



Pakikibahagi



Religious of Notre Dame of the Missions

Philippine Region

March 2019



RNDM Sisters with Weeyaa's family

Gift of God's Call

The RNDM sisters in the Philippine Region express once again our gratitude to God for the gift of vocation to our congregation through God's calling of Sr. Elaine "Weeyaa" Villanueva. We also thank Weeyaa for her generosity in responding to God's call as she professed her lifelong "Yes" to God on 4th January 2019 in her home parish in Legazpi, Albay. It was an enriching experience for all of us as we came to know another region and culture of the Philippines. We continue to pray and invite you to join us in prayer, that more young women will generously respond to God's invitation to share God's love among the most vulnerable people in our world.

Cora Cagalawan, RNDM

WATER: Christmas Gift for the People

Sharing with you our Christmas joy as shortly before Christmas, Sitio Dalugon, Midtungok was, for the first time, gifted with easier access to safe drinking water! Lay Minister Crispin and I went to the village where the folks were all waiting eagerly for us. The unity in the village was remarkable as they put their hearts into installing the drums and water hose. What a joy for the people when they finally saw water flowing from their hose!!! All clapped and shouted. Truly a priceless gift for Christmas for the Dulangan Manobo Community in Dalugon!

Thanks to one of our donors from Germany for making this possible, to Sitio Dalugon for their counterpart, Toto Cagalawan for the initial ocular, and Kaabag Crispin for his tireless service. It was a Sunday when he supervised the installation, and I asked pardon from him that he was asked to work on a Sunday rather than spend it with his family. His reply was, "This is mission, sister, and they are also my family!" Christ is truly borne in the hearts of our mission partners. Rejoice and be glad for Christ is among us!

Janette Alejandro, RNDM



Janette with the villagers of Dalugon

MUTUALITY: SHARING, EMPOWERING

The Three-year RNDM Philippine Region collaborative ministry with the REYES MONTECILLO FOUNDATION, INC (a non-sectarian kindergarten school) is almost complete. Looking back, without a doubt, God has blessed us abundantly. We are grateful for the blessings of friendship and trust shared by the RMFI administrators who, in one way or another, have entrusted the RNDM congregation to journey alongside the RMFI teachers and staff, pupils and parents, so as to actualize the HOLISTIC VISION/MISSION of the institution. The blessing of free space and accommodation of the San Pedro Bautista Parish of Candelaria is not to be forgotten!

On the occasion of the closing of the Year for the Clergy and Consecrated Persons, the RNDM presence in the diocese of Lucena was commended, through a plaque of recognition, for freely sharing our charism with the Parish of San Pedro Bautista and the diocese, through inputs and recollections offered to various mandated organizations and through our open participation in diocesan activities. Praise God! This particular area of our RNDM collaborative ministry is a sacred space for sharing and empowering mutuality.

In as much that we empowered especially the young ones, they too empowered us. Each time we (teachers) visited the kids' respective homes we always carried away with us the families' memorable stories to be shared and to be reflected on during our Friday sessions/inputs. We are empowered by the richness of their life's joys and struggles.

Fe Felizarta, RNDM



FIRST AID TRAINING for COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

The Philippine Red Cross facilitated Basic First Aid training for our Community Health Workers in Delesan Kailawan last June. The initial impact observed after the training was that many of our Community Health Workers became more vigilant and passionate in responding to emergency situations and in offering service to their people to prevent minor illnesses and even death. The training has also boosted their self confidence that, though they weren't able to advance to higher studies, they can, through their enthusiasm to learn and commitment to serve, surely make a difference in the lives of their tribe and eventually "stand on their own" in the future. Our gratitude to the Past Pupils Association of Sacred Heart Oakleigh, Melbourne for fundraising to make this training possible.

Janette Alejandro, RNDM

In Tribute to Romy Reyes, RIP

On Sunday, January 27, 2019, at 8:15am, just as mass was about to begin, two bombs exploded in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Jolo, Sulu, wreaking destruction, injury and death. Romulo Reyes, 58, and current President of the Parish Pastoral Council and his wife, Leah, were among the victims. A steadfast peacemaker and versatile musician, Romy had spent his life promoting a culture of peace through music. In 2000, the "Album of Peace" was produced through the collaboration of the Peace Centers of Notre Dame University, where RNDMs are in ministry, and of Notre Dame of Jolo, with funding assistance of CRS. One of the songs composed by Romy, "Children of Peace," was sung by Leah and Romy's daughter, Aubrey, 6 years old at the time. RNDMs have used the song over the years in their ministries and in community prayer. In honor of a life dedicated to peace and cut short by violence, we offer it again now as Romy's prayer and our own:

*I have dreamed that one day
the world did come as one,
people helping one another,
working hand in hand
What a beautiful sight, right before
my eyes, children playing together
underneath the sun*

*We are the children of peace, listen to our pleas!
Give us the chance to grow, in God's name we want you to know...
People of today are searching for other ways, solutions to problems
arising in this world. If we only had love then there'd be no war,
and we will enjoy the world in peace*

May Romy, Leah and all the victims of the Jolo bombing, rest in God's light and love, and may the world find a way to justice and peace.

Claudia Stecker, RNDM



If you wish to become part of the life and mission of the RNDM Sisters, please contact: Sr. Claudia Stecker, RNDM (Region Leader), 18 Lantana Street, New Manila, Quezon City, Philippines. Email: rndmsistersphilippines@gmail.com

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