God, like David did. "Kinaya ng batang si David na talunin ang giganteng si Goliath noon. Maniwala kayo, kaya rin ninyong gapiin ang mga Goliath sa ating panahon ngayon kung patuloy tayong magtitiwala sa dakilang kapangyarihan ng Panginoon!" he said.

DICES' 8th Amoris Laetitia conference to parents: “Be involved in your children’s moral education “

Diocese of Imus Catholic Educational System (DICES)

By: Juan Miguel A. Tolentino

Last October 15, 2021, the eighth in the series of online spiritual conferences on Pope Francis’ exhortation Amoris Laetitia was broadcast via Facebook Live, from 8.00 to 9.30 AM. The conference was organized by the Diocese of Imus and DICES, in partnership with the Religious Education Department of De La Salle University - Dasmariñas (DLSU-D).

The conference featured resource speaker Dr. Esteban Salibay, Jr,

who discussed the seventh chapter, “Towards a Better Education of Children”, of Pope Francis’ exhortation.

Dr. Salibay has been a professor of Religious Education in DLSU-D for 28 years. He also wrote or co-wrote multiple textbooks and reference materials. He is the author of the book “Christian Morality in the Contemporary Society” and the co-author of the books “Sacraments, Marriage, and Family

Spiritual Conference on Amoris Laetitia

October 15, 2021 (8:00-9:30 a.m.)

AMORIS LAETITIA CHAPTER 7:

“TOWARDS A BETTER EDUCATION OF CHILDREN”

Resource Speaker:
Dr. Esteban T. Salibay



Life” and “Christian Discipleship in the Modern World”. He is also the author of the “Christian Living” series of books for high school students. He is also the former coordinator of the Lasallian Animation and Formation Team in the Luzon Region, Philippine Lasallian District.

Dr. Salibay began his discussion by citing a story about the Greek philosopher Socrates. “Isang araw, may isang ina na lumapit kay Socrates at tinanong siya, ‘Ilang taong gulang ko po ba dapat simulang turuan itong anak ko?’ Sabi ni Socrates, ‘Ilang taong gulang na ba ang anak mo?’. Sabi ng Nanay, ‘Five years old na po.’ Sabi ni Socrates, “Ginang, magmadali ka, limang taon ka nang late.” According to Dr. Salibay, the story tells us, “Sa mu-

rang edad pa lamang, dapat ay turuan na ang mga bata. Sabi nga nila, ang mga sanggol ay nakakaramdam na ng pagmamahal galang sa mga magulang.”

“Ang mga magulang ay mga guro din. Pero mayroon bang mga eskwelahan, o mga bachelor’s degree, o mga universities, para sa mga magulang? Ang nakakalungkot (na sagot) ay wala,” said Dr. Salibay. According to him, parents do not learn specific methods of raising their children from schools, the same way other skills are taught. Instead, parents learn how to raise their children through “trial and error”. “Nakakalungkot na most of the time, error pa,” he said.

Dr. Salibay cited Pope Francis’ words about the role of parents in



the overall education of their children, especially in their moral formation. “Sabi ni Pope Francis, ‘Ang mga magulang ay laging may impluwensya sa kapakanang moral ng kanilang mga anak sa hirap at ginhawa’. Ang responsibilidad ng mga magulang ay dapat nilang gampanan nang may buong kama-layan, may sigasig, may katwiran, at angkop (sa sitwasyon ng mga bata),” he said.

“Tanong ng Amoris Laetitia, ‘Nasaan ang ating mga anak?’” said Dr. Salibay. According to him, Pope Francis encourages parents to seek to know their children better by asking some basic questions. “Sino ang nagbibigay sa kanila ng libangan? Sino ang pumapasok sa kanilang ‘kwarto’ sa pamamagitan ng TV at iba pang mga electronic devices? Sino ang kanilang mga kasama sa pagpapalipas ng oras? At dagdag kong tanong: Nasaan sila kapag wala sila sa bahay?” he said.

The abovementioned concerns, according to Dr. Salibay, are addressed by Pope Francis by the guidelines that he encourages parents to follow. “Ang mga magulang ay dapat maglaan ng oras, makipag-usap sa kanilang mga anak, mag-ing mapagmatyag, at ihanda ang kanilang mga anak laban sa mga panganib katulad ng agresyon o pananalakay, at pati na rin ang iba’t ibang mga adiksiyon,” he said.

Dr. Salibay clarified, “Ang obsesyon ay hind edukasyon. Ang mahalaga ay tayo ay may kakayahan na lum-ago sa kalayaan ng ating mga anak, sa pangkalahatang disiplina at tunay na awtonomiya.” He also emphasized the importance of involving children in the discussion. “Tanungin natin, nasaan ang ating mga anak sa mga usapin ng panini-wala, hangarin, layunin, at pang-arap? Alam ba natin ang mga pangarap ng ating mga anak, o may mga pangarap lang ba tayo para sa kanila?” he asked parents.

Dr. Salibay also challenged parents to reflect about their priorities as they guide their children in their journeys in life. “Hangad ba nating maunawaan ang ating mga anak kung ‘nasaan’ sila ngayon sa kanil-ang paglalakbay? Katulad natin ay naglalakbay din sila. Alam ba natin kung nasaan ang kanilang mga kaluluwa? At higit sa lahat, gusto ba nating malaman?” he said. He also cited the saying, “Prepare the child for the road, not the road for the child.”

Dr. Salibay summarized the seventh chapter of Amoris Laetitia through six concepts in the acronym FAMILY. The first concept is freedom. “Sabi ni Pope Francis, ‘Kasama sa edukasyon ang paghi-mok sa responsableng paggamit ng kalayaan para harapin ang mga isyu nang may mabuting katuturan at katalinuhan,’” he said. The sec-

ond concept is a combination of appreciation, acceptance, and acknowledgement. "Mahalaga na maramdaman ng mga bata na sila ay lumaki sa isang pamilya," he said. The third concept is the moral formation of children, which he said can be done through care and good example.

The fourth concept is intellect. "There is a need to develop and enlighten the intellect, or the capacity to know universal truths, and cultivate the will, or the inclination, to aim always for the highest good, which is God," he said. The fifth concept is love. "Sa pag-ibig, binubuwag ang pagkamasarili dahil sa magandang pakikitungo ng mga miyembro ng pamilya," he said. The sixth concept is yearning for a better future. "Ang magandang edukasyon sa pamilya ay edukasyon na nagtuturo ng pag-asa," he said.

Regarding the issue of gadgets and children, he recommends parents encourage postponing instead of banning the use of these devices. "Hindi natin ipagbabawal sa kanila ang paggamit ng mga electronic devices kundi ipagpapaliban lang, ... (upang) matuto sila ng self-control." Through this, children will learn "self-esteem" and "responsibility for oneself".

Dr. Salibay concluded his discussion with the acronym 1ST, which is comprised of the concepts of the

first priority of family, sex education, and trust.

Regarding the issue of the priority of family in the education of children, he said, "Sabi nga ni Pope Francis, 'Ang pamilya ang unang paaralan ng edukasyon ng pagpapakatao.'"

Regarding the issue of sex education, he acknowledged the sensitive nature of the subject. He also emphasized the need for sex education to acknowledge, respect, and appreciate differences.

Finally, regarding issue of trust, he said, "Mahalaga ang pagwawasto at disiplina nang may tiwala at pagmamahal. Kapag may maling pag-uugali, ipaliwanag natin ang consequences. Halimbawa, nakakasakit ito sa iba. Pagkatapos, mayroong karampatang kaparusahan." Nevertheless, he encouraged parents to ensure that children understand and feel that they are loved throughout the process. "Ang mga bata na winawasto nang may pagmamahal ay nakakaramdam ng kalinga," he said.

DICES holds suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention webinar for crisis response teams

Diocese of Imus Catholic Educational System (DICES)

By: Juan Miguel A. Tolentino

Last October 14 and 15, 2021, the suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention webinar from the DICES FLEX-ABLE Webinar Series was broadcast via Facebook Live at the Batang DICES page.

The webinar was divided into two sessions., with the first one held last October 14, 2021, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 NN, and the second

one last October 15, 2021, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 NN.

The webinar was organized by the DICES Office for Guidance Services in partnership with ChildFam-Possibilities Psychosocial Services, an organization which offers counseling, psychotherapy, psychiatrist consultation, and psychological assessment.



The graphic is a vertical poster for a webinar series. At the top left is the logo of the Diocese of Imus Catholic Educational System, Inc. The main title is 'DICES FLEX-ABLE WEBINAR SERIES:' in large, bold, teal letters. Below the title, it specifies the topic: 'Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention Webinar Attendees: Crisis Response Team for Suicide'. A central feature is a circular portrait of Ms. Karen Rose 'Kay' V. Vardeleon, RPsy, RPs, CSCOP, CSAP, a woman with glasses and a black top. To the right of the portrait, her name and credentials are listed in bold purple text, followed by her role as 'Founding Partner, Childfam-Possibilities Psychosocial Services'. At the bottom, there are three icons with corresponding text: a calendar icon for 'October 14-15, 2021', a clock icon for '9:00 AM - 12:00 NN', and a Zoom icon for 'Live via Zoom'. The background features stylized illustrations of three people in a supportive embrace and decorative leaf patterns.

DIocese of Imus Catholic Educational System, Inc.

DICES FLEX-ABLE WEBINAR SERIES:
Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention Webinar Attendees: Crisis Response Team for Suicide

Ms. Karen Rose "Kay" V. Vardeleon, RPsy, RPs, CSCOP, CSAP
Founding Partner, Childfam-Possibilities Psychosocial Services

October 14-15, 2021
9:00 AM - 12:00 NN
Live via Zoom

The webinar was targeted towards the crisis response teams of DICES' member schools who provide support for the mental health of their respective school communities. The members of these teams help students, parents, teachers, and all members of the DICES family to deal with and manage mental health issues such as suicide which otherwise might be overlooked. Nevertheless, the lessons from the webinar were also meant to be applicable for all members of the DICES family who are suffering from mental health problems, as well as those who help them.

The webinar featured resource speaker Ms. Karen Rose "Kay" V. Vardeleon, RPsy, Rpm, CSCOP, CSAP. She is a founding partner of ChildFam-Possibilities Psychosocial Services and the director of the organization's Workplace Mental Health Programs (CPPS-WORK).

Ms. Vardeleon is certified by the Psychological Association of the Philippines (PAP) as a specialist in counseling and assessment psychology. She is also a licensed psychologist and psychometrician. She has been in professional practice for 20 years, providing counseling and therapy, psychological assessment, as well as training and development programs. Ms. Vardeleon is also a supporter of the advocacy for the integration of mental health programs in academic, social, and corporate settings.

Ms. Vardeleon introduced her discussion by saying, "Good morning. Today, you will save a life." She emphasized the importance of suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention, saying that "one life lost is one too many". She also proposed the goal of having a zero suicide rate in schools. "A zero suicide rate in schools—and the world—is chal-

Good morning.
Today, you *will* save a life.



lenging, but possible. The collective effort of a school community to raise consciousness about mental health and persons at risk, be vigilant in intervening in a timely manner, and go the extra mile in creating belonging and safety can save lives," she said.

It is important for individuals and institutions to be aware of their own "attitudes, emotional reactions, as well as strengths and limitations, in providing crisis response services," said Ms. Vardeleon. While risk factors can identify high-risk groups, she argues that these are not useful in identifying high-risk individuals. "This is why suicide risk assessment must be a continuous process, not a single event," she said.

Ms. Vardeleon addressed and debunked common myths about suicide. "It is untrue that suicides happen without warning, that talking about suicide will encourage a person to do it more, that suicidal people overreact to life events, that suicidal behavior is manipulative and attention-seeking, and that suicide is a selfish act," she said.

In the fight against suicide, Ms. Vardeleon said that schools "are a key setting for suicide prevention". In fact, she said, "Teachers, mental health providers, and all other school personnel who interact with students can play an important

role in keeping them safe." She challenged attendees to think about what schools can do to save the lives of persons at risk, especially when they are "at the lowest point of their life and are in deep hopelessness".

"Many people in distress don't seek help or support on their own," said Ms. Vardeleon. Considering this, she recommended crisis team members to act as "gatekeepers" who "question the (person at risk's) desire or intent regarding suicide", "persuade the person to seek and accept help", and "refer the person to appropriate resources". As gatekeepers, crisis response teams also have to identify "risk factors and warning signs".

According to Ms. Vardeleon, there are core beliefs common among suicidal people which should be identified. These include thinking that one is "helpless, unlovable, or worthless". Other psychological variables include "hopelessness, heightened impulsivity, problem-solving deficits, and socially-prescribed or self-oriented perfectionism". To address these core beliefs and psychological variables, she recommended focusing on "protective factors", which include "specific reasons for living identified by the person at risk, support from the family and the community, access to clinical interventions and support for help-seeking, de-

velopment of problem-solving and conflict management skills, and cultural and religious beliefs that discourage suicide and support instinct for self-preservation”.

To manage suicidal ideation and behavior, Ms. Vardeleon recommended that crisis response teams formulate a safety plan. “Given that it’s often difficult for patients to use problem-solving skills during a time of crisis, the purpose of a safety plan is to develop a set of coping strategies while they are not in crisis, so that these (coping strategies) will be readily available in times of distress,” she said.

Creating a safety plan includes “recognizing warning signs that precede suicidal crises,” said Ms. Vardeleon. A safety plan also includes “identifying coping strategies that can be used with or without contacting other people”. In cases wherein other people can be contacted, she recommended listing down friends and family members who can be emergency contacts. Otherwise, she said, “Minsan, kung ano lang ang coping strategies na kaya ng tao, iyon na lang muna. Pwedeng manood ng mga video sa internet, kumausap sa ibang tao, gumawa ng mga breathing exercises, o kahit matulog lang muna.”

During times when persons are at immediate risk, Ms. Vardeleon recommended “making the environ-

ment safe” and removing implements that may be used for harm. She also emphasized the importance of “contacting mental health professionals or agencies” including ChildFam, the Center for Family Ministries (CEFAM), UGAT Foundation, among others. According to her, a safety plan does not aim to solve the problem completely, and instead aims to at least manage it.

Ms. Vardeleon also warns against toxic positivity. “Avoid saying ‘Buti ka pa, ganiyan lang ang problema mo’, or anything that minimizes their pain,” she said. Instead, she recommended “helping persons at risk see the good things about themselves, especially during times when they find it difficult to see those things, and especially for people who may not have had grown up in settings wherein they were not exposed to positive reinforcement.” She also addressed a few ethical concerns in managing issues of suicide. “While confidentiality is important, there is also a duty to warn. Err on the side of caution. Talk to people who you think you need to be informed,” she said.

Alongside the crisis response teams of schools, Ms. Vardeleon said that parents have an important role to play. “Also consider parents as clients, alongside the children in crisis, as part of the

Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention

Karen Rose V. Vardeleon, RPsy
Childfam-Possibilities Psychosocial Services
For the Diocese of Imus Catholic Education System (DICES)

mental health issue. You really need to get their alliance and cooperation. Ask parents why they might not feel that they consider mental health issues important, or why they might not feel that they are capable to help," she said. According to her, in some cases, parents simply do not understand the issue well enough, or they might not have access to the proper information, which is why it is important to explain risks to them.

Ms. Vardeleon also discussed suicide postvention, or what needs to be done in the aftermath of a death by suicide. "You must be ready. You must have a plan even before the crisis begins. After a death by suicide, it is important to immediately get the facts," she said. According to her, "Speculation and rumors can exacerbate emotional upheaval of an already griev-

ing school. Get the facts as soon as possible. Social media may be spreading the news, sometimes inaccurately or insensitively," she warns. While panic and other emotional responses are "natural", she insists on objectivity in place of sensationalism. "Kailangan nating ipreempt ang tsismis. Be compassionate, be controlled in your response. While suicide is in fact shocking, do not add to the communal shock," she said.

In her conclusion, she encouraged all attendees that "it is okay to ask for help". She also encouraged empathy. "Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind!" she said.

DICES' "Tara Usap Tayo" webinar discusses importance of "kumustahan", self-compassion

Diocese of Imus Catholic Educational System (DICES)

By: Juan Miguel A. Tolentino

Last October 22, 2021, from 2.00 to 4.00 PM, the "Tara Usap Tayo" webinar from the DICES FLEX-ABLE Webinar Series was broadcast via Facebook Live at the Batang DICES page.

The webinar, which focused on the subject of peer facilitation, was organized by the DICES Office for Guidance Services.

The webinar was introduced by Ms. Maria Aileen B. Marges, DICES Program Officer for Guidance Services. Ms. Marges discussed the possible reasons why young people find it difficult to create and maintain connections, especially during the pandemic. "Nangangailangan talaga ang mga kabataan na katulad ninyo, mga Batang DICES, ng mga tao na mapagsasabihan ng inyong mga pinagdadaan," she said. She also addressed the valid concerns of young people regarding trust and understanding. "Hindi natin alam kung ang mga nakapaligid sa atin ay makaka-intindi o makikinig. Dahil dito, kadalasan ay sinasarili natin ang ating mga problema," she said.

According to Ms. Marges, peer fa-


ilitation is important because of the fact that people typically gravitate towards their peers when they want to share their thoughts and emotions. "We recognize na kahit marami ang pwede ninyong lapitan na teacher, adviser, o guidance advocates, siguro ang una ninyong lalapitan ang ang mga ka-edad ninyo—mga kaibigan, kaklase, ka-batchmate, at iba pang mga kakilala of the same age," she said. According to her, the webinar aims to "foster peer support among Batang DICES, kasi sino ba ang mag-susuportahan kundi kayo-kayo, tayo-tayo?"

The featured resource speaker for the webinar was Mr. Russel Jhon Batoy, the co-founder of Be the Juan PH, a youth-led volunteer organization which initiates donation drives for communities affected by calamities. Mr. Batoy is also the former president of the Peer Organization of the Philippines, an organization of peer facilitators from different universities in Cavite. He is also the former president of the Far Eastern University (FEU) Peer Counsellors.


DICES FLEX-ABLE WEBINAR SERIES:
**Tara Usap Tayo
 Peer Facilitation
 Webinar**


 October 22, 2021
 Friday
 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Live via
Batang DICES page



Mr. Russel Jhon Batoy
*Co-founder of Be the Juan PH,
 Former President of Peer
 Organization of the Philippines*



 **DIOCESE OF IMUS CATHOLIC
 EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, INC.**

As a mental health advocate, Mr. Batoy also headed numerous projects including the Peers Unite for Mental Health Congress, the Braveheart Project Mental Health Summit, among others. He also received multiple awards for his work, the most recent of which is his inclusion among the Ten Outstanding Peers of the Philippines in 2018.

According to Mr. Batoy, "Important na tanungin natin ang mga tao sa paligid natin, kahit siguro hindi natin ganoon ka-close, kung kumusta na sila." He also warned against gossip and encouraged respect and trust. "Kapag

nangumusta tayo, kapag mayroong sinabi sa atin, hindi tayo dapat nag-iipon ng kwento na ikukwento sa ibang tao. Dapat ang tiwalang ibinigay sa atin ay pahalagahan natin," he said.

Mr. Batoy emphasized that feelings of loneliness or isolation are valid. "You are not alone. Many of us feel na walang taong naroroon para sa atin o handang sumoporta sa atin. That is a valid feeling. Hindi ito pag-iinarte lamang, o dala lamang ng isipan," he said. He also encouraged the webinar attendees to be grateful for DICES' efforts to assist them in their mental health. "Dapat ma-realize natin na andito ang

tulong na kailangan natin. Ngayong pandemya, mahirap dahil ang ating mga mental health services ay disrupted, ngunit marami pa ring mga institutions katulad ng DICES na ginagawa ang mga ganitong activity," he said. "Napakaswerte ninyo dahil hindi lahat ng mga educational institutions ay ginagawa ito. Sana, makita ninyo ito hindi bilang requirement para sa inyong academics kundi bilang tulong," he continued.

Mr. Batoy shared his experiences as a peer facilitator for the FEU Peers Support Group. He clarified that the role of a facilitator in a peer support group is "not to 'process' the group members' thoughts and feelings", which is instead done by psychologists, registered guidance counselors, and other professional mental health practitioners in more formal and technical settings. Nevertheless, according to him, peer facilitators "can use their life experiences to help relate to others facing similar circumstances".

In order to be effective peer facilitators, Mr. Batoy said that counselors are encouraged to cultivate particular characteristics. "Effective peer facilitators have an identity. They know who they are. Ano ang mga goals ninyo sa iyong buhay? Ano ang mga strengths and weaknesses ninyo? These things are unique to you. Ang mga ito ang

nagbibigay ng identity sa inyo," he said. "Dapat alam natin kung ano ang essential sa buhay, kung ano ang dapat i-prioritize. The choices we make, make us. Alamin natin sa sarili natin kung sino tayo muna, kung ano ang ating purpose. Dito tayo mag-umpisa," he continued.

Mr. Batoy encouraged peer facilitators "to respect and appreciate themselves and give help and love out of their own sense of self-worth and strength," he said. "Hindi lang natin ibinibigay ang respect, appreciation, and recognition sa ibang tao. Kung wala ito sa sarili natin, hindi natin ito magagawa genuinely sa ibang tao. You cannot give what you don't have," he continued.

Mr. Batoy also encouraged attendees "to be able to recognize and accept their own power, to be open to change, to make choices which are life-oriented, to be authentic, sincere, and honest, to be willing to admit mistakes, to have a sincere interest in the welfare of others, and to be brave". According to him, "Dealing with other people's problems and helping them overcome those is not an easy thing to do, but it is surely fulfilling." During peer facilitation, he also encouraged "empathic listening and responding" for effective communication. According to him, effective peer facilitators should "be non-judgmental, explore alter-

natives, and provide accurate information.”

Mr. Batoy cited Dr. Kristin Neff from the University of Texas in defining self-compassion as something that “requires taking a balanced approach to our own negative emotions so that feelings are neither suppressed nor exaggerated”. Self-compassion involves “self-kindness”, through which “we recognize that imperfection, failure, and struggles are all inevitable, so we try to be gentle with ourselves”. Self-compassion also involves “common humanity”, through which “we acknowledge that suffering and personal inadequacy are part of the shared human experience”. Finally, self-compassion involves “mindfulness”, through which “we observe thoughts and feelings as they are without trying to suppress or deny them”. “We cannot ignore our pain and feel

compassion for it at the same time,” he said.

In order to cultivate self-compassion, Mr. Batoy recommended attendees to talk to themselves “the way you would talk to a friend”. “You may have been brutally honest with them, but you likely did it with compassion. Can you do the same for yourself?” he said.

Mr. Batoy concluded the webinar with an inspirational message. “You may not be able to change what you're going through, but you can always change how you're going through it. When you can, I hope that as I shared my energy with you today, you can share your energy with other people as well,” he said. “I want you to remind yourself, today is not the day that your story ends. Keep going!” he concluded.



**You will be saved.
Help is here.**

Ask DICES!

“Without our teachers, DICES wouldn't even exist. Education includes two important personas which are the students and the teachers. Therefore, DICES will not be DICES without them.”

*Eula Mae G. Oliveros
IIA, grade 10 student*

*“Why are our
teachers
important
members of the
DICES family?”*

“Teachers are important members of the DICES family because they don't just teach us but also they promote good values. They mold us to be a good christian living and they make us closer to God. They teach us children that we should not fear because God is in our lives. They teach us how to protect and not abuse our freedom and always choose to live with dignity. Teachers promote Catholic Faith. They encourage children to participate in Church activities. Teachers are selfless creature and God's gift to children. They are blessed with remarkable patience. “

*Ianne Chelzy H. Uy
SJPSC, grade 11 student*

“Aside from home, DICES is also a strong foundation for our children. DICES offers an education that combines Catholic faith and teaching with academic excellence.”

*Michelle A. Abuan
MPPS, parent, pharmacist*

“It is because they are part of the foundation that strongly holds the DICES family. They are the ones who brings together and unite members of the DICES family.”

*Joannah Mari1e P. San Agustin
IJA, grade 12 student*

“They are important because they are the ones that teach the student not just in academics but also values. They teach something that most of us students cannot learn from school.”

*Keisha V. Sericon
JESOMA, grade 9 student*

“Our teachers are important members of the DICES family because they are the ones who teach students or provides our education that they need or help the students to have knowledge and learn something that we can use when we grow up. And they also became the second parents of the students that will guide them in their lives at school and make them a better person..”

*Khirtzen Viel C. Basa
SMMS, grade 9 student*

“Teachers provide the power of education to today's youth, thereby giving them the possibility for a better future. Teachers simplify the complex, and make abstract concepts accessible to students. Teachers also expose children to ideas and topics that they might otherwise not have come into contact with.”

*Jan Hazel F. To
SRCS, grade 10 student*

“Teachers are important because they are the one who mold students to become generous and intelligent. They are the one who always teach students to have a respect and treat their fellow students, teachers and facilitators as their family. Lastly, they are the second mother and father of all the students.”

*McAllen B. Fresnido
IJA, grade 11 student*

"Teachers are important because they play an important role in our DICES family not only in terms of teaching academically but also in terms of teachings values of life. They also help students like me, to reach their goal in life. Lastly, teachers makes every school life memorable because their teachings were adopted by the students and we students use it to spread positivity, love and hope to people around us that also makes them inspired to spread it to other people."

*Jhanah Reighne C. Juane
IJA, grade 10 student*

"Personally, I respect teachers a lot because for me, they are responsible for the biggest role in every school. They didn't just offer knowledge to us, but they also try to give their best to communicate and understand each student; it is really impressive because we all know that they also struggle on their own well-being. With this reason, I believe that teachers are very important members of the DICES family because they symbolizes the good moral that students should see and engraved to their own hearts.."

*Kylagenn B. Marin
IJA, grade 12 student*

"Our teachers are important members of the DICES family because they help us students to learn even though there is a pandemic. They work hard to teach and make sure that the students are still learning despite of the new set up. They are a role model to all students. They are the people who have the big role in the learning of students. We can see how they work hard for us, which is why it is important to appreciate everything that teachers do. They are one of the most important persons in our lives because they help us a lot. They have a big role in the DICES family."

*Lana Alysson M Montiaño
IJA, grade 12 student*

"Because they help us learn something new everyday."

*Anthiona Jyn Lozano Llanto
JESOMA, grade 6 student*

“Because without them we aren't a family.”

Christian Vince G. Amparo
SJPS, grade 8 student

“Children carry what they are taught at a young age throughout the rest of their lives. They will use what they have learned to influence society. Everyone knows that today's youth will become tomorrow's leaders, and teachers have access to educate the youth in their most impressionable years – whether that is in teaching preschool, teaching extracurriculars, sports or traditional classes. Teachers have the ability to shape leaders of the future in the best way for society to build positive and inspired future generations and therefore design society, both on a local and global scale. In reality, teachers have the most important job in the world. Those who have an impact on the children of society have the power to change lives. Not just for those children themselves, but for the lives of all.”

Bien Halley Abergas
SJPS, grade 8 student

“Our teachers are an important members of the DICES family because they took great care of their students by teaching them new things and giving us effective advices. They also sacrifice their free time just for us to learn, even though they have having a hard time they still smile for us so that they can teach us properly and I really salute them for their professionalism. That's why they have to be part of the DICES family because they are always there for us even our hard times because they are our second parents who supports and teaches us everyday in order to learn.”

Trisha Mae Cuyos Mendoza
IJA, grade 7 student

“Teachers are important members of the DICES family because they are the one who provides and delivers knowledge to students. They are also loving and caring, that they will treat you as their own child. We should thank them for giving us unconditional love and patience.”

Enrich A Abece
IJA, grade 11 student

"Teachers are important members of the DICES family because they are the ones who help the students learn. Without them, the students might not see the light or hope on the current situation of all education system. They are the second parents of the students. Not only would they teach new lessons for the student's knowledge, they would also nourish the students' talents and skills within the school facility. During this pandemic, teachers worked hard to teach students with the help of different productivity tools as we adjust to the new normal."

Rachel P. Acilo
IJA, grade 12 student

Teachers are the ones to guide and support us at school. They not only teach us about education and their subjects. They also introduce us to new ideas about life and other things. They support us in doing what is right and what we can do to help others."

Gerald A. Salud
IJA, grade 12 student

"Because they are our second parents during our school years. They also instruct and train us on what a youngster or student studying away from home should learn. A big "thank you" to them for making us feel like we're all part of the same family, even though we're not related. We students feel more at ease going to school with their assistance since the teachers make their pupils feel like they are not just students, but members of their family. Thank you very much for all the teachers I've met not physically but with the time you spend to teach us and give knowledge to us. "

Nathaniel F. Mahinay
SIPS, grade 12 student

"Because they're already part of the DICES family, and the DICES Family will never be broken, will always have each other's back, and are the people you can seek for help or while you are having a bad time."

Anthiona Jyn Lozano Llanto
JESOMA, grade 6 student

FMDMS students celebrate Rosary Month, National Teachers' Day, join Little Saints Challenge

Fr. Michael Donoher Memorial School (FMDMS)

By: Jane N. Belardo, Justine V. Aure, and Claudine S. Alcansa

Last October 1, 2021, as part of their celebration of Holy Rosary Month, FMDMS students created their own Do It Yourself (DIY) rosaries. Other activities included writing letters for Mama Mary ("Liham Para Kay Maria"), praying with the new and updated intentions of Our Daily Rosary, and reflecting on the Marian Daily Inspirations and short catechisms on the mysteries of the Holy Rosary posted on the FMDMS social media pages. During the culmination of the event, the FMDMS community prayed the Holy Rosary and awarded the winners for the different school-based contests

conducted for the month, while FMDMS personnel shared their favorite Marian titles and images.

Last October 5, 2021, the FMDMS administration surprised the school's teachers with an online celebration for National Teachers' Month. The celebration featured an online Bingo-Scavenger Hunt, wherein five teachers were declared winners, followed by a virtual raffle, wherein teachers received special prizes.

Last October 25, 2021, FMDMS students joined the "Little Saints Challenge" facilitated by the Diocese of

GURONG DONOHERIAN: HANDA SA MAKABAGONG PAGBABAGO

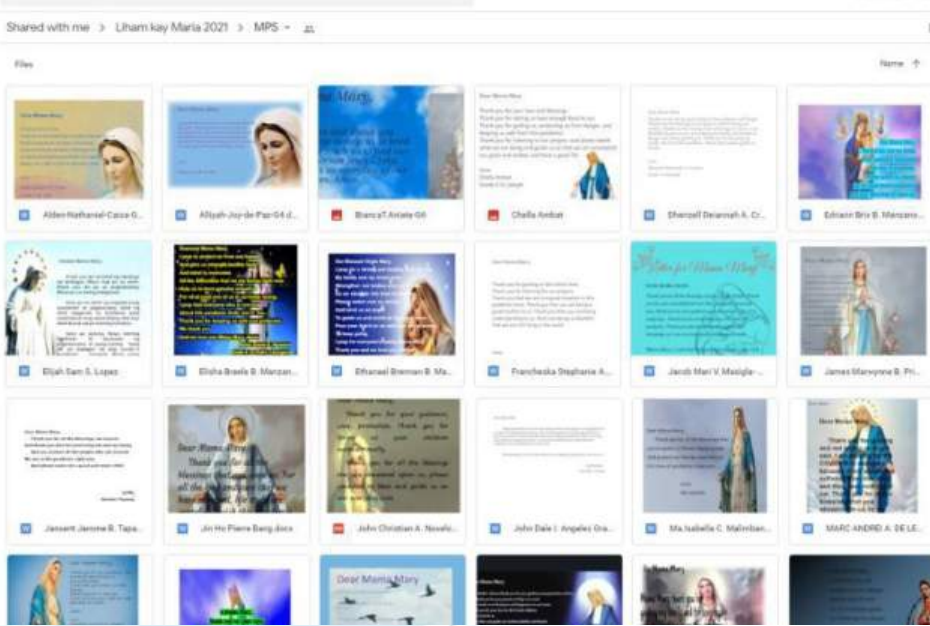




Imus' Ministri sa Bokasyon. The contest, which was joined by children aged 1 to 12 years old, was conducted as part of the celebration of the second year of the Online Vocation Festival themed "Blessed and Sent: Missionary Disciples to All Nations!" In the contest, participants cosplayed as saints. FMDMS students Jhounaira Margaux A. Rufin, a grade 3 pupil,

and Zeus Mercado, a pre-elementary pupil, won in second and third place, respectively. Both winners received pastry packages as prizes, as well as certificates.





MPS students participate in Liham Para Kay Maria, 1M Million Children Praying the Rosary

Maragondon Parochial School (MPS)

By: Jennifer Santos Lopez

Last October 1, 2021, MPS students participated in the Liham Para Kay Maria activity, held as part of DICES' Month of the Holy Rosary celebration. With the guidance of CVIO Coordinator Jeanette B. Villanueva, along with the school's VECLC teachers, 29 grade 1 to 6 MPS pupils submitted letters for Mama Mary for the activity.

The MPS community continued

their celebration of the Month of the Holy Rosary for October, sharing the links for DICES' 6 O'clock Rosary prayer and encouraging all families to join daily.

Last October 8, 2021, MPS pupils were instructed to join DICES' psychological first aid webinar. Attendees posted pictures and messages about the event on social media.

Last October 18, 2021, MPS pupils were requested to participate in the One Million Children Praying the Rosary event.

Last October 18 to 22, 2021, grade 4 to 6 MPS pupils joined DICES' Pupil-Leaders Congress (PLC). MPS' student council officers Sean Matthew Angeles (president), Elijah Sam Lopez (vice president), Francheska Stephanie Poniente (secretary), RJ Anglo (treasurer), Matt Daniel Enriquez (auditor), Jiro Sebastian Cabuncal (P.R.O.), and Juanna Luissa Fortissa Rosales (class representative) led the groups for day 3 and 4 of the event. All of them were instructed to post their reflections about their experiences from the event on social media.





SFAA conducts Bible verse reflections, concludes Holy Rosary and Mission Month

St. Francis of Assisi Academy - Tagaytay (SFAA)

By: Jeanette Nuestro

Last October 1, 2021, as part of the school's homeroom sessions, SFAA teachers facilitated Bible verse reflections. These reflections, which were held every Friday of the week before the first synchronous session, were scheduled per grade level. The theme and activities for each reflection were prepared by class advisers.

On the same day, 2021, SFAA launched its school's activities for Holy Rosary and Mission Month. SFAA students from the pre-elementary to the grade 1 to 3 levels participated in activities with the theme "Saint Look-Alike". These activities included Acrostic

Poem Making, Collage Picture Making, and Paper Heart Cut-Outs with personal messages to Mama Mary. Every 6:00 PM of the month's celebration, SFAA students from the grade 4 to 6 levels also attended the prayer of the Holy Rosary with the DICES community, along with their families.

Last October 30, 2021, SFAA held its culminating activity for Holy Rosary and Mission Month, wherein students and parents attended the awarding ceremony for the various contests in the event through SFAA's Facebook account.

SMMPS concludes activities for Holy Rosary Month

St. Mary Magdalene Parochial School - Amadeo (SMMPS)

By: Jeanette NUESTRO

Last October 1, 2021, SMMPS launched their month-long celebration of Holy Rosary Month. SMMPS teachers discussed the importance of praying the rosary every day to their students. The teachers also facilitated the Bible verse sharing activity, which was held during the homeroom sessions for the five Fridays of October.

Last October 6 to 8, SMMPS students had their first chapter tests, which they accessed through the Aralinks Learning Management System (LMS).

Last October 18 to 22, 2021, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 NN, SMMPS intermediate level students joined DICES' Pupil-Leaders Congress, which was held via Zoom and Facebook Live.

Last October 20, 2021, at 6:00 PM, SMMPS led the praying of the Holy Rosary via the Batang DICES Facebook page.

Last October 28, 2021, SMMPS conducted its Holy Rosary and Mission Month culminating activity. During the event, selected SMMPS students wore costumes and portrayed themselves as "little saints".



SAS-M celebrates World Teachers' Day, World Mental Health Day, Holy Rosary Month

St. Augustine School - Mendez (SAS-M)

By: Veronica M. Alegre and Darlene Joy R. Manalo

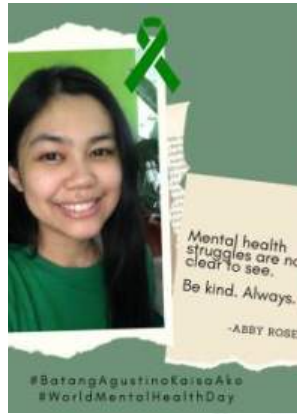


Last October 4 to 5, 2021, SAS-M celebrated World Teachers' Day in the farm owned by school director Fr. Paul D. de Leon, PhD, located in Indang, Cavite. The two-day event began on the night of October 4, 2021, until the late afternoon of October 5, 2021. SAS-M's School Personnel Association officers organized the event, which was attended by all SAS-M administrative staff and other personnel.

The event featured thanksgiving speeches, prayers, letter/gift-giving, games, dancing, and the SAS-M family meal. The SAS-M Administrative Council, led by school principal Bryan M. Fijer, expressed gratitude and appreciation for SAS-M's teachers. SAS-M's teachers were given certificates by the

school in recognition of their hard work. In his speech, Fr. de Leon said, "Teachers are truly instrumental in the continuing development of civilization."

Last October 10, 2021, the SAS-M community SAS-M students from different grade levels posted inspirational and uplifting messages on their social media accounts for World Mental Health Day. Others also posted infographics about taking care of their mental health with the hashtag #BatangAgustinoKaisa Ako and #WorldMentalHealth Day. SAS-M teachers and administrators posted photos on social media with them wearing green shirts with green ribbons, with the color symbolizing mental health awareness.



Last October 20, 2021, a one-day Mental Health Break was granted to SAS-M students. On the same day, SAS-M teachers conducted their Christian Formation Program, which aimed to give them an opportunity to pause from everything and reconnect with God.

Last October 29, 2021, SAS-M's month-long Holy Rosary celebration was concluded with a culminating activity, with the theme "Mary, Mother of Faith and Obedience." The liturgical club and the Students Association of Social Studies Education (SASSE) of SAS-M conducted a virtual Parade of Saints through SAS-M's Facebook page. Students from the pre-elementary to senior high school

levels dressed up as their chosen saints using materials they have at home. The liturgical club of the school also organized a variety of contests on the same day, including coloring activities for pre-elementary students, rosary making with recycled materials for elementary students, traditional and poster making for junior high school students, and poetry writing for senior high school students. The liturgical club also prepared social media posts about the different titles of Mary in honor of her multiple merits, as well as about the mysteries of the Holy Rosary, to encourage the SAS-M community to pray the Rosary every day.





DGA faculty celebrate National Teachers' Day, All Saints' Day parade

De Guia Academy (DGA)

By: Armando G. Gallard

Last October 5, 2021, DGA celebrated National Teacher's Day by virtually attending the Holy Mass presided by Imus Bishop Reynaldo G. Evangelista. After the mass, the employees of DGA had their simple school-based celebration, with a simple lunch for the faculty and staff and a gift giving ceremony.

Last October 20, 2021, as part of the teachers' wellness program of the school, DGA faculty and staff spent an hour walking uphill at Brgy. Ramirez, Magallanes, Cavite.

Last October 30, 2021, in cooperation with the De Guia Parish of Magallanes, selected DGA students participated in the All Saints' Day parade. The students, selected from Kindergarten to Grade 12,

wore St. costumes in honor of each of the saints that each section represents.

The parade, which was held at school grounds, was followed by the celebration of the Holy Mass presided by Fr. Efren C. Araracap, DGA school chaplain. The event was also livestreamed at DGA's Facebook page.



HFA celebrates World Teachers' Day themed around Squid Game

Holy Family Academy (HFA)

By: Vhia Alcantara

Last October 5, 2021, HFA teachers celebrated World Teachers' Day with invitations and activities themed around popular Netflix series Squid Game.

After the celebration of the Holy Mass, the event featured activities which gave the teachers a chance to make themselves laugh and bond with other teachers. The activities during the event included games such as "Green Light, Red

Light" and the honeycomb challenge.

After the games, the teachers received surprise messages from their loved ones, students, and HFA stakeholders. The teachers were also given awards of appreciation for their work for the community.



Committed to Christian

JESOMA admin visit teachers, student leaders hold oath-taking ceremony

Jesus Son of Mary Academy (JESOMA)

By: Joyfe Serrano

Last October 5, 2021, as part of the celebration of World Teachers' Day, JESOMA's administrative council conducted visits to the school's teachers. JESOMA principal Divina G. Oliveros, along with DICES Program Assistant for Christian Values Integration and Student Affairs (CVISA) and JESOMA registrar Domingo Alarcon, Jr., went to visit each teacher in their

residences, offices, and faculty rooms to personally give them simple tokens of appreciation from the school and from DICES. Each teacher received gifts, greeting cards from the school, and an envelope that contains letters from DICES Superintendent Fr. Alain Manalo and Imus Bishop Reynaldo G. Evangelista, D.D.





Last October 9, 2021, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 NN, the newly elected junior and senior high school student leaders of JESOMA held their oath-taking ceremony. The event, which was held virtually through Microsoft Teams, was headed by the school's Student Body Organization and Senior Body Organization. The event also served as preparation for the DICES Student-Leaders Congress (SLC) 2021 which was held on the following week.

Around 60 attendees, including advisers and other teachers, were present for the event. The event also featured John Brix Waje and Miss Jianne Villa, JESOMA alumni, as resource speakers who shared their experiences as leaders to inspire the young leaders of the present time.

Committed to Christian



MPPS students give greeting cards for World Teachers' Day

Mabuting Pastol Parochial School (MPPS)

By: Darphnelyn Guerrero

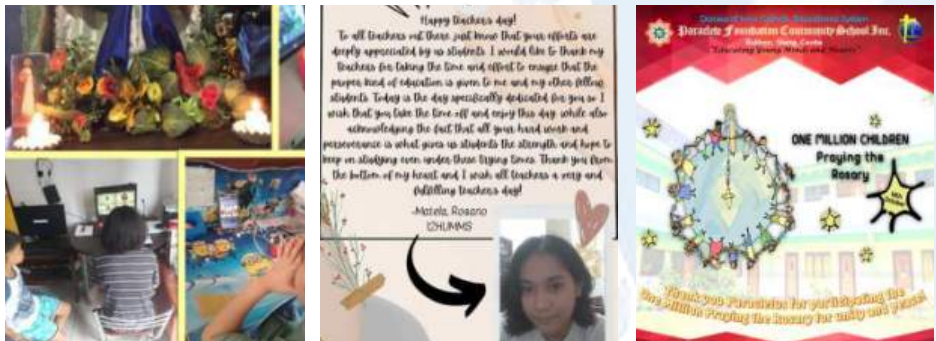
Last October 5, 2021, MPPS students made greeting cards as tokens of appreciation for their teacher for the school's celebration of World Teachers' Day. According to their teacher, "It feels (overwhelming) when you see these children say thank you for all the hard work that has been given to them."



PFCSI community celebrate teachers, Nuestra Señora de la Leche Y Buen Parto

Paraclete Foundation Community School, Inc. (PFCSI)

By: *Jenessa Silvela*



Last October 5, 2021, PFCSI students honored their teachers through letters of appreciation. Matela Rosario, grade 12 student, said in her letter, "To all teachers out there, just know your efforts are deeply appreciated by a student. I would like to thank my teachers by taking the time and effort to ensure that the proper kind of education is given to me

and to my other fellow students."

Last October 11, 2021, the PFCSI community celebrated the feast day of Nuestra Señora de la Leche Y Buen Parto. The feast day, dedicated to Mary, is translated from Spanish as "Our Lady of the Milk and Good Childbirth".

Last October 18, 2021, PFCSI students joined the One Million Children Praying the Rosary event.

SMMS faculty celebrate online World Teachers’ Day, receive sacrament of confirmation

St. Mary Magdalene School (SMMS)

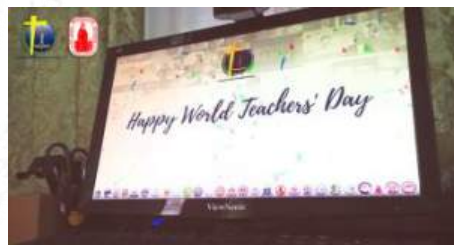
By: Jerico O. Enriquez and Rose May E. Pacumio

Last October 5, 2021, SMMS faculty members and staff celebrated World Teachers’ Day via Zoom—the first time the school celebrated the occasion online. Officers from the Magdalenean School Government facilitated the event with the help of their advisers and principal. The program featured messages of gratitude from students, parents, and alumni members for SMMS teachers and staff. Games were conducted by SMMS faculty members Monica Serrano and John Carlo Dela Cruz. SMMS student Abigail Carillo also performed a song for the attendees.

The program featured a message from school director Fr. Michael Reuben R. Cron. In his message, Fr. Cron said, “Tayo ay hindi pa rin hihinto sa padiriwang at pagpaparangal sa ating mga guro, kawani, at kamanggagawa sa paaralan. Higit na tayo ay patuloy na hinahamon sa gitna ng krisis para magmalasakitan, magtulungan, at magsakripisyo. Dito, higit nating maipapabatid at maipapakita ang ating pagiging Kristyano; mga misyonero. Alam nating lahat ay

kaisa ng mundo na naghihirap. Pero hindi humihinto ang ating pagiging saksi para maging mabubuting guro, guro, kawani, at kamanggagawa sa Katolikong paaralan.”

Last October 6, 2021, the SMMS community celebrated the Holy Mass at the saint Mary Magdalene Parish, during which several SMMS faculty members received their sacrament of confirmation. The event, which was livestreamed via Facebook Live, was also virtually attended by HCCSN and SFDMPMS.





SJPSC gives gifts to teachers, joins prayer of Holy Rosary

St. Joseph Parochial School of Cavite (SJPSC)

By: Mary Ann H. Romero and Kristel G. Ronario

Last October 5, 2021, SJPSC' School Personnel Association (SPA) officers held a short program for the celebration of World Teachers' Day. The celebration aimed to give tribute for the hard work of the teachers and general services team of SJPSC. During the celebration, SJPSC teachers and other personnel received a gift and a letter from DICES OSDS. "Ang teachers ay parang Dewberry (cookies)—may butas at kulang sa gitna, ngunit nabubuo sa tulong ng DICES at ng mga estudyante," one teacher said.

Last October 18, 2021, SJPSC personnel and students participated in the One Million Children Praying the Rosary event, an annual prayer

campaign for peace and unity in the world initiated by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). At 9:00 AM, SJPSC personnel and students participated in the Worldwide Community of Praying the Rosary which was livestreamed via the ACN Facebook page. To show support to the prayer campaign, SJPSC students shared photos of themselves praying the Holy Rosary on their social media accounts using the hashtags #BatangDICES OneInPrayingTheRosary, #1MKidsPraying and #AidToTheChurchInNeedPH.

NSGA personnel attend mental health webinars

Nazareth School of Gen. Aguinaldo (NSGA)

By: Jake Anico, Lydia Dimapilis, Gian Carla Mojica, and Rosemarie Pangan

Last October 8, 14, and 15, 2021, NSGA personnel, including the school's crisis response team members, attended various webinars from the DICES FLEX-ABLE Webinar Series, conducted in solidarity with the Department of Education's (DepEd) celebration of National Mental Health Month.

Last October 8, 2021, NSGA personnel, along with grade 9 to 12 NSGA students, attended the psychological first aid webinar. The resource speaker for the webinar was Maria Elena "Elline" Cruz-Santos, the current head of the

Psychology Department at Our Lady of Fatima University-Valenzuela.

Last October 14 to 15, 2021, members of the NSGA crisis response team (CRT) participated in the suicide prevention, intervention and postvention webinar. The resource speaker for the webinar was Karen Rose "Kay" V. Vardeleon, a founding partner of ChildFam—Possibilities Psychosocial Services. The crisis response team of DICES schools, in particular NSGA, provide invaluable support for the mental health of their school communities.



IJA commemorates death anniversary of Mother Marie Louise De Meester

Infant Jesus Academy (IJA)

By: *Maysel Flor*



Last October 10, 2021, the IJA community commemorated the death anniversary of the school's foundress, Mother Marie Louise De Meester. Mother De Meester is also the foundress of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (ICM), along with her companion sisters, Mother Marie Louise, Sr. Marie Charles, Sr. Marie Lutgarde and Sr. Marie Vincent.

Mother De Meester, born in April 8, 1857 in Roeselare, Belgium, started her missionary ventures in

the Philippines on June 21, 1910. Among the first houses and schools she established in the country were those in Tagudim, Ilocos Sur, Bontoc in Mt. Province, as well as the orphanages in Tondo, Manila.

Mother De Meester is lovingly remembered for her inspiring words, "Let your heart be like Christ, so generous and so great, that the world may find room in it."

Committed to Christian



SRCS pray for Holy Rosary Month, 1M Children Praying the Rosary

Santo Rosario Catholic School (SRCS)

By: Lovely Camille A. Raqueño, RPh

Last October 10, 2021, SRCS personnel, parents, and students prayed the Holy Rosary as part of the culmination of the celebration of Holy Rosary Month. They created altars at their homes and offered flowers and candles. Prayer intentions for each of the five "decades" of the Holy Rosary were posted every day on the STCS Facebook page as well. The celebration was concluded with the decade of the Sorrowful Mysteries and a viewing of the origin of the Holy Rosary, broadcast via Microsoft Teams.

Last October 18, 2021, the SRCS community joined the annual One Million Children Praying the Rosary event, a worldwide initiative for children to pray the Holy Rosary for peace and unity in the world.



STCS celebrate annual "EnSciMa" day

St. Therese Catholic School (STCS)

By: Jam Michael C. Brier

Last October 28, 2021, the STCS community held their annual academic day, otherwise called "EnSciMa" Day, which combined thematic activities for English, Science, and Mathematics on October 28, 2019. The event was held via Microsoft Teams.

STCS' Office of Student Affairs, with the help of faculty and staff, facilitated the event. The program started with a reminder for students to properly use their knowledge and skills for better learning and for their future. Students from different levels actively participated in output-based activities such as EnSciMa Dress-Up and

Experiment Time. Students also participated in other activities such as the quiz bees for elementary and high school, the EnSciMa Poll Game, Sudoku, and Tongue Twister. The event was concluded with an awarding ceremony.





SAS-T celebrates virtual Living Rosary and Parade of Saints

St. Augustine School - Tanza (SAS-T)

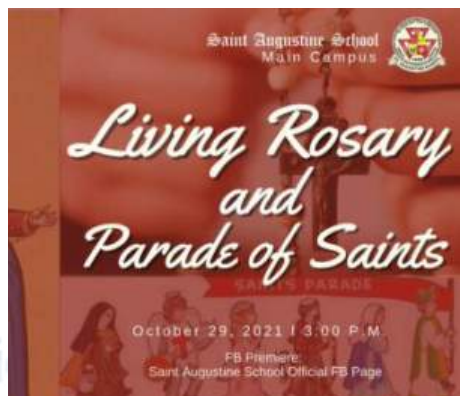
By: Allyza Joy R. Venzon

Last October 29, 2021, SAS-T conducted its second virtual Living Rosary and Parade of Saints event, via Facebook Premiere and Zoom, from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The yearly event was organized by the Christian Values Integration Office (CVIO).

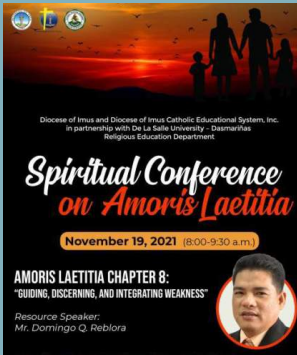
As part of the culminating activity for the Month of Holy Rosary and All Saint's Day, the SAS-T community gathered to pray the Holy Rosary. Mercy Candelaria, Christian Living Education (CLE) teacher and adviser, welcomed SAS-T's students, teachers, and staff, saying, "(we are) fortunate to be able to celebrate such a crucial milestone in Augustinians' lives".

The Living Rosary activity was led

by SAS-T teachers Harold Celestial and Maria Angela Artita. Afterwards, SAS-T students dressed up as their section and batch saints for the Parade of Saints activity, which aimed to create a deeper awareness about the lives of saints among the students. Ms. Candelaria concluded the program by encouraging the SAS-T family to live "a life of holiness and goodness".



2021 November



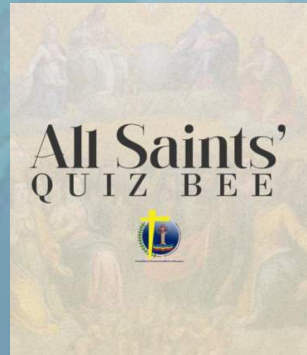
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Spiritual Conference on Amoris Laetitia

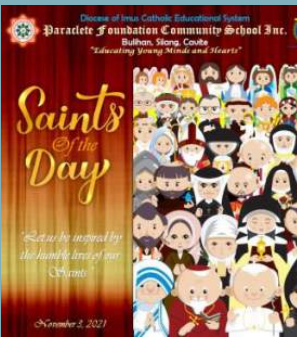
November 19, 2021 (8:00-9:30 a.m.)

AMORIS LAETITIA CHAPTER 8: "GUIDING, DISCERNING, AND INTEGRATING WEAKNESS"

Resource Speaker: Mr. Domingo Q. Reblora



All Saints' QUIZ BEE



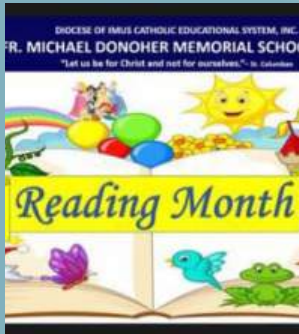
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Saints of the Day

Parade Foundation Community School Inc. Bulhan, Sanga, Cocola "Educating Young Minds and Hearts"

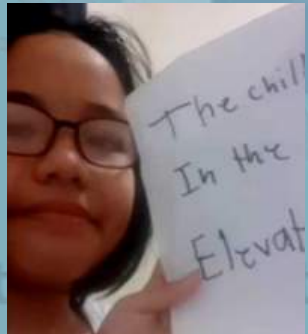
"Let us be inspired by the lives of our Saints"

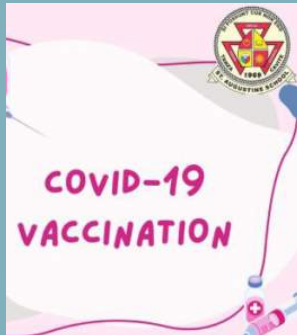
November 2, 2021



DIOCESE OF IMUS CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, INC. FR. MICHAEL DONOHER MEMORIAL SCHOOL "Let us live for Christ and not for ourselves." - St. Columba

Reading Month





DICES' 9th Amoris Laetitia conference discusses "revolutionary love"

DICES (Diocese of Imus Catholic Educational System (DICES))

By: Juan Miguel A. Tolentino

Last November 19, 2021, the ninth in the series of online spiritual conferences on Pope Francis' exhortation Amoris Laetitia was held via Facebook Live, from 8:00 to 9:30 AM. The conference was organized by the Diocese of Imus and DICES, in partnership with the Religious Education Department of De La Salle University - Dasmariñas (DLSU-D).

Last Friday's conference featured resource speaker Mr. Domingo Q. Reblora, who discussed the eighth chapter, "Guiding, Discerning, and Integrating Weakness", of Pope Francis' exhortation.

Mr. Reblora is the current Dean for Student Services of DLSU-D. He has also been a full-time faculty member of the Religious Education Department of DLSU-D for 19 years, during which time he taught Fundamentals of Christian Faith, Chris-

tology, Church Sacraments, Morality, Social Teachings of the Church, and other subjects. He has also been a chairperson for the Conciliation Committee of the DLSU-D Development Cooperative for 5 years.

Mr. Reblora's discussion focused on the subject of marriage, and so he began with a disclaimer that the discussion was meant for an older audience, including lay leaders and teachers, instead of students.

According to Mr. Reblora, the ninth chapter of Amoris Laetitia tackles "the concept of a 'revolutionary love' which is being asked of members of the church, especially



church and lay leaders". This "revolutionary love", he said, "enjoins us to walk an extra mile, to go beyond what has normally been practiced and understood, and to provide an open mind and open heart".


Mr. Reblora emphasized the "revolutionary" nature of the love that was discussed in the exhortation. According to him, the values that are discussed in *Amoris Laetitia* are the same values that were preached and lived by Jesus Himself. "Jesus lived 2,000 years ago in a very discriminatory society—at binasag iyong lahat ni Hesus, kaya nga't maraming mga teachers of the law noon na nagalit sa kanya."

The ninth chapter of *Amoris Laetitia* "focuses on addressing the different situations of married couples who are considered 'irregular,'" said Mr. Reblora. According to him, the Church is challenged to come up

with approaches that would "soundly address" the situations of these "irregular" couples.

"Bagama't ang mga mag-asawang ito ay hindi umaayon sa mga panuntunan ng Simbahan ukol sa buhay mag-asawa, kinakailangan pa rin silang lapitan," said Mr. Reblora. According to him, Pope Francis challenges the Church to approach such couples "sa paraan kung saan hindi sila mahihiwalay sa Simbahan, at bagkus ay lalapit sa kanila ang Simbahan at ipaparamdam sa kanila na sa kabila ng kanilang pagkukulang at kahinaan ay nariyan ang Simbahan na tumatanggap, umuunawa, at umaagapay".




Mr. Reblora cited Pope Francis regarding the balance that must be struck between "the fact that any breach of the marriage bond 'is against the will of God'" and "the recognition of the Church of 'the



AMORIS LAETITIA

CHAPTER EIGHT

ACCOMPANYING, DISCERNING AND INTEGRATING WEAKNESS



frailty of many of her children," to whom "she turns with love".

Mr. Reblora also cited Pope Francis' simile that "the Church's task is often like that of a field hospital". "Sino ang mga nasa ospital? Ang mga maysakit, ang mga miyembro ng ating Simbahan who we consider as wounded and troubled," he said. He emphasized the need for the Church to be accommodating towards these people, saying, "We have to make room for them."

Situations of "irregular" marriages are opportunities for pastoral care "with a view to the eventual celebration of the sacrament of marriage", said Mr. Reblora. "Nawa, dumating sa punto na sila na mismo ang magkukusa, nang hindi sila pinupwersa, na magkaroon ng kasal sa simbahan," he said.

According to Mr. Reblora, pastoral care in modern marriages should shift its focus. He cited Pope Francis when he said, "More important than the pastoral care of failures is the pastoral effort to strengthen marriages." Instead of solely focusing on dealing in the aftermath of failed marriages, he argued that greater focus should be given to strengthening existing marriages "to prevent their breakdown".

"Nobody is hopeless," said Mr. Reblora. "Habang buhay, may pagasa, sa tulong at biyaya ng Diyos, sa paghipo ng Banal na Espiritu Santo sa mga puso ng mga mag-asawa," he continued.

Mr. Reblora acknowledged that the situations of married couples, especially those in "irregular" situations, are complicated. As such,

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he cited Pope Francis when he encouraged members of the Church in such situations “to speak confidently with their pastors or with other lay people whose lives are committed to the Lord”. The goal of such discussions is not always “a confirmation of their own ideas or desires,” he said, citing Pope Francis. Instead, he argued that the goal is more often “(receiving) some light to help them better understand”.

“Hindi man masagot ang lahat ng mga tanong (ng mga mag-asawa) sa kanilang isipan, meron at meron pa rin silang makukuha mula sa ating mga pari at iba pang mga pinuno ng Simbahan,” said Mr. Reblora. He also cited Pope Francis’ encouragement to Church leaders “to listen to (these couples) with sensitivity and serenity, with a sincere desire to understand their plight and their point of view”.

In a reflection about the parable of the vineyard workers (Matthew 20: 1-16), Mr. Reblora emphasized the importance of mercy and compassion in how the Church, as a community, relates to married couples in complicated situations. “Sana ay nakakatuwa at hindi nakakagulat sa atin na ‘huli man at magaling, naihabol pa rin’. In the end, all of them were given the Kingdom of God,” he said. “Sa ating Simbahan, walang naiwan, kasi lahat ay inaantay, inaalalayan, tinatanggap, at minamahal,” he continued.

Mr. Reblora concluded his discussion with a story. In a story, an anthropologist organized a game with children from an African tribe. The anthropologist placed a basket of fruits near a tree trunk and told the children that the first one to reach the tree will get the basket. However, instead of racing, the children walked together, holding hands, until they reached the tree together. When the anthropologist asked the children why they did what they did, when any one of them could have had the fruits for themselves, the children answered, “Ubuntu! How can one of us be happy while the rest are miserable?”

(Note: The word “ubuntu”, which is a Zulu word which means “humanity, is part of the phrase “Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu”, which means “I am because we are”).

According to Mr. Reblora, the children in the story “know the secret of happiness that has been lost in societies that consider themselves ‘civilized and Christian’”.

DICES community joins Red Wednesday campaign thru social media and Holy Mass

DICES (Diocese of Imus Catholic Educational System (DICES))

By: Juan Miguel A. Tolentino

Last November 24, 2021, members of the DICES community participated in the Red Wednesday campaign by showing their support through social media and virtually attending the celebration of the Holy Mass via the Batang DICES Facebook page.

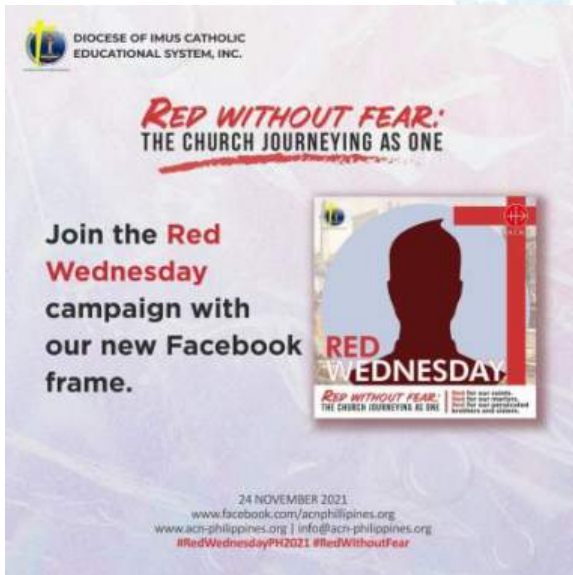
The global Red Wednesday campaign, promoted by the pontifical foundation Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), was declared in 2020 by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) as

an official church celebration that aims to raise awareness about the persecution that Christians continue to endure around the world.

According to ACN, the theme of the Red Wednesday campaign for this year is "Red Without Fear: The Church Journeying as One". The campaign also ties into the celebration of 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines. "This year, we pay tribute to the Filipino martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the Gospel," said Msgr. Pedro P. Santos, ACN Philippines Executive Director.

As part of their participation in Red Wednesday, DICES teachers, parents, and students changed their social media profile pictures to themselves wearing red and used the provided profile picture frame to show their support for the campaign.

"As we participate in today's activity, we define red as our symbol against fear as we, the Church, journey as one," said DIC-





ES in a post in the Batang DICES Facebook page. In the same post, DICES emphasized those who are the focus of the Red Wednesday campaign—"our saints, including those who were martyred for our faith", "our brothers and sisters who were persecuted and who are still being persecuted for being advocates of truth, kindness, and good", "the sick, so that they may be healed", and "our front liners, so that they may always be safe".

Later at the same day, DICES Superintendent Fr. Alain P. Manalo presided over the celebration of the Holy Mass at the Parish of the Holy Family, Lancaster New City, Imus, at 5:15 PM. The Holy Mass, which was virtually attended by members of the DICES community, was broadcast via the Batang DICES Facebook page.

In his homily, Fr. Manalo said that the triumph of Red Wednesday goes beyond people wearing red or churches shining red lights. "Masasabi nating matagumpay ang araw na ito kung ating mama-malayan ... na ang pag-uusig sa mga Kristiyano ay nagpapatuloy hanggang ngayon," he said.

Fr. Manalo elaborated on this persecution of Christians in recent times, saying that it does not only come from non-Christians. "Ang pag-uusig ay maaaring magmula sa mga kamag-anak, kapamilya, kaibigan, at kakabayan na bin-yagang Kristiyano, marahil sa pangalan, ngunit hindi sa paninindigan," he said.

According to Fr. Manalo, "Napakaraming mga tao pa rin ang nahihirapan sa pagsasabuhay ng

pananampalataya. Iyan ay totoo, kahit dito sa Pilipinas.” In fact, he warns that sometimes, even those who serve the Church may be the same ones who prevent it from being a “prophet of the truth”. Moreover, he warns that anyone can be a persecutor of the Church. “Tayo ay taga-usig din ng Simbahan kapag ang kanyang ipinapahayag at ikinikilos ay hindi sang-ayon sa ating mga personal na mga ambisyon at pangarap sa buhay.”

“Ang pag-uusig ay maluwalhati at ang inuusig ay pinagpapala,” said Fr. Manalo. According to him, Red Wednesday is a reminder of how the Christian faith conceptualizes persecution. “Walang masama sa pagdaing at pakikiusap, ngunit ang araw na ito ay isang pagpapa-alala sa atin na ang mga Kristiyano ay sumusunod sa isang Kristo na nagpasan at ipinako sa krus,” he said. “Hindi pwede ang pananampalatayang Kristiyano sa mga taong hindi marunong magpasan ng krus at handa na maipako dito,” he continued.

When Christians experience being persecuted for their faith, it can bring them closer to God, said Fr. Manalo. “Kapag tayo ay nakakara-

nas ng mga hirap sa buhay dala ng ating pagsunod kay Hesus, ito ay katangi-tanging pagkakataon na tayo ay makasaksi sa ating pananampalataya,” he said.

Fr. Manalo emphasized the importance of red as the main theme of Red Wednesday. “Ang pula ay sumasagisag sa dugo, kamatayan, at sakripisyo, sa pag-aalay ng sarili para sa Panginoon, sa Simbahan, at sa sangkatauhan,” he said. As such, he encouraged the attendees of the Holy Mass to strive to see the work of God in their lives, especially in moments when they face difficulties and challenges.

In the conclusion to his homily, Fr. Manalo proposed that Red Wednesday be an inspiration for everyone to change how they pray about persecution. “Kung mayroon man tayong dalangin, hindi natin idalangin, ‘Panginoon, huwag nawa tayong usigin’. Imbes, higit nating ipagdasal, ‘Panginoon, huwag nawa kaming maging taga-usig ng mga nagsasabuhay ng pananampalataya sa Iyo,’” he said.

RED WITHOUT FEAR:
THE CHURCH JOURNEYING AS ONE

DICES concludes its first-ever online All Saints' Quiz Bee

DICES (Diocese of Imus Catholic Educational System (DICES))

By: Juan Miguel A. Tolentino

All Saints' QUIZ BEE



Last November 25 and 26, 2021, DICES concluded the All Saints' Quiz Bee, its first online quiz bee. The event was organized by the Communications Office of DICES in collaboration with the Christian Values Integration Office (CVIO).

The final round of the quiz bee for the elementary category (grade 1 to 6) was held last November 25, 2021, from 1:00 PM to 4:45 PM, while the final round for the high school category (grade 7 to 12) was held last November 26, 2021, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The final rounds were held via Zoom and were broadcast at the same time via the Batang DICES Facebook page.

The participants in the final rounds of the All Saints' Quiz Bee were the

top 60 participants, 30 for each category, from the elimination round. The elimination round was held last November 13, 2021 via Google Forms. A total of 446 students from DICES member schools joined the elimination round, with 149 participants in the elementary category and 297 participants in the high school category.

Rovie Patrocinio Andal, a grade 6 student from the Holy Family Academy of GMA (HFA), was the overall winner of the quiz bee's elementary category, while fellow HFA pupil Jomarion Blaze Valledor, a grade 3 student, was the runner up for the category. On the other hand, Faith S. Carios, a grade 11 student from St. Mary Magdalene School-Kawit, was the overall winner of the quiz bee's high school category, while Jazmine L. Kosca, a grade 12



student from HFA, was the runner up for the category.

Andal, the overall winner for the elementary category, shared that the most important lesson he learned from the quiz bee was the hope towards sainthood that everyone should aspire towards. "Natutunan ko po na lahat tayo ay magiging santo balang araw dahil meron tayong iba't ibang karanasan sa buhay katulad ng mga santo natin ngayon. Mas lumawak pa po ang kaalaman ko tungkol sa mga santo natin," he said.

Andal also expressed his gratitude towards towards the DICES family for giving him and the other participants the opportunity to learn more about the saints of the church. "Kahit na tayo ay may kina-kaharap na pandemya ay patuloy

pa rin po ang mga magagandang layunin upang kami ay patuloy na matuto," he said.

Valledor, the runner up for the elementary category, thanked his teachers and his family "who believed, supported and cheered for me". According to him, the quiz bee taught him to "continue to value and remember the contributions of all the saints who we consider as our spiritual guides and mentors for our safety and protection".

Carios, the overall winner for the high school category, said that she tempered her expectations before participating in the final round. "Hindi naman po ako masyadong sumubsob sa pag-aral para sa quiz bee kasi alam ko po na mas mape-pressure ako kapag lumaban at

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mas madi-disappoint nang sobra kapag natalo," she said. In fact, she said that she prayed, "hindi po para manalo—rather, I prayed for acceptance kung ano man ang magiging resulta ng laban".

Carios, in her message to her fellow Batang DICES, said, "Let God give you an unexpected blessing that is more than you expect." She continued, "Like saints, we can practice holiness even with our smallest and simplest sacrifices and deeds. It doesn't matter how old we are. What matters is how much effort and perseverance we put in striving for holiness."

Kosca, the runner up for the high school category, said that she was "happy and overwhelmed". She also expressed her gratitude to "everyone who believed that I could". According to her, the quiz bee also helped her realize that "studying about the lives of the saints is not just to learn but also to be inspired to do good, to be a good role model, and to never forget that God is always with us".

The final rounds of the quiz bee were begun by welcoming remarks from DICES Superintendent Fr. Alain P. Manalo.

In his remarks, Fr. Manalo expressed his "reservations" about the nature of quiz bees. "They simply test knowledge—what we remember, what we know." Neverthe-

less, he also reminded everyone that the purpose of the All Saints' Quiz Bee is not just knowledge about saints but also the application of that knowledge in real life. "On further reflection, it is important that we know and that we remember, because without remembering and without knowing, how can we expect a person to apply what he or she knows or remembers?"

Fr. Manalo emphasized the need for the "practical life applications of the lessons" learned from the quiz bee. According to him, "at the foundation of wisdom, which is applying to what is good and not to what is bad, what we know and what we remember are facts and information which we ought to master and to keep with us, hopefully for the rest of our lives."

The importance of the All Saints' Quiz Bee, said Fr. Manalo, was its potential to help everyone become saints, similar to the holy men and women whose lives were the subject of the event. "That's why this quiz bee is important. Yes, it will test what our students know and remember about the lives of saints, but hopefully, from these facts and information, from what we know and what we remember, we shall become the saints that God wants us to be."

Fr. Manalo concluded his opening remarks by extending his

“heartfelt congratulations ... to those who will become saints out of this quiz bee”.

The final rounds of the quiz bee were concluded by closing remarks from DICES Assistant Superintendent Fr. Dominador C. Duroy, Jr.

“The All Saints’ Quiz Bee does not only inform us about the lives of saints, of holy men and women of the Catholic Church. It also encourages us to learn more about their lives and emulate them,” said Fr. Duroy. He also expressed his appreciation for “the brilliance of our Batang DICES” and his admiration for the parents and teachers who trained and prepared the participants for the event.

Fr. Duroy expressed his wish for the DICES family to “always value the

values and spirituality that the saints have been communicating to us”. He continued, “May this All Saints’ Quiz Bee be the start of our admiration of the kind of life lived with Christ, and may we always see that in the lives of saints lies the greater reality of the love of God, of the Word incarnate, of the Word made flesh.”

Fr. Duroy ended his closing remarks and concluded the final rounds of the All Saints’ Quiz Bee with a quote from St. Augustine: “To fall in love with God is the greatest of all romances; to seek him, the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement.”



Ask DICES!

"My favorite saint is Saint John Paul II because not only do I relate with him as a leader but the lesson behind his leadership inspired me to become a better version of myself. St. John Paul II gave me tons of ideas and I do look up on him not only because he became a Saint or because he is a saint but it is all because I admire him. Being a leader is hard because as a leader, you are to be in charge, but with the story or history of Saint John Paul II, our beloved Patron Saint and the symbol of great leadership, I am hoping to be a great leader like him in the future."

Rachel P. Acilo
IJA, grade 12 student

"Who is your favorite saint, and why?"

"My favorite saint is San Pedro Calungsod because He became a great role model especially for us teen agers. He showed to us how to be faithful and teaches us not lose hope and continue in believing in God. He also showed that young people can also do great things. Also, the one who showed to us a great example on how people should have deepen and strengthen their faith in God. To spread kindness to everyone by expressing our love for each other, by teaching good values to others, and by always praying to God."v

Michelle A. Abuan
MPPS, parent, pharmacist

"I chose St. Raphael the Archangel as my favorite saint because he is the patron saint of healing. He intervenes to heal people from any type of brokenness and pain in the earthly dimension and looks forward to welcoming them to lives in heaven, where they won't need to be healed of anything anymore because they will live in perfect health as God intends. I also needed a St. that can help me with any type of pain that I felt and I think that he is also the one who helps me take away the pain."

*Joannah Mari1e P. San Agustin
IJA, grade 12 student*

"St. Therese of Lisieux is my favorite saint among the other saints because of her devotion at an early age. I was astonished how dreams reflected her abundant love for God and how she didn't falter by any people or circumstances as she pursued her dream. Moreover, her promise of sending out a rain of roses someday is very hopeful and would be a very beautiful scene of God's love for us. "

*Royce Jushlie P. Quion
IJA, grade 12 student*

"St. Lorenzo Ruiz is my favorite saint because of his devotion and loyalty to God and the community. Upon his last words, he declared that even if he had multiple lives, he still would offer it to Him. Even when he's suffering from blood loss and suffocation, he refused to abandon Christianity. What he said truly amaze and inspired me, it is as he said, our lives are God's gift to us. He has given us our life therefore, we should be ready to accept death when the time comes and offer it to Him. Furthermore, he is the first venerated Filipino saint."

*Queencess Mae Perilla Gomez
SJPS, grade 9 student*

"I really love St. Therese of Lisieux. She was but a young woman when she passed, but she attained a great amount of achievements for the Church. I can not explain enough how I love her, but she is who I look up to when it comes to the way of virtue."

*Mark Melvin C. Toledo
IJA, grade 11 student*

"I have many favorite saints. I love St. Nicholas because he gives unconditionally. I love St. Francis because he is kind to all animals. I love St. Jude because he is the saint who handles lost causes and he has helped me in my hopeless situation. I love St. Anthony because he helps me find lost things all the time. I love St. Pasquale because no one should have to suffer hunger. I also love St. Therese, the Little Flower, because I admire her little way of serving Jesus and her fellow man."

Jackylyn C. Jacob
SJPS, grade 11 student

"Because without them we aren't a family."

Christian Vince G. Amparo
SJPS, grade 8 student

"My favorite saint I think is St. Pedro Calungsod, because he showed great devotion to the Lord even though he was just in a young age. He showed his faith in the Lord to many Christians, he showed them that all his faith is in the Lord and can encourage many people to do the same. He inspires me, I know it is not only I who has been inspired by this saint, but He is an inspiration to me and is a role Model. He makes me feel like even as a youth I can do anything that comes to my mind that will please God and everybody around me."

Sofia Jania G. Caparas
IJA, grade 8 student

"Our Mother of Perpetual Help, because she is the saint from whom you can ask for help."

Sofia Cassandra Manaois Camins
SJPS, grade 8 student

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"My favorite saint is St. Francis of Assisi. Throughout my years as an IJA student, I have been in the section of St. Francis. Since then, he become my favorite because he is known as the father of ecology which I also value the most. I also consider him my favorite because of his acts of courage that bring me hope and inspiration throughout my journey."

*Maria Ruella L. Sarmiento
IJA, grade 10 student*

"St. Bartholomew, because aside from he is our barrio's saint, when I started to learn and read about his life, it made me felt pity for him suffering the consequences people gave him, just because he is loyal to Jesus. From his loyalty it inspires me, by his devotion it motivates me and by his kindness it enlightens me to do good things. He is also one of Jesus' disciples, it also amazes me that he is so loyal and devoted to Jesus, his faith to the God the Father is really unique. Those reasons are really the reality why he is my favorite saints."

*McAllen B. Fresnido
IJA, grade 11 student*

"My favorite saint is St. Anne because she is the mother of Mama Mary and the maternal grandmother of Jesus. She is patroness of housewives, women in labor and women who want yo get pregnant. She is also considered the patron saints of grandparents. She is loving, kind, helpful and forgiving. St. Anne promised God that she would dedicate her first child to serve the Lord. She became an instrument of God to make the people closer to God. She taught good values to Mary and Jesus. She is my favorite because I love my grandparents."

*Euanne Samuelle L. Cervantes
FMDMS, grade 5 student*

"My favorite saint is St. Dominic Savio. It is because despite being young, he still prove to others that he has a deep relationship with God. He also prove to others and to God that his faith is stronger than everything that comes in his life."

*Jhanah Reighne C. Juane
IJA, grade 10 student*

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“No one in particular.”

*Christian Vince G. Amparo
SJPS, grade 8 student*

“My favorite saint is St. Francis of Assisi. He's my favorite saint because he is the patron saint of ecology. Just like St. Francis, I care about the welfare of animals too. Moreover, I love the environment. I adore everything about nature. I'm fond of plants, sunshine, sunsets, and butterflies as well. I also admire St. Francis because he inspires me. He inspires the youth to have a more noble and virtuous purpose. He inspires the youth to create a new world where God's love will be witnessed.”

*Leila Tiffany V. Sayaman
IJA, grade 8 student*

“My favorite saint is St. Francis of Assisi because I admired how he love the nature and animals. St Francis Of Assisi devotion to God was expressed through his love for all God's creation. And it made me realized and inspired to love God's creation more. It is important to appreciate all God's creation because until now we are using it. It is one of the reason why we are living our life. The environment plays a vital role in keeping living things alive. The environment matters because it is our home. Environment is the home of humans. Animals are also important because they are our companions. Everyone might have a dog and dog brings us happiness. We should really see the importance of environment and animals. Let us appreciate them and all God's creation.”

*Lana Alysson M Montañano
IJA, grade 12 student*

“Our Lady of Lourdes, because of her obedience, and because she is a loving saint.”

*Anthiona Jyn Lozano Llanto
JESOMA, grade 6 student*

"St. Lorenzo Ruiz is my favorite saint because he is the first Filipino saint and the protomartyr of the Philippines. He came to Japan in hopes of spreading the Word, of spreading the Christian faith but he was met with persecution. He was tortured horribly, and yet did not denounce his faith. Because of this, he was killed. He was also an altar server, and the patron saint of us Filipinos."

*Antonio Luis A Binaoro
IIA, grade 8 student*

"St. Therese, because she spread God's love and greatness to other people. She showed her faith and trust in God in simple and little ways. She had a big heart for God, and through her example, I learned that we can love God and spread His words and love in a simple way in our daily lives."

*McAllen B. Fresnido
IIA, grade 11 student*

"My favorite saint is St. Padre Pio, the patron saint of pain, suffering, and healing. He is my favorite saint because he inspired many people by his devotion for the Lord and he also help other people by healing them, and even though he suffered from stigmata wounds, he still helps other people and his devotion for God, became stronger. I also including him in my prayers to heal the people who are suffering especially in this time of pandemic where we can't see hope because of the virus that kills many lives."

*Trisha Mae Cuyos Mendoza
IIA, grade 7 student*

"My favorite saint is St. Pedro Calungsod. Despite his young age he continued to respond to God's call and wishes. I would want to do that as well and inspire others.."

*Gerald A Salud
IIA, grade 12 student*

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PFCSI celebrates Saints of the Day, holds Virtual Career Fair

Paraclete Foundation Community School, Inc. (PFCSI)

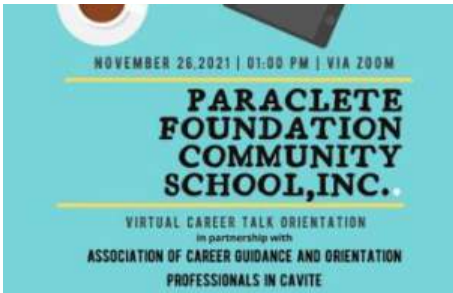
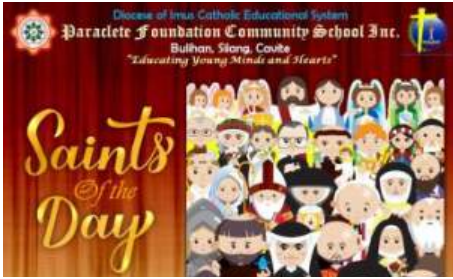
By: Jenessa Silvela

Last November 3, 2021, PFCSI held its "Saints of the Day" event, which aimed to commemorate the humble lives of the saints of the Catholic Church. In the event, PFCSI students dressed in costumes to homage popular saints such as St. Catherine of Siena, St. Pedro Calungsod, St. Teresa of Calcutta, St. Therese of the Child Jesus, St. Helena, St. John Paul II, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Mary, St. Cecilia, among others.

Last November 11, 2021, PCSI, along with HFA and PPCDC, gathered together for the celebration of the Mass of the Holy Spirit, presided over by school director Fr. Antonio P. Perez, Jr. In his homily, Fr. Perez said, "Karunungan ang magbibigay ng kaliwanagan sa lahat ng bagay."

Last November 26, 2021, at 1:00 PM, the Guidance Office of PFCSI organized a "Virtual Career Fair" for grade 12 students. The fair,





which was held via Zoom, aimed to help students choose their future careers. De La Salle University - Dasmariñas, De La Salle Medical and Technological College, Philippine Nautical and Technological College, University of Perpetual Help Molino Campus, and National College of Science and Technology also participated in the event.

Last November 29, 2021, the PFCSI community celebrated the first

Sunday of Advent by lighting the first purple candle, symbolizing hope, in the Advent wreath. PFCSI students, along with their families, prayed, recited the rites, and joined in the lighting ceremony, facilitated by the Christian Values Integration Coordinator via Facebook Live.

SMMS conducts its first-ever online quiz bee during Academic Week

St. Mary Magdalene School - Kawit (SMMS)

By: Jerico O. Enriquez and Rose May E. Pacumio



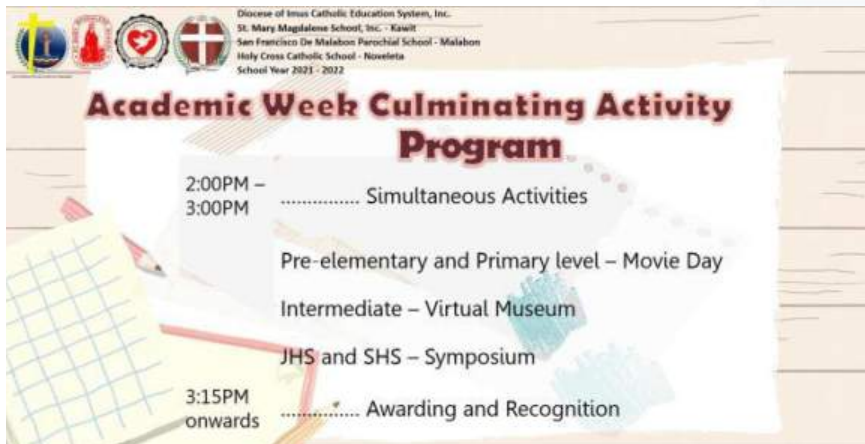
Last November 3, 2021, SMMS conducted its first online quiz bee via Zoom. The event was part of the "Academic Week" celebration of the school, along with HCCSN and SFDMPs.

In the quiz bee, participants from the "Ma-No-Ka" cluster schools answered questions ranging from "easy" to "difficult" via individual chat messages to the designated "quiz bee master". After three rounds, the winners were recognized as Gold, Silver, or Bronze Awardees.

The winners from the elementary department were Rance Matthew G. Guijo (Gold), Princess Jea C.

Tubo (Silver), and Martha Sophia N. Castrence (Bronze), while the winners from the junior high school division were Wil Gaebriel L. Cagampan (Silver), Kent Gabriel Samala (Silver), Charmel J. Dela Cruz (Bronze), Elijah Sebastian V. Evangelista (Bronze), Lana Laine N. Pabiton (Bronze) and Beatrice B. Pangan (Bronze).

The winners from the senior high school division were categorized according to their respective strands. The winners from the Accountancy, Business and Management (ABM) strand were Marcus Andrei M. Del Mundo (Bronze), Pauline D. Ponon (Bronze), and



Paris O. Reynoso (Bronze). The winners from the General Academic Strand (GAS) strand were Kier Patrick S. Dones (Gold) and Allyza May G. Felesario (Silver). The winners from the Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS) strand were Micah Angela P. Balmores (Silver), Ashanti Marie K. Peliño (Silver), Marc Paul Alvarez (Bronze) and Roel C. Crisostomo Jr. (Bronze). The winners from the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) strand were Alexis Danielle G. Aguinaldo (Gold), Maria Viktoria

S. Aliño (Gold) and Reynaldo B. Singson Jr. (Silver).

Finally, the winners in the Bible Quiz Bee held by the SMMS elementary department were Macy Danna L. Santera (Gold), Rance Matthew G. Guijo (Silver), and Chin D. Despabiladeras (Bronze).

Other activities in the “Academic Week” included spoken poetry, character portrayal, slogan-making, and the online symposium for junior and senior high school students.

November 3 - 5	Final Performance Task Week
November 8	Review Day
November 9 - 11	1st Quarterly Exam
November 12	Academic Health Break

Committed to Christian

MPS students join art workshop, have first quarterly test

Maragondon Parochial School (MPS)

By: Jennifer Santos Lopez

Last November 6, 2021, MPS students from the grade 5 and 6 levels participated in the Art Workshop facilitated by Robert Alejandro. The event, which was livestreamed via the MPS Facebook page, was held as part of the students' arts performance task for the quarter.

Last November 10 to 12, 2021, MPS students had their first quarterly test via Google Meet and Microsoft Teams. Each pupil received closed test envelopes, per subject, and opened them only on the given schedule of examination. The envelopes were then closed right after the examination with the supervision of their subject teacher.



DGA joins earthquake drill, welcomes image of Nuestro Padre Hesus Nazareno

De Guia Academy (DGA)

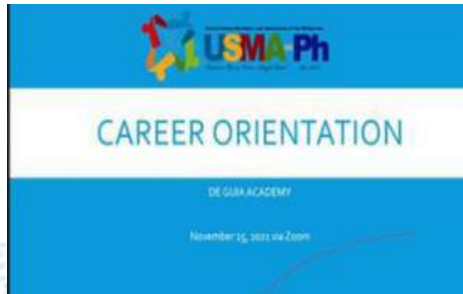
By: Armando G. Gallardo

Last November 8, 2021, DGA employees, students, and parents participated in a virtual earthquake drill via Microsoft Teams. The drill was conducted in coordination with the local government and the Local Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (LDRRMO) of Magallanes, Cavite, under the supervision of Daphney Patawe, the municipality's LDRRMO head. Ms. Patawe also facilitated the formation and training, which aimed to help the attendees learn the

do's and don'ts in the event of an earthquake.

Last November 9, 2021, the DGA community joined the Nuestra Señora De Guia Parish of Magallanes in welcoming the image of Nuestro Padre Hesus Nazareno to the town. DGA teachers and staff joined the "salubong" and motorcade, which were followed by the Holy Mass presided over by Fr. Douglas Badong, the National Spiritual Adviser of Hijos del Nazarenos.





Last November 15 and 25, 2021, SHS students from DGA participated in a career orientation, organized by the Office of the Guidance Advocate, headed by Marielle De Mesa. Attendees listened to the different programs and offerings of the participating colleges and universities. The program aimed to help students decide on the courses that they wanted to pursue and the universities that they wanted to attend.

Last November 24, DGA faculty and staff supported the Red Wednesday day of prayer for persecuted Christians by attending the celebration of the Holy Mass presided over by DGA chaplain Fr. Efren "Sani" Araracap. The celebration was also streamed live via the

DGA Facebook page for students and parents to be able to participate as well. The Holy Mass was followed by a procession, after which the school grounds were lighted in red.





FMDMS community celebrates National Reading Month, supports Red Wednesday

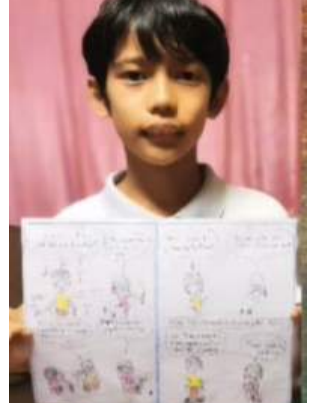
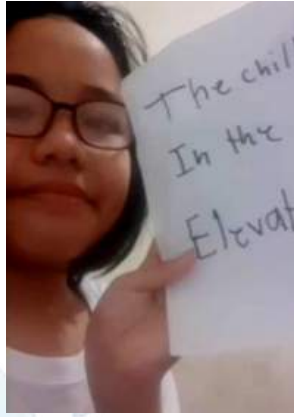
Fr. Michael Donoher Memorial School (FMDMS)

By: Mary Joy P. Bartolome and Rhoselyn Saylor

Last November 8, 2021, FMDMS conducted activities for their celebration of National Reading Month. During the celebration, pupils from different grade levels participated in the "Read Aloud" contest. The winners received gold, silver, and bronze awards, while others received certificates of participation

Last November 24, 2021, the FMDMS community supported the Red Wednesday campaign, spearheaded by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). The Red Wednesday campaign aimed to increase awareness about the persecution of Christians. To show their sup-

port, the FMDMS community wore red t-shirts, including FMDMS administration, faculty, and staff. The community also attended the celebration of the Holy Mass, presided over by School Director Fr. Ariel Delos Reyes. The Holy mass was livestreamed via the IJA Facebook page and shared by FMDMS. Afterwards, classroom advisers gave a short PowerPoint and video presentation for their pupils about the importance of the Red Wednesday campaign.



SFAA celebrates National Reading Month, supports Red Wednesday

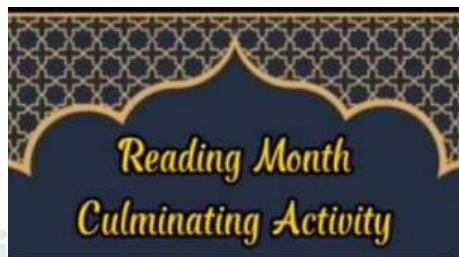
St. Francis of Assisi Academy - Tagaytay (SFAA)

By: Jeanette NUESTRO

Last November 8, 2021, SFAA celebrated National Reading Month with its Reading Month Activity. In the event, pre-elementary to grade 1 students participated in the Storytelling activity, grade 2 to 3 students participated in the Read Aloud activity, and grade 4 to 6 students participated in the Do It Yourself (DIY) Story Book and Comic Strip Story activities.

Last November 24, 2021, the SFAA community supported the Red Wednesday campaign through its school-based simultaneous prayer, which was begun at 8:00 AM per grade level. The Red Wednesday campaign, spearheaded by Aid to

the Church in Need (ACN), aimed to increase awareness about the persecution of Christians. For lower grade levels, subject teachers led the prayer, while for higher grade levels, students were selected to lead the prayer. Afterwards, the SFAA community participated in the DICES-wide celebration of the Holy Mass at 5:00 PM.



SRCS personnel participate in national earthquake drill, students join All Saints' Quiz Bee

Santo Rosario Catholic School (SRCS)

By: Lovely Camille Raqueño

Last November 11, 2021, SRCS teachers and other school personnel participate in the Online Ceremonial Pressing of the Button to signal the start of the Fourth Quarter Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill. During the drill, attendees practiced ways to be safe during earthquakes.

Last November 13, 2021, SRCS students Yelena Maria Rois P. Ratonel, from the elementary level, and Justin Louise V. Ferrer, from the high

school level, qualified to be among the top 30 contestants in the final rounds of DICES' All Saints Quiz Bee.



SAS-T students participate in All Saints' Quiz Bee, vaccination program

St. Augustine School - Tanza (SAS-T), St. Augustine School - Tanza SHS Campus (SAST-SHS)

By: Allyza Joy R. Venzon

Last November 13, 2021, four elementary and two junior high school SAS-T students participated in the elimination round and advanced to the final rounds of DICES' All Saints' Quiz Bee. Klifford Ali G. Medina, grade 3 student, Jeanelle A. Camading, grade 5 student, Jester G. Ragadio, grade 5 student, and Lanz Christian V. Bochoro, grade 5 student, represented SAS-T for the quiz bee's elementary category, while Andrei

Joaquin J. Catibayan, grade 10 student, and Christine Yna B. Gajardo, grade 10 student, competed in the high school category. In support of SAS-T's representatives, CVIO Coordinator Jonna C. Tanglao said to them, "Mag-enjoy lang kayo, kayang-kaya niyo niyan!"

Last November 19, 2021, the SAS-T Main Campus and SHS Campus collaborated on a vaccination program for their students and their families in the Rural Health Unit (RHU) of Tanza. The program aimed to gain trust in the COVID-19 vaccine among stakeholders. Over 300 people took part in the program, receiving their first vaccine shots. The program, described as "hassle-free" by one parent, was hosted at the SAST-SHS campus from 8:00 AM to 12:00 NN for senior high school students, and from 12:00 NN to 4:00 PM for junior high school students.





NSGA supports All Saints' Quiz Bee representatives, holds Christian formation

Nazareth School of Gen. Aguinaldo (NSGA)

By: Jake C. Anico, Lydia Dimapilis, Gian Carla Mojica, and Rosemarie Pangan

Last November 24, 2021, the NSGA community expressed their support for Rafael T. Nierva, a grade 1 student from the saint Dominic Savio section, and Rosyth Anne Perez Mendoza, a grade 5 student from the saint Pedro Calungsod section.

Nierva and Mendoza were the NSGA alumni who qualified to be among the top 30 participants from the elimination round of the elementary category of DICES' All Saints' Quiz Bee.

Last November 26, 2021, NSGA teachers and staff participated in their Monthly Christian Formation,

with the theme "Masakit ba Magpaubaya?" The formation was begun with the celebration of the Holy Mass presided over by school chaplain Fr. Maximo Pangilinan. In his homily, Fr. Pangilinan discussed "why ... we need to prepare (for) Christmas". Afterwards, CVIO Coordinator Gian Carla F. Mojica facilitated the Bible Enthronement activity. Afterwards, NSGA teachers and staff listed to the homily of Pangasinan Bishop Socrates B. Villegas, which was themed around "sacrificing". Finally, the attendees shared their reflections and stories about the theme of the event.

Committed to Christian



SAS-M community supports Red Wednesday in social media, Holy Mass

St. Augustine School - Mendez (SAS-M)

By: Ma. Irish Anne P. Gatpandan

Last November 24, 2021, SAS-M supported the Red Wednesday campaign with a short program. The Red Wednesday campaign, spearheaded by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), aimed to commemorate martyred Filipino saints and all persecuted Christians around the world.

The SAS-M community, reflecting on the stories of grace and sacrifice of San Pedro Calungsod and San Lorenzo Ruiz, showed their support for Red Wednesday by wearing red shirts and by changing their social media profile photos using the DICES Red Wednesday Facebook frame.

The CVIO Coordinator of SAS-M, as well as the members of the school's liturgical club, prepared a short program in observance of the event. The presentation was aired through the school's Facebook page. Afterwards, the SAS-M community attended the Holy Mass presided over by school chaplain Fr. Lino N. De Castro at St. Augustine Parish, Mendez, Cavite.



SJPSC supports Red Wednesday, joins Advent recollection

St. Joseph Parochial School of Cavite (SJPSC)

By: Ronald Allan G. Laguardia and Mary Ann H. Romero

Last November 24, 2021, in support of Red Wednesday, SJPSC teachers, staff, and students participated in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. Josue R. Muldon. In his homily, Fr. Muldon shared reasons why Catholics are celebrating Red Wednesday. According to him, "it is for us to join the fight for all the Christians all over the world who are persecuted before until today". The Holy Mass was followed by the

lighting of red candles and prayer for all persecuted Christians. The Holy Mass was followed by online talks about Filipino saints which were facilitated by each class adviser. SJPSC students shared their reflections on their social media accounts using the hashtags #RedWithoutFear, #OneChurchAgainstCOVID19, and #RedWednesday2021.

Last November 27, 2021, SJPSC personnel participated in the Ad-

vent recollection held at Saint Joseph Parish with the theme "4P's: Paglalakbay at Pagninilay sa Panahon ng Pandemya". The recollection was composed of two sessions led by Fr. Joseph V. Gatdula and Fr. Josue R. Muldon, FdCC. Fr. Gatdula talked about the "synod on synodality", the two-year process formally opened by Pope Francis last October 10, 2021, wherein bishops from around the world consult with members of the Catholic church. According to Fr.

Gatdula, "We must walk on the same path and journeying together." On the other hand, Fr. Muldon talked about the experiences that people might have went through during the pandemic. During Fr. Muldon's talk, some people were able to share their heartbreaking yet inspiring stories.



STCS community supports Red Wednesday, celebrates Araw ng Kasaysayan

St. Therese Catholic School (STCS)

By: Jan Michael C. Brier and Raina May M. Agellon

Last November 24, 2021, STCS teachers, staff, and students showed their support for the Red Wednesday campaign by attending the celebration of the Holy Mass presided by school chaplain Fr. Hector Arellano, and held at San Pedro Apostol Parish, Cavite City. "Tulad ni Hesus na dumanas ng maraming pagsubok, paguusig at paghamak, maging handa rin tayo na harapin ang mga ito, we are not

exempted dahil tayo ay tagasunod ni Kristo, ngunit ang lahat ng ito ay magtatapos at makatatanggap tayo ng kaligtasan mula sa Diyos," Fr. Arellano said in his homily. The Red Wednesday campaign, spearheaded by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), aimed to increase awareness about the persecution of Christians.

Last November 29, 2021, the STCS community held its celebration of Araw ng Kasaysayan via Microsoft

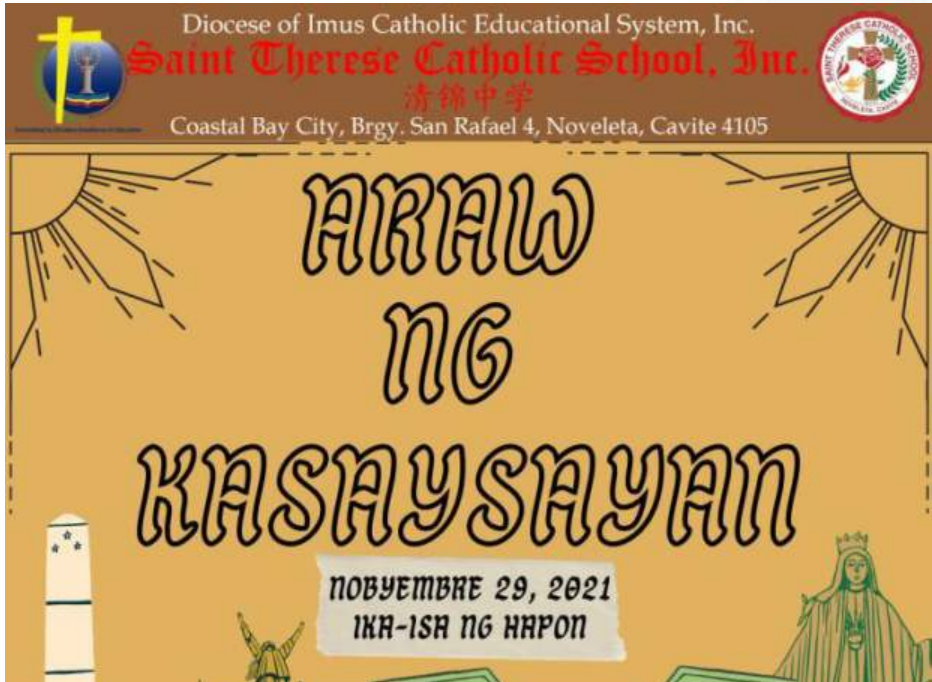


Teams. The celebration aimed to commemorate the life, works, and sacrifices of all notable Filipinos through the years. As part of the celebration, STCS students participated in various activities. “Tagisan ng Talino”, a quiz bee for intermediate and junior high school students, was conducted by selected students in the breakout rooms.

“Zoom In: Philippines Personalities” and “Scattergories” were played by the other students in the main session room. Other presentations, filmed weeks before the event, were presented during the program.

Nasya Amores, grade 10 student and current Theresian Student Government President, shared her





experience during the event, saying, "I found the virtual celebration of the Araw ng Kasaysayan 2021 exciting and informative. I joined the quiz bee portion of the event and I personally really enjoyed it. I learned new information about economics and history, and I also made new friends. In addition to this, I found the other activities very entertaining. The event was very memorable and engaging."

The program was concluded with a short awarding ceremony. Office of Student Affairs Coordinator Laidel Rosete pointed out the essence of the celebration, saying,

"Places such as museums, parks and other historical heritages are an important aspect of learning about history. Since the pandemic started, students are not allowed to go out and it affected their exposure to it. That is why aside from their virtual classes from their Social Studies class, the school conducted the Araw ng Kasaysayan for the students to test their knowledge and to learn new things about our history."

Committed to Christian

JESOMA chaplain Fr. Maximo Bermudez conducts pastoral visit

Jesus Son of Mary Academy (JESOMA)

By: Joyfe Serrano

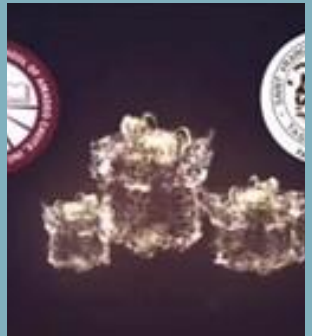
Last November 25, 2021, Fr. Maximo “Totie” Bermudez, JESOMA school chaplain and parish priest of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish conducted a pastoral visit to the school along with the steering committee. The main objective of the pastoral visit is to strengthen the relationship of JESOMA as a Catholic school with the church and the community. The program began with a prayer and an introduction of JESOMA faculty members and staff and the members of

the steering committee. The highlight of the pastoral visit was the discussion of JESOMA's history by Zenaida De Vera, Elementary OCI Coordinator, and Marilou Cabigayan, CVIO/Prefect of Discipline. Afterwards, a brief conversation was held about the school's problems and how the church and the community can help in solving these problems. The school's involvement in parish activities was also discussed.



2021 *December*





Fr. Alain Manalo and other guests discuss issues in education in Kuwentuhang Halalan

DICES (Diocese of Imus Catholic Educational System (DICES))

By: Juan Miguel A. Tolentino

Last December 10, 2021, from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM, DICES Superintendent Fr. Alain P. Manalo was featured as one of the three guest speakers in the second episode of the Kuwentuhang Halalan series. The episode was simulcast via the CEAP Facebook page, the Radyo Katipunan YouTube page, and the Jesuit Communications website.

The episode also featured Sr. Luzviminda Mojica, FdCC, Region IV Trustee for the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) and Latrell Andre Manguera, a Grade 12 HUMSS student from St. Michael's Institute of Baco, Inc. (SMI).

The episode was hosted by Bro. Martin Candelaria from SLP, along with CEAP Deputy Executive Director Mary Ann Cruz. During the episode, the guest speakers from Region IV shared the issues that their communities face in their region.

The Kuwentuhang Halalan series is a collaboration between CEAP and Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan (SLB), featuring CEAP regions and JEEPGY champions in conversa-

tions about the elections.

The Kuwentuhang Halalan series is part of the Kuwentuhang Bayan segment of Radyo Katipunan 87.9, the campus/community FM radio station of the Ateneo de Manila University and surrounding areas. Kuwentuhang Bayan was created and led by Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan (SLP), and the second episode in particular was co-produced by CEAP.

According to Radyo Katipunan 87.9, "Ang Kuwentuhang Bayan ay naglalayong palalimin ang ating pagkamamamayan, suriin ang kalagayan ng ating bansa, talakayin ang mga isyu at pangyayari sa ating komunidad, (at) alamin ang ating mga kakayahan upang makapagsulong ng pagbabago." Moreover, according to CEAP, "the series of conversations (seeks) to highlight and discuss critical issues of our country that should be part of conversations in the upcoming elections".

Ms. Cruz began the episode's discussion by asking the guest speakers about the issues in education in Region IV that need to be ad-

KWENTUHANG HALALAN



dressed by leaders during the upcoming elections, especially considering that the elections tend to be “personality-based, kahit na mas importante ang mga isyu na dapat pinag-uusapan”.

According to Fr. Manalo, one of these important issues is the “quality of education”, which he argues is important not only in Region IV but also in the Philippines as a whole. “Nararamdaman natin ang pagbaba ng kalidad ng edukasyon hindi lamang sa mga international tests kung saan hindi tayo nakakapag-perform nang kaaya-aya kundi sa quality ng mga services na may-

roon tayo sa ating lipunan, both public and private,” Fr. Manalo said.

Fr. Manalo also argued that the declining quality of education is a factor in the declining level of discourse, not only about issues related to the elections but also about other issues. “Minsan, nakakagulat na college-level pero kahit ang mga basic-level ay hindi alam,” he said. “Ang pag-uusap sa ating panahon, sa eleksyon man o sa ibang usapin, ay parang hindi gaanong lumalalim.” Considering his role as part of the educational ministry of the Church, he argued

that educational institutions have a very important role “para maitaas ang antas ng pag-iisip at diskurso, at pati na rin ang kalidad ng paglilingkod sa lahat ng larangan sa ating buhay at lipunan”.

According to Sr. Mojica, another issue in education that needs to be addressed is the welfare of teachers, which she said is “kakambal din ng kalidad ng edukasyon”. According to her, “Sana ay mabigyan talaga ang ating mga guro ng kina-kailangang mga tulong. Dito sa atin (sa Pilipinas), nakakalungkot talaga na ang mga guro ay hindi natin mabigyan ng sapat.”

Sr. Mojica also emphasized the important role of teachers in society. “Napakahalaga ng kanilang papel sa quality of education at sa paghubog ng ating mga kabataan. Dahil dito, sana ay maiangat ang lebel ng pag-tulong at pangangalaga sa mga guro,” she said.

According to Manguera, “Hindi lamang dapat tuwing eleksyon pinag-uusapan at dapat ay inuuna ng gobyerno ang edukasyon.” The important issue in education that he identified was the increasing number of “uneducated youth”. “Hindi lamang ito ngayon, dati pa ito, pero mas na-fuel ito ngayong panahon ng pandemya, kung kailan maraming mga kabataan ang hindi nakakapag-aral,” he said. “As a youth advocate, this breaks my heart. Central to youth empower-

ment talaga is education,” he continued.

Manguera also said that the welfare of students is an important issue in education. “Napakadami kong mga estudyante na nakakapanayam, hindi lamang sa Region IV kundi pati na rin sa ibang bahagi ng Pilipinas, especially ngayong online classes, na naapektuhan mentally ng sitwasyon sa edukasyon,” he said.

Given these challenges, Manguera said that financial assistance is the form support that the youth need most of all from the government for their education. “Ang usapan ng mababang bilang ng ating mga uneducated youth ay babalik at babalik pa rin sa poverty. Kailangan talaga ang financial support from the government para sa edukasyon ng ating mga kabataan,” said Manguera.

Fr. Manalo also expanded on Manguera’s point, saying that the youth face problems beyond difficulties with internet connections and other problems in online classes. According to him, many members of the youth are not pursuing their education. “Ang Department of Education mismo ay naghahanap pa rin sa mga milyon-milyong estudyante na hindi nag-enroll,” he said. He also referred to the fact that DICES itself faced significantly declining numbers of enrollees due to the pandemic.

Now that education in the Philippines is slowly transitioning back to face-to-face classes, Fr. Manalo expressed his concern about how many students will return to schools. “Hindi lamang ito problema ng mga bata na hindi nakakapag-aral. Problema din ito sa sustainability ng ating mga paaralan na nakaasa sa dami ng mga nag-reenroll,” he said.

According to Manguera, “embarrassment, as well as fear of COVID-19” are two of the most common factors that contribute to students’ hesitancy in continuing their education. Similarly, Fr. Manalo said that there is hesitancy among churchgoers in going back to church for face-to-face Masses. He also said that the percentage of students who have become accustomed to online classes is low. “Hindi naman talaga education crisis ang problema. Nakadepende tayo sa health crisis na may epekto sa ekonomiya. Kailangang masolusyonan muna ang health crisis and and economic crisis dahil sa mga ito naka-angkla ang education,” he said, acknowledging that the discussion of the quality of education in the Philippines is “very complicated”.

In the conclusion to the episode, Manguera

encouraged his fellow members of the youth “to vote on May 2022 and practice our right to suffrage”. “Marami akong mga kabataan na nakikita na ipinaglalan ang demokrasya, ngunit mahalaga din na i-practice nila ang democracy itself by voting,” he said.

“I would also like to encourage our leaders to not cause division. Dapat nating pagbuklurin ang ating bansa, lalo na ngayong COVID-19 pandemic,” Manguera said. He also encouraged everyone to not lose hope. “There are a lot of voices na maingay sa ating lipunan, pero if we are going to stand for our advocacy and if we unite, doon magsisimula ang pagbabago ng ating bansa,” he said. “Let us be the hope that the country needs and practice democracy,” he concluded.

Sr. Mojica commended Manguera’s “vision” and “energy”, as well as that of other members of the youth. “Help us to believe more in





hope. Sana ay maging influencer kayong mga youth. Maganda na naririnig ng mga matatanda ang mga boses ng mga bata dahil nache-check ang aming mga prinsipyo at paniniwala dahil kayo ay ang mga pag-asa namin," she said.

"I would like to remind us who are 'not so young' na ibahagi ang wisdom natin dahil kailangan ng guidance ng mga kabataan," said Sr. Mojica. "Hindi pwedeng tatalikod na lamang tayo at sasabihin, 'Bahala na sila, kanila nang panahon ito.' Ang vision and wisdom ay kailangang pinagsasama," she said.

Fr. Manalo recounted his experiences when he was a young and idealistic priest. "Napakasigasig ko noon. Napadami kong pangarap para sa diocese, sa pagtulong sa mga nangangailangan, pero sinasabi

nila, 'Ganyan din ako noon, pero wala din namang nangyari,' he said.

"Ang gusto kong sabihin sa mga katulad kong may edad na rin, huwag kayong mawalan ng pag-asa," said Fr. Manalo. "Totoo na pagod, bigo, at sugatan tayo. Marami tayong mga attempts in the past, pero hindi ito nagtatapos doon. Sana ay makita sa atin ng mga kabataan ang enthusiasm at passion. Hope is power," he said.

According to Fr. Manalo, it is very important to not lose hope, both for adults and the youth. "Patuloy tayong umasa na posible talaga ang magandang kinabukasan para sa atin, lalo na ngayon na ang mga kabataan ay very engaged. Samahan natin sila," he said.

DICES holds #PaskoNgPamilyangDICES poster-making contest

DICES (Diocese of Imus Catholic Educational System (DICES))

By: Juan Miguel A. Tolentino

Last December 15, 2021, DICES concluded its #PaskoNgPamilyang DICES Poster-Making Contest.

A total of 113 students from different DICES member schools participated in the event. The contest was held as part of DICES' celebration of the Christmas season.

Entries for the contest were accepted starting at December 5, 2021 until December 15, 2021. A formal invitation letter for the contest was sent to school directors and principals of DICES member schools.

The contest was open to all currently-enrolled DICES students from all grade levels.

Each participant was limited to one entry. All entries were required to be original works.

Entries were judged according to the following criteria: 20 percent for interesting first impression; 30 percent for relevance to the theme; and 50 percent for originality and creativity.

The overall winner of the contest was Clint Nicko H. Reyes, a Grade

12 student from IJA. Reyes' artwork was entitled "The Christmas Spirit in DICES' Ways".

According to Reyes, "Honestly, I hesitated to join the contest at first because of the workload that was needed to be finished during those times. But, I told myself that the time I would spend on the drawing would also serve as my short break from my school activities. So, I gave it a try."

Reyes "used pigment ink, connector pens, and colored pencils" for his submission. "I played with mixing and blending the colors to complement the given theme. I spent an hour a day making it, mainly after class, and it took me at least four to five hours to finish," Reyes said.

According to Reyes, "The experience itself was different because I am accustomed to finishing a drawing in one sitting. Conceptualizing and the lay-outing was also difficult because I could think of several meanings behind the word 'Pamilyang DICES'."



selfs, our abilities, and gifts with other people.”

Reyes also cited IJA’s Malasakitan Program as an inspiration for his artwork. “It gave me the idea that though we may have different ways to celebrate Christmas, every school still shares one vision and mission. The lines, ‘We commit ourselves to be lifelong and relevant education that is Christ-centered,’ as well as, ‘Unite every family, care for the needy,’ was reminded to me by the program.

Therefore, I realized that the generosity our school expresses is also what the others do because of our spirit as one DICES family,” he said.

Reyes’ artwork is featured as the cover of this quarter’s issue of GUNITÂ.

The other participating posters in the contest are also included in the latter pages of this issue.

The title of the artwork, according to Reyes, “means that this event is not only about the lights, the food, the decorations, and the number of gifts given. Instead, in DICES, we are told to encompass the birth of Jesus Christ as the center of everything that we would do. Even before Christmas, we were being prepared through our practices during Advent’s season. Also, the giving part is not only limited to the material gifts but also how we share our-

Committed to Christian

DICES personnel celebrate DICES Assembly 2021 with Holy Mass, raffles, contest

DICES (Diocese of Imus Catholic Educational System (DICES))

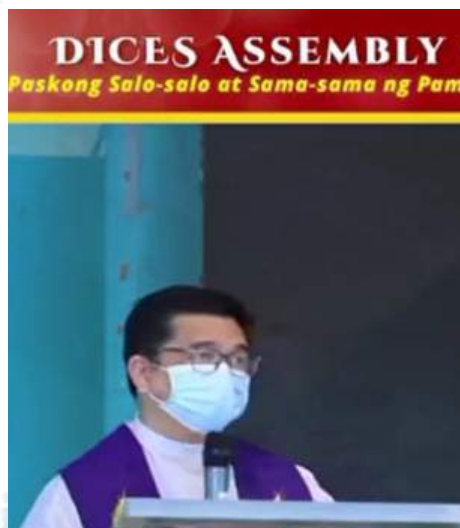
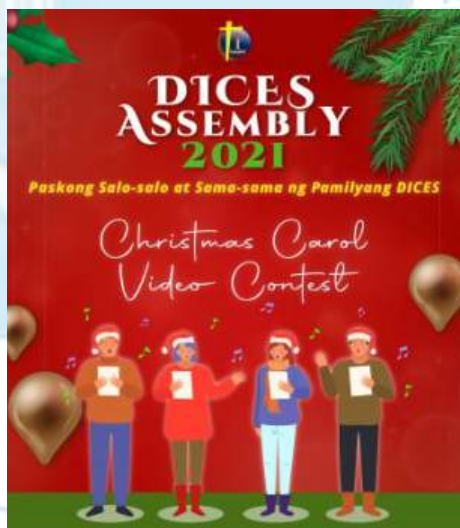
By: Juan Miguel A. Tolentino

Last December 17, 2021, from 9:30 AM to 12:00 NN, personnel from DICES member schools participated in the DICES Assembly 2021. The event, featuring the theme "Paskong Salo-salo at Sama-sama ng Pamilyang DICES", was graced by the celebration of the Holy Mass, presided over by DICES Superintendent Fr. Alain P. Manalo. The Holy Mass was held at St. Jude Parish Church, Trece Martires City, Cavite and was broadcast via Zoom. Afterwards, the event was continued virtually, with DICES personnel in their respective school

premises.

In his homily during the Holy Mass, Fr. Manalo reminded everyone of God's presence in our families. "Despite the imperfections of our life stories, God's salvation will still come through. Kahit gaano pa kadilim ang kwento ng ating pamilya at ng ating mga personal na buhay, ... God assures us, darating pa rin sa atin ang kaligtasan."

The rest of the event featured an inspirational message from Imus Bishop Reynaldo G. Evangelista, D.D., the presentation and award-





ing of the winners from the DICES Christmas Carol Video Contest, raffles, and the Christmas celebrations of the member schools.

Entries for the DICES Christmas Carol Video Contest were presented during the program, wherein faculty members and staff, as well as school directors and administrators, from member schools of DICES were encouraged to participate. For the contest, participants performed and recorded performances of Christmas carols. The Christmas carol videos were required to be three to five minutes long, with any Christmas song in Tagalog, Visayan, or English allowed. Creative choreography and props were encouraged in the presentations. The presentations were judged according to relevance to the theme, voice quality and interpretation, originality and creativity, and overall impact.

The participating member schools were divided into three categories according to proximity, and one winner from each category was announced. The winning school for each category received a lechon as a prize. The winner for Category A was SJPS, while the winner for Category B was HFA, and the winner for Category C was STCS.

Raffle draws were also conducted during the assembly, with a few DICES personnel winning various prizes from DICES' sponsors.

DICES' 10th Amoris Laetitia conference discusses importance of spirituality

DICES (Diocese of Imus Catholic Educational System (DICES))

By: Juan Miguel A. Tolentino



Last December 17, 2021, from 8:00 to 9:30 AM, DICES' tenth and final in the series of online spiritual conferences on Pope Francis' exhortation Amoris Laetitia was held via Facebook Live. The conference was organized by the Diocese of Imus and DICES, in partnership with the Religious Education Department (REED) of De La Salle University - Dasmariñas (DLSU-D).

Last Friday's conference featured resource speaker Dr. Mariano Thomas Ramirez, who discussed the ninth and final chapter, "The

Spirituality of Marriage and the Family", of the exhortation.

Dr. Ramirez is a current REED faculty member and the 2019 Outstanding Faculty Awardee of DLSU-D. He obtained his master's degree in Christian Formation Education and his doctorate in Religious and Values Education from De La Salle University - Manila. He is the former president of the Parents' Association La Salle Cavite (POLCA). He is also the former chairman and a current member of the board of directors of the DLSU-D Cooperative.

According to Dr. Ramirez, the ninth and final chapter of *Amoris Laetitia* tackles “why spirituality is important in a family”. “Ito ay tungkol sa pagmamahal, lalong-lalo na sa pamilya, at tungkol sa kasagraduhan ng kasal,” he said. He also emphasized that the discussion of marriage and the discussion of family are interrelated. “Dito natin makikita na sila ay magkatuwang at magkasama. Hindi nahihwalay ang pagmamahal para sa kabiyak o asawa sa pagmamahal para sa pamilya,” he said.

Dr. Ramirez argued that “the religious beliefs and practices (of families)” can help them face difficult situations. “For some families, spirituality can be a powerful and important source of strength ... Makikita natin dito ang kahalagahan ng ating pagkapit sa Diyos, lalong lalo na sa panahon na meron tayong mga dala-dala bilang pamilya o mag-asawa,” he said.

Dr. Ramirez emphasized the importance of holding on to God as married couples and as families. “Sa ating pagkapit sa Diyos, tayo ay nagkakaroon ng ‘sense of fulfillment’ o ‘sense of settlement,’” he said. He also said that holding on to God and maintaining God’s presence in marriages and families is important. “Kapag tayo ay may helplessness na nararamdaman natin sa mga panahon na mayroon tayong mga problema sa pamilya,

kapag tayo ay lumapit (sa Diyos), magkakaroon tayo ng ‘sense of control’. Makikita natin sa sarili natin na nagiging mas maluwa sa kalooban natin kapag ibinabahagi natin ito sa Kanya. Hayaan natin na ang Diyos ay dumaloy sa atin at maramdaman natin ang Kanyang presensya,” he said.

“Spirituality is not only about clinging to God, but also (about) our values ... (and) our principles as a family,” Dr. Ramirez said. In fact, he said that it is important for parents to acknowledge how children form their values with the help of their families. “Children learn what you do and say. Ang ating mga ginagawa at sinasabi ay hindi lamang pinag-aaralan ng ating mga anak. Maaaring ang mga ito ay nagiging bahagi din ng kanilang pamumuhay,” he said.

Regarding family values, Dr. Ramirez reminded parents of their role in the development of the values of their children. “We help our children to determine what is essentially right or wrong. Hindi lang sapat na binibigyan natin sila ng baon nila o ng pep talk kapag nagkikita tayo,” he said.

“Sa pamamagitan natin, lalong lalo na tayong mga tatay at nanay, doon nila nakikita sa mga desisyon na ginagawa natin, kung ano nga ba ang tama at mali,” Dr. Ramirez said, emphasizing that children determine what is right and what



is wrong based on “the values na ipinapakita natin sa kanila”. “Kapag ipinapakita natin ang tama (sa ating mga anak), at ito ay naka-angkla sa turo ng Diyos, kahit na anong yangig (o) bagyo ang darating sa kanila, sila ay kakapit at kakapit dito dahil ito ang mga ibinahaging mga values sa kanila,” he said.

Principles, especially in the context of marriages and families, are the important “systems of belief” that serve as the “foundation” for children. “Ang mga prinsipyong ito ay ang mga pwedeng mamana ng ating mga anak. Ito rin ang mga prinsipyo na nagpapakita, bilang magkabayak, kung ano ang mga prinsipyo ang pinaninidigan natin,” he said.

As an example, Dr. Ramirez presented unconditional love as a principle that parents can show to their children through example. “Maipapakita natin sa (ating mga

anak) bilang prinsipyo na we have to love them unconditionally, kahit sino o ano pa man ang mga anak natin, na nakikita nila na mahal natin sila,” he said.

Dr. Ramirez encouraged parents to “know where (their) kids are” and to know what is happening in their lives. However, he emphasized that parents should “team up” with their children. “Bigyan natin sila ng malaking portion ng panahon natin na kasama natin sila. Alam ko, kung minsan, ang trabaho natin ay mas malaking puwang sa buhay natin, ngunit balikan natin kung ano at sino tayo sa harap ng ating mga anak at sa harap ng ating kabiyak,” he said.

Dr. Ramirez also encouraged parents to build relationships with their children. According to him, before anyone should be able to relate to others, it is

“fundamental” that they relate to their children first. “If you are able to build relationships with others, how much more (should you be able to) with your children?” he said.

Dr. Ramirez identified the three central themes that Pope Francis discussed in the exhortation. According to him, the first theme is that “marriage and family (are) a true and valid way to God”. Meanwhile, he said that the second theme is that “all the pains of family life, small and great, are true (ways of sharing) in the cross of Christ” and that “all the joys and pleasures of family life are true (ways of sharing) in the power of Christ’s resurrection”. In fact, according to him, “Pope Francis affirms that the family is the path that the Lord uses to lead most Christians to mystical union with Him.” Finally, he said that the third theme is that “marriage and family unmask lies

and call for honesty”.

Dr. Ramirez concluded his discussion by citing Pope Francis, saying, “No family drops down from heaven fully-formed or perfect. Families always need to grow and mature in their ability to love.”

At the end of the conference, Imus Bishop Most Rev. Reynaldo G. Evangelista, D.D. and DICES Superintendent Rev. Fr. Alain P. Manalo gave their concluding inspirational messages.

On behalf of the Diocese of Imus, Bishop Evangelista extended his gratitude to DICES, to DLSU-D, and to all the individuals and organizations who made the series of conferences possible. “We learned a lot from this apostolic exhortation. Salamat sa mga ibinahagi ng mga speakers, sa lalong pinatingkad na mga kaalaman at puntos sa inyong pagpapaliwanag. ... Kinikilala ko ang pagsisikap ninyong lahat,”





he said.

Bishop Evangelista also emphasized Pope Francis' words, quoting the pope, "The strength of the family is in its capacity to love and to teach how to love." The bishop continued, "Napakagandang paalala ito. Alam ko na hindi madali ang pinagdaanan ng mga pamilya lalo na ngayong panahon ng pandemya, ngunit ang mga conference na ito ay malaki ang naging ambag upang lalong mabuo at tumibay ang mga pamilya sa ating diyosesis, lalo na ang mga pamilya ng ating mga mag-aaral sa DICES."

Fr. Manalo also expressed his happiness and gratitude, saying, "Family is one of God's greatest blessing (for) us. The experience may not have been perfect, but we can redeem our families (and) our family lives," he said.

According to Fr. Manalo, "The challenge of these reflections is that, whether we agree or not, we are most hurt when the hurt comes

from the family. Even when others don't value or love us as much, when we are valued or loved very much in our families, that value and love suffice."

Fr. Manalo encouraged everyone to "pray for all families, especially those who are struggling". "May God's grace intervene in their lives and bring miracles, that hurts may be healed, and that families do not just become united but instead become all the more strengthened to proclaim the good news of God's salvation," he said.

Fr. Manalo also reminded everyone to apply the lessons that they have learned from the series of conferences. "Tayong lahat na nakinig at nakiisa, we are enriched, empowered, and inspired to heal our families, strengthen our families, and create our families according to God's plan," he said.

Ask DICES!

"In my own opinion, #PaskoNgPamilyangDICES mean to me that we are one family in serving and praising our Almighty God through helping others especially the poor, the deprived and the oppressed of our society and we are uniting in God's love so we can build a better world and better place for everyone. In addition, it all about expressing our love and care towards every people through making them feel the love of God in their lives. Lastly, this mean to me that it is the time of thanksgiving and a time of sharing our blessings to other people."

*Yohan Jesuzaine Amada De Guzman
IIA, grade 8 student*

*"What does
#PaskoNg
PamilyangDICES
mean to you?"*

It means to me that this coming Christmas will be enjoyable with our family. It will become a memorable event where the hearts of everyone will flow through the essence of love and joy. Christmas will be the reason of gathering and building strong relationship.

*McAllen B. Fresnido
IIA, grade 11 student*

“As a DICES student, this hashtag meant more than just merrily partying and enjoying with each other to me. It meant to me that the DICES family, my brothers, and sisters-in-arms, are carrying out the mission that God had given to us. It meant to give life and connect with my brothers and sisters-in-arms through the day of Christmas. It wasn't just any ordinary hashtag but rather, a hashtag that symbolizes the faith, the connection, the joy, and many more that each and every DICES family member possesses.”

*Joannah Mari1e P. San Agustin
IJA, grade 12 student*

“#PaskoNgPamilyangDICES is very warm and leaves a good impression when it is heard or read. It means to me that it is a joyful celebration that DICES family members are into, a very special event that will happen. When we say "Pasko", or "Christmas" in English, we also think that it is about Jesus Christ. Sharing and spreading love into our family and neighbors. Being an instrument and celebration about a good and special event in our lives. A hashtag that brings us the opportunity to join and know that this family will celebrate.”

*Maria Ruella L. Sarmiento
IJA, grade 10 student*

‘PaskoNgPamilyangDICES for me is that, as members of the Catholic Church, we should be united in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. We should value our families and be thankful for our families that we have. #PaskoNgPamilyangDICES means not just celebrating inside our houses with our families but also going outside of the street and giving help to less fortunate people. #PaskoNgPamilyangDICES means sharing your blessings. It means praying not only for our families but also all the families in the world especially now that there is pandemic.”

*Euanne Samuelle L. Cervantes
FMDMS, grade 5 student*

"#PaskoNgPamilyangDICES for me is a special celebration for Christmas. There's a lot of activities like giving gifts and helping other people. This celebration will be full of unconditional love and peace."

*Enrich A Abece
IJA, grade 11 student*

"For me, Christmas is not just a celebration. Christmas is a spirit. A true catholic Christmas is the spirit of giving and gifting without expecting anything in return. It is a spirit of selflessness and love, a spirit of hope and joy. It is the spirit of reflecting the joy and love Jesus has given to us. It is the spirit of putting others before ourselves. It is a spirit of giving not only physical gifts but also ourselves, our love."

*Antonio Luis A Binaoro
IIA, grade 8 student*

"For me, it means to share, love, care and inspire people around us by means of creating a genuine bond and connection between one another. #PaskoNgPamilyangDICES shows how we, DICES schools, celebrates Christmas by means of giving malasakit to others. It also shows how we commemorate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ."

*Jhanah Reighne C. Juane
IIA, grade 10 student*

"We are all family."

*Christian Vince G. Amparo
SJPS, grade 8 student*

"For me, #PaskoNgPamilyangDICES means a great Christmas for the DICES family, filled with fun and excitement. Because Christmas is a time for us to express our gratitude to the God. and to all saints.

#PaskoNgPamilyangDICES is difined as love because the whole DICES family us full of love because God is our center he is the reason why DICES family are happy and blessed and why every student, teachers or parents are loving each other.

#PaskoNgPamilyangDICES is all about love is all about thanksgiving and its all about us."

*Jacklynn C. Jacob
SJPS, grade 11 student*

"For me, it is not just a celebration for Christ's birth but as well as giving back and giving help to others."

*Eula Mae G. Oliveros
IIA, grade 10 student*

Committed to Christian

"L-O-V-E. Christmas is all about love, and I think that our DICES family strives to put us together amidst the chaos brought about by the pandemic. Love and, especially, GOD are what we need most right now. I love you DICES <3."

Mark Melvin C. Toledo
IJA, grade 11 student

"#PaskoNgPamilyangDICES is not only by celebrating the birth of our Lord and worshipping Him, it is also about sharing the love and blessings our Lord gave us."

Joannah Marie P. San Agustin
IJA, grade 12 student

"A time to get connected and reunited with the other schools that are included in DICES family. A time to share love and time to share humility. A Time to spread kindness that makes everyone happiness. It gives us a sign to remember God's goodness and how kindness really important in the lives of every people. The best way to show our love for everyone is to share are blessings with one another and share the word of God. This will influence every people to make a difference in their lives by doing acts of kindness."

Shamel Anne Margaret D. Ferma
IJA, grade 10 student

"Pagkakaisa, pagmamahal, at pagpapatawad. Pagkakaisa, dahil lahat tayo dito ay isang pamilya na kahit hindi nagkikita o nakakapag-usap sa personal ay patuloy parin na gumagawa ng paraan para makapagkumustahan sa isa't isa at nagkakaisa; pagmamahal, dahil hindi mawawala ang pagmamahal sa isang pamilya na ating nabuo, at pagpapatawad sa isa't isa, lalo na ngayong magpa-Pasko na kinakailangan ng kapatawaran sa isa't isa para sa pagkakaisa at pagmamahal ng bawat isa na dapat nating isakatuparan sa kahit anong pagkakataon."

Pauline Sophia H. Costa
SIPS, grade 11 student

"It means celebrating and gathering with DICES as a family, because they help us learn something new everyday."

Anthiona Jyn Lozano Llanto
JESOMA, grade 6 student

"Celebrating the birth of Jesus during Christmas with my family at School, including my classmates, teachers, principal, and other, and exchanging love and gifts with each other. "

Ashley S. Mojica
SJPS, grade 8 student

"For me it means having fun on Christmas with God and with the people that are special to you."

Sofhia Cassandra Manaois Camins
SJPS, grade 8 student

"As what our school have taught us, the other DICES schools and of course, anyone who are under it are considered as our family. I have experienced being part of advance Christmas celebrations in our school, Infant Jesus Academy of Silang, Inc., during the face to face school set up. With that, I think I can justify what #PaskoNgPamilyangDICES means for me. I am sure that anyone will agree that we deserves to experience it because in DICES, we treat each other as a family. Even though we are far from each other today, I still think that we can reach each other through communicating with our good deeds. "

Kylagenn B. Marin
IJA, grade 12 student

"#PaskoNgPamilyangDICES to me is being connected to each other in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. We all gathered as we celebrate His birth and prepare for His second coming. During Christmas day, we never forget to give presents to our loved ones, thus preparing small gifts for others and displaying the greatness of the Lord through showing gratitude to one another while preparing for the birth of Jesus Christ. With a positive approach and love for the upcoming Christmas day together with the family and the whole church. "

Trisha Reinne M. Causaren
IJA, grade 8 student

"#PaskoNgPamilyangDICES means a time of giving love for Jesus, who was born to die for our sins. It's a time when we get together and thank the Lord. It's also a time to show love to our families and exchange gifts. Let us not miss out on God's greatest gift to us."

Alexander Dela Cruz Velustria
IJA, grade 7 student



DGA conducts first Holy Communion, first Red letter Day, Tagpuan Pilgrimage

De Guia Academy (DGA)

By: Armando G. Gallardo

Last December 1, 2021, on the first week of Advent, DGA faculty and staff set up the school's Advent wreath, which was then blessed by chaplain Fr. Efren Araracap.

Last December 8, 2021, the DGA community celebrated the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. During the same day, DGA students received their first Holy Communion headed by the Christian Value Integration Office (CVIO). During the ceremony, parish catechists facilitated a series of seminars for students and parents. The

Holy Mass was presided over by Fr. Efren "Sani" Araracap Jr., DGA chaplain and parish priest of the Nuestra Senora De Guia Parish in Magallanes, Cavite.

Last December 11 and 13, 2021, DGA conducted its first Red Letter Day, the card-giving ceremony which gave teachers and parents the opportunity to meet and discuss the progress of their students and children. The event started with the parents' formation facilitated by DGA principal Armando G. Gallardo. Afterwards, parents were



given the chance to meet with the advisers and subject teachers of their children.

Last December 15, 2021, the DGA community participated in the lighting and blessing of by the Capiz lantern, which was officiated by Fr. Araracap.

Last December 18, 2021, DGA initiated a gift-giving ceremony for less fortunate families in Magallanes. The event, which was launched during the first Parent-Teacher Conference (PTC), encouraged parents to share whatever they could.

Last December 27, 2021, as part of the culminating celebration for 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines, DGA faculty and staff held its Tagpuan Pilgrimage, wherein they visited and prayed in seven churches designated as the Jubilee churches of the Diocese. These churches are Our Lady of Assump-

tion Parish in Maragondon, Our Lady of Immaculate Conception in Naic, Sto. Rosario Parish in Rosario, St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Kawit, St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Bacoor, and Our Lady of the Pillar Parish in Imus. At the end of the pilgrimage, attendees received pilgrim crosses as a sign of participation.



MPS launches Pamaskong Handog ng mga Batang MPS

Maragondon Parochial School (MPS)

By: Jennifer Santos Lopez

Last December 5, MPS launched “Pamaskong Handog ng mga Batang MPS”, an activity that aims to have the community give and share their blessings during the Christmas season. Each MPS family was asked to give clothes, shoes, toys, and other goods as donations. In total, the school received 39 packs of spaghetti pasta and sauce, 306 packs of instant noodles, 280 Milo sachets, 13 packs of small Nescafé coffee, 26 cans of corned beef, 19 cans of meat loaf, 20 packs of 1/4 kilo sugar, 88 sa-

chets of Bear Brand Milk, and 9 small packs of cheese.

Last December 13, 2021, in line with the Bayanihan sa Paaralan program, MPS employees conducted a clean-up drive at the school grounds. The clean-up drive was done in preparation for year 2022. The program was conducted in coordination with United Cavite Bikers (UCB) members, led by their president Arden L. Fernan.

Last December 14 to 16, 2021, in preparation for the Pamaskong





Handog activity, MPS student council officers, parents, alumni, and teachers helped sort and pack donated in-kind items for families in need. Received cash donations were also used to buy 56 bags of various goods and 56 five-kilo sacks of rice. Last December 17 to 18, 2021, a few MPS parents and teachers gave the donations to the beneficiaries. Last December 27, 2021, UCB members, led by their adviser, Norman Anacay, gave donations as well to the remote area of Talipusngo, Maragondon, Cavite. Clothes and toys were also given to residents of Kaluskos, San Nicolas St., Maragondon, Cavite, by a group led by UCB member Ariel S. Riel.

gram, grade 5 MPS student Juanna Luissa Fortissa Rosales said, "These are just simple acts and thoughts that young children like us must learn and understand the importance of sharing especially to those people who are in need. ... When the time I handed them the goods, I saw big smiles and happiness from their faces, and I felt very happy too. We have successfully shared love to these people. Our simple gifts may be simple, but to them they mean a lot, and I could tell from their looks that they are very thankful for what they received from us."

In her reflection about the pro-

Committed to Christian

JESOMA celebrates anniversary, Bukluran 2021

Jesus Son of Mary Academy (JESOMA)

By: Joyfe Serrano



Last December 8, 2021, JESOMA celebrated its 24th founding anniversary. In line with this, the school held its Bukluran 2021 event last December 15, 2021, with help from the school's student leaders. The event was held via Microsoft Teams.

In his inspirational message for the JESOMA community, DICES Superintendent Fr. Alain P. Manalo explained the meaning of "bukluran", saying, "Ang bukloran ay pagkaka-kaisa, pagkakabuklod, comunio. Hindi tayo kanya-kanya. Kung ating matatandaan ang ating Diyos ay

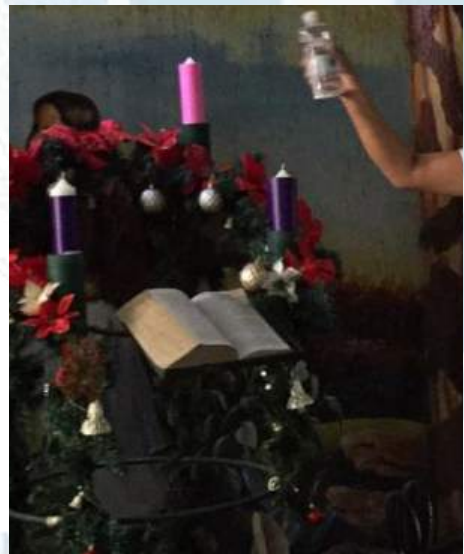
bukloran din. Ama, Anak at Espiritu Santo. Iba-iba, tatlo ngunit nagkaka-kaisa at sa lalim ng kanilang pagkaka-kaisa isang misteryo kung paano ang tatlo sa totoo lang ay isa." He also emphasized the purpose of "bukloran", saying, "Ang ating puhunan sa bukloran ay pag-ibig na katulad kay Kristo at pananampalataya katulad kay Maria." He added, "Napakadami nating pinangarap, napakadami nating pinagsusumikapan at ating mga adhikain, abalang-abala tayo sa maraming bagay, kahit pa sa gitna ng pandemya. Sana ay wag nating

makalimutan katulad ng plano ng diyos nilikha tayo sa bukluran. Nagkasala kaya nagkahiwalay, iniligtas upang mapanuli ang bukluran at ang ating patunguhan ay ang bukluran sa buhay na walang hanggan.”

After the celebration, JESOMA students wore costumes and portrayed characters from popular Netflix shows. The portrayed characters were chosen to represent particular JESOMA attributes. The awards were presented by JESOMA student leaders. Grade 8 student Mary Claire Gundran and grade 9 student Edward James So received the awards for the individual category. Meanwhile, grade 9 students Dane Shianice Dejarlo and Kaizzela Gale Palapar, and grade 12 student Sophia Palapar, received the

awards for the group category.

The highlight of Bukluran 2021 was “My Pledge of Love”, wherein JESOMA students and their families were invited to extend their help for the poor and the needy. The segment was facilitated by JESOMA registrar Domingo Alarcon Jr. for the segment, JESOMA families were asked to pledge only 24 baskets of noche buena food, but due to the generosity of the community, more than 80 baskets were pledged. The packages were given to the beneficiaries last December 22, 2021.



SAS-M holds "Paskuhan sa SAS" event with contests, raffles, and performances

St. Augustine School - Mendez (SAS-M)

By: Ma. Irish Anne P. Gatpandan

Last December 13, 2021, the SAS-M Supreme Student Government (SSG) Officers, with the assistance of the SSG Adviser and OSA Coordinator, began a series of activities for the school's yearly "Paskuhan sa SAS" event. The event was launched by the Paskuhan Contest entitled "OUTcomes, OUTreach, OUTstanding: Libraries Beyond Boundaries". The activities for the contest, which were held via Microsoft Teams, were conducted in collaboration with the AKLOVERS club for the post-celebration of this year's book month. The participating students' final outputs were posted on their social media ac-

counts using the hashtag #SASMBookMonth2021 and #SASMPaskuhan2021.

Pupils from the nursery to grade 3 levels enjoyed the Read Aloud, Headdress Making, and Popsicle Stick Christmas Ornament Making activities. Meanwhile, pupils from the intermediate department joined in the Story-Telling, Bookmark Making, and Christmas Tree Craft activities. Finally, students from the junior and senior high school department enjoyed the Read-Aloud, Belen-Making, and Essay-Writing activities, the last of which was guided by the question, "How can reading empower the





youth to be and active citizen of our country?"

Last December 15, 2021, the SAS-M SSG announced the winners of the Paskuhan 2021 raffle draw project, with consolation, minor, and major prizes. Tickets were sold at 5 each. Consolation prizes included 10 laptop stands and 10 cellphone stands, minor prizes included 3 wired mice and 3 wireless keyboards, and major prizes included 3 web cameras.

Last December 16, 2021, the main program for the Paskuhan Sa SAS event, which has been an SAS-M Christmas tradition since 2018, was began at 5:00 PM. The program started with an opening prayer by the liturgical club members, followed by opening remarks by OCI Coordinator Charito D. Lepardo. Afterwards, the attendees were entertained by the recorded dance

performances of SAS-M's Teatro Club, teachers, and SSG Officers. The program also featured the presentation of the Christmas station ID of our students, directed and edited by the MMA club officers. The song that was used was created through from the joint efforts of SAS-M students. Afterwards, the traditional lighting of the giant Christmas Tree and the fireworks display were conducted. Afterwards, the Paskuhan Grand raffle draw winners were announced. Three winners received Noche Buena Packages. Proceeds from the raffle were given to the SSG's chosen charity this year.

The event was concluded by the closing remarks from Anthony Ferma, Jr., followed by the closing prayer from the liturgical club.

Committed to Christian

SMMPs and SFAA pupils receive first communion, personnel collaborate for Christmas carol contest

St. Mary Magdalene Parochial School-Amadeo (SMMPs), St. Francis of Assisi Academy-Tagaytay (SFAA)

By: Jeanette NUESTRO

Last December 14, 2021, grade 4 and 5 SMMPs and SFAA pupils received their Sacrament of Reconciliation to prepare their reception of their First Communion, which was conducted last December 15, 2021. Both sacred ceremonies were held at St. Mary Magdalene Parish Church Amadeo, Cavite and were graced by Fr. Allan C. Valero, parish priest and school chaplain.

Last December 17, 2021, SMMPs and SFAA collaborated to create and present their entry for Category C of the DICES Christmas Carol Video Contest, held during the DICES Assembly 2021. The event, which was themed "Paskong Salo-

salo at Sama-sama ng Pamilyang DICES", was held via Zoom. The collaboration, which was headed by school principal Maria Fe M. Santos, was recognized as one of the top three participants in the contest.



STCS community donates to orphanage, wins in Christmas carol contest

St. Therese Catholic School (STCS)

By: Raina May M. Agellon

Last December 15, 2021, the STCS community gave donations to Mama's Hope Haven of Norway, an orphanage in Tanza, Cavite as part of the annual Christmas Outreach Program of the school. The list of essential foods and other supplies were coordinated with the orphanage in order to prioritize their major needs.

At 10:00 AM that day, Office of Student Affairs (OSA) Coordinator Laidel Rosete, External Relations Officer Lorenzo Gomez, and two Parent-Guardian Association (PGA)

representatives dropped off the donations at the orphanage

The giving of donations, which entailed a two-week preparation period, was made possible through the help of the OSA, the Theresian Student Government, the External Relations Office, and the PGA.

Last December 17, 2021, STCS bagged the Category C grand prize in the DICES Christmas Carol Video Contest 2021, held during the DICES Assembly 2021.





The event, which was themed "Paskong Salo-salo at Sama-sama ng Pamilyang DICES", was held via Zoom. As grand winner, STCS personnel received lechon as their prize from DICES.

In between the Christmas Carol Video presentations, three lucky personnel from STCS won special prizes in the raffle draw: Virgilio Antony, who won a salad bowl, Lorenzo Gomes, who won an electric kettle, and Fideliz Magno, who won a blender.





SMMS launches Handugan for Kawit community, recognizes alumni efforts

St. Mary Magdalene School (SMMS)

By: Jerico O. Enriquez and Rose May E. Pacumio

Last December 20, 2021, members of the Magdalenean Student Government of SMMS, along with their teacher advisers, launched its yearly "Handugan" program at the Barangay Office of Kaingin in the town of Kawit, Bacoor.

The beneficiaries of the program were residents from the local community of Kaingin.

In previous years, the program has helped various communities around Kawit by giving gifts to those in need during the Christmas season. For the year 2021, the program was able to give to the community through the generosity of the students and parents from SMMS, as well as SFDMPs and HCCSN. The student government of SMMS was able to generate

33,740.00 in donations, which helped twelve families from Kaingin and ten students from SMMS. The SMMS community hoped that the “Handugan” program would continue to help the poor and needy every Christmas season. “Indeed, this season should have more of us giving, than receiving”, said SMMS principal Jericho O. Enriquez.

During the same day, the Alumni Association of SMMS received a plaque of recognition for their outstanding effort in helping Magdalenan students with financial difficulties.

The recognition ceremony, which is hoped by SMMS to be continued as a new yearly tradition, was headed by Ma. Felisa Punzalan, the External Relations Coordinator of the school. The program was launched with a prayer led by Frin-cis L. Madero.

The program also featured a short message by Reynaldo Nambayan, batch representative from the Alumni Association. The program ended with the presentation of the plaque and a photo opportunity for attendees.



#PaskoNgPamilyangDICES Poster-Making Contest 2021

As part of our celebration of the Christmas season, DICES conducted its #PaskoNgPamilyangDICES Poster-Making Contest.

The overall winner of the contest is Clint Nicko H. Reyes. The other participating posters are presented in the following pages.

Overall Winner

The Christmas Spirit in DICES' Ways

"The poster was inspired from and aligned with both the given general theme and DICES' vision and mission. Specifically, the lines from the mission part, 'We commit ourselves to lifelong and relevant education that is Christ-centered,' as well as, 'Unite every family, care for the needy,' are circulated around the poster."

In line with this, as we celebrate the season of Christmas, we look up to Jesus Christ and immerse ourselves in the spirit of love through our humblest ways. We may have diverse ways of celebrating this significant event because of our schools' traditions, but we are still functioning as one DICES family, and thus we are contained in one Christmas essence, an essence that radiates true Catholic traditions and whole-hearted selfless giving. This is the Christmas spirit that we, as one DICES family, should be proud of."

Clint Nicko H. Reyes
Age 18, Grade 12, IJA





#PaskoNgPamilyangDICES

"The parol symbolizes the victory of light over darkness as well as hope and goodwill."

Gianna Althea P. Acera
Age 6, Grade 1, FMDMS



Ang Pasko Para Sa Akin

"Bilang isang bata, ang Pasko para sa akin ay nagsimula sa pagtatayo at pag aayos ng aming Christmas tree. ... Masaya ako sa pagdating ng araw na ito dahil sama sama ang aming buong pamilya sa pagsimba at pagdiriwang ng kaarawan ni Jesus."

Ainsley Yzabel R. Cabucoy
Age 6, Grade 1, SJPS



A King in a Manger

"This drawing represents a humble king called 'Jesus' was in the manger. The star symbolizes Christmas that celebrate the birth of our King. The three kings followed the star to find Jesus. I drew peace, unity, and happiness to represent what Christmas is all about."

Daniel Angelo H. Carbonel
Age 7, Grade 1, SJPS



Paskong Pinoy: Pagdiriwang ng Pamilyang Nagkakaisa

"Ngayong panahon ng Kapaskuhan, ang bawat pamilya ay binubuklod ng pagmamahal ng Diyos at isa't isa."

Pierre Amadeus B. Mojica
Age 6, Grade 1, SJPS



Family is Love

"Remembering Jesus, spending Christmas with the family, and opening presents under the Christmas tree is the best feeling in the world."

Marla Georgina D. Perido
Age 7, Grade 1, PFCS



Pasko ng Pamilyang DICES

"Mag-mahalan, magbigayan. at magkaisaayo."

Rocielle Urielle T. Samuel
Age 7, Grade 1, FMDMS



A COVID Patient's Christmas

"Christmas is one of those times in the year where we spend the time with our family. But due to the pandemic, we're forced to distance ourselves, and in the case of COVID patients, it is worse. However with the help of technology, we could bypass such barriers."

Jan Tyrone B. Centeno
Age 15, Grade 10, SJPS



Celebrating Christmas: Towards the Road of Hope, Love, and Togetherness

"Families are at the core of Filipinos' priorities, wherever they may be. They may be away from each other for now, but the dreams of being in each other's arms must never grow faint."

Kenji P. Guinsisana
Age 15, Grade 10, SAS-M



Paskong Pilipino

"Kung paano pinapahalagahan ng mga tao ang pag-silang ni Hesus."

Jean Matthew M. Haresco
Age 15, Grade 10, SRCS



Pasko ng Pamilyang DICES

"As Catholics, when we celebrate Christmas we go to church, we exchange gifts with our cousins and family, we show love to one another, and we create wonderful and unforgettable memories."

Ziryllie Abby B. Lainez
Age 14, Grade 10, SRCS



Paskong Pampamilya

"Ang pinakamagandang regalo sa atin ay ang ating pamilya at ang mga mabubuting asal na natutunan natin."

Sean Prince G. Ligma
Age 16, Grade 10, SJPS



Santa Claus is Coming!

"This poster depicts Santa Claus, one of the most popular Christmas symbols."

Bryle Yuan P. Nealega
Age 15, Grade 10, SJPS



Simbolo ng Pasko

"This poster depicts several symbols that reflect Christmas. I am aware that we, the Batang DICES, are all going through terrible times at the moment, but we must not forget that Christmas is a time when we share joyful memories."

Mikaela T. Pisigan
Age 15, Grade 10, SJPS



Filled with Christmas Spirit

"This poster is all about traditions. Christians go to church to hear the last 'simbang gabi' or the Christmas Eve mass. This is followed by a midnight feast called 'noche buena'."

Dhanna Fernandez
Age 19, Grade 11, SJPS



Parol

"My artwork is inspired by the Christmas traditions in the Philippines. The title of my poster is 'Parol' which symbolizes Christmas. I included Filipino traditions such as simbang gabi, bibingka and puto bungbong, exchanging gifts, caroling, and family reunions."

Jenni Marsh C. Gadayan
Age 16, Grade 11, SJPS



Misa de Gallo

"My poster depicts the spirit of Misa de Gallo. The feeling of waking up at dawn, the cold air, and the puto-bungbong and bibingka after mass. Now that we are slowly returning to normal after the pandemic and Christmas is near, we can feel the spirit of Christmas."

Portia Micaela D. Añonuevo
Age 17, Grade 12, SGA



Iisang Pamilya, Iisang Mithiin, Iisang Pasko

"Walang mas niningning pa sa liwanag ng nagkakaisang mamamayan; magkaiiba man ay may iisang mithiin. Sa Pasko, walang makakapigil sa pagbibigay hindi lamang ng regalo ngunit pati ng tulong sa kapwa. Sa DICES, ang Pasko ay para sa lahat."

Ginche Cline M. Arreza
Age 18, Grade 12, SAST-SHS



Centro de Navidad

"'Centro de Navidad', 'The Center of Christmas' in English, refers to how we truly need to know and feel the true spirit of Christmas."

Shane I. Artista
Age 17, Grade 12, SJPS



Isang Paskong DICES

"The star bears the DICES logo. This represents how we, as one DICES community, work together to bring light and compassion to others. ...It also represents how we, as a family, maintain the spirit of 'malasakitan' alive."

Xander Clyde V. Cagas
Age 17, Grade 12, SJPS



#PaskoNgPamilyangDICES

"Christmas with DICES is a Christmas that is full."

Wilgem Cusi
Age 17, Grade 12, SAST-SHS



Parol

"As Vincent Van Gogh said, 'I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon and the stars bowed to me. Not because of suffering and imprisonment but because of the recognition that is waiting in the future.'"

Ellaine R. Paras
Age 17, Grade 12, SAST-SHS



Blessed to be a Blessing

"Everyone can experience the joy and blessing of generosity, because everyone has something to give. #BlessedToBeABlessing"

Johanna Marie M. Perocho
Age 17, Grade 12, SJPS



Christmas is Coming

"Christmas is coming. We received presents and other kinds of gifts, but the best gift that we could ever receive is Jesus Christ, the savior king who saves our lives."

Jonel C. Pillerva
Age 17, Grade 12, SJPS



The Warm Lights of Christmas

"The DICES family is not perfect, but we are effective instruments of God as we come together. We are guided and empowered by God's love throughout the year like a growing tree, and giving back that love to the deprived makes our Christmas best."

Royce Jushlie P. Quion
Age 18, Grade 12, IJA



Familyng DICES

"Christians celebrate Christmas Day as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Popular Christmas customs include exchanging gifts, decorating Christmas trees, attending church, and sharing love and care with family and friends."

Lore Mae B. Sanurjo
Age 17, Grade 12, SJPSC



Misa de Galyo Tuwing Pasko

"Masaya ang ating bayan kapag simbang gabi, dahil ang mga tao ay kanyakanyang gigising ng maaga upang tumungo sa simbahan, magdasal, at magpasalamat sa pagsilang ng Diyos na hari ng mundo."

Aliah Shane S. Solis
Age 18, Grade 12, SAS-T



Pasko sa Panahon ng Pandemya

"Sa kabila ng pandemya, naipagdiriwang pa rin natin ang Pasko bilang paggunita sa ating Poong Hesus"

Lorelyn G. Sustal
Age 17, Grade 12, SAS-T



Batang DICES Gifts for the Baby Jesus

"Christmas is our promise to our beloved baby Jesus to offer our heart's deepest wish and commitment to help make this world a better place for all."

Zachari P. Almazan
Age 7, Grade 2, SFAA



Pamilyang Sama-sama, Paskong Masaya

"Ang Pasko ng pamilyang DICES, saan mang lugar, mahirap man ang situwasyon, nagiging masaya ang lahat kapag may mga puso na nanampalataya."

Reese Caitlin S. Antazo
Age 7, Grade 2, SJPSC



Paskong Pinoy

"Tuwing palapit na ang Pasko, ramdam natin ang lamig ng simoy ng hangin. Ito ang panahon ng pagmamahal at pagbibigayan ng bawat isa. Higit sa lahat, hindi nakakalimutan ng bawat pamilya ang sama samang pagsimba at pagpapasalamat sa ating Panginoon."

Bernard Emmanuel R. Cruz
Age 7, Grade 2, SJPSC



Pasko ng Pamilyang DICES

"Ang Pasko ay isa sa mga pinaka-inaabangan ng bawat pamilyang Pilipino. Sama-sama tayong nagsasalosalo sa masasayang pangyayari sa ating buhay. Sa hirap at sagana, tayo ay iisa."

Elijah Owen E Hugo
Age 8, Grade 2, PFC5



#PaskoNgPamilyangDICES

"Maligayang Pasko para sa ating lahat!"

Mhickay Aaliyah S Mercado
Age 7, Grade 2, HCCSN



Pasko ng Aming Pamilya Ngayong Pandemya

"Dahil po sa taas ng pamasahe at sa pandemya, hindi po sila makauwi, kaya sa internet na lang po kami nag uusap. Pero siyempre po, di pa rin po makakalimutan ang tunay na diwa ng Pasko, ang pagsilang ni Hesus."

Alexzeus Jeune R. Venus
Age 7, Grade 2, SJPSC



#PaskoNgPamilyangDICES

"Ang Pasko ay para sa pamilya at sa pagmamahal sa Panginoon. Ang samasamang pagdiriwang ng kaPaskohan ay ang pagkakaroon ng matibay na samahan ng pamilya."

Althea Faith M. Abiertas
Age 8, Grade 3, SJPSC



Sharing Your Blessings

"Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, we share our blessings, with our little ways to help."

Maria Andrea D. Amoroso
Age 8, Grade 3, PFC5



Ang Masayang Pasko

"Christmas is fun when the whole family is together."

Krystine Louise C. Boado
Age 9, Grade 3, FMDMS



#Pasko ng Pamilyang DICES

"Ito ang Pasko ng pamilyang DICES."

Zairyl Mikheyla D. De Guzman
Age 8, Grade 3, SJSPC



Hesus: Tunay na Diwa ng Pasko

"Ang diwa ng Pasko ay pagbibigayan, pagmamahalan, pagdarasal, at pag-sisimba."

Giann Alfred F. Delen
Age 8, Grade 3, FMDMS



#Pasko ng Pamilyang DICES

"Pasko ng pamilyang sama-samang nanalangin na may pagmamahalan at pagbibigayan."

Jhounaira Margaux A. Rufin
Age 8, Grade 3, FMDMS



Pasko ng Isang Batang DICES

"The things that DICES students do during Christmas."

Fort R. Satparam
Age 8, Grade 3, SJSPC



Christmas in Our Hearts

"Christ and family are the star and heart of Christmas. Despite the pandemic, we celebrate Christmas in ways that show our faith, love, hope, peace and unity. I also included some front liners to thank them for all the sacrifices and love they gave to all of us."

Aaliyah Chloe Y Vicente
Age 8, Grade 3, FMDMS



Pasko ng mga Bata sa 'Pinas

"The poster is about the Christmas spirit and tradition o that we, especially children, are still following nowadays."

Aleighne Mikaela P. Alcairo
Age 9, Grade 4, SMMPs



Pasko ng Pamilyang DICES

"Christmas isn't just about receiving or sending gifts. We also celebrate Christmas to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ."

Andrea Charlice R. Cabucoy
Age 7, Grade 4, SJPC



Pasko ng Pamilyang DICES

"#PaskoNgPamilyangDICES for me is about sharing your blessings and thanking Jesus for all his sacrifices. It is also about family. Let's not forget our puto bumbong, parol, and bibingka!"

Jaiisha T. Calanog
Age 10, Grade 4, FMDMS



Christmas is Caring

"When we help and share, it means we love and care. Christmas is perfect when we go to church and attend the Holy Mass with our loved ones and family."

Carlos Jacob C. Legaspi
Age 9, Grade 4, FMDMS



Puso ng Pamilya

"Nais kong ipakita dito na ang Pasko ay tungkol sa pagmamahalan at pagsasama sama ng buong pamilya, at ang sentro ng kanilang pagmamahalan ay ang simbahan at ang Diyos."

Elisha Abrielle B. Mojica
Age 10, Grade 4, SMMP



Family is Christmas

"This poster shows a simple family. The meaning of Christmas is the family being together."

Alliyah V. Saulog
Age 9, Grade 4, HCCSN



Pasko ng Pamilyang DICES

"A family that attends Misa de Gallo every Christmas season."

Jewlienne Reese S. Talay
Age 9, Grade 4, FMDMS



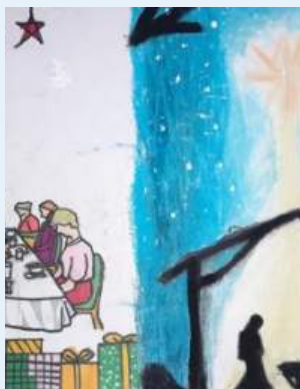
FMDMS Celebrating 37 Years of Gratefulness and Giftedness

"Alone, we can do so little. Together, we can do so much, with a grateful heart."



#PaskoNgPamilyangDICES

"Isang pamilya sa Pasko laban sa virus."



Pasko ng Pamilyang DICES

"Ito ay ang Pasko ng pamilyang DICES."

Rangel R. Uy
Age 9, Grade 4, FMDMS

Carlos Rigo G. Abutin
Age 10, Grade 5, SRCS

Lucious R. Acuna
Age 10, Grade 5, SJPS



#PaskoNgPamilyangDICES

"Pag-ibig ang diwa ng Pasko."



Celebrating 37 Years of FMDMS

"We celebrate 37 years of FMDMS."



Devoted in Caring for Everyone's Soul

"Family is measured by how we value and care for other people. This Christmas will be filled with hope and care for our family and for everyone as well. Having a big heart that prays for all is the best celebration of Christmas."

Euanne Samuelle L. Cervantes
Age 10, Grade 5, FMDMS

John Benedict A. Laudato
Age 11, Grade 5, FMDMS

Yelena Maria Rois P. Ratelon
Age 10, Grade 5, SRCS



The Christmas Socks

"I drew Christmas socks because they are part of Christmas."



Together, We are Family

"Let us celebrate this Christmas together as a family."



Christmas is for Everyone

"For me, Christmas is not just about giving gifts. It's all about how we forgive, and how we value the birth of Jesus Christ."

Nichollai Olive A. San Jose
Age 10, Grade 5, FMDMS

Matrix G. Secretario
Age 10, Grade 5, FMDMS

Lucas Isaac Ephrem N. Tabios
Age 10, Grade 5, FMDMS



My Little Reindeer in Christmas

"Reindeers are symbols of Christmas too."



My Christmas with My Family

"In my poster, I show how I celebrate my Christmas with my love ones. Every Christmas, my cousins and I meet to celebrate Christmas together. Celebrating with them makes me feel happy and loved."



Pasko ng Pinoy sa Kabila ng Pandemya

"Sa kabila ng pandemya, panatiliing buhay ang diwa ng Pasko sa bawat pamilya, lalo na sa bawat bata."

Jade Nicole T. Amisoga
Age 11, Grade 6, FMDMS

Ashley Eunice O. Bagona
Age 11, Grade 6, FMDMS

Pauleen C. Bawar
Age 12, Grade 6, SMMPs



Traditional Filipino Christmas

"This poster shows a traditional Filipino Christmas."



Parol ng Pag-asa

"Ang pagsilang ni Hesus ang pinakamakabuluhang pangyayari tuwing Kapaskuhan. Ating alalahanin ang pagmamahal ng Panginoon, lalo na ngayong pandemya. Patuloy natin paliwagin ang Parol ng Pag-asa, hindi lamang ngayong Pasko kundi sa lahat ng panahon."



Pasko ng Pamilyang DICES

"Ito ang pagdiriwang ng Pasko ng pamilyang DICES."

Vince Aivler N. Baysan
Age 11, Grade 6, FMDMS

Andrea Lian A. Binaoro
Age 11, Grade 6, FMDMS

Bren Khryslor S. Constancio
Age 11, Grade 6, SJPSC



Pasko ng Pamilyang DICES

"Christmas is about the birth of Jesus, not about the gifts or food."



Gift for Jesus

"Prayer is our family gift for Jesus. We devote ourselves to complete the Advent season by praying and attending the Holy Mass."



Ang Ating Pasko Ngayong Pandemya

"The poster I created honors the birth of Jesus Christ, as well as the sacrifices made by our frontliners to save the lives of others."

Zoey De Asis
Age 12, Grade 6, FMDMS

George Aloysius F. Delen
Age 11, Grade 6, FMDMS

Ciara Marie M. Galupo
Age 11, Grade 6, FMDMS



Pasko ng Pamilyang DICES

"This poster represents the Christmas of the DICES family through the pandemic. Through the DICES family, every student, parent, and teacher celebrates their Christmas without a disturbance in their hearts and minds and with a smile on their faces."

Jaimie Ann R. Layugan
Age 11, Grade 6, FMDMS



#Pasko ng Pamilyang DICES

"Ito ay ang Pasko ng pamilyang DICES."

Angelito Ashley Z. Mojica
Age 11, Grade 6, NSGA



COVID-19 will not be a Barricade, to Celebrate a Family Christmas Escapade

"Be happy! COVID-19 will not be a hindrance for this family Christmas celebration."

Shanelle Hariette P. Monzon
Age 11, Grade 6, FMDMS



Simbang Gabi

"It is about our traditional Simbang Gabi that we hope to continue."

Therese A Pelayo
Age 11, Grade 6, SFAA



Gift's Life

"A present contains all of the love and happiness which has been invested in it. It captures the happy moments you enjoy with your family and friends and breathes new life into them."

Chrishawne J. Cabral
Age 12, Grade 7, IJA



Me and My Family

"I want my family to be complete this coming Christmas. It's okay if we don't have something for Christmas."

Princess F. De La Cruz
Age 13, Grade 7, SRCS



Missing My Dad

"How I wish my dad is here at Christmas, but I know that can't happen. That's the only thing I want for Christmas, for my dad to be here. I want to hug him. It's ok for me if don't have much food for Christmas—at least my dad is home. I'm good with it."

Princess F. De La Cruz
Age 13, Grade 7, SRCS



Love for Christmas

"The poster is dedicated for people's love for Christmas. Christmas is the season of giving."

Liezl Joyce A. Esquejo
Age 12, Grade 7, SRCS



Pasko ng Pamilyang DICES

"We've been through a lot this year and we witnessed loved ones passing. This doesn't stop us from having faith, though... Christmas isn't always about gifts. It's about loving, bonding, and celebrating Jesus' birthday... Christmas makes everything better!"

Nicole Hally Anne S. Lim
Age 12, Grade 7, SRCS



Christmas Day

"It's all about Christmas day when our Savior was born. It's also about gift-giving even when we are in a pandemic. Let us love one another, keep praying, and be thankful for our blessings."

Martina Miel C. Luzung
Age 12, Grade 7, PFCS



The Scene of Christmas Day

"The eye with tears symbolize the people who celebrate Christmas alone, seeing other people celebrating with their families while they can't celebrate the Christmas with their own families because of COVID-19."

Farhanie M. Mamco
Age 12, Grade 7, PFCS



#PaskoNgPamilyangDICES

"A family going to the church is the best bonding during Christmas."

Lhysay Kate U. Noveno
Age 12, Grade 7, SJPC



Pasko ng Pamilyang DICES

"My poster is about Paskong DICES at Pasko ng Pamilyang Pilipino. The parol symbolizes the unity of Filipinos, and each ray of star symbolizes uniqueness, inclusivity, and how Filipino family members bond with each other during Christmas amidst the pandemic."

Keanne Nathaniel C. Panilawon
Age 13, Grade 7, PFCS



Christmas Family Spirit

"The spirits of Christmas are presents, the star, and the snowflake, which are symbols of Christmas and family."

Jake Brandon J. Rogador
Age 12, Grade 7, SJPS



Pieces of Christmas / A Holiday Slice

"I made sure that in my poster, you will truly see what Christmas is all about. Presents, Christmas trees, and decors are not the things what make Christmas special. Family and love are."

Briana Scheria B. Salazar
Age 12, Grade 7, IJA



Christmas Celebration

"A simple drawing of a happy family celebrating Christmas."

Lila A. Vales
Age 12, Grade 7, SRCS



Second Quarantined Christmas

"This poster shows the celebration of Christmas amidst the pandemic. It shows Filipino tradition during the nights before Christmas."

Daniella Alfonso
Age 13, Grade 8, SAS-T



Paskong Pandemya, Pamilyang DICES ay Sama-sama

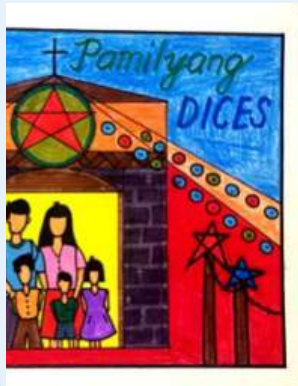
"Even though there is a pandemic, DICES schools still help people in need by setting up community pantries, as well as donating and giving gifts. All year round the DICES family makes the spirit of Christmas more alive."

Sean Carlos B. Amoroso
Age 12, Grade 8, IJA



Pasko ng Pamilya

"The whole family went to church to celebrate the time when Jesus was born."



Pasko Sa Puso ng Bawat Pamilya

"My poster shows the love, unity and happiness of a family, especially during Christmas, as all of us rejoice in the birth of our savior Jesus Christ."



By Selina Kyle J. Cayetano

Pandemic Christmas

"Despite of the pandemic, people still have fun and honor the birth of Jesus Christ."

Princess Tricia B. Ayonque
Age 14, Grade 8, IJA

Andrew James G. Bulaque
Age 14, Grade 8, SFDMPMS

Selina Kyle J. Cayetano
Age 13, Grade 8, SFDMPMS



Pasko ng mga Filipino Ngayong Pandemya

"My poster is all about the Christmas of all Filipino people during the pandemic. The cross, rosary, and Bible symbolize the need for us to have the guidance of the Lord, especially because Christmas is the birthday of Jesus Christ."



Paskong Tradisyon ng Pamilyang Pilipino

"Isang tradisyon ng mga pamilyang Pilipino ang pagsasabit ng hugis talang parol tuwing Pasko. Ito ay sumisimbolo sa bituin na gumabay sa tatlong hari kay Jesus nang siya'y ipinanganak."



Paskong DICES

"I grew up watching DICES schools and churches like SAS-M celebrate Christmas. Simbang gabi, Paskuhan, and other activities DICES use to get ready for the celebration of Christmas, as well as the happy faces of teachers and students are imprinted on my mind."

Ylana A. Emelo
Age 13, Grade 8, IJA

Paola Antonia M. Esposo
Age 13, Grade 8, SJPS

Pauline Ross J. Lacabe
Age 13, Grade 8, SAS-M



Mother's Love in Christmas

"Christmas wouldn't be complete without the happiness from the hands of your mother."

Ryanna Evana E. Mc Eachin
Age 13, Grade 8, SFDMP5



Pasko ng Pamilyang DICES

"The poster I have made shows what Christmas is all about. It also shows the situation today, and how students are striving to go to school and give love to others even during a pandemic."

Sofia Victoria H. Mendoza
Age 13, Grade 8, IJA



Ligayang Dala ng Paskong agkakaisa

"Sa poster po na ito ay ipinapakita ang mga bagay na ginagawa ng pamilyang DICES. Naging tradisyon na ng pamilyang DICES ang pagbabahagi ng kasiyahan at tulong sa bawat tao."

Michaela Ember A. Rupido
Age 13, Grade 8, SGA



Making this December One to Remember

"These past two years have been tough for all of us. However, even if we're still in a pandemic, we should always seize every moment of our lives, because we do not know what will happen tomorrow. Let us make December a great month!"

Lhyra Immogen A. Torres
Age 13, Grade 8, SRCS



Pagbibigayan at Pagmamahalan

"Ang Pasko ng pamilyang DICES ay tungkol sa pagmamahalan at pagbibigayan katulad ni Hesus. Ang pagbibigay ay bunga ng pagmamahalan. ... Pagmamahalan ang kailangan natin upang magkaroon ng kapayapaan, at ito ang misyon ng bawat tao."

Mary Ofelia Lyn G. Orbe
Age 14, Grade 9, PFCS



Talang Gabay, Sinag ng Kapanganakan

"I wanted my work to show how much brightness Christmas gives to every family, to every Filipino. Just like how the bright star guided the three kings towards the barn where Jesus was born, having Him as the center of our hearts."

Maria Lana Leigh M. Supetran
Age 14, Grade 9, IJA



Ang Pasko ng Pagmamahal

"Hindi man nakikita ang kanilang expression, sa pagmamahal, ito'y nasa puso naman."



Holy Holidays

"This poster shows a happy family celebrating Christmas and knowing the true reason of celebrating it."



DICES Family is Forever

"This poster shows how we give importance to the day that Jesus was born."

Princess Meagan G. Tumiao
Age 15, Grade 9, SJPC

Maria Rosette T. Vivo
Age 14, Grade 9, SRCS

Gaeb Joshan I. Dimaisip
Age 5, Kindergarten, SJPC



DICES Family is Forever

"This poster represents how DICES Family celebrates Christmas."

**#Paskong
PamilyangDICES
Poster-Making
Contest 2021**

Cassidy Craig I. Varias
Age 5, Kindergarten, SJPC

DICES

The Diocese of Imus Catholic Education System (**DICES**) is the network of 26 diocesan/ parochial schools in 30 campuses across Cavite. DICES is supervised by Fr. Alain P. Manalo, Episcopal Vicar for Catholic Education and Superintendent of Diocesan Schools. DICES is committed to Christian excellence in the education and for-

mation of children to become Gospel witnesses of communion and mission. Towards this end, DICES is unrelenting in developing its pool of teachers and support staff who show commitment to Christian faith and dedication to grow in their fields of specialization.



DICES Member Schools

ASVF

DGA

FMDMS

HCCSN

HFA

IJA

JESOMA

MPPS

MPS

NSGA

OLPCS

PFCS

PPCDC

SAS-M

SAS-T

SAST-SHS

SFAA



The Academia de San Vicente Ferrer (**ASVF**) was founded in January 23, 2005 in honor of St. Vincent Ferrer, the patron saint of the parish in Lumampong Halayhay, Indang, Cavite. ASVF's High School Department was recognized by the Department of Education in 2007. ASVF was certified by the Fund for Assis-

tance to Private Education (FAPE) in 2008, and turned over to DICES in April 2019.

The De Guia Academy (**DGA**) began in 1984 when the parish held formal classes with 25 pupils. At present, DGA offers K-12 Basic Education to the community of Magallanes, Cavite.

Through patroness Nuestra Señora de Guia, DGA is committed to providing Christian and relevant Catholic education, and to honing its students to responsible, Christ-centered individuals and servant-leaders.





The Fr. Michael Donoher Memorial School, Inc. (**FMDMS**), formerly called Silang Parish Catholic School (SPCS) is a private Catholic non-profit-non-stock institution, established in 1984.

FMDMS offers pre-elementary and elementary courses, focused on Christian excellence in education. The school's motto is "to be for Christ and not for ourselves".

The Holy Cross Catholic School of Noveleta (**HCCSN**) was founded on 2015. HCCSN offers recognized courses from pre-elementary to senior high school.



In April 2020, under the supervision of DICES, HCCSN developed its Learning Continuity Plan as required by the Department of Education to continue providing Catholic education amidst the pandemic.



The Holy Family Academy of GMA Inc. (**HFA**) was founded by Fr. Nonilon B. Tibayan. Guided by the school's mission and vision, the school has successfully served its students for years.

HFA offers programs for pre-elementary up to senior high school levels, inspired by school

tagline: "The school where your child finds a Home."

The Infant Jesus Academy of Silang Inc. (**IJA**) has, for almost 75 years. IJA was originally founded by the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (ICM) in Tondo, Manila.



IJA in Silang, at present, continues to provide learning dedicated to the education of high school boys and girls. IJA aims to prepare students who seek admission to recognized centers of learning.

ASVF

DGA

FMDMS

HCCSN

HFA

IJA

JESOMA

MPPS

MPS

NSGA

OLPCS

PFCS

PPCDC

SAS-M

SAS-T

SAST-SHS

SFAA

SFDMPS

SGA

SHJA

SJPS

SJPSC

SMI

SMMPS

SMMS

SRCS

STCS

The Jesus Son of Mary Academy (**JESOMA**) is a parochial established by Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish. JESOMA was founded in 1997 by Fr. Marty A. Dimaranan. JESOMA aims to be a sanctuary for educating young minds. JESOMA envisions compassionate children of God who discern His will, adapt to multi-cultural values, and respond to the challenges of the times.



ASVF
DGA
FMDMS
HCCSN
HFA
IJA

JESOMA
MPPS
MPS
NSGA



The Marabuting Pastol Parochial School (**MPPS**) is located at Palapala, Dasmariñas, Cavite. MPPS is a small school which caters to pre-elementary students (nursery and kindergarten).

Inspired by the Good Shepherd, MPPS guides its pupils through fun and interactive learning. As part of the DICES community, MPPS aims to provide quality Catholic education.

The Maragondon Parochial School, Inc. (**MPS**), formerly known as the Assumption Convent School, was established in 1986 and founded by former parish priest Fr. Corsie S. Legaspi.



As of today, MPS is still the only Catholic institute in the town of Maragondon. MPS has 10 teachers and staff, offering excellent Christian quality education for pre-school and elementary levels.



The Nazareth School of General Aguinaldo, Cavite Inc. (**NSGA**) is a Catholic institution, currently on its 27th year of operations

NSGA offers government recognized courses in pre-elementary, elementary, and senior high school. NSGA is currently working

towards recognition from the Department of Education for its junior high school department

OLPCS
PFCS
PPCDC
SAS-M
SAS-T
SAST-SHS
SFAA
SFDMPMS
SGA
SHJA
SJPS
SJSPC
SMI
SMMPS
SMMS
SRCS
STCS

The Our Lady Of The Pillar Catholic School (**OLPCS**) is a parochial school in Imus. OLPCS was granted a permit for nursery to preparatory education with socialized tuition fees in 2000.

OLPCS aimed to address the absence of a Catholic School that could offer affordable quality education to low-income families.



ASVF
DGA
FMDMS
HCCSN
HFA
IJA

JESOMA

MPPS

MPS

NSGA

OLPCS

PFCS

PPCDC

SAS-M

SAS-T

SAST-SHS

SFAA

SFDMPS

SGA

SHJA

SJPS

SJPSC

SMI

SMMPS

SMMS

SRCS

STCS



The Paraclete Foundation Community School, Inc. (**PFCS**) was founded by the Missionary-Sister Servant of the Holy Spirit in 1989. PFCS is located at Bulihan, Silang, Cavite.

PFCS is a member of the Catholic Education Association of the Philippines (CEAP).

PFCS is accredited by the Department of Education (DepEd) to offer pre-elementary to senior high school courses.

The Padre Pio Child Development Center, Inc. (**PPCDC**) is located at Brgy. Nicolasa Virata, GMA, Cavite. PPCDC offers programs for the pre-school level.

At the moment, PPCDC has one teacher and one registrar. By staying committed to the mission and vision of the school, PPCDC aims to continue building the simple dreams of the young hearts.



The St. Augustine School of Mendez (**SAS-M**) is an active member of Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) and other prominent educational organizations in Cavite. SAS-M is an integral part of the saint Augustine Parish, founded in 1965. It is the first Catholic School in upland Cavite. At the moment, SAS-M is currently celebrating its 56th year as a Catholic institution.



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The St. Augustine School-Tanza (**SAS-T**) and its Senior High School Department (**SAST-SHS**) aim to be a Christ-centered community with empowered, responsible, and disciplined students who uphold truthfulness and excellence. SAS-T is located at the back of San

Agustin Tanza Church. SAST-SHS, located in Daang Amaya III, Tanza, is the only parochial senior high school in Tanza, Cavite.

The St. Francis of Assisi Academy, Inc. (**SFAA**) has been headed since March 29, 2016 by Bishop Reynaldo G. Evangelista. SFAA is located at San Luis Village, Silang Crossing West, Tagaytay.



Responding to the need for Catholic education in Tagaytay, the Secular Franciscans Order (SFO) in the Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, Tagaytay, founded SFAA in 1986.



The San Francisco de Malabon Parochial School (**SFDMPs**) was founded by Fr. Pedro D. Arigo in General Trias, Cavite in 1994. SFDMPs, named in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, was the very first parochial school in General Trias at the time..

SFDMPs continues its efforts to provide quality Catholic Education to the youth, embracing St. Francis' virtues of simplicity, humility, and purity.

The St. Gregory Academy (**SGA**) was founded in 1965, located in Indang, Cavite, adjacent to the parish church. Through the years, SGA has tried to make education relevant and responsive to the needs of the times.



The SGA spirit of academic excellence, service and values formation, aims to mold and guide SGA students to be productive citizen and responsible Christians.

- ASVF
- DGA
- FMDMS
- HCCSN
- HFA
- IJA
- JESOMA
- MPPS
- MPS
- NSGA
- OLPCS
- PFCS
- PPCDC
- SAS-M

- SAS-T**
- SAST-SHS**
- SFAA**
- SFDMPs**
- SGA**

- SHJA
- SJPS
- SJPSC
- SMI
- SMMPs
- SMMS
- SRCS
- STCS



The **Sacred Heart of Jesus Academy** (SHJA) is located at SHJP San Simon, DBB-C, Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

SHJA offers education for students in kindergarten and Grades 1 to 6.

SHJA's academic program is integrated with Christian Values Formation.

The St. Jude Parish School (**SJPS**) is an educational institution that aims to form graduates who are output of holistic development imbued with necessary knowledge, skills, habits, values such that become pious, ethical, independent, adoptive, creative, critical thinkers, globally competitive, able to use modern technology and can be counted upon as wealth of the church and hope of the nation.



The St. Joseph Parochial School of Cavite (**SJPSC**) is also known as the Parokya ni San Jose Educational Foundation Inc., located in Caytitinga I, Alfonso, Cavite.

SJPSC has been the only Catholic parochial school in the municipality of Alfonso since 2001. As a Catholic school, SJPSC also prioritizes Christian character formation.



As a Catholic school, SJPSC also prioritizes Christian character formation.

The St. Michael's Institute of Bacoor, Inc. (**SMI**) is the only Catholic school in Bacoor since it was founded in 1956 by Fr. Espiritu Hizon. SMI's vision is to have a community of transformative citizens who are profoundly Christ-centered, socially-oriented, promoters of justice and peace, and stewards of God's gifts and resources following its mission, inspired and guided by Christ's example.



- ASVF
- DGA
- FMDMS
- HCCSN
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- JESOMA
- MPPS
- MPS
- NSGA
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- PFCS
- PPCDC
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- SMMPs
- SMMS
- SRCS
- STCS

The St. Mary Magdalene Parochial School of Amadeo, Cavite, Inc. (**SMMPs**) started in 1988. It was borne out of the aspiration of Catholic parents in Amadeo to have their children be schooled in a Catholic institution. This aspiration was brought up to the attention of Fr. Orlando Santos who was the Parish Priest that time.



The St. Mary Magdalene School (**SMMS**) is a diocesan school situated in Poblacion, Kawit, Cavite, established on 1961

SMMS is referred to by the school community as ‘Esmeri’, coming from the name ‘St. Mary’. The school’s tagline, ‘Experience Alagang Esmeri’ emphasizes the

commitment of SMMS to quality Catholic education for its students.

The Santo Rosario Catholic School, Inc. (**SRCS**) is a Catholic institution located at the Most Holy Rosary Parish Church, Rosario, Cavite.



SRCS was founded in 2015. SRCS is on its 7th year of operation. SRCS offers government recognized courses from pre–elementary to senior high school. SRCS is the first and only Catholic school in Rosario, Cavite.



The St. Therese Catholic School, Inc. (**STCS**), formerly known as Hermano Miguel Integrated School, Inc., was founded in 2007.

STCS is the only Chinese-Catholic school in Cavite. To provide quality Catholic education, STCS practices enhanced K-12 Curriculum, with Christian values integration programs and engaging student activities.

- ASVF
- DGA
- FMDMS
- HCCSN
- HFA
- IJA
- JESOMA
- MPPS
- MPS
- NSGA
- OLPCS
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- PPCDC
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- SAS-T
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- SGA
- SHJA
- SJPS
- SJPSC
- SMI

- SMMPs**
- SMMS**
- SRCS**
- STCS**

DICES Member Schools

ASVF	Academia de San Vicente Ferrer	facebook.com/batangvincentian
DGA	De Guia Academy	facebook.com/DGAMagallanes
FMDMS	Fr. Michael Donoher Memorial School	facebook.com/fmdms
HCCSN	Holy Cross Catholic School	facebook.com/holycrosscatholicsschool ofnoveleta
HFA	Holy Family Academy	facebook.com/hfa.parochial
IJA	Infant Jesus Academy	facebook.com/IJADICES/
JESOMA	Jesus Son of Mary Academy	facebook.com/jesomaparochialschool
MPPS	Mabuting Pastol Parochial School	facebook.com/mppsdasma
MPS	Maragondon Parochial School	facebook.com/MPS1986
NSGA	Nazareth School of Gen. Aguinaldo	facebook.com/NGSACavite
OLPCS	Our Lady Of The Pillar Catholic School	facebook.com/PillarSchoolImus/
PFCS	Paraclete Foundation Community School	facebook.com/paracleteadmin
PPCDC	Padre Pio Child Development Center	facebook.com/ppcdc.DICES
SAS-M	St. Augustine School Mendez	facebook.com/sasmendez.sasm
SAS-T	St. Augustine School Tanza	facebook.com/SASTanzaOfficial
SAST-SHS	St. Augustine School Tanza-SHS Campus	facebook.com/SASSeniorHighSchool
SFAA	St. Francis of Assisi Academy - Tagaytay	facebook.com/littlefranciscans
SFDMPS	San Francisco de Malabon Parochial School	facebook.com/sfdmps1994/
SGA	St. Gregory Academy	facebook.com/SaintGregoryAcademyIndang
SHJA	Sacred Heart of Jesus Academy	facebook.com/SHJADasma
SJPS	St. Jude Parish School	facebook.com/SJPS.DICES
SJPSC	St. Joseph Parochial School	facebook.com/sjpscaytitinga2001
SMI	St. Michael's Institute	facebook.com/SMIBACOR.HRT
SMMPS	St. Mary Magdalene Parochial School-Amadeo	facebook.com/SMMPSAmadeo
SMMS	St. Mary Magdalene School-Kawit	facebook.com/SMMSchool1963/
SRCS	Santo Rosario Catholic School	facebook.com/SRCSDICES
STCS	St. Therese Catholic School	facebook.com/StThereseCatholicSchool

A hand is shown holding a lit sparkler. The sparkler is bright and colorful, with sparks radiating outwards. The background is dark with many out-of-focus, circular bokeh lights in shades of pink, purple, and yellow. The overall mood is festive and celebratory.

**Merry
Christmas
and
Happy
New Year,
DICES!**